

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 16, 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
 Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
 Mark J. Potter of Douglas
 Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
 Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon
 Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury
 Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
 Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge
 Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton
 James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge – left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
 Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
 Lorna M. Mangano, Business Manager
 Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer
 Martha Pellegrino, Nutrition Educator
 Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
 Ellie Poitras, Student Representative
 Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
 Paul J. Braza of Milford
 David R. Bartlett of Upton

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mr. Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick was given advanced notice that Mr. Intinarelli, Mr. Braza, and Mr. Bartlett would be unable to attend and that Mr. Ebbeling would need to leave the meeting at 7:30 p.m. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Pearl A. Hanratty (mother of Chester P. Hanratty, Jr.).

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 May 19, 2022 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated May 31, 2022. The report reflected an ending balance of \$4,444,909.64 for Total Funds, including \$1,269,826.96 in Project Funds, and \$3,175,082.68 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the May 31, 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented.

3.2. The School Committee was presented with the Right-to-Borrow paperwork. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to move to allow the District Treasurer authorization under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16(G) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with approval of the Chair of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and to issue a note as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 17.

On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was voted to allow the Student Council Representative to provide their update (Item 6) prior to the executive session (Item 4), which allowed the students to present and move on with their evening.

Item 6. Comments by Student Representatives - Bradley Lyon & Ellie Poitras

The newly elected student representatives, Ellie Poitras and Bradley Lyon, provided an update on Council activities. They reported that they are welcoming the incoming freshmen, the Class of 2026, by inviting the new students and their parents to ask any questions about the upcoming year via a Microsoft form. The executive board will answer the questions over the summer in a video that will be shared before the welcome barbeque, where they will distribute the class t-shirts to the freshman class. They also reported their last Council meeting of the year included team activities and an ice truck. It was a fun meeting to understand and reflect on why we hold these activities, and they have begun planning retreat activities for the summer.

Item 4. *Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, Section 21(a) #1

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Koopman, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 6:14 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. Potter - Yes |
| Mr. Ebbeling - Yes | Mr. Hanratty - Yes |
| Mr. Broderick - Yes | Mr. Koopman - Yes |
| Mr. Yitts - Yes | Mr. Finn - Yes |

On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 6:43 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Hall - Yes | Mrs. Mitchell - Yes |
| Mr. Cray - Yes | Mr. Potter - Yes |
| Mr. Ebbeling - Yes | Mr. Hanratty - Yes |
| Mr. Broderick - Yes | Mr. Koopman - Yes |
| Mr. Yitts - Yes | Mr. Finn - Yes |

Item 5. Decide: Release Status of Exec. Session Minutes of 10/21/21

On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was voted approve the release of the minutes of the executive session of October 21, 2021.

Item 6. Comments by Student Representatives - Bradley Lyon & Ellie Poitras

Item 6 was moved to occur prior to Item 4

Item 7. Annual Wellness Assessment Report - Martha Pellegrino

Martha Pellegrino presented the Annual Wellness Report for 2021-2022. The goals and objectives for 2021-2022 were provided, including student and employee wellness and initiatives such as the collected student height/weight/BMI data, the annual Wellness Fair held on 12/8/22, and the RAD Self-Defense Class conducted by School Resource Officer Isaiah Poxon. She reported that a video for staff and students on CPR and the use of AEDs was being created by Multimedia Communications. The grant writer secured a Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant: \$4,000 grant

received for SY 2022-2023 to purchase picnic tables for outdoor seating, taste tests for smoothies (for student meals), and fitness equipment (yoga mats, kettlebells, and resistance bands). She oversaw the school's Nutrition and Fitness Program (VITA). The program in SY 2021-22 had 183 students participate. It was the highest number of participants in a school year.

Ms. Mangano provided an update on the free and reduced meal reimbursement. She reported an increase in meal counts from pre-covid average lunches from 450 to 730 lunches a day and an increase in breakfasts from 200 to 450 daily. The federal government had been providing a \$4.60 meal reimbursement. Although the federal government has not confirmed it will back universal meals next school year, the matter is currently being addressed at the state level. All meals were free in SY2021-22, and the state is looking at universal free lunch in SY2022-23. Additionally, thanks to reimbursements, grants, the great work, and cost-saving measures of the Cafeteria Manager and staff, the school has been able to reinvest in the cafeteria and replace aging kitchen equipment.

Item 8. Vocational Directors Update - M. Denise & M. Connors

8.1. Mr. Steele, on behalf of Mrs. Denise and Mr. Connors, presented an update on internal and external vocational projects. Some reported projects were: A Chapel Design (Drafting & Design Technology) for the Retreat at Norwich Lake – A Timothy Hill Retreat Center. The re-wiring and repairing of a pitching machine (Electrical) for the Town of Douglas Parks and Recreation Department. American Legion Hall (Mendon) Work at the American Legion continued this year with students from the Electrical and Construction Technology departments completing various aspects of the renovation. Rock The Block! (Mendon) had a Multimedia Communications instructor and students working with the committee for the 355th-anniversary celebration to create a logo for their fall event. Brackets for the Blackstone Police Department were produced by the Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication students to hold radar and digital display speed indicators around town. Lastly, Painting and Design Technology (P&D) has received numerous requests for updated signage throughout local communities utilizing new equipment in their vocational shop. P&D students also worked in collaboration with the school's facilities department to maintain its fleet of vehicles

BVT Renovations/Improvements: Mr. Steele informed the Committee that the P&D shop was recently renovated with help from other internal departments like the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC/R). The HVAC/R shop renovation is currently underway with funds from the capital skills grant program.

8.2. Mr. Steele presented the Cooperative Education (Co-op) Placement Report Spring 2022, dated June 16, 2022, that was shared at the meeting. The handout indicated that the Class of 2022 had 136 seniors participate in a Co-op placement. Fifty-five thousand combined hours worked and earned a combined salary of \$815,000. Co-op is an excellent way for the students to advance their skills. Career Signing Day held on May 6, 2022, celebrated 38 students heading into the workforce, and 13 students signed contracts on Career Day.

Item 9. Business Manager - L. Mangano

9.1. Ms. Mangano presented a year-end line item transfer and explained that the identified savings from existing appropriations would be used to provide funding for twenty-six security cameras for the exterior of the school building (five various models). A needs assessment based on camera functionality and location placement was conducted by various

internal staff members, as well as consultation with an exterior camera manufacturer. This request is the final component of the security camera replacement initiative. The current security cameras on the campus are approximately 18 years old and record poor quality videos that are grainy and blurred. Upgrades to the security cameras will strengthen campus/building security, take advantage of advances in technology, and mitigate end of life functionality with many of the existing cameras. Analysis of security camera initiative funding approvals for video software, servers, and cameras:

\$23,354 School Committee Approved 04/14/2022

\$60,864 School Committee Approved 05/19/2022

\$84,218

\$30,544 Proposed Vote Per Item 9.2.a. (final phase of security camera initiative)

\$114,762 Total after Proposed Vote

9.2.a. On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was voted to transfer available funds from the following accounts:

(1000.86.5268.000.8) Ins-Unemployment \$17,544,

(1000.50.4450.450.8) Building Network/Maint. (Tech-C/S) \$5,000,

(1000.84.4130.401.8) Utilities-Water/Sewer/HazMat \$5,000,

(1000.84.4210.400.8) Grounds Maint. C/S \$3,000

into the following identified account: (1000.87.7300.000.8) Equipment \$30,544.

9.3. Ms. Mangano reported that there were no donations for approval.

Item 10. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

10.1. Junior-Senior Prom: 05/14/22 - Mr. Steele informed the Committee that the Junior-Senior Prom was held on May 14th at the DCU Center in Worcester and it was a safe, well-attended event that went smoothly.

10.2. Senior Class Day and Senior Memorial Scholarship Night: 05/24/22 - Mr. Steele reported that both events held on May 22nd at BVT in the Competition Center recognized the accomplishments of senior class members. The Scholarship Night honored military and honors scholars with all of the traditional pomp and circumstance.

a. 2022 Scholarship Report was shared with the Committee showing a grand total of 2022 Dollars Award at \$3,250,739 with a Renewable Value of \$10,565,800.

10.3. BVT Graduation Report: 05/26/22 - Mr. Steele reported that the graduation was held outside on the athletic field at BVT on May 26th. It was a beautiful evening for an outdoor event. It was a very normal graduation that honored 297 seniors for their achievements, and it was an event that received a lot of compliments from those that attended the polished ceremony.

10.4. Spring Sports Awards Night: 06/16/22 - Mr. Steele informed the Committee that the Sports Awards Night was being held that evening to honor its student-athletes. He also shared a spring sports summary prepared by Athletic Director Mr. Denise. The handout included the following notable items among many: Girls Lacrosse, Colonial Athletic Champions, and 22 All-Starts for Spring 2022.

10.5. End-of-Year Procedures - Mr. Steele informed the members that end-of-year procedures for seniors had been completed. Students completed their finals and returned their

laptops to be stored. June 21st is the last day of school, and an end-of-year staff party is scheduled for that afternoon. Then the summer projects begin, updating databases, summer cleaning, and preparing the building for a return to school.

Item 11. Signatory Authorizations - J. Hall

11.1. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to empower Superintendent-Director, Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, as an authorized signatory for the Regional School District for the school year 2022-2023 as it pertains to District contracts, grants, and other legally binding documents between the District and any/all outside agencies.

11.2. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to empower Business Manager, Lorna Mangano, as an authorized signatory for the Regional School District for the school year 2022-2023 as it pertains to District purchase orders, contracts, grants, and other legally binding documents between the District and any/all outside agencies.

Item 12. Budget Report - Julie Mitchell

12.1. A status report indicating an updated budget approval standings and town meeting dates was shared with the Committee.

12.2. Annual Town Meeting Actions – Mrs. Mitchell shared information on the annual town meeting actions on the District’s budget, advising that the proposed FY23 budget secured unanimous approval by all thirteen member towns.

b. The Town of Milford voted in favor of the budget on May 23, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he attended the town meeting.

c. The Town of Hopedale voted in favor of the budget on May 24, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that it was a favorable vote.

d. The Town of Bellingham voted in favor of the budget on May 25, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick said that he and Chair Hall attended the town meeting and that the budget received a favorable vote.

e. The Town of Blackstone voted in favor of the budget on May 31, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he attended the town meeting and that the budget passed.

Item 13. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

13.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that the BVT Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, June 13th at Highfields Golf and Country Club in Grafton. It was a fun-filled humid day and a huge success fundraising more than \$13,250 to enhance the educational opportunities and athletic activities for its students.

13.2. Visit/Tours:

a. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that at the request of Mr. Finn, he met with Jennifer Gill, Chair, and Richard Bremilst, member of the Millville Board of Selectmen, on May 23, 2022, and

entertained a tour.

b. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he had a meeting with an ASPIRE!/Seven Hills Foundation, Hopedale representative, on May 24, 2022, to discuss potential future partnerships and a signage request for a building on the Bellingham/Hopedale line.

c. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that he met with Kim Roberts-Morandi, the new Sutton Superintendent, on May 12, 2022, and had a very nice conversation, and it was a pleasant exchange. Mrs. Mitchell shared that she had met the new Sutton Superintendent, and she is a lovely person.

13.3. M.A.S.S. Annual Spring Meeting Report – Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that he attended the annual spring meeting, and they recognized his 25 years of service and presented him with an Adirondack chair.

13.4. The School Committee members were provided with a summary of the FY22 Grant Approvals. To date there is a total of \$1,803,345 as identified in Item 13.4.

13.5. FY23 Fiscal Picture - Dr. Fitzpatrick gave an overview of the FY23 Fiscal Picture, starting with the \$27,690,140 operational budget approved by all thirteen member communities, endorsed by 13 Finance Committees, and 13 Boards of Selectpersons. Approval was secured at a 4.9% increase in spending level versus FY22. Enrollment for next year is expected to increase by 12-15 students. He mentioned that the FY23 budget was built in sync with the January state-released numbers. Since that release, the Commonwealth's projected revenues have steadily expanded. Thus, it is reasonable to predict the State will at least equal if not exceed its original forecasted subsidy.

Also, within the FY23 budget were \$1,810,841 of confirmed (as of the earlier date) grants and donations, which continue to expand. Reviewing the status of more recently acquired external resources obtained in addition to the earlier tally is worthwhile as those assets are provided with a delineation of specific learning tools gained without impact on local financial support.

13.6. Superintendent's FY22 Goal Attainment Confirmation - On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the successful completion of the Superintendent's FY22 performance goals and its contractually defined incentive reoccurring compensation.

13.7. Notification of Resignation:

a. Notification of Resignation – A Notification of Resignation letter dated May 19, 2022 from Richard Stanley, Vocational Teaching Assistant - Machine Technology, was accepted with an effective of June 22, 2022.

Item 14. New Business

Mr. Yitts suggested a detailed Cafeteria presentation in the fall should be entertained to learn more about the school meals in regards to what items (substance-based) are being used.

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that with the displacement of the HVAC students who had helped clear the shop due to the state-funded Capital Skills renovation upgrade, the vocational instructors needed to find an alternative meeting location and suggested a suitable field trip. Thus, he had asked Mr. Hall on June 14, 2022, to approve a June 16, 2022, out-of-state vocational field trip to a museum in Newport, Rhode Island. On a motion made by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was retroactively voted to approve the June 16, 2022, out-of-state vocational field trip as presented and after it had occurred.

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that he had received a soft alert from the Teacher Association that teacher negotiations would be forthcoming. He also expressed his appreciation for how past negotiations were handled.

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday, June 25, the Upton Men's Club would hold its annual fireworks festival at BVT. The free community celebration will include entertainment for kids and adults of all ages.

Item 15. 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 16. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on August 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 17. Meeting Closure:

17.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:59 p.m.

17.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of May 19, 2022

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

Item 3.2. Suggested Motion - BVVR, Treasurer's Right-to-Borrow

Item 4.2 Confidential Non-Released Executive Session Minutes dated October 21, 2021

Item 7. Wellness Committee End of Year Report SY2021-22

Item 8. Vocational Project Update (External & Internal)

Item 8.2. Cooperative Education Report – Spring 2022 dated June 16, 2022

Item 9.2.a. Suggested Motion for Year-End Line Item Transfer(s)

Item 10.2.a. Class of 2022 Scholarships & Awards Report

Item 10.4. Spring Sports Summary

Item 11.1. Suggested Motion - BVVRSD, for Signatory Authorization – Dr. Fitzpatrick

Item 11.2. Suggested Motion - BVVRSD, for Signatory Authorization – M. Mangano

Item 12.1. FY23 Budget Approval Update dated May 31, 2022

Item 13.4. Summary FY2022 Grants and Donations dates June 8, 2022

Item 13.5. FY23 Fiscal Picture

Item 13.6. Suggested Motion - Superintendent's FY22 Goal Attainment Confirmation

Item 13.7.a. Notification of Retirement – Richard Stanley, Teacher Assistant

Item 15. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary