

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**January 19, 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	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Mark J. Potter of Douglas, left at 7:30 p.m.	Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Lorna M. Mangano, Business Manager
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Michele Denise, Vocational Director
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Tina Greenlaw, Cosmetology Instructor/Team Leader
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair	Christine Cote, NASA Club Advisor
James M. Mitchell of Sutton	Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton	Ellie Poitras, Student Representative
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

**Members Absent:**

Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon  
 Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale  
 Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge

**Item 1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by the Chair, Mr. Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick was notified in advance that Mr. Cray, Mr. Intinarelli, and Mr. Koopman would be unable to attend and that Mr. Potter would need to leave early. Mr. Potter left at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Fitzpatrick was saddened to inform the committee about a loss within the school community. On Monday, January 16th, Paul Perreault, Vocational Instructor and Team Leader within the Automotive Technology program, passed away. Mr. Perreault was a beloved staff member who dedicated his career to training his students to repair and maintain modern industry vehicles. He served as an advisor to the Motor Sports Club, inspiring students to appreciate the unique design of engines and high-speed performance vehicles. He also enjoyed taking students on field trips to car shows and auto races. The loss of Mr. Perreault will be felt across the school community. There was an unscheduled three-hour delayed start on Tuesday, January 17th, to effectively and compassionately assist school community members. The Student Support Services team partnered with Riverside Trauma Center to provide support and respond to the needs of students, staff, and parents. Thoughts and prayers are with the Perreault family and all those affected by this loss. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Perreault.

**Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts**

2.1. Mr. Yitts informed the Committee that there was a requested correction to Item 9.6. of the regular meeting minutes of December 15, 2022. The minutes were revised with the permission of the Committee to reflect that both Dr. Fitzpatrick and Dr. Connors met with the Boilermakers on November 30, 2022, on campus in Welding. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of December 15, 2022, and to accept the minutes with the

requested revision.

Item 3. Treasurer's Reports – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated November 30, 2022. The report reflected an ending balance of \$4,582,671.36 for Total Funds, including \$1,042,595.49 in Project Funds, and \$3,540,075.87 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to approve the November 30, 2022, Treasurer's Report as presented.

3.2. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated December 31, 2022. The report reflected an ending balance of \$1,517,952.58 for Total Funds, including \$872,731.07 in Project Funds, and \$642,221.51 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to approve the December 31, 2022, Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. Sch. Com. Officers Election/Appointments for 2023

At Chairman Hall's request, the Superintendent-Director led the School Committee through the election/appointment process. Terms of service began in January 2023 and end at the regular meeting held January 2024.

4.1. Chair: On a motion made by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to elect Mr. Joseph M. Hall as the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee Chair.

4.2. Vice Chair: On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to elect Mr. Gerald M. Finn as the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee Vice Chair.

4.3. Secretary: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Anthony M. Yitts as the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee Secretary.

4.4. Assistant Treasurer: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. as the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District Assistant Treasurer.

4.5. Payroll/AP Warrant Signer: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Hanratty as the Payroll/AP Warrant Signer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District.

Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signers:

4.6. a. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Braza as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1 for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District.

4.6. b. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Ebbeling as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2 for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District.

4.6. c. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #3: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Cray as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #3 for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District.

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

The Student Council Representatives informed the Committee that the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) Spring Conference is held annually to provide students with educational experiences. The Representatives will attend the spring conference March 8-10, 2023, at the Cape Cod Resort & Conference Center in Hyannis, MA. Before the MASC conference, they will go to Westborough, MA, for a retreat focused on leadership skills. Additionally, the Council is preparing for the NEASC visit and writing letters about BVT and the Student Council. Bradley, also LEO Club Vice President, informed the Committee that he recently attended the Mendon Lions Club meeting at Willow Brook Restaurant in Mendon, where the BVT Lions Club was recognized. Dr. Fitzpatrick joined staff member Steve Grabowski and Leo Advisor Peter Cardoza at the event.

Item 6. Vocational Department Presentation - Tina Greenlaw

6.1. Tina Greenlaw, Cosmetology Instructor/Team Leader, addressed the Committee and shared a presentation about the Cosmetology program. The presentation began with an overview of the three other instructional members Michele Gremo, Robin McCann, and Alysén Lathrop – TA, as well as a four-year overview of the curriculum. She also spoke about the exploratory and recruitment efforts, DESE framework revisions, professional language around diversity and inclusion, and training and certifications. Cosmetology students learn all facets of hair, skin, and nail treatment. In addition, students learn to apply and sharpen their technical, managerial, and interpersonal skills by training and working in the stylish *Salon at BVT*, which is open to the public throughout the school year. After 1,000 hours of instruction, students are eligible to take the state cosmetology license exam. The program has a 100% passing rate on the State Board License Exam.

Mr. Finn noted that Covid impacted the cosmetology industry and asked Tina Greenlaw if the *Salon at BVT* had rebounded. Tina agreed that while Covid impacted the industry, the clients of the *Salon at BVT* are happy to be back in the student-run salon, and the industry has rebounded. Mr. Yitts asked if the curriculum was designed for seniors to explore professional careers beyond hairdressing. Tina reassured Mr. Yitts that, yes, students learn all facets of hair, skin, and nail treatment; they're introduced and encouraged to consider the wide variety of post-secondary options in those areas, such as salon manager/owner, makeup artist, hairstylist for TV, movies, or theater, skin care specialist/esthetician, or nail technician. Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked Tina for the professional presentation.

Item 7. New Student Activity Presentation - Christine Cote

7.1. Mr. Steele reminded the Committee that during the School Committee meeting on November 19, 2022, it was voted to approve the NASA Club's out-of-state field trip request as presented to attend a Student Symposium at the NASA Goddard Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, from April 3, 2023, to April 6, 2023. However, Mr. Hall did request that the Club Advisor, Christine Cote, attend a future school committee meeting to provide more detail about the Student Symposium at the NASA Goddard Center, given that this was a newly approved club and a new trip destination. As a result, Christine Cote addressed the Committee, spoke about the Student Symposium, and provided more details regarding the NASA/ICED Epic Challenge Club in a handout (Item 7.1.) at the meeting. Blackstone Valley Tech's NASA/ICED Epic Challenge Club offers a multidisciplinary approach and teaches students to critically analyze, test, and revise solutions to some of today's real-world problems and challenges faced by NASA. Mr. Hall thanked Christine for the informed presentation.

Item 8. Business Manager - L. Mangano

## 8.1. Donation Approvals:

a. Vehicle Donation: On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to accept a donation of a 2016 Kia Sorrento from Luanne M. Pehl.

b. Advanced Manufacturing Supplies: On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to accept a donation of various supplies (120 aluminum rectangle bars and 405 aluminum sheets) from Tattersall Machining, Inc. with an estimated value of \$3,811.05, which will be used for instructional and training purposes in the Advanced Manufacturing program.

Item 9. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

9.1. Mr. Steele presented the Committee with a copy of the preliminary proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar. On a motion made by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to approve the proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar as presented with four remote days.

9.2. Mr. Steele presented the Committee with a copy of the 2023-2024 Program of Studies and a course sign-up sheet. Both are used in course selection and career planning.

9.3. The Committee was informed that BVT won the Markham Division 1 award. A 75-15-5 fall season helped Blackstone Valley (70.16) claim its 10th D1 vocational title in 15 years with ease over last year's winner Shawsheen (57.11). The soccer teams were a combined 31-5-5, girls' volleyball went 15-5, and the golf team finished 8-2. In the winter, the basketball teams teamed up on the hardwood for a 34-11 record.

9.4. The Committee received an updated handout titled Major Capital Projects List. The list of projects summarized various needs the District must address to maintain the school facility, such as the final phase-roof replacement in the 100-wing and other high-priority matters. The list ranges from must-do projects to lower-priority non-urgent tasks based on other factors such as need, cost, and schedules. The listed projects are being updated with cost estimates and

filtered into a more formal master plan which will further explain the scope of each project and achievability based on funding.

9.5. Out of State Field Trips:

a. On a motion made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to approve an out-of-state field trip request for the Ski & Snowboard Club to Loon Mountain in Lincoln, NH on March 11, 2023.

b. On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to approve an out-of-state field trip request for the Culinary Arts Senior Trip to Portland, ME from May 18-20, 2023.

Item 10. Budget Subcommittee Report – G. Finn

10.1. First Round Line Item Series: 3000, 4000 – Mr. Finn asked Mr. Hanratty, Vice Chair of the Budget Subcommittee, to update the Committee. Mr. Hanratty informed the Committee that the Budget Subcommittee has been meeting and has reviewed the 3000 and 4000 series. However, they are waiting on the Governor's numbers. Mr. Finn informed the Committee that while kilowatt usage, transportation, and gas prices were a big part of the review process, health insurance costs would be kept to a 2% increase thanks to the value of working with an insurance broker, Borislow.

10.2. Preliminary State Budget Update (if available or released) - The Preliminary State Budget was unavailable.

10.3. The Committee is in receipt of the DESE Revised District Enrollments for FY22-23 as of 10/1/22, a total enrollment of 1,244.

Item 11. Superintendent-Director's Report - M. Fitzpatrick

11.1. The members were provided with a School Committee Member Directory.

11.2. The 2022-23 NESDEC Enrollment Projection Report was provided. NESDEC forecasted a conservative projection of future Grade 9-12 enrollments at BVT. Every year BVT receives many applications from qualified students who cannot be admitted due to space. The districtwide The Grade 8 total is forecasted to decline to 1,481 students over the next decade. However, BVT offers a broad spectrum of 21st-century programs attracting applicants.

11.3. An FY23 Grants to Date document was shared with the Committee. The FY23 total to date listed, as of January 6, 2023, was \$1,086,702, with an additional \$6,000 in progress. In the verbal presentation to the Committee, Dr. Fitzpatrick anticipated that the final tally would be closer to 2.3 million.

11.4. Members were asked to review the FY23 Delineation of Subcommittees and to consider serving on a subcommittee with a vacancy.

11.5. Notification of Resignations:

a. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 12/09/22 from Justine Naper -

Vocational Instructor-Health Assisting, was accepted with an effective date of 12/22/22.

b. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 12/19/22 from Elizabeth Wood - Teacher Assistant, was accepted with an effective date of 1/02/23.

Item 12. New Business

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that BVT received a \$10,000 donation from the family of Casey J. Bulger for the Plumbing Department. Casey, a 2018 graduate of the plumbing program, passed away in a motorcycle accident in July 2021. On a motion made by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to accept the donation from the Bulger family.

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 March 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 15. Meeting Closure:

15.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:48 p.m.

15.2. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2022

Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2022

Item 3.2. Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2022

Item 4.1. Suggested Motion: District School Committee Chair

Item 4.2. Suggested Motion: District School Committee Vice Chair

Item 4.3. Appointment: District School Committee Secretary

Item 4.4. Appointment: District School Committee Assistant Treasurer

Item 4.5. Appointment: District School Committee Payroll/AP Warrant Signer

Item 4.6.a. Appointment: District School Committee Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 1

Item 4.6.b. Appointment: District School Committee Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 2

Item 4.6.c. Appointment: District School Committee Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer 3

Item 7.1. NASA Club

Item 8.1.a. L. Pehl Vehicle Donation

Item 8.1.b. Advanced Manufacturing Supplies (Tattersall Machining, Inc.) Donation

Item 9.1. Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar

Item 9.4. Major Capital Projects List

Item 9.5.a. Out of State Field Trip: Ski & Snowboard Club, 03/11/23

Item 9.5.b. Out of State Field Trip: Culinary Arts Senior Trip, 05/18/23 – 05/20/23

- Item 10.3. DESE Revised District Enrollments
- Item 11.1. School Committee Member Directory
- Item 11.2. NESDEC 2022-23 Enrollment Projection Report
- Item 11.3. FY23 Grant Listing as of 01/06/23
- Item 11.4. FY23 Delineation of Subcommittees
- Item 11.5.a. Resignation Notice: Justine Naper - Vocational Instructor-Health Assisting
- Item 11.5.b. Resignation Notice: Elizabeth Wood - Teacher Assistant
- Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary