

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 18, 2023**

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
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge
James M. Mitchell of Sutton
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer
Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Bradley Lyon, Student Council Representative
Sosie DerKosrofia, Student Council Representative
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Chair, Mr. Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick was notified in advance that Mr. Cray 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 Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of April 13, 2023, and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated April 30, 2023. The report reflected an ending balance of \$5,240,983.29 for Total Funds, including \$1,351,924.82 in Project Funds, and \$3,889,058.47 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Potter, it was unanimously voted to approve the April 30, 2023, Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. School Committee Fiscal Year 2024 Appointments

4.1. District Treasurer (Term 07/01/23 – 06/30/24) On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, and with acceptance of the candidate, the District School Committee unanimously voted to appoint Christopher Pilla as District Treasurer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2023, through and including June 30, 2024.

4.2. Recording Secretary (Term 07/01/23 - 06/30/24) - On a motion by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, and with acceptance of the candidate, the District School Committee

unanimously voted to appoint Elise Bogdan as the Recording Secretary for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for a term office commencing July 1, 2023, and concluding on June 30, 2024.

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

5.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick was proud to recognize student Troy Cami, a Douglas Scouts BSA Troop 316 member who earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Troy, a Millbury resident, is a senior and a soon-to-be graduate of the Health Services program at BVT. Troy's project involved constructing a community pantry at Millbury's Federated Church. On behalf of Principal Steele and the District as a whole, Dr. Fitzpatrick congratulated Troy on earning the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank.

Item 6. Comments by Student Council Representatives - Bradley Lyon & Sosie DerKosroffian

6.1. 2023 National Gold Council of Excellence Award - Dr. Fitzpatrick was notified in advance that the Advisors, Megan Potenti and Danielle Cann, would not be able to attend the meeting. However, Dr. Fitzpatrick congratulated the student council, the representatives, and their advisors for their exemplary leadership, service, and activities that assist the school and community. The BVT Student Council has again been recognized as a 2023 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National Student Council. It is the fifth consecutive year the Council has earned this top award. Mr. Hall also thanked Bradley, Sosie, and the advisors for their contributions.

The Representatives provided an update on Council activities. Bradley shared that this would be his last school committee meeting as a student representative as he is a soon-to-be graduating senior. He also shared that the BVT Council elected a new e-board and that sophomore member Zabel was elected as a delegate to the Central Student Council Board. They also made goodie bags for staff/teacher appreciation and distributed medals for StuCo members to wear at graduation. Sosie introduced herself as the vice president and informed the Committee that on June 9th, the Council would be volunteering at Community Harvest to plant crops and are already planning for the new school year. Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked the student representatives for their comments and contributions to School Committee this year.

Item 7. SkillsUSA State Competition Results - Becky Corda, Rob Jordan & Kat Manoogian

The SkillsUSA Advisors provided an update on the 2022-2023 BVT SkillsUSA activities, which included the following conferences and Skills Competitions:

Fall Leadership Weekend Conference: (November 20th – 21st, 2022 in Marlborough, MA), had 11 students attend and every student achieved the SkillsUSA Leadership Award.

S.A.I.L. Conference: (February 9th, 2023), had 11 senior students take part in resume building, career pathways and networking workshops earn a diploma for their participation.

District Leadership and Skills Conference: (March 20th, 2023), had 228 student competitors selected through Shop COP testing in December/January. BVT students competed in 55 different events, capturing a record 104 medals with 11 sweeps. 37 Gold, 37 Silver, and 30 Bronze.

State Leadership and Skills Conference: (April 27th – 29th, 2023 in Marlborough, MA), had

117 student competitors, 25 Delegates, 1 State Officer Candidate. BVT students competed in 60 different events, earning 62 medals (25 Gold, 19 Silver, and 18 Bronze). Three students were chosen to be National Voting Delegates.

National SkillsUSA Leadership Conference: (June 19th -24th, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia), BVT will send 21 Gold Medalists, 1 State Officers Elect, and 2 National Voting Delegates to compete against peers in their field, from schools across the nation.

The Advisors also reported on graduation activities: 59 graduating seniors who received medals (Districts or States) over the course of their four years at BVT will be receiving a red & white cord to be worn at their graduation ceremony on May 25th. The SkillsUSA Chapter applied for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Nine students volunteered over 1,000 hours of their time to various community groups and were awarded the Gold Level Award for 2023. They will be honored and recognized at the National Conference in June. Hunter Claflin will also be receiving an Individual PVSA Gold award for his 1,000+ hours of service.

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

8.1. Mr. Steele reported that Faculty Appreciation Day took place on May 3, 2023; at the faculty staff meeting, there was a fun game of family feud and sweet treats and BVT swag to thank the 'sweet' teachers and staff who are like a family and make a difference for the students every day.

8.2. Mr. Steele shared that Nurses Appreciation Day occurred on May 6, 2023. He noted that the nurses (school nurses and teacher nurses) continue to play a pivotal role in serving and caring for the school community.

8.3. Mr. Steele reported that the Junior/Senior Prom was held on May 13, 2023, at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. Again, there were no incidents, and it went off without a hitch.

8.4. Mr. Steele informed the Committee that Health Services instructor Amy Ferrandino-Bedard was selected as BVT's nominee for Promising Practices Recipient recognition by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents' Consortium. This nominee alternates annually between an academic and vocational teacher at BVT, and the recognition event will occur in the fall.

8.5. Out-of-State Field Trips:

a. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the Robotics Club out-of-state field trip request for 40 students to travel from 01/25/24 to 01/30/24 to Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

b. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request for 24 students to travel from 06/19/23 to 06/24/23 for the SkillsUSA National Competition held in Atlanta, Georgia.

c. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request for up to 45 students from the Auto Technology/Auto Collision/Engineering/Painting & Design shops to attend the NHRA Youth

and Education Services STEM Day event on 06/02/23 in Epping, New Hampshire.

Item 9. Policy Subcommittee Report - C. Hanratty & A. Steele

9.1 Revised Policies:

a. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 BVT Student Handbook as presented.

b. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 BVT Athletic Handbook as presented.

c. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 BVT Practical Nursing Student Handbook as presented.

d. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 BVT Practical Nursing Faculty Handbook as presented.

e. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 BVT Practical Nursing Financial Aid Handbook as presented.

f. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve the EFD Meal Charge Policy as presented.

g. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the DJE Procurement Requirements as presented.

Dr. Fitzpatrick conveyed his appreciation to the Policy Subcommittee, as did Mr. Hanratty.

Item 10. Budget Report – G. Finn

10.1. The FY24 Budget status report as of May 18, 2023, was available at the meeting. At this juncture, ten of the thirteen sending towns have approved the budget at their annual town meeting. The remaining towns, Bellingham, Blackstone, and Milford, have town meetings scheduled for later in May.

10.2. Finance Committee Presentations/Meetings - M. Fitzpatrick

a. Blackstone: 04/20/23 - J. Broderick: Dr. Fitzpatrick indicated that the presentation to the Blackstone Finance Committee was well-received.

b. Millville: 04/24/23 - G. Finn: Dr. Fitzpatrick indicated that the financial section of the presentation to the Millville Finance Committee was well-received. Mr. Finn also shared remarks at the presentation.

10.3. Annual Town Meeting Status Report

a. Douglas: 05/01/23 - M. Potter: Mr. Potter and the Superintendent attended the Douglas town meeting. Mr. Potter reported it was uneventful, and Douglas approved the BVT

budget.

b. Northbridge: 05/02/23 - J. Koopman: Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the Northbridge town meeting, received compliments on the proposed budget, and Northbridge approved the BVT budget.

c. Millbury: 05/02/23 - C. Hanratty: Mr. Steele attended the Millbury town meeting where the BVT budget was approved.

d. Upton: 05/04/23 - T. Bartlett: Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the Upton town meeting where the BVT budget was approved.

e. Mendon: 05/05/23 - E. Cray, III: Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the Mendon town meeting where the BVT budget was approved.

f. Sutton: 05/08/23 - J. Mitchell: Mr. Steele attended the Sutton town meeting where the BVT budget received compliments and was approved.

g. Millville: 05/08/23 - G. Finn: Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the Millville town meeting where the BVT budget was approved.

h. Grafton: 05/08/23 - A. Yitts: Mr. Yitts attended the Grafton meeting. The BVT-Grafton enrollment has continually increased over the past five years. Grafton was complimentary and approved the BVT budget.

i. Uxbridge: 05/09/23 - J. Ebbeling: Mr. Ebbeling and Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the Uxbridge town meeting where the BVT budget was approved.

j. Hopedale: 05/16/23 - M. Intinarelli: Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the Hopedale town meeting, which has a local override, but no issue was raised with the BVT budget, which was approved.

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

11.1. The School Committee is in receipt of the FY23 Superintendent Goals. In a shared responsibility for accountability, the Superintendent's goals are shared periodically through a formal process.

11.2. Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that the District would receive a gift of \$400,000 to be used on equipment. The donating Foundation asked to remain anonymous.

11.3. The MA Skills Capital Grant Program Guidelines were shared with the Committee.

11.4. BVT Visit/Tour(s):

a. Dr. Fitzpatrick met with Senator Ryan Fattman and his aide on 05/02/23. Senator Fattman resides in Sutton and came through for a tour and discussed priorities and his support of

vocational-technical education.

b. Dr. Fitzpatrick met with and provided an extended tour to Melissa McKeon, Editor of the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle and the Grafton News, on 05/18/23. The Editor is working to keep local news local, took a multiple photographs for use in a future article, and indicated an interest in BVT.

11.5. New Scholarship:

a. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the Paul T. Perreault Memorial Scholarship as presented.

11.6. Notification of Resignation:

a. A notification of resignation letter dated April 10, 2023, from Barbara Norman – Cashier, was accepted with an effective date of April 28, 2023.

Item 12. New Business

12.1. Notification of Retirement:

a. A notification of retirement letter dated May 15, 2023, from Lorna Mangano – Business Manager, was accepted with regret and appreciation, and an effective date of October 31, 2023.

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 June 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 15. *Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, Section 21(a) #1 & #3

On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 6:45 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	Mr. Broderick – Yes	Mr. Potter – Yes
Mr. Yitts – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes	Mr. Braza – Yes
Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Bartlett – Yes
Mr. Ebbeling – Yes	Mr. Koopman – Yes	

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Braza, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 7:08 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Hall – Yes	Mr. Broderick – Yes	Mr. Potter – Yes
Mr. Yitts – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes	Mr. Braza – Yes
Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Bartlett – Yes
Mr. Ebbeling – Yes	Mr. Koopman – Yes	

Item 16. Decide: Release Status of Exec. Session Minutes of April 13, 2023

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted not to approve the release of the minutes of the executive session of April 13, 2023 because discussion of this subject in open session would be detrimental to the School District.

Item 17. Meeting Closure:

17.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:08 p.m.

17.2. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of April 13, 2023
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2023
- Item 4.1. Suggested Motion: District Treasurer (Term 07/01/23 - 06/30/24)
- Item 4.2. Suggested Motion: Recording Secretary (Term 07/01/23 - 06/30/24)
- Item 7. BVT SkillsUSA Massachusetts 2022-2023 Competition Results
- Item 8.5.a. Field Trip Request Robotics Club: 01/25/24 - 01/30/24 (Lake Buena Vista, FL)
- Item 8.5.b. Field Trip Request SkillsUSA Nationals: 06/19/23 - 06/24/23 (Atlanta, GA)
- Item 8.5.c. Field Trip Request NHRA Youth & Education Services: 06/02/23 (Epping, NH)
- Item 9.1.a. 2023-2024 BVT Student Handbook
- Item 9.1.b. 2023-2024 BVT Athletic Handbook
- Item 9.1.c. 2023-2024 BVT Practical Nursing Student Handbook
- Item 9.1.d. 2023-2024 BVT Practical Nursing Faculty Handbook
- Item 9.1.e. 2023-2024 BVT Practical Nursing Financial Aid Handbook
- Item 9.1.f. EFD Meal Charge Policy
- Item 9.1.g. DJE Procurement Requirements
- Item 10.1. Blackstone Valley Tech FY24 Budget Status Report as of May 18, 2023
- Item 11.1. FY23 Superintendent Goals - Progress Update
- Item 11.3. MA Skills Capital Grant Program Guidelines
- Item 11.5. Paul T. Perreault Memorial Scholarship
- Item 11.6.a. Notification of Resignation: Barbara Norman – Cashier
- Item 12.1.a. Notification of Retirement: Lorna Mangano – Business Manager
- Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary