

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District (BVVRD) School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 20, 2022**

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, Chair	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair	Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Lorna Mangano, Business Manager
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Christopher C. Pilla, Candidate for Treasurer
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Brian Rhodes, Engineering & Robotics Instructor
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Emma Conkey, Student Representative
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	

Members Absent:

David R. Bartlett of Upton

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. Bartlett could not attend. There was a tribute video and a moment of silence in remembrance of BVT's Director of Construction Management/Facilities, Mr. James Brochu. The video viewed was of the Senate Session Tribute, a memorial adjournment held on January 3, 2022, in memory of Mr. Brochu, who died on December 18, 2021. Senator Moore recognized Mr. Brochu as a devoted public servant who proudly served on the Upton Board of Selectmen for six years and previously served as a firefighter and EMT and past president and member of the EMS Association. The Senate adopted the memorial adjournment order and observed a moment of silence. Jim will be missed by family, friends, and the community of Upton he so faithfully served.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to waive reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of December 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 December 16, 2021. The report reflected an ending balance of \$5,802,271.85 for Total Funds, including \$679,824.31 in Project Funds, and \$5,122,447.54 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. Sch. Com. Officers Election/Appointments for 2022

At Chairman Hall's request, the Superintendent-Director led the School Committee through the election/appointment process. The terms of service begin January 2022 and end at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.1. Chair - On a motion made by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to elect Mr. Joseph M. Hall as the BVVRD School Committee Chair as required by section I(E) of the BVVR School District agreement and policy "BDA/BDB" of the school district's policy manual. The term of office shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.2. Vice Chair - On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to elect Mr. Gerald M. Finn as the BVVRD School Committee Vice Chair as required by section I(E) of the BVVR School District agreement and policy "BDA/BDB" of the school district's policy manual. The term of office shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.3. Secretary - On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to appoint Mr. Anthony M. Yitts as the BVVRD School Committee Secretary. The term of office, which is based upon past practice, shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.4. Treasurer - On a motion made by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to appoint Mr. Christopher C. Pilla as the District Treasurer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the period of February 7, 2022, through and including June 30, 2022. The recommended remuneration for this position is to be at subject to negotiation and prorated for the remainder of FY22. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to appoint Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. Interim Treasurer for the period of January 20, 2022, to February 7, 2022, when Mr. Pilla commences the position.

4.5. Asst. Treasurer - On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to appoint Mr. Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. as the Assistant Treasurer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District. The term of office, which is based upon past practice, shall commence February 7, 2022, and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.6. Payroll/AP Warrant Signer - On a motion made by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to appoint Mrs. Julie H. Mitchell as the Payroll/AP Warrant Signer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District. The term of office, which is based upon past practice, shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.7. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signers:

4.7. a. Signer #1 - On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to appoint Mr. David R. Bartlett as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District. The term of office, which is based upon past

practice, shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.7. b. Signer #2 - On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to appoint Mr. James H. Ebbeling as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District. The term of office, which is based upon past practice, shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

4.7. c. Signer #3 - On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to appoint Mr. Paul J. Braza as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District. The term of office, which is based upon past practice, shall commence January 2022 and conclude at the regular meeting held January 2023.

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

The Student Council Representative Emma Conkey informed the Committee that Leah and Bradley had work conflicts and could not attend. Emma provided an update on Council activities. First, the Holiday Drive exceeded its collection goal with \$2,220.64 raised this year through shop coin wars, can donation efforts, and staff donations that benefitted 16 families. Second, Student Council Representatives are planning to attend a winter retreat. Lastly, the Council is working on its Excellence Book, highlighting the Council and its initiatives.

Item 6. Vocational Department Presentation - Brian Rhodes

6.1. Engineering & Robotics Instructor & Team Leader Brian Rhodes mentioned the other instructors are Philip Lacroix and Timothy Oliveira and gave an overview of the vocational curriculum for all grade levels, including positive student enrollment trends with a projected 89.7% increase from 2018 to 2024. Additionally, 26% of seniors are on co-op placements. In the 2021 SkillsUSA District Competition, BVT's Engineering & Robotics students earned 26 medals; at the State Competition, 24 medals; and at the National Competition, eight medals. The program offers a college-level curriculum through Project Lead the Way (PLTW); during 2020-2021, students earned credit 111 times. BVT earned the PLTW Distinguished School recognition for four consecutive years. BVT's Engineering & Robotics students are starting college, having already earned college credit, and are entering a highly skilled industry with careers post-college.

Item 7. Business Manager - L. Mangano

7.1. Donation Approvals:

7.1.a. Duclos Family - On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to accept a \$35,000 donation from Pat & Cindy Duclos.

7.1.b. HVAC/Refrigerant (T. Belland) - On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to accept a donation of refrigerant supplies with an estimated value of \$1,450 from Mr. Belland for training purposes in the HVAC/R program.

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

8.1. Mr. Steele presented the Committee with a copy of the preliminary proposed 2022-2023 School Year Calendar. Mrs. Mitchell noticed that the proposed calendar did not include the Federal Holiday, New Year's Day 2023, observed on Monday, January 2, 2023. Mr.

Hanratty requested that the proposed No School day on Friday, September 2, 2022, be considered a School Day to allow for an additional Snow Day in June of 2023. On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Yitts, it was voted to amend the proposed 2022-2023 School Year Calendar to include the January 2, 2023 date as a holiday. On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Yitts, it was voted to approve the previously amended 2022-2023 School Year Calendar, and Mr. Steele will survey the parents regarding Friday, September 2, 2022.

8.2. Mr. Steele presented the Committee with a copy of the 2022-2023 BVT Program of Studies, which is used in course selection and career planning. He noted that Katherine Perotta (BVT Class of 2022) created the cover art for the Program of Studies. Some of the new inclusions in the 2022-2023 Program of Studies are Biotechnology and the two-year Drafting & Design program.

8.3. Modified Snow Day Report: 01/07/22 - At the December 16, 2021, School Committee meeting, the Committee approved the use of (up to) three remote learning days during the 2021-2022 school year. The Remote Work Days would be utilized at the discretion of the Superintendent-Director in lieu of school cancellations due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Due to inclement weather on Friday, January 7, 2022, BVT had its first Remote Work Day. All students in all grade levels remained at home for distance which included "live" instruction in all educational areas. Students followed their academic or vocational schedules according to the A/B week cycle associated with the designated day. Staff reported same or better attendance and an overall consensus that remote learning is a 21st-century skill and an incredible resource when used sparingly and purposefully.

8.4. Out of State Field Trip:

8.4.a. Ski & Snowboard Club: 03/05/22 (Mount Snow: Dover-VT). The Committee was asked to authorize a vote to approve the request for an out-of-state field trip for March 5, 2022, for the Ski & Snowboard Club to visit Mount Snow in Dover, Vermont. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request as presented.

Item 9. Policy Subcommittee Report – J. Mitchell

9.1. First Round Line Item Series: 3000, 4000, & 7000 – Mrs. Mitchell provided a Budget Subcommittee update. The Budget Subcommittee has been meeting and has reviewed all of the series except for the Instruction (2000) series. The Budget Subcommittee did not meet on January 20, 2022. They are waiting on the Governors numbers.

9.2. District-wide Technology – There are requests for more switches, which are expensive and may need to be addressed again at a later date.

9.3. Preliminary State Budget Update (if available or released) – The Preliminary State Budget was unavailable.

9.4. The Committee is in receipt of the DESE Revised District Enrollments for FY21-22 as of 10/1/21, a total enrollment of 1,250.

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

10.1. BVT Visitation/Tour:

10.1.a. Dr. Fitzpatrick met with Jill Foulis, Principal, and Jason DeFalco, Superintendent (BMR), on January 13, 2022, and gave them a campus tour.

10.2. Notification of Resignations:

10.2.a. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 12/15/21 from Erika Puda, Business & Entrepreneurship Long-Term Substitute, was accepted with an effective date of 1/7/22.

10.2.b. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 12/23/21 from Keara Holmes, Practical Nursing Instructor, was acknowledged with an effective date of 1/7/22.

10.2.c. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 1/8/22 from Alex Turner, Custodian 2nd Shift, was accepted with a preference for more advanced notice with an immediate effective date of 1/7/22.

Item 11. New Business

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed that Committee that School Committee member David R. Bartlett of Upton is working to create a Jim Brochu scholarship.

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. Dr. Fitzpatrick pointed out two items that were included in the Items. First, the Hopedale Foundation had allocated a total of \$18,000 in Trade Education Scholarships. Second, a board member from a regional high school in Maine who recently visited BVT had shared in the Piscataquis Observer how impressed she was by BVT after the tour.

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

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on March 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 14. Meeting Closure:

14.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:25 p.m.

14.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of December 16, 2021
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2021
- Item 4.1. Suggested Motion: District School Committee Chair
- Item 4.2. Suggested Motion: District School Committee Vice Chair
- Item 4.3. Appointment: District School Committee Secretary
- Item 4.4. Suggested Motion: District Treasure
- Item 4.5. Appointment: District School Committee Assistant Treasurer
- Item 4.6. Appointment: District School Committee Payroll/AP Warrant Signer
- Item 4.7.a. Appointment: District School Committee Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 1
- Item 4.7.b. Appointment: District School Committee Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 2
- Item 4.7.c. Appointment: District School Committee Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 3
- Item 7.1.a. Duclos Donation
- Item 7.1.b. Tom Belland Refrigerant Donation
- Item 8.1. Proposed Blackstone Valley Tech 2022-2023 School Calendar
- Item 8.4.a. Out of State Field Trip: Ski & Snowboard Club, 03/05/22
- Item 9.4. DESE Revised District Enrollments
- Item 10.2.a. Resignation Notice: Erika Puda, Business & Entrepreneurship Long-Term Substitute
- Item 10.2.b. Resignation Notice: Keara Holmes, Practical Nursing Instructor
- Item 10.2.c. Resignation Notice: Alex Turner, Custodian 2nd Shift
- Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary