

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee was held in the school cafeteria. 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	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Lorna Mangano, Business Manager
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	Brad DiDio, Upton Men's Club
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr, of Millbury	Brian Goodman, Rushford & Sons Brewhouse
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	Leah Cook, Student Representative
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Emma Conkey, Student Representative
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Martha Pellegrino, Nutrition Educator
Members Absent:	Joann Monks, Coordinator of PN Program
David R. Bartlett of Upton	Elise Bogdan, Communications Specialist:
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Acting Recording Secretary
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Vice Chairman Finn. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Braza, Mr. Itinarelli, and Mr. Koopman would be unable to attend while Chairman Hall would be delayed. Mr. Hall arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to waive reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of May 20, 2021 and to accept the minutes as written.

2.2. On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the Review of Non-Released Executive Session Minutes for Possible Declassification and accept the minutes as presented in Item 2.2. Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director said a review by central office personnel suggested that legal matters and collective bargaining referenced with in those executive session minutes have reached closure and will not impact the District by their public release.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated May 31, 2021. The report reflected an ending balance of \$8,353,937.23 for Total Funds, including \$872,087.98 in Project Funds, and \$7,481,849.25 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, it was unanimously voted to approve the May 31, 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented.

3.2. The School Committee was presented with the Right-to-Borrow paperwork. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to move to allow the District Treasurer authorization under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16(G) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with approval of the Chairman of the District Committee to borrow money from time to time in

anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, and to issue a note as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 17.

Item 4. Staff Recognition - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

4.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick formally recognized Engineering Vocational Instructor Tim Oliveira as being named MassTECH Tech/Engineering Teacher of the Month for going above and beyond this year developing detailed lessons along with a very streamlined Canvas course outline that kept the students on track, engaged, and focused on the tasks to be completed when they were in the building and remote. Additionally indicating that Mr. Oliveira is a key member of our team.

Item 5. Upton Fireworks Festival Liquor License Request

Brian Goodman, Co-Owner and Manager of Rushford & Sons Brewhouse, a locally-oriented and community-focused craft brewery in Upton, introduced himself to the Committee. It was agreed to wait for the arrival of Brad DiDio, Upton Men's Club representative to further discuss the club's proposal for its annual fireworks festival on school grounds to consider the inclusion of a liquor license request. Conversation ensued regarding how to support the new local business with a potential inclusion of a beer tent/garden yet address the Committee's concerns to maintain the same family friendly event. It was agreed that if Mr. DiDio would provide the Committee with a more detailed plan including precautions and safety measures to keep the pour area contained that the Committee would consider conditional approval based on timing of the event. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty seconded by Mr. Potter it was unanimously voted to go ahead with the conditional approval with the right to give final approval to Mr. Hall, Mr. Finn, and Dr. Fitzpatrick. Further research likely involving both the Fire & Police Chiefs is anticipated.

Item 6. Comments by Student Representatives - Leah Cook & Emma Conkey

Dr. Fitzpatrick invited student representatives Leah Cook and Emma Conkey to report on student activities. As the representatives from the Student Council, they reported that the council elected new officer positions and freshman representatives will be elected next school year. They also reported on various other Student Council activities, training officers, preparing for return to school welcoming activities, and Homecoming scheduled for the week of September 25th.

Item 7. Annual Wellness Assessment Report - Martha Pellegrino

Martha Pellegrino presented the Annual Wellness Report for 2020-2021. The goals and objectives for 2020-2021 were provided which included student and employee wellness along with initiatives. She thanked Cafeteria Manager, Eric Carlson for his work with administration, staff, Upton Board of Health and DESE to implement ongoing changes due to the pandemic. Cafeteria staff provided in-school meals as well as weekly pick up of bagged meals, and in early February, the home delivery meal program was implemented to interested students in distance learning. With May's return to full on campus learning, the cafeteria staff adapted to serving lunch outside under a tent due to space limitations. All meals were free and will continue to be free in SY2021-22.

Item 8. Practical Nursing Program Coordinator - J. Monks

8.1 Ms. Monks gave an update on the PN program. She shared historical NCLEX pass rates for the program, a successful in-person graduation following all COVID guidelines, and reported on job placement within the District. Mr. Finn requested that Ms. Monks share with him the historical placement data showing where the graduates are employed after completing the program.

Item 9. Business Manager - L. Mangano

9.1. Ms. Mangano presented a year-end line item transfer. On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to transfer available funds totaling \$7,970 for equipment. Ms. Mangano explained this fund transfer from available appropriations was being requested to procure a floor stripper machine to augment the existing 17-year-old floor stripper that has mechanical, overheating issues. Having a second stripper would improve efficiency with summer cleaning.

9.2. Ms. Mangano reported that there was no need for donation approvals.

9.3. The School Committee members were provided with a summary of the FY21 Grant approvals. To date there is a total of \$2,883,644 as identified in Item 9.3.

Item 10. Policy Subcommittee Report - C. Hanratty10.1 Revised Policies:

10.1.a. The School Committee received the 2021-2022 Student Athletic Handbook handout which referenced the pages and sections for revisions as identified in Item 10.1.a. the changes were mostly simple housekeeping matters with MIAA changes. Therefore, on a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to accept the revised policies as presented.

Item 11. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele11.1. Report on Proms:

11.1.a Senior Prom: 05/21/21 - Assistant Superintendent Steele informed the members of the School Committee that the senior prom was held on May 21st at BVT outside under the big tent. It was a nice event, held in two parts to allow for the attendance of 216 seniors. The seniors fundraised and elected to have a fireworks display, which was supported by the Upton Fire and Police Departments. It was an impressive display and a great time was had by all.

11.1.b. Junior Prom: 05/22/21 - Mr. Steele reported that the junior prom held on May 22nd outside under the tent at BVT followed the same guidelines and format as the senior prom to keep the attendance numbers within the acceptable guidelines of the Upton Board of Health and the State. Looking forward to saving money for next year, the juniors opted not to have fireworks. Mr. Steele applauded them on their financial literacy and planning. Both groups had a pretty normal prom experience given the added restrictions.

11.2. Sports Awards Night: 05/24/21 - Mr. Steele reported that Sports Awards Night honoring its student-athletes kicked off a week of senior events that were held outside at BVT under the tent. It was a nice evening honoring senior athletes for all four seasons and those athletes who signed letters of intent. Underclassmen were honored during their class days.

11.3. Senior Awards Night: 05/25/21 - Mr. Steele reported that the Senior Awards Night held the evening of May 25th at BVT honored military and honors scholars. It followed the same format as our annual event with guest presenters and all of the traditional pomp and circumstance. The only significant difference being that it was held outside under the tent as its venue.

a. 2021 Scholarship Report was shared with the Committee showing a grand total of 2021 Dollars Award at \$2,383,751 with a Renewable Value of \$7,909,616.

11.4. BVT Graduation Report: 05/27/21 - Mr. Steele reported that the graduation was held outside on the athletic field at BVT on May 27th. It was a beautiful evening for an outdoor event. It was a very normal graduation that honored 300 seniors for their achievement.

11.5. Spring Sports Update – Mr. Steele reported that MIAA spring tournaments start June 18th with boys’ and girls’ lacrosse, followed by baseball, softball, track and field, and volleyball co-op all competing.

11.6. End-of-Year Procedures - Assistant Superintendent Steele informed the members that the End-of-Year Procedures for seniors have been completed. The last day of school on June 18th kicks off the summer projects – updating databases, summer cleaning, taking down the tent, cleaning the cafeteria tables and moving them back to the cafeteria, returning stored furniture during COVID back to classrooms, and preparing the building for a return to school.

Item 12. Signatory Authorizations - J. Hall

12.1. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to empower Superintendent-Director, Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, as an authorized signatory for the Regional School District for the school year 2021-2022 as it pertains to District contracts, grants, and other legally binding documents between the District and any/all outside agencies.

12.2. On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, it was unanimously voted to empower Business Manager, Lorna Mangano, as an authorized signatory for the Regional School District for the school year 2021-2022 as it pertains to District purchase orders, contracts, grants, and other legally binding documents between the District and any/all outside agencies.

12.3. On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Yitts, it was unanimously voted to empower Superintendent-Director, Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick and/or Business Manager, Lorna Mangano, as an authority to contract for or on behalf of the Regional School District, during Fiscal Year 2022, and to enter into such contracts or agreements for up to five years, except in the case of contracts or agreements dealing with real estate which may be up to ten years. It should be noted the State Legislature is considering petitions, which would extend certain lease and other durations.

Item 13. Budget Report - Julie Mitchell

13.1. A status report indicating budget approval standings and updated town meeting dates was shared and reviewed by the Committee.

13.2. Annual Town Meeting Actions - M. Fitzpatrick
Dr. Fitzpatrick shared information on the annual town meeting actions on the District’s budget advising that the budget secured unanimous approval by all thirteen member towns.

13.2. a. The Town of Hopedale voted in favor of the budget on May 22, 2021. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that it was a favorable vote.

13.2. b. The Town of Milford voted in favor of the budget on May 24, 2021. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he attended the remote town meeting via Zoom.

13.2. c. The Town of Blackstone voted in favor of the budget on May 25, 2021. Mr. Broderick reported that he attended the outdoor town meeting and that the budget passed.

13.2. d. The Town of Bellingham voted in favor of the budget on May 26, 2021. Dr. Fitzpatrick said that he attended the town meeting that was held indoors and that the budget received a favorable vote.

13.2. e. The Town of Grafton voted in favor of the budget on June 5, 2021. Mr. Yitts reported that the Grafton town meeting was held outdoors and the budget received a favorable vote.

Item 14. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

14.1. New Vice Principal Appointment of Skye Bomba. The School Committee is in receipt of her resume. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that it introduces the credentials of the new Vice Principal, Skye Bomba of Douglas. Mrs. Mitchell shared that she had an opportunity to meet Ms. Bomba at the BVT graduation and was impressed to see that she had volunteered to assist with a school event and was already making connections.

14.2. The members received an update on the Biotechnology approval process. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that the newest program has received DESE approval with the recent visit of the State agent who was impressed with the in-house renovations and use of the capital skills grant to repurpose the Business Technology space into the new Biotechnology shop.

14.3. The BVT Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, June 14th at Highfields Golf and Country Club in Grafton during a torrential rain storm. Despite the inclement weather, it was a fun-filled day and a huge success raising more than \$12,500 to enhance the educational opportunities and athletic activities for our students.

14.4. The School Committee is in receipt of the Facilities Department Anticipated Summer Improvement Projects. Planned projects include renovation of Painting and Design Technology, including two new enclosed areas within that shop and a new hot food serving line in the cafeteria. In addition to the annual summer projects, specific maintenance projects include: replacements of sawdust collector filters; lot crack sealing schedules, all lot lines, numbers, and stenciling will be repainted.

14.5. DESE Admissions Update – Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that the DESE Admissions Update is anticipated next week. It is expected that new regulations will aim to eliminate demographic disparities among urban schools. Anticipating that new regulations could be left up to our interpretation, he explained that we are witnessing a transition in philosophy.

14.6. M.A.S.S. Annual Spring Meeting Report – Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he has been informed by M.A.S.S. Executive Board that after 14 years of service he has exceeded the term limits; as of June 2021 he will no longer serve on that board.

Item 15. Old Business - M. Fitzpatrick

15.1. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve the DESE Temporary Waiver request for time and learning for an eight-day period from May 17, 2021 through May 26, 2021 as submitted on May 7, 2021 and subsequently approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Item 16. New Business

16.a. The School Committee received a BVT District Report Card handout, which included attendance. Dr. Fitzpatrick noted that the 97.5 attendance rate placed BVT 1st in the District and among Voc-Tech schools.

16.b. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve that the financial interest of Mark Fitzpatrick is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the service which the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee may expect from Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director.

16.c. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, it was unanimously voted to accept the Blackstone Valley Tech 2021-2022 Calendar as presented in the handout.

Item 17. Items for the Good of the Committee:

The monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence packet was provided at the meeting for members to review individually.

Item 18. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on August 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 19. Meeting Closure:

19.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 8:20 p.m.

19.2. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Yitts, it was voted to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of May 20, 2021

Item 2.2. Review of CONFIDENTIAL Non-Released Executive Session Minutes

Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated May 31, 2021

Item 3.2 Suggested Motion - BVVR, Treasurer's Right-to-Borrow

Item 7. Wellness Committee End of Year Report SY2020-21

Item 9.1.a. Suggested Motion for Year-End Line Item Transfer(s)

Item 9.3. Summary FY2021 Grants and Donations dates June 9, 2021

Item 10.1. Revisions to 2020-21 Student Athletic Handbook to reflect 2021-22

Item 12.1. Suggested Motion - BVVRSD, for Signatory Authorizations

Item 13.1. BVT FY22 Budget Status Report dated June 5, 2021

Item 14.1. New Vice Principal, Skye Bomba's, resume

Item 14.4 Facilities Department Summer 2021 planned projects and maintenance

Item 17.1. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary