

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 16, 2021

Item 2.1

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, Vice Chairman	Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Leah Cook, Student Representative
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Emma Conkey, Student Representative
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	

Members Absent:

David R. Bartlett of Upton
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Cray, Mr. Koopman, and Mrs. Mitchell would be unable to attend.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to waive reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of August 19, 2021 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated August 31, 2021. The report reflected an ending balance of \$8,354,317.56 for Total Funds, including \$688,997.78 in Project Funds, and \$7,665,319.78 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the August 31, 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. Comments by Student Representatives - Emma Conkey, Leah Cook, and Bradley Lyon

Student Representatives Leah Cook, Emma Conkey, and Bradley Lyon reported that they recently held elections for the 2021-2022 school year and elected their Student Council Executive Board members. The representatives also said that BVT alum Alyssa Banks recently spoke with the Council about the Princess Foundation, a non-profit organization that she founded. Foundation volunteers dress up as princesses and heroes to make the days brighter for pediatric patients and their families. The Student Council then assembled care packages for the foundation to distribute. Lastly, they reported that they are looking forward to having Spirit Week and Homecoming.

Item 5. Business Manager Report - L. Mangano

5.1. Line Item Transfer:

5.1.a. Dr. Fitzpatrick brought forward a request for approval of a line item transfer on behalf of Ms. Mangano who had identified savings from available appropriations to be used to fund eleven Ruckus switches. The switches will replace current switches that have reached the end of their expected useful life. The request is in alignment with the District's replacement plan for switches as they reach end of life. The average useful life of a switch is approximately six to eight years. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to transfer \$71,525 from the Tech. Depart. (Tech Hardware) (Account 1000.50.2250.580.8) to Capital Tech-Sch Data Infrastructure (Account 1000.50.7350.000.8).

5.2. Donation Approval:

5.2.a. The School Committee is in receipt of a donation from Joshua Palomares of Analog Devices and various equipment which will be used for valuable training purposes in the Electronics and Engineering Technology program. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to accept the donation.

5.3. E & D Certification:

The School Committee is in receipt of a certification letter from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The letter certified that the amount of excess and deficiency or "E & D" as of July 1, 2021 for Blackstone Valley is \$978,907.00. The unencumbered funds certified in excess of five percent of the operating budget and budgeted capital costs for the succeeding fiscal year must be applied to reduce the current fiscal year's assessment. For the District, this excess amount equals \$0.00.

Item 6. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

6.1. Mr. Steele provided the members with a SY22 BVT Return to School (Reopening) Plan. He explained in a brief summary that BVT staff and administration designed a return to school model for 2021-2022 that exemplified a commitment to education with strategies to contain COVID-19 outbreaks at school and preserve in-person learning. The plan was designed with options to implement a tiered level system of distance learning with redefined tiers 1 through 6 if at some point in the future it is either mandated or authorized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The plan had previously been presented to the community and received feedback through a public forum, and parent and staff surveys. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to accept the reopening plan as presented. Mr. Steele subsequently asked that an additional bullet on cleaning protocols be included. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Hall, it was voted to amend the previously accepted reopening plan with a bullet point that said: Cleaning protocols are consistent with CDC guidelines for school and workplace.

6.2. The School Committee was provided a document entitled, "FY22 Elementary and Secondary Education Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Grant Plans." BVT's ESSER III grant allocation is \$234,924. The funding is part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. The document explained how the funds would be implemented to address learning loss and support overall student success for this school year, and years to come. The grant implementation plan had previously been presented to the community in conjunction with the reopening plan and received feedback through a public forum, and parent and staff surveys. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was voted to approve the ESSER III plan as presented.

6.3. Mr. Steele shared a brief Admissions Plan Preliminary Status Report with the Committee. Members are in receipt of a handout dated June 11, 2021 in which Commissioner Riley had outlined the proposed amendments to CVTE admissions regulations. Mr. Steele explained that there is a lot of information to digest and interpret in regards to the admissions criteria. Therefore, MAVA has sought guidance and legal counsel and is expected to receive and share that legal analysis and opinion on September 24th.

Item 7. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

7.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick mentioned that the Delineation of FY22 Subcommittees has five vacancies and thanked the members for their service on these committees.

7.2. A listing of Academic, Vocational, School Counseling, and Special Education Team Leader Appointments for FY22 was shared with the Committee.

7.3. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared a brief update on the pursuit of grants. He mentioned that a new MA Skills Capital grant application has been submitted and is under consideration.

7.3.a. Members are in receipt of FY22 Grants and Donations as of September 8, 2021. The grant total received to-date for FY21 is \$513,712. The FY22 total for application submissions in progress is \$852,082.

7.3.b. Members are in receipt of a Title 1 Communication. The document explained that with a federal funding reduction of \$30,000 in School Year 2018-19, the District recommended “flexing” funds from Title IIA and Title IVA to provide level services to its Title I identified students. For the 2021-2022 school year, the identified funds will be allocated for direct Title I services, with Direct Instructional Staff/2 Paraprofessionals.

7.4. The Committee was provided with Dr. Fitzpatrick’s draft goals for FY22.

7.5. To assist in addressing the constantly changing Commonwealth guidelines for reopening and operating school systems, Superintendent Dr. Fitzpatrick will raise awareness about on-campus vaccination clinics for its students and staff.

7.6. The Committee is in receipt of the 2021-22 Solicitations for Van Subsidies. A commitment in marketing of community charitable funds through solicitation helps offset transportation and maintenance costs of student vans during the school year.

7.7. Auditor - 2013/2014 Potential State Pension Billing. Dr. Fitzpatrick explained that the state pension funding continues to be held in reserve.

7.8. The Committee is in receipt of a resignation from Business & Entrepreneurship Vocational Instructor, Sharon Bogere.

7.9. Visit/Tour(s):

7.9.a. Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that State Representative David Muradian

had been scheduled to visit and tour BVT on September 15, 2021, but was unable to attend. The visit and tour will be rescheduled for another date.

7.10. The Committee received the Alumni Newsletter at the meeting.

Item 8. New Business

There was no new business to report.

Item 9. 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 10. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on October 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 11. Meeting Closure:

19.1. The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 7:10 p.m.

19.2. On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Intinarelli, it was voted to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of August 19, 2021
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2021
- Item 5.1.a. Suggested Motion for Transfer of Available Funds for Technology Switches
- Item 5.2.a. Donation Acceptance of Analog Devices and Equipment
- Item 5.3. Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services
- Item 6.1. SY22 BVT Return to School (Reopening) Plan
- Item 6.2. FY22 ESSER III Grant Plans About ESSER III Funding Distribution
- Item 6.3. Massachusetts DESE Proposed Amendments to CVTE Admissions Regulations
- Item 7.2. FY22 Team Leader Appointments
- Item 7.3.a. FY22 Grants and Donations as of September 8, 2021
- Item 7.3.b. Title I Communication
- Item 7.4. Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick Superintendent-Director's FY22 Draft Goals
- Item 7.6. 2021-22 Solicitations for Van Subsidies
- Item 7.8.a. Notification of Resignation
- Item 7.10. Alumni Newsletter
- Item 9. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary