

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 18, 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
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Lorna Mangano, Business Manager
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Leah Cook, Student Representative
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	
David R. Bartlett of Upton	

Members Absent:

Paul J. Braza of Milford
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chairman

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick was notified in advance that Mr. Braza and Mr. Finn would be unable to attend.

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 the reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of October 21, 2021 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's Report, dated October 31, 2021, was presented. The report reflected an ending balance of \$9,095,189.05 for Total Funds, including \$675,847.68 in Project Funds and \$8,419,341.37 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the report as presented.

Item 4. Student Recognitions - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

4.1. The three students, noted below, were recognized for their academic promise by the National Merit Scholarship Program. They placed among the top 50,000 who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and were named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Dr. Fitzpatrick and Anthony Steele congratulated the students and presented them with a Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

4.1.a. Riley Holt of Uxbridge (Engineering & Robotics) – Commended Student

4.1.b. Thomas J. O'Leary of Millbury (Electronics) – Commended Student

4.1.c. Noelle McDonald of Grafton (Construction Technology) – Commended Student

Item 5. Comments by Student Representatives - Leah Cook and Bradley Lyon

The student representatives reported on the following Student Council initiatives: Conferences: Bradley said that some Student Council members recently attended Officershop while others attended Fall Conference. These conferences taught valuable leadership skills. Community Service & Spirit: Leah said the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive was successful; it raised \$2,000 and served 18 BVT families. The annual Holiday Drive to purchase gifts for the families of BVT students in need is currently underway. They are also collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and socks for the Red Sox Wives Foundation. BVT is competing with Nipmuc to see who can make the largest donation at the Fenway Park Thanksgiving Eve football game on November 24, 2021. They will hold Spirit Days next week: Monday - Fall Flannel Day (11/22/21), Tuesday - Boston Sports Day (11/23/21), Wednesday - School Spirit (11/24/21).

Item 6. Treasurer Status Update - Joseph Hall

Dr. Fitzpatrick and Chairman Hall informed the Committee that they had received formal notification of retirement from Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Treasurer Barbara Auger, effective January 31, 2022. They expressed appreciation for the 21-years of service and her offer to assist during the transition period and hiring process for her replacement.

Item 7. Business Manager - L. Mangano

7.1. Ms. Mangano presented a year-end line item to transfer available funds for a data storage device.

7.1. a. Ms. Mangano explained that the fund transfer from existing appropriations, given the availability of emergency relief ESSER 3 grant funds, would be used to provide funding for a data storage device (Synology). The device would allow for archiving infrequently accessed data that still needs to be accessible, from high-performing servers to a less costly storage repository. This request is an important part of the district's data management strategy and mitigates space restrictions on current servers, and allows for improved backup processing performance. On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to transfer available funds totaling \$7,686 for a data storage device.

7.2. Donation Approvals:

7.2. a. Oak Planks - On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the donation of ten and twelve-foot oak planks valued at \$1,810 to be used in the Construction Technology program by students to develop their natural talents and interest in building and construction.

7.2.b. Various Supplies - On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the donation of various supplies valued at \$6,534, to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Advanced Manufacturing program.

7.3. The FY21 Audit Report presentation by Hague, Sahady & Co., P.C. needed to be

rescheduled to the December 16, 2021 meeting. Ms. Mangano did mention, however, that the audit came back with no findings, which was great news.

Item 8. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

8.1. Vocational Curriculum Night Report – An in-person vocational curriculum night was held at BVT on November 9, 2021, for freshmen and their parents. It was a successful night with many students and parents participating.

8.2. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony Report – The National Honor and National Technical Honor Societies held an Induction Ceremony at BVT on November 10, 2021. There were 61 new inductees and two new advisors, Amy Ferrandino-Bedard and Elizabeth Sherman. Mr. Yitts said that he attended and felt the speakers were great, especially Mr. Evans, who shared the principal address.

8.3. Parent/New Student Applicant Night – An in-person Admissions Open House was held at BVT on November 17, 2021. The evening was for prospective students and parents/guardians to visit the campus and learn more about the academic and shop programs. It was the first open house since the pandemic and was done responsibly with staggered arrival times.

8.4. School Cancellation List – The School Committee Members received the 2021-2022 school cancellation contact list, which outlined where BVT would announce a school cancellation or emergency announcement.

8.5. Public Forum/Review Input – A public forum was held at BVT on November 15, 2021, to review and share input on anticipated DESE changes to the Admissions Policy. The public was invited to attend and/or submit a question or concern through the school website. In summary, the forum attendees were primarily parents of past or prospective students with thoughtful questions and concerns about maintaining a culture of merit and high expectations at BVT. Collectively the attendees were pleased with the proposed policy for maintaining a culture of high expectations. With the recommendation of its Policy Subcommittee, citizen input, and other outreach, School Committee members benefited from reviewing the feedback before voting on the proposed Admission Policy.

Item 9. Policy Subcommittee Report – C. Hanratty

9.1. Revised Policies:

9.1.a. Support Personnel - On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to accept the revised Support Personnel Policy. The revised policy included Juneteenth as a paid holiday (if school is in session).

9.1.b. Admission Policy - Mr. Hanratty explained that the proposed Admission Policy revisions were mainly to add clarification to the State. The most significant change is an admission lottery for 16 available seats in the new two-year Drafting program, which would allow a rising junior student (10th-grade student at the time of the application) who is a resident of the district to apply for the selection lottery to the Drafting program. Students applying for the two-year Drafting program would not be eligible for in-school program transfers. The other changes regarded attendance and absences for all excused reasons by the sending districts would not be counted. Also, the number of dates a student has been suspended or expelled would give the maximum points awarded to students who have never been suspended. On a motion by Mr.

Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted to accept the proposed Admission Policy revisions dated November 18, 2021.

Item 10. Budget Subcommittee Report – Chair Julie Mitchell

School Committee Members Julie Mitchell (Chair) and Gerald Finn (Vice-Chair) were re-appointed to the FY22 Budget Subcommittee during their first meeting held at BVT on November 18, 2021. They also verified the calendar of upcoming meeting dates.

Item 11. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

11.1. Final MSBA Audit of Self-Funded Roof Project – The Massachusetts School Building Authority provided the audit results, and the grant amount for the self-funded roof repair project is final. Therefore, not subject to further review or adjustment, and the final payment of \$23,436 reimbursement has been received.

11.2. Recent External Funding Status Report:

11.2.a. Blissful Meadows Company Open – BVT received a donation in the amount of \$6,000 from the annual Company Open, which will be used for the professional development of BVT leadership staff.

11.2.b. Commonwealth Stimulus – BVT has been informed that the MA Skills Capital grant request for \$225,000 will be awarded to enhance its Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program.

11.2.c. Capital Skills Grant - BVT continues to pursue capital skills grants to enhance and compliment local assessments.

11.2.d. Other Grant Submissions - BVT continues to pursue all grant opportunities and continues to invite new opportunities.

11.3. New BVT Student Scholarship: Gino Tellier Memorial Scholarship - The wife (a BVT employee) of the late Gino Tellier offered two \$500 scholarships in his memory starting in 2022. The award will be open to all graduating seniors at BVT who plan to go directly to work in the trade they studied or to advance their education.

11.4. BVT Van Donations:

11.4.a. Milford Federal – BVT is in receipt of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Milford Federal Bank for the school's passenger van program.

11.4.b. bankHometown – BVT is in receipt of a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from bankHometown for the school's passenger van program.

11.5. MAVA General Membership Meeting Report - MAVA recently held its General Membership Meeting in Marlboro, MA. Dr. Fitzpatrick, Anthony Steele, Skye Bomba, and others attended this professional development opportunity to stay up-to-date on rules and regulations.

11.6. BVT Visitations/Tours:

11.6.a. The Department of Education representatives, Regina M. Robinson, Deputy Commissioner, and Elizabeth L. Bennett, Associate Commissioner, visited and toured BVT on October 26, 2021.

11.7. Communication from the Public – The School Committee Members received a letter dated October 25, 2021, written by Upton resident Jim Collins, who expressed an interest in the vocational-technical curriculum at BVT.

11.8. The School Committee received the most recent edition of the Parent Newsletter.

Item 12. New Business - M. Fitzpatrick

There was no new business to report. However, Chairman Hall welcomed the School Committee members to consider joining a Treasurer Selection Committee.

Item 13. 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 14. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on December 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 15. Meeting Closure:

15.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 6:58 p.m.

15.2. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Intinarelli, it was voted to adjourn at 6:59 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of October 21, 2021
- Item 3.1. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2021
- Item 7.1.a. Suggested Motion to transfer available funds
- Item 7.2.a. Construction Technology program (donation of oak planks)
- Item 7.2.b. Advanced Manufacturing program (donation of supplies)
- Item 8.4. 2021-2022 School Cancellation Contacts List
- Item 9.1.a. Proposed Revisions Support Personnel Policy (File: GDB-1)
- Item 9.1.b. Proposed Revisions Admission Policy (File: JF & JF-R)
- Item 11.1. Final MSBA audit results of self-funded roof project
- Item 11.3. New BVT Student Scholarship - Gino Tellier Memorial Scholarship
- Item 11.4.a. BVT Van Donation Milford Federal Bank
- Item 11.4.b. BVT Van Donation bankHometown
- Item 11.7. Communication from the Public - a letter dated October 25, 2021
- Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary