

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
October 21, 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, Vice Chair	Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Michele Denise, Vocational Director
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Lorna Mangano, Business Manager
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Leah Cook, Student Representative
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr, of Millbury	Emma Conkey, Student Representative
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	Jackson Doan, Drafting & Design Technology junior
David R. Bartlett of Upton	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale  
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick was notified in advance that Mr. Intinarelli and Mr. Koopman would be unable to attend and that Mrs. Mitchell (arrived 6:12 p.m.) and Mr. Cray (arrived 6:40 p.m.) would be delayed. Mr. Braza had to leave early, he left at 7:50 p.m.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to waive reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of September 16, 2021 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated September 30, 2021. The report reflected an ending balance of \$7,485,768.80 for Total Funds, including \$680,621.46 in Project Funds, and \$6,805,147.34 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the September 30, 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented.

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

4.1. Student Council Representatives Leah Cook, Emma Conkey, and Bradley Lyon provided an update on student activities. Mr. Lyon pointed out that the Tree of Thanks on the Cafeteria wall is an opportunity for students to spread thanks and gratitude by writing something they are grateful for on a leaf template, attaching it to the tree, and displaying it during the holiday season. Ms. Cook reported that the Council is holding its annual Turkey Run fundraising efforts to purchase grocery store gift cards for families in need to buy items to prepare a

Thanksgiving dinner at home. Ms. Conkey reported that the Homecoming dance was a success.

Item 5. Community Project for Royal Family KIDS Presentation - Bradley Lyon

Student Representative Bradley Lyon, joined by his classmate Jackson Doan explained that they are juniors in the Drafting & Design Technology program. They received preliminary information from their instructor regarding a Chapel Design project for the Royal Family KIDS Camp based in the Western Massachusetts community of Huntington. The assignment allowed the students to pool their efforts to create multiple conceptual designs for a chapel using architectural drafting and design and computer-aided drafting. Finally, they compiled the finalized designs and other important discussion points into a formal presentation given to the Royal Family KIDS Camp representatives. As a result of the design project, the camp plans to select a chapel design to eventually build a chapel to help kids in need who attend this camp.

Item 6. Vocational Department Presentation - Tom Lamont

6.1. The School Committee Members toured the Painting & Design Technology shop. Instructors Tom Lamont and Tim Buono and Vocational Director Michele Denise discussed and demonstrated the many benefits of the newly renovated area that maximized its available space.

Item 7. Business Manager - L. Mangano

7.1. Ms. Mangano reported that school cafeteria vendors nationwide are experiencing product delays. As a result, last-minute changes may occur, and the menu on the school website may not always reflect the changes. However, the cafeteria staff does everything possible to work with multiple vendors to ensure students have plenty of options with replacement items offered.

7.2. The School Committee was presented with Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District's FY23 Budget Subcommittee Meetings Timetable. The first meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will include electing the Chair of Subcommittee and verifying subsequent meeting dates.

7.3. Donation approvals – No donations were received.

Item 8. Admissions Update: Legal Guidance - M. Denise, M. Fitzpatrick, A. Steele

8.1. There was a lot of information to digest and interpret regarding the admissions criteria. As of the previous School Committee meeting, MAVA sought guidance with legal counsel and has since shared that legal review and analysis of DESE's current regulations regarding vocational admissions policies with administrators. With that legal feedback digested, Mrs. Denise recommends submitting proposed wording changes to BVT's current admissions policy to the Policy Subcommittee for its review with their recommendations available at the November 18th School Committee meeting for a vote. Mr. Steele explained that he is confident in work done to date and is comfortable with the proposed recommendation. Dr. Fitzpatrick said that he is also reassured significantly with the proposed recommendation and is in agreement with Mrs. Denise and Mr. Steele.

Item 9. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

9.1. Mr. Steele informed the members that this year's homecoming was a weeklong celebration (September 20-24<sup>th</sup>) that included Homecoming Spirit Days: Monday - Comfy Day, Tuesday - Soccer Moms vs. Grill Dads, Wednesday – Dynamic Duo, Thursday – Country vs. Country Club Day, and Friday – Class Colors. In addition to a bonfire, an outdoor pep rally, a dance, and eight athletic competitions. Thanks to the support and assistance of the Student Council, National Honor Society, administration, facilitates, coaches, and staff volunteers, everything ran smoothly.

9.2. The Academic Curriculum Night for parents of freshmen and juniors was held on September 30, 2021, and for parents of sophomores and seniors on October 7, 2021. Mr. Steele reported that both evenings were well attended and ran smoothly. He noted that it was the first time having parents in the school building for an event like this since the pandemic.

9.3. BVT remains stable with the October 1, 2021 enrollment headcount at 1,250 students attending. The total enrollment headcount is up by seven students compared to last year's headcount on October 1. Students continue to show interest in attending BVT, with 320 freshmen in the Class of 2025.

9.4. Mr. Steele gave a General Advisory Dinner status report indicating that the annual dinner would be modified this year to a grab-and-go style format on October 27, 2021. General Advisory members will come into the building, pick up their meals, and attend individual breakout meetings.

9.5. Mr. Evans presented the preliminary MCAS/AYP Report. The Class of 2023 received outstanding English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics scores, outperforming the state average under a unique spring testing window with a 98 percent participation rate. Students in the Class of 2023 as sophomores took both the ELA and Mathematics MCAS Exams as 10th graders during a May 2021 testing window that allowed for a compliant, socially distanced testing experience. A contributing factor to the high participation rate and student achievement was the MCAS Boot Camps that BVT offered.

Item 10. Superintendent-Director's Report - M. Fitzpatrick

10.1. A proposed 2022 School Committee meeting calendar was provided to all members.

10.2. The Committee was provided with an updated Delineation of the FY22 Subcommittees.

10.3. Members were provided with the Superintendent's draft goal themes for FY22. This is a multi-step process with themes for subsequent goal development. Each theme and eventual measurable performance goal is aligned with state standards and modified and improved based on recommendations.

## 10.4. Presentations:

- a. Dr. Fitzpatrick served as a guest speaker during the MAVA Leadership Academy I on October 5, 2021.
- b. Dr. Fitzpatrick participated in the NESDEC Fall Conference on October 7, 2021.
- c. Dr. Fitzpatrick represented the school at the BV Heritage Corridor ribbon cutting ceremony on October 12, 2021 where students in Painting & Design Technology had assisted with a sign.

10.5. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that vaccination clinics at BVT are offered for the convenience of its students. Two COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics were held this school year, and a Flu Vaccination Clinic will be held on Friday, November 12th.

10.6. The Committee was provided with a preliminary Master Plan Recommendations handout. The items and rationale are a ten-year blueprint of things to be explored in no particular order.

## 10.7. BVT is in receipt of financial donations supporting the school's passenger vans:

- a. Homefield Credit Union – a donation in the amount of \$3,500.
- b. Charles River Bank – a donation in the amount of \$1,000.
- c. UniBank – a donation in the amount of \$3,500.
- d. Millbury Federal Credit Union – a donation in the amount of \$3,500.

## 10.8. Visit/Tour(s):

- a. Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Members that State Representative David Muradian visited BVT and toured the campus on October 13, 2021.

Item 11. New Business

There was no new business to report. Dr. Fitzpatrick mentioned that there was a new document to report, the FY21 annual report was available for the School Committee members.

Item 12. 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 13. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on November 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 14. Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, §21(a) #2

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 8:05 p.m. because discussion of this subject in open session would be detrimental to the School District. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Hall - Yes	Mrs. Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Cray - Yes	Mr. Bartlett - Yes
Mr. Potter - Yes	Mr. Ebbeling - Yes
Mr. Broderick - Yes	Mr. Hanratty - Yes

Mr. Yitts - Yes

Mr. Finn - Yes

On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Broderick, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 8:18 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Hall - Yes

Mrs. Mitchell - Yes

Mr. Cray - Yes

Mr. Bartlett - Yes

Mr. Potter - Yes

Mr. Ebbeling - Yes

Mr. Broderick - Yes

Mr. Hanratty - Yes

Mr. Yitts - Yes

Mr. Finn - Yes

Item 15. Decide: Release Status of Exec. Session Minutes of 05/20/21

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was voted not to release the minutes of executive session of May 20, 2021 as it could be detrimental to future negotiations.

Item 16. Meeting Closure:

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

16.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of September 16, 2021

Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2021

Item 7.1. School Cafeteria Product Delay

Item 7.2. Proposed List Budget Subcommittee Meeting Dates

Item 9.5. Preliminary MCAS/AYP Report

Item 10.1. Proposed Calendar - 2022 School Committee Meetings

Item 10.2. Delineation of FY22 Subcommittees

Item 10.3. Updated FY22 Superintendent Draft Goals

Item 10.4.c. BV Heritage Corridor Ribbon Cutting: October 12, 2021

Item 10.6. Master Plan Recommendations

Item 10.7.a. BVT Van Donation Homefield Credit Union

Item 10.7.b. BVT Van Donation Charles River Bank

Item 10.7.c. BVT Van Donation UniBank

Item 10.7.d. BVT Van Donation Millbury Federal Credit Union

Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

Item 14.1. Minutes of Executive Session dated May 20, 2021

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary