

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

Budget Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes December 14, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Gerald Finn of Millville

Chester Hanratty of Millbury

Edward Cray of Mendon

Jamie Patriarca, Assistant Business Manager

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director

Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent-Principal

Nicole Ferguson, Business Manager

Jacquenette Raad, Assistant Business Manager

Members Absent:

Joseph Hall of Bellingham

Tyler Bartlett of Upton

Christopher Pilla, District Treasurer

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Mr. Finn in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Mr. Finn asked members to review minutes from the December 7, 2023 meeting.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Finn seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to accept and approve the Budget Subcommittee meeting minutes of December 7, 2023, as written.

Agenda items

Mrs. Ferguson opened the meeting with follow-up to an inquiry from the prior meeting regarding the financial impact of step increases in the teachers' contract. First she referenced a document provided in prior meeting materials, indicating \$614K was the estimated step increases from the prior year. Then she provided a second document showing the dollar amount allocated to each step and level, both including and excluding the addition of the newly added Step 14. She pointed out that more than half of the teachers are in the top two steps, indicating significant longevity within the District.

It should be noted, that the newly negotiated collective bargaining contract preserves and protects the 193 day teaching year and requires teachers to contribute \$10.00 per pay cycle for OPEB. The new agreement covers the next three fiscal years and was successfully negotiated without legal expenses or renewal delay.

Next, Mr. Steele presented another follow-up from the prior meeting with a handout analyzing staffing comparisons between Massachusetts vocational school districts and the District's member towns sending schools. In comparison, Blackstone Valley Tech is in line with other Vocational-Technical systems as well as its member towns.

In closing, Mrs. Ferguson presented an updated score card showing a decrease in health insurance rates, resulting in an overall budget increase of 6.39%, which is a decrease from the 6.72% presented in the December 7, 2023 meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is set for January 4, 2024 at 4:30 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn made by Mr. Hanratty at 5:44 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Ferguson; voted and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jacqueline Raad, Assistant Business Manager