

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 14, 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, Chairman	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chairman	Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Michele Denise, Vocational Director
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator (Zoom)
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Leah Cook, Student Representative
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	

Members Absent:

Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
David R. Bartlett of Upton

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that Mr. Intinarelli and Mr. Bartlett would be unable to attend and that Mr. Koopman would join as soon as his schedule allowed. Mr. Koopman arrived at 6:15 p.m. and left at 7:40 p.m. A Zoom link was made available in advance for Mr. Evans, who joined remotely. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of John R. "Jack" Potter (Mark Potter's father) and Evelyn M. Celozzi Berry (Barbara Auger's mother).

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 March 10, 2022 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated March 31, 2022. The report reflected an ending balance of \$7,091,646.90 for Total Funds, including \$1,303,122.00 in Project Funds, and \$5,788,524.90 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the March 31, 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. July 4th Festivities Presentation (6/25/22) – Brad DiDio

4.1. Mr. Brad DiDio, Upton Men's Club representative, explained to the Committee that he had requested the use of BVT's facilities for the Annual July 4th Festivities to take place on Saturday, June 25, 2022. On a motion by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the support of hosting the July 4th Festivities at the school on June

25, 2022.

Item 5. Student Recognitions - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

5.1. Superintendent's Scholars Award Recipients:

5.1.a. Carmen Gray of Northbridge (Engineering & Robotics) was recognized as the Superintendent's Scholars Award Recipient. Presently, Carmen is the Class of 2022 Valedictorian.

5.1.b. Riley Holt of Uxbridge (Engineering & Robotics) was recognized as the Superintendent's Scholars Award Recipient. Currently, Riley is the Class of 2022 Salutatorian

5.2. Eagle Scout Rank:

5.2.a. Noelle "Ellie" McDonald of Grafton (Construction Technology) was recognized for passing her Board of Review to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Ellie's Eagle Scout project included leading a group in restoring the music room for the Congregational Church of Grafton. They replaced the drop ceiling panels and cleaned the carpet. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that Ellie could not attend the School Committee Meeting because she had earned the Massachusetts Vocational Association and Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators Annual Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Award and was attending that ceremony.

5.3. John H. Chafee Award Presentation/Heritage Corridor (04/11/22):

5.3.a. The Painting & Design Technology (Sophomore Class) and their instructor, Tom Lamont, were recognized as recipients of the John H. Chafee Heritage Award during an awards presentation held at BVT on April 11, 2022, for the work they did to restore a sign on the Northbridge Town Common in collaboration with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Chafee Awards recipients at this ceremony also included Congressman Jim McGovern and Ross Weaver from Sutton, MA, and additional distinguished guests that included former Senator Richard Moore, Sutton Town Administrator Jim Smith, and the full Sutton Board of Selectpersons. Additional Chafee Awards recipients from Rhode Island include Senator Jack Reed and John Marsland, and they will receive their awards at different ceremonies later in April.

5.4. Appointment to the United States Air Force Academy:

5.4.a. Leah Cook of Blackstone (Engineering & Robotics) was recognized for being appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Leah plans to major in Astronautical Engineering at the Air Force Academy next year. Leah will report for basic training on June 23, 2022.

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

The Student Council Representatives provided an update on Council activities: Senior, Jon Hollenbeck, had won the Unsung Hero Award at the Massachusetts Student Council State Conference; Many Student Council Members would be volunteering to assist during the SkillsUSA State Competition held at BVT on April 29, 2022; the Council will hold Officer Elections on May 11, 2022; and will recognize teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Item 7. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

7.1. Mr. Steele provided the Committee with the SkillsUSA District Competition results and a report which reflected the impressive total medal count: 102, 33 gold, 37 silver, 31 bronze, and 11 sweeps. In addition, he shared that the SkillsUSA State Competition will be held at BVT on April 29, 2022, and the SkillsUSA National Conference will no longer be held in Kentucky. Instead, it will be in Atlanta, Georgia.

7.2. Mr. Steele provided the Committee with an update on the Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremony and an invitation to attend. The ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th, at 5:00 p.m. on the Football Field with a rain date of Friday, May 27th.

7.3. Michele Denise provided the Committee with an Admissions Status Report for 2022 with a handout dated April 14, 2022. The current total enrollment of all four grade levels is 1219 students. The 2021-2022 Admission Season has 740 freshmen applicants, 109 upperclassman applicants, and 311 initial admissions offers. The incoming Freshmen Parent Orientation was held on April 9, 2022. Parents attended four workshops ranging from student life, discipline, vocational and academic basics, student services, technology, and business office operations.

7.4. NEASC: Approval of Mission & Core Values - Mr. Evans presented the Committee with the school's proposed mission statement, core values, and learning expectations for their review and approval, which are part of a self-evaluation process in advance of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visiting team. Mr. Evans reported that the visiting team was scheduled to visit on December 5, 2022, but recently requested that they change it to March 21, 2023. Mr. Evans reported that the school is on track for a successful visit in March. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the approval of the proposed mission statement, core values, and learning expectations as approved presented.

7.5. General Advisory Update:

General Advisory Committee Member Peter Wojnar was unable to attend the meeting. As a Vocational Director, Ms. Denise works with the Advisory Committee and was invited to provide an update. Ms. Denise reported that the Advisory Boards had met as a group, and then the various program committees had met separately. There are three new boards in Electrical, Auto Technology, and Biotechnology.

7.6. Ms. Denise indicated that the General Advisory Committee has solid involvement but always looks for and welcomes new members. Recruiting new program advisory committee members will be included in the NEASC future goals. Dr. Fitzpatrick expressed appreciation to the Advisory Committees for their assistance in the validation of budget and grant item requests.

7.7. Out of State Field Trips:

Mr. Steele responded to the Committee's request for advanced notice on field trip requests. He indicated that he does his best to present the Committee with as much advanced notice as possible with all pertinent information and limited TBDs. In addition, he provided insight and examples of why sometimes that is not possible with impromptu invites or competitions.

7.7.a. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to approve the proposed DECA National Competition field trip to Atlanta, Georgia from April 22, 2022 to April 17, 2022 for three students to compete at the National level in designated events as presented.

7.7.b. On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to approve the proposed Engineering field trip to Manchester, New Hampshire on, April 23, 2022, for six students to compete in the ARC Drone Competition at Saint Anselm College as presented.

7.7.c. On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to approve the proposed Motor Sports Club field trip to Lebanon Valley Dragway in West Lebanon, New York on, May 20, 2022, for 24 students to race BVT's 10 Drag Truck, and work on the vehicle as presented.

7.7.d. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to approve the Auto Technology/Engineering/Auto Collision Shops' proposed field trip to the New England Dragway in Epping, New Hampshire on, June 3, 2022, for 80 students to attend the NHRA Youth and Education Services Event as presented.

7.7.e. On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to approve the SkillsUSA National Conference proposed field trip to Atlanta, Georgia from June 20, 2022 to June 25, 2022, for students to attend the SkillsUSA National Conference as presented.

7.8. Mr. Steele informed the Committee that he usually attends the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) Annual Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Awards Banquet but that it was being held the same evening on April 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Dr. Connors was attending in his absence to represent BVT.

7.9. Line Item Transfer:

7.9.a. Security Camera Replacement Project - On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to transfer (a total of \$23,354 in) available funds from the following accounts: Tech Dept. Tech-Hardware (\$15,354), Business Office Profession Development (\$2,500), Business Office Travel (\$2,500), Treasures (\$2,000), and Tech Dept. Profession Development (\$1,000) into the Capital Tech-Sch Data Infrastructure account. The identified savings from existing appropriations will be used to provide funding for video management software (Orchid) and two servers (Dell). These items are a critical component of a security replacement initiative underway. The requested servers will utilize the video software to store video footage for 30 days as required by MA General Laws related to student records retention. The current security cameras in the building are approximately 18 years old and record poor quality videos that are grainy and blurred. Upgrades to the security camera system will strengthen campus/building security, take advantage of advances in technology and mitigate end of life functionality with many of the existing cameras. With the current supply chain and delivery issues, it is important to obtain the video software and storage devices so set up and necessary programming can get underway; while determination of specific camera type, based on functionality, and location placement is finalized. A separate funding request for security

cameras will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

Item 8. Policy Subcommittee Report - C. Hanratty & A. Steele

Mr. Hanratty informed the School Committee that the Policy Subcommittee had met several times and proposed the revised policies as presented. The members were in receipt of the policies with tracked changes noted in red.

8.1 Revised Policies:

- 8.1.a. 2022-2023 BVT Student Handbook - A. Steele
- 8.1.b. 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Student Handbook - J. Monks
- 8.1.c. 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Faculty Handbook - J. Monks
- 8.1.d. 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Financial Aid Handbook - J. Monks
- 8.1.e. JICA-R Proper Dress Code – Revised

On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Hall, Committee members unanimously voted to accept the 2022-2023 BVT Student Handbook, the 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Student Handbook, 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Faculty Handbook, 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Financial Aid Handbook, and the revised JICA-R Proper Dress Code as presented.

Item 9. Budget Report – J. Mitchell

9.1. Mrs. Mitchell indicated that the FY23 budget process continues and asked Dr. Fitzpatrick to share status reports regarding the town Finance Committee presentations/meetings currently underway.

9.2. Finance Committee Presentations/Meetings - M. Fitzpatrick:

9.2.a. Grafton: 03/16/22 - Mr. Yitts reported that he joined Dr. Fitzpatrick for the District's budget presentation to the Grafton Finance Committee on March 16, 2022, and that the presentation was well received and that they appreciated the detail of the budget presentation. They had a fair amount of discussion around grants and were supportive.

9.2.b. Sutton: 03/22/22 - Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the District's budget presentation to the Sutton Finance Committee on March 22, 2022, was a professional exchange with a veteran fincom group. They had questions about student enrollment and transitioning from one school to another. The Committee indicated that they were satisfied with the response provided.

9.2.c. Mendon: 03/23/22 - Mr. Cray reported the was able to join Dr. Fitzpatrick for the District's budget presentation to the Mendon Finance Committee on March 23, 2022, and indicated that the presentation was well received.

9.2.d. Douglas: 03/29/22 - Mr. Potter shared that he was able to join Dr. Fitzpatrick during the District's budget presentation to the Douglas Finance Committee on March 29, 2022, and indicated it went fairly smoothly given the financial numbers favored Douglas.

9.2.e. Millbury: 04/04/22 - Mr. Hanratty reported that he joined Dr. Fitzpatrick for the District's budget presentation to the Millbury Finance Committee on April 4, 2022, and that it

was very cordial.

9.2.f. Millville: 04/05/22 - Mr. Finn reported that he was able to join Dr. Fitzpatrick for the District's budget presentation to the Millville Board of Selectpersons/Finance Committee on April 5, 2022. He indicated that it went well.

9.2.g. Milford: 04/13/22 - Dr. Fitzpatrick said that the District's budget presentation to the Milford Finance Committee on April 13, 2022, involved providing detailed information in advance, which was well received.

9.3. Budget Warrant Wording - Dr. Fitzpatrick asked the Committee to be on the lookout for anticipated changes to the wording of the Budget Warrant, which has yet to be determined.

9.4. Budget Distribution Update - Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that the annual budget distribution is underway and that a digital copy is available on the website.

Item 10. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

10.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the 28th Annual Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner held on St Patrick's Day was successful. He described the pageantry, preparation, and presentation by the students and staff within the event as simply remarkable; and an opportunity for students to enhance their portfolios.

10.2. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the School Committee traditionally contributes to an annual scholarship award, currently at \$400.00 and he encouraged the members to consider their ability to contribute.

10.3. Dr. Fitzpatrick provided an update on the Senior Class Trip to Washington, D.C., from May 15, 2022, to May 17, 2022, and provided the Committee with an itinerary of planned activities.

10.4. Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee about the 2013/2014 Potential State Pension Billing (Bill H.48 - Revised Number H.4592) and provided the Committee with a summary of the Bill.

10.5. Visit/Tour(s):

10.5.a. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that Dr. James Hanna, Occupational Education Instructor (Fitchburg State University), visited the school on March 16, 2022. He was extremely complimentary of the school and his students, who are instructors at BVT.

10.6. Notification of Resignations:

10.6.a. Notification of Resignation letter dated March 21, 2022 from Kayla Kelly, Teacher Assistant - Special Education was received and accepted.

10.6.b. Notification of Resignation letter dated March 29, 2022 from Keri Burnett, Administrative Secretary - Central Office was received and accepted.

10.7. Notification of Retirements:

10.7.a. The retirement notification of Eithne (EJ) Smith, Career Enrichment Teacher was shared. Dr. Fitzpatrick noted an appreciation for 19 years of quality instructional services, EJ will retire effective August 7, 2022.

10.7.b. The retirement notification of Joanna Wissler, Biology/Chemistry Teacher was shared. Dr. Fitzpatrick noted an appreciation for four years of quality instructional services, Joanna will retire effective June 30, 2022.

Item 11. New Business

Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the House Ways and Means Committee's budget recommendation includes \$6 billion for Chapter 70 education aid (an increase of \$485 million over the current budget), increases the minimum per-student aid amount from \$30 to \$60 (Mass. Municipal Association had requested \$100), accelerates by one year the charter school reimbursement process, and increases higher education scholarship funding by more than \$25 million. Dr. Fitzpatrick also encouraged the Committee to share the annual golf tournament registration brochure with any golfers.

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 May 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 14. Meeting Closure:

19.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 8:10 p.m.

19.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of March 10, 2022

Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2022

Item 7.1. SkillsUSA Accomplishment Report

Item 7.4. Suggested Motion: NEASC: Approval of Mission & Core Values

Item 7.7.a. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: DECA Competition-Atlanta, GA

Item 7.7.b. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: ARC Drone Competition-Manchester, NH

Item 7.7.c. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: Motor Sports Club-West Lebanon, NY

Item 7.7.d. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: Multiple Shops-Epping, NH

Item 7.7.e. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: SkillsUSA National Conference-Atlanta, GA

Item 7.9.a. Suggested Motion: Line Item Transfer for Security Camera Replacement Project

Item 8.1.a. 2022-2023 BVT Student Handbook - A. Steele

Item 8.1.b. 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Student Handbook - J. Monks

Item 8.1.c. 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Faculty Handbook - J. Monks

Item 8.1.d. 2022-2023 BVT Practical Nursing Financial Aid Handbook - J. Monks

Item 8.1. e. JICA-R Proper Dress Code - Revised

Item 10.3. Senior Class Trip Update

Item 10.4. 2013/2014 Potential State Pension Billing (Bill H.48 - Revised Number H.4592)

Item 10.6.a. Notification of Resignation: Kayla Kelly, Teacher Assistant - Special Education

Item 10.6.b. Notification of Resignation: Keri Burnett, Administrative Secretary - Central Office

Item 10.7.a. Notification of Retirement: Eithne (EJ) Smith, Career Enrichment Teacher

Item 10.7.b. Notification of Retirement: Joanna Wissler, Biology/Chemistry Teacher

Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary