

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 23, 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
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
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
Lorna M. Mangano, Business Manager
Bradley Lyon, Student Council Representative
Ellie Poitras, Student Council Representative
Megan Potenti, Student Council Advisor
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Paul J. Braza of Milford
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
Mark J. Potter of Douglas

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that Mr. Braza, Mr. Broderick, and Mr. Potter would be unable to attend.

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 January 19, 2023 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Reports – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated January 31, 2023. The report reflected an ending balance of \$3,557,683.12 for Total Funds, including \$809,321.15 in Project Funds, and \$2,748,361.87 in Local Funds. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the January 31, 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.

3.2. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated February 28, 2023. The report reflected an ending balance of \$4,072,565.74 for Total Funds, including \$803,217.13 in Project Funds, and \$3,269,348.61 in Local Funds. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the February 28, 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. July 4th Festivities Presentation (06/24/23) – Brad DiDio

Mr. Brad DiDio, Upton Men's Club representative was not at the meeting. It was agreed

to not discuss this item until Mr. DiDio was present.

Item 5. Comments by Student Council Representatives - Bradley Lyon & Ellie Poitras

5.1. The Student Council Representatives provided an update on Council activities. First, they reported that members attended the statewide MASC Conference in Hyannis from March 8th to March 10th. They traveled with 25 delegates, participated in leadership skills workshops, and the BVT Student Council was named a MASC Gold Council of Excellence and a James Rokas recipient. They also reported on upcoming events: on April 13th, they will attend the CDMASC Spring Conference at West Boylston High School, and on June 9th, they will take volunteers to Community Harvest in Grafton. Dr. Fitzpatrick congratulated the Representatives on the impressive recognitions.

Item 6. Staff Recognition - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

Dr. Fitzpatrick invited Mr. Steele to formally recognize the 2023 Henry Sullivan MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Councils) Advisor of the Year Award – Megan Potenti. Mr. Steele reported that he attended the award presentation and was able to meet Meg's family and join her on stage. He said it is a well-deserved award, and on behalf of the school community, we are proud to have Meg bring this recognition back to BVT.

Item 7. Business Manager - L. Mangano

7.1. Certified E&D Transfer to Capital Projects — On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the transfer of \$650,000 from the District's Certified Excess & Deficiency Fund (Account #1000-00-0302-000-0) into the Program and Facility Expansion Capital Project Fund (Account # 6100-00-0498-000-0). The vote was taken per authorization of the annual budget as presented and voted by the School Committee and its 13 member towns per the FY23 budget book page A-1a (Green Sheet).

7.2. Transfer Regional (Chapter 71) – On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the transfer of \$60,000 of Chapter 71 Transportation Reimbursement revenues from the General Fund to the Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund in accordance with M.G.L. c.71, Section 16 C. The transfer represents a portion of the difference between estimated (budgeted) Chapter 71 Reimbursement and final Cherry Sheet allocations, and will be used as a revenue source to offset transportation expenses as detailed in the FY24 Operational Budget.

7.3. There were no line item transfers.

7.4. Donation Approvals

a. Vehicle (D. Shipuliski) – On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the donation of a 2008 Chevrolet Impala with a Kelley Blue Book value range of \$4,254 - \$5,509.

b. HVAC&R Supplies (Renaud HVAC & Controls Inc.) – On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to approve the donation for a

portable chiller and condenser unit which will be used for instructional and valuable training purposes in BVT's HVAC&R program. The estimated value of the donated items are \$5,000.

c. BVT-branded backdrop (Access TCA Inc.) – On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the donation of a BVT-branded custom 10' x 8' backdrop, which will be used at special events or photo opportunities to create a professional look and enhance BVT brand promotion. The estimated value of the donation is \$600.

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

8.1. MCAS Update – Mr. Evans provided an update on the Spring 2023 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics MCAS exam testing schedule and preparation for the sophomores. The ELA MCAS primary testing window is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th, and Wednesday, March 29th. In the event of extreme weather or other unexpected circumstances, the testing would move to Thursday, March 30th and/or Friday, March 31st. The Mathematics MCAS primary testing window is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th, and Wednesday, May 17th. In the event of extreme weather or other unexpected circumstances, the testing would move to Thursday, May 18th and/or Friday, May 19th. An ELA MCAS Boot Camp for sophomores was held in February. A Math MCAS Boot Camp for sophomores will be held in April. Breakfast will be provided for students on each testing day before the exam begins. The students will take the exams on their school-issued laptops.

8.2. NEASC Update – Mr. Steele joined Mr. Evans. They reported that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation Team arrived at BVT on Monday, March 20th, and would visit through Friday, March 24th, to review and evaluate the school. As a part of the visitation process, representatives from NEASC spend each day touring the school and speaking with students and staff. On Tuesday, March 21st, the students and staff of the Culinary Arts Department hosted a reception at 5:15 p.m. and a NEASC Welcome Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Competition Center, which included speeches, and a dinner buffet with musical performances, a presentation of the school & community video, and a staff & student panel. Each table had a beautiful and unique centerpiece created by an art student. Mr. Steele shared a NEASC Visitation Schedule brochure and other promotional materials, such as a school map and a welcome dinner program designed by Jenna Dolber, a Multimedia Communications program senior. The materials were circulated for viewing. Mr. Steele also shared with the Committee a few anecdotes from his interactions with the visiting team. The visiting team will share their finished report in the fall.

8.3. Senior Calendar – The School Committee received the 2023 Senior Calendar. The anticipated graduation date is May 25, 2023. All were reminded that the dates and times are subject to change.

8.4. Out-of-State Field Trips:

a. Construction Technology – RI Convention Center: 03/24/23 - On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request for forty-two students in Construction Technology to take a bus to the Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island, to attend the JLC Live 2023 Residential Construction Show on Friday, March 24, 2023.

b. DEC - International Career Development Conference (ICDC): 04/21/23 - 04/26/23
- On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request for four DECA members to attend the ICDC in Orlando, FL from April 21 to April 26, 2023.

Item 9. Budget Report – G. Finn

9.1. A status report about the Budget Public Hearing was presented. Mr. Finn thanked those involved with the FY24 budget-building process from the first Budget Subcommittee meeting in November and the work at the subsequent meetings up to March 23, 2023, Public Hearing. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared with the Committee that a quorum vote approved the FY24 proposed budget at the public hearing.

9.2. Results of School Council Vote – Mr. Finn asked Mr. Steele to share the results of the School Council Vote with the Committee. Mr. Steele reported that the School Council voted unanimously to support the FY24 budget request for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District at their March 14, 2023 meeting.

9.3. E&D Authorization – FY24 Budget: On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Cray, it was voted to approve the use of \$100,000 from the District's Certified Excess & Deficiency Funds (E&D) as a funding source for the FY24 proposed budget. The District's commitment to identification of alternative revenue streams and fiscal austerity contributes to its ability to generate E&D. This valuable resource provides a revenue source that created a reduction to member assessments.

Mr. Hanratty did not favor removing the \$100,000 from the District's Certified Excess & Deficiency Funds (E&D). Mr. Hanratty recommended they consider taking a closer look at E&D for further review in the future. Mr. Finn felt confident that it could and would be replenished. A motion was made, seconded, and carried while Mr. Hanratty was opposed, the motion carried by a majority vote.

9.4. Adopt FY24 Budget: On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Cray, it was unanimously voted to accept the FY24 budget as set.

9.5. Finance Committee Presentations/Meetings – M. Fitzpatrick:

a. Mendon (03/01/23) – E. Cray: Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that Mr. Cray joined him for the District's budget presentation to the Mendon Finance Committee on March 1, 2023. Mr. Cray said it was a smooth presentation with a lot of respect in the room.

b. Millbury (03/06/23) – C. Hanratty: Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that Mr. Hanratty joined him for the District's budget presentation to the Millbury Finance Committee on March 6, 2023. Despite a reduction in the budget, Mr. Hanratty said there was some animosity. The presentation did include some focus on the students, college, and the trades.

c. Northbridge (03/08/23) – Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that Mr. Koopman, due to last-minute work obligations alerted him that he could not join in the District's budget presentation to the Northridge Finance Committee on March 8, 2023. Mr. Finn joined the audience along with

Treasure Pilla for Dr. Fitzpatrick's presentation. Mr. Finn reported he observed a professional exchange.

d. Grafton (03/15/23) – A. Yitts: Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that Lorna Mangano and Mr. Yitts joined him for the District's budget presentation to the Grafton Finance Committee on March 15, 2023. Mr. Yitts observed the presentation, which was well received. There was some discussion about the students staying in the trades, and it was an opportunity to talk about training the students to be skilled. It was a good discussion.

e. Hopedale (03/20/23) – M. Intinarelli: Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the District's budget presentation to the Hopedale Finance Committee on March 20, 2023, included a 35% increase in student attendance factor. On a related development, Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that organizations like the Hopedale Foundation offer an incentive for students to follow the trade/career path, funding a Trade Education Scholarship with \$18,000 allocated to six scholarships (\$3,000 each) to be awarded to six graduating BVT students who are Hopedale residents and plan on furthering their education in the trades.

f. Sutton (03/22/23) – J. Mitchell: Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that due to work obligations, Mr. Mitchell could not join him for the District's budget presentation to the Sutton Finance Committee on March 22, 2023. The Finance Committee received the presentation with expressed concern about local special education costs and the overall cost of education.

g. Upton (03/22/23) - T. Bartlett: Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that Mr. Bartlett joined him for the District's budget presentation to the Upton Finance Committee on March 22, 2023. The presentation was well received. There was a discussion about advancing a plan for consideration of the land use for the property around the school.

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

10.1. School Choice - The Committee was informed that at BVT School Council Meeting on March 14, 2023, School Council recommended that the School Committee not adopt a School Choice policy for the 2023-2024 school year. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted not to adopt School Choice for the 2023-2024 school year.

10.2. Recent Activities (from Grant Listing) - a document was shared with the Committee with an FY23 in progress total of \$641,717 with an additional legislative petition for the forgiveness of 2013 & 2014 delayed state billing of support staff pension billing (Value of) \$ 350,000 for the grand total of \$973,217.

10.3. Practical Nursing Graduation Report: 01/23/23 - the Class of 2023 Practical Nursing graduation and pinning ceremony took place at BVT in the Competition Center on January 30, 2022. There were 20 graduates.

10.4. Delineation of Subcommittees (Vacancies): The members are in receipt the FY23

Delineation of Subcommittees. The members were asked review the subcommittee delineation of the 2022-23 school year and verbally express their interest in serving or continuing to serve on each subcommittee. An updated/revised document will be prepared for the next school committee meeting.

10.5. Notification of Resignations:

a. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 02/03/23 from Yajaila Taft, Business Office Collections Officer, was accepted with an effective date of 02/24/23.

b. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 02/10/23 from Karen Rockel – Practical Nursing Instructor, was accepted with an effective date of 02/16/23.

c. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 03/10/23 from Courtney Allain – School Psychologist, was accepted with an effective date of the end of the school year (not returning for the 2023-2024 school year).

10.6. Notification of Retirements:

a. The Committee is in receipt of a notification of retirement (effective June 15, 2023 barring no snow days) from Constance Ward – Reading Teacher, 10 plus years.

b. The Committee is in receipt of a notification of retirement (effective April 14, 2023) from David Theroux – Maintenance Custodian, 23 years.

c. The Committee is in receipt of a notification of retirement (effective June 21, 2023) from Debra Massey – Teacher Assistant-Title I, 24 years.

10.7. The School Committee is in receipt of the Parent Newsletter, the Link (Spring 2023).

10.8. The School Committee is in receipt of the Alumni Newsletter, the Connect (Spring 2023).

Item 11. New Business

There was no new business to report.

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 April 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Three Seasons Restaurant.

Item 14. Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, §21(a) #2

On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 7:17 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. Cray – Yes
 Mr. Koopman – Yes
 Mr. Ebbeling – Yes

Mr. Yitts – Yes
 Mr. Hanratty – Yes
 Mr. Mitchell – Yes

Mr. Intinarelli – Yes
 Mr. Finn – Yes
 Mr. Bartlett – Yes

On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 7:22 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Hall – Yes
 Mr. Cray – Yes
 Mr. Koopman – Yes
 Mr. Ebbeling – Yes

Mr. Yitts – Yes
 Mr. Hanratty – Yes
 Mr. Mitchell – Yes

Mr. Intinarelli – Yes
 Mr. Finn – Yes
 Mr. Bartlett – Yes

Item 15. Decide: Release Status of Exec. Session Minutes of 12/5/22

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted not to approve the release of the minutes of the executive session of December 15, 2022 because discussion of this subject in open session would be detrimental to the School District.

Item 16. Meeting Closure:

16.1. The meeting was declared closed by the Chair, Mr. Hall at 7:23 p.m.

16.2. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of January 19, 2023
- Item 3.1. Treasure's Report dated January 31, 2023
- Item 3.2. Treasure's Report dated February 28, 2023
- Item 7.1. Certified E&D Transfer to Capital Projects
- Item 7.2. Transfer Regional Transportation (Chapter 71)
- Item 7.4. a. Donation Approval: Vehicle (D. Shipuliski)
- Item 7.4. b. Donation Approval: HVAC&R Supplies (Renaud HVAC & Controls Inc.)
- Item 7.4. c. Donation Approval: BVT-branded backdrop (Access TCA Inc.)
- Item 8.3. Senior Calendar
- Item 8.4.a. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: Construction Technology 03/24/23 (Providence, RI)
- Item 8.4.b. Out-of-State Field Trip Request: DECA (Orlando, FL)
- Item 9.2. Results of School Council Vote
- Item 9.3. E&D Authorization - FY24 Budget
- Item 9.4. Adopt FY24 Budget
- Item 10.1. School Choice
- Item 10.2. Recent Activities (from Grant Listing)
- Item 10.3. Practical Nursing Graduation Report: 01/23/23
- Item 10.4. Delineation of Subcommittees (Vacancies)
- Item 10.5.a. Notification of Resignation: Yajaila Taft, Business Office Collections Officer
- Item 10.5.b. Notification of Resignation: Karen Rockel, Practical Nursing Instructor
- Item 10.5.c. Notification of Resignation: Courtney Allain, School Psychologist
- Item 10.6.a. Notification of Retirement: Constance Ward, Reading Teacher

Item 10.6.b. Notification of Retirement: David Theroux, Maintenance Custodian
Item 10.6.c. Notification of Retirement: Debra Massey, Teacher Assistant-Title I
Item 10.7. BVT Parent Newsletter: the Link Spring 2023
Item 10.8. BVT Alumni Newsletter: the Connect Spring 2023
Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary