

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 21, 2021
ZOOM MEETING

ITEM 2.1

The regular meeting of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee was held by Zoom. The following members, staff and others were present:

Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Chairman	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chairman	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton, Secretary	Anthony Steele, Asst. Supt.-Dir./Principal
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	Amy Sutherland, Recording Secretary
David R. Bartlett of Upton	
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	
Paul J. Braza of Milford	
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	

Members Absent:

John C. Lavin, III of Douglas
Dennis P. Braun of Mendon
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hall.

Item 2. Secretary's Report

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2020 and to accept the minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Gerald Finn	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Chester Hanratty	aye
Anthony Yitts	aye
James Ebbeling	aye
David Bartlett	aye
Joseph Broderick	aye
Joseph Hall	aye
Paul Braza	aye
Jeff Koopman	aye

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's report was presented dated December 31, 2020. The report reflects an ending balance of \$5,630,183.50 for Total Funds, including \$825,468.87 in Project Funds, and \$4,804,714.63 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted by roll call to approve the December 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Gerald Finn	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Chester Hanratty	aye
Anthony Yitts	aye
James Ebbeling	aye
David Bartlett	aye
Joseph Broderick	aye
Joseph Hall	aye
Paul Braza	aye
Jeff Koopman	aye

3.2. The report for Little Beavers dated December 31, 2020 was provided. The reports reflect and ending balance of minus (\$200.00). On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted by roll call to approve the December 31, 2020 report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Gerald Finn	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Chester Hanratty	aye
Anthony Yitts	aye
James Ebbeling	aye
David Bartlett	aye
Joseph Broderick	aye
Joseph Hall	aye
Paul Braza	aye
Jeff Koopman	aye

Item 4. School Committee Officers Election/Appointment for 2021

4.1. Chairman: Mr. Broderick hereby moved the election of Joseph Hall as Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District Committee School Chair as required by section I(E) of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Agreement and Policy "BDA/BDB" of the School District's policy manual. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022 motioned by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted by roll call.

Roll Call Vote:

Gerald Finn	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Chester Hanratty	aye
Anthony Yitts	aye
James Ebbeling	aye
David Bartlett	aye
Joseph Broderick	aye
Joseph Hall	aye

Paul Braza	aye
Jeff Koopman	aye

4.2. Vice Chairman: Mrs. Mitchell hereby moved the election of Gerald Finn as Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee Vice Chair as required by section I(E) of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Agreement and Policy “BDA/BDB” of the School District’s policy manual. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022 motioned by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted by roll call.

Roll Call Vote:

Gerald Finn	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Chester Hanratty	aye
Anthony Yitts	aye
James Ebbeling	aye
David Bartlett	aye
Joseph Broderick	aye
Joseph Hall	aye
Paul Braza	aye
Jeff Koopman	aye

4.3. Secretary: Applying his prerogative as leader of the School Committee, Chairman Joseph Hall appointed Anthony Yitts for the role of Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee Secretary. The term of office which is based upon past practice, shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022.

4.4. Assistant Treasurer: Applying his prerogative as leader of the School Committee, Chairman Joseph Hall appointed Chester Hanratty as Assistant Treasurer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022.

4.5. Payroll/AP Warrant Signer: Applying his prerogative as leader of the School Committee, Chairman Joseph Hall appointed Julie Mitchell as Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Payroll/AP Warrant Signer. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022.

4.6.a. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1: Applying his prerogative as leader of the School Committee, Chairman Joseph Hall appointed Paul Braza as Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022.

4.6.b. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2: Applying his prerogative as leader of the School Committee, Chairman Joseph Hall appointed David Bartlett as Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022.

4.6.c. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #3: Applying his prerogative as leader of the School Committee, Chairman Joseph Hall appointed James Ebbeling as Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #3. The term of office shall commence January 2021 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2022.

Item 5. Student Recognition – Dr. Fitzpatrick

5.1. Riley Holt was recognized for his perfect score on the Principles of Engineering test.

Item 6. Comments by Students Representatives – Isabella Caccavelli & Emma Coakley

6.1. The School Committee was informed that the student representatives are creating a number of virtual events in which the student body can participate. Sample events are: Spirit Day Colors and a virtual roll playing game called Among Us. There was a suggestion by Dr. Fitzpatrick that the student council look into connecting with students who may be struggling with virtual classes. The student representatives will follow-up on that request.

Item 7. Budget Subcommittee Report – J. Mitchell

7.1. Julie Mitchell provided an update that the budget subcommittee has been meeting on a regular basis. There has been great progress to date. The public hearing is scheduled for March 4, 2021. There will be refinements in the budget numbers once the State comes out with their numbers.

Item 8. Assistant Superintendent – Director’s Report – A. Steele

8.1. Assistant Superintendent Steele informed the Committee that the school continues to be working on a 2.25 status. This will hopefully change once the COVID-19 numbers decrease.

8.2. The Committee is in receipt of the 2021-2022 Blackstone Valley Tech Calendar. The calendar was adopted via consensus with no member opposing.

8.3. The Practical Nurse Graduation is anticipated to take place on February 1, 2021. (*Note: To accommodate graduates, this day was subsequently changed to 2/8/21*). There was a survey sent out and the students wanted to have an in-person pinning. This event will be in person with the required COVID-19 regulations in place.

8.4. Due primarily to known retirements, there have been some changes in the staffing at BVT. There are new employees in both the administrative and business offices. A welcome was extended to all new staff members.

8.5. The NEASC Preparation Process/Schedule continues to be on schedule.

Item 9. Superintendent-Director’s Report – M. Fitzpatrick

9.1 Superintendent’s Contract Renewal – Per the current contract provisions, the School Committee may vote to extend the Superintendent’s contract beyond FY21. On behalf of the School Committee, Joe Broderick hereby moved to extend the Superintendent-Director’s contract subject to mutually acceptable negotiations with the negotiations subcommittee. This motion was seconded by David Bartlett and was unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Gerald Finn	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Chester Hanratty	aye
Anthony Yitts	aye
James Ebbeling	aye
David Bartlett	aye
Joseph Broderick	aye
Joseph Hall	aye
Paul Braza	aye
Jeff Koopman	aye

Gerry Finn will bring this to the budget subcommittee as part of the negotiations.

9.2. Multiple Zoom Meeting Update: In order to keep abreast of pending federal and state budget and other regulations, the Superintendent continues to take part in various zoom meetings. A sampling of those meetings are as follows:

- a. MAVA Subgroup DESE-CTE- Drop-In: 12/21/20,1/25/21
- b. Worcester County Supt. Assoc: 01/05/21
- c. MAVA Check-In Session: 01/07/21, 01/14/21
- d. Commission Riley: 01/07/21
- e. District Superintendents' Consortium: 01/08/21
- f. MARS - Regional Transportation Discussion: 01/13/21
- g. M.A.S.S. Professional Development Committee: 01/15/21
- h. MARS Board of Directors Meeting: 01/19/21
- i. CVTE Awareness Gap Discussions Meeting: 01/20/21
- j. M.A.S.S. Executive Board: 01/20/21
- k. M.A.S.S. Mid-Winter Meeting: 01/21/21
- l. Vet Tech Meeting with DESE: 01/21/21
- m. NEASC Decennial Review Meeting: 01/21/21

9.3. Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner is scheduled for March 2021.

Item 10. New Business

No new business was conducted.

Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee

The monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence was made available for the School Committee's review.

Item 12. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting – J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 13. Meeting Closure

13.1. The meeting was closed as declared by Chairman Hall.

13.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 17, 2020
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2020
- Item 3.2. Little Beaver Enrichment Center Revolving Account Update
- Item 4.1. Chair 2021
- Item 4.2. Vice Chair 2021
- Item 4.3. Secretary 2021
- Item 4.4. Asst. Treasurer 2021
- Item 4.5. Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 2021
- Item 4.6.a. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1 2021
- Item 4.6.b. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2 2021
- Item 4.6.c. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #3 2021
- Item 8.2. Proposed 2021-2022 School Year Calendar
- Item 9.1 Superintendent FY22 Contract Extension
- Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary