

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 15, 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	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair	Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	Lorna M. Mangano, Business Manager
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Alicia Winske, English Department Team Leader
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Bradley Lyon, Student Representative
Paul J. Braza of Milford, left at 7:15 p.m.	Ellie Poitras, Student Representative
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge, arrived at 6:30 p.m.	Les Stevens Resident of Douglas
David R. Bartlett, Upton	Frank Dorr, Resident of Grafton
Tyler D. Bartlett, Upton – Candidate Elect	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	

Members Absent:

Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
 Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that Mr. Broderick, Ms. Mitchell, and Mr. Pilla would be unable to attend while Mr. Koopman would be delayed. Mr. Koopman arrived at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of appreciation for School Committee Members David R. Bartlett - Upton and Julie H. Mitchell - Sutton. Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Bartlett and Mrs. Mitchell for their service. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Mitchell, and Mr. Bartlett also expressed his gratitude.

There was a request from the public to address the Committee. The specific request was to support BVT in raising funds for athletics through a non-profit booster club. Mr. Les Stevens of Douglas and Mr. Frank Dorr of Grafton addressed the Committee regarding their interest in an athletic booster club and its benefits to BVT athletics. Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked them for their time and interest in forming such an organization and suggested further discussions with the Athletic Director.

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 November 17, 2022 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. With Mr. Pilla not in attendance, the Committee agreed to move the Treasurer's

Report dated November 30, 2022, to the next School Committee meeting scheduled for January 19, 2023.

Item 4. Student Recognitions - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

4.1. The M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence (Superintendent's Scholars Award) is awarded annually to two senior students based on their academic and vocational standing. These students will also be named the senior class valedictorian and salutatorian. Dr. Fitzpatrick congratulated both recipients:

a. Katelyn Steele of Upton (Engineering & Robotics) is the recipient of the Superintendent's Scholars Award and is presently the valedictorian.

b. Maxwell Guyton of Uxbridge (Engineering & Robotics) is the Superintendent's Scholars Award recipient and is currently the salutatorian.

4.2. The National School Development Council (NSDC): Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning Award is presented annually to the two students who have consistently pursued a high academic effort and have served as positive role models for the student body and exemplify admirable character and accomplishment. Dr. Fitzpatrick congratulated both recipients:

a. Tyler Morin of Bellingham (HVAC/R) – an NSDC award recipient.

b. Camilla Ramirez of Hopedale (HVAC/R) – an NSDC award recipient.

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

The Student Council Representatives provided an update on Council activities. First, they reported on the new fundraising efforts, which will benefit BVT students and their families during the annual Holiday Drive Collection. The efforts include:

Fast Money Friday - each homeroom is tasked with raising as much money as possible during one festive song over the intercom. The homeroom that raises the most money will be given breakfast on Monday, December 19th.

Elf a Teacher Contest - the week of December 19th through the 22nd, during all lunches, students and staff can purchase beads to place in one of the 12 jars of teachers they want to see dressed as an elf throughout the school day on Friday, December 23rd.

Handball Tournament - on Friday the 23rd, during the day, students and staff can pay to play handball or spectate.

Kiss a Goat - on Friday, December 23rd, during the final Handball tournament game, a participating administrator will be the lucky recipient of a Goat Kiss. The funds' students and staff have raised will determine the recipient.

Additionally, they plan to attend the MASC Winter Conference in Hyannis. Lastly, they are working on their Excellence Books for the National Council of Excellence.

Item 6. Academic Department Presentation - Alicia Winske

6.1. Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator, introduced Alicia Winske – Team Leader of the English Department, in her second year. Ms. Winske addressed the Committee and shared a presentation about the English Department, which began with an overview of the department of nine members, and four grade levels. Grade 9 - Honors English I, College Prep English I, English I. Grade 10 Honors English II, College Prep English II, English II. Grade 11 - AP English Language & Composition, Honors English III, College Prep English III, English III.

Grade 12 - AP English Literature & Composition, Honors English IV, College Prep English IV, English IV. Curricular updates included instructional planning and addressing writing weaknesses by introducing students to MCAS language. As a result, the reported data indicated that BVT students outperform state and global averages on the MCAS and AP exams. In addition, within the English Department, staff volunteer for extracurricular activities by serving as advisors on the Book, Drama, Birding, Gaming, Cross Country, Soccer, and Track, in addition to Class Advisors as well. Ms. Winske thanked the Committee for their help and support.

Item 7. Business Manager - L. Mangano

7.1. A Hague, Sahady & Co., P.C. representative presented the FY22 Audit Report. The Committee members had received two reports: the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Basic Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2022, and a Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2022.

a. The representative presented the District Financial Audit, which was available at the meeting. The audit, which began on site in August, came back with no findings, which was great news. The independent auditing firm was very complimentary of how the District handled its finances and records, reiterating that there were no findings in the FY22 financial audit. In conclusion, the District qualified as a low-risk auditee.

b. The Student Activity Audit, typically done every three years, was last done in FY19. The representative stated there were no negative findings for the current year. The prior Student Activity Audit had several refinements, which have all been cleared, which is also good news.

7.2. The School Committee members were provided with an FY23 Monthly Budget Report from July 1, 2022 to December 7, 2022. The grand total budget balance was \$2,766,783.78 on December 7, 2022

7.3. Ms. Mangano reported that there was no need for donation approvals.

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

8.1. The School Committee Members received the 2022-2023 school cancellation contact list, which outlined where BVT would announce a school cancellation or emergency announcement.

8.2. A 2022 Staffing Retention Report was shared with the Committee.

8.3. Mr. Steele had previously provided the Committee with a handout titled Major Capital Projects List at the October 20, 2022, School Committee meeting. 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 ranged from must-do projects to lower-priority non-urgent tasks based on other factors such as need, cost, and schedules. Mr. Steele had indicated that the list of projects would then be filtered into a more formal master plan to explain further each project's scope and achievability based on funding. Mr. Steele informed the Committee that the state has formally announced the most current round of MA Skills Capital awardees. BVT will receive an FY23 MA Skills Capital Facility Expansion grant for \$1.25 million. Funding will provide Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional High School technology and equipment to support modernizing the Construction Technology programs to meet regional employer demand for carpenters, electricians, and electronics technicians. Given this recent news, we must change our approach and considered

this new source of funding when prioritizing the need, costs, and schedules of future projects in those areas in regards to equipment.

Item 9. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

9.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick provided a preliminary report on the Annual Superintendent's Fundraiser Dinner with an anticipated date of March 16, 2023. The theme of this year's event is Polynesian. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted and unanimously approved to have a one-day liquor license allowing alcohol to be served by staff.

9.2. The official results of the 2022 Regional School Committee Election were shared with the Committee. The Town Clerk in each of the thirteen sending towns provides the school district with certified results, and all elected candidates must be sworn in by their Town Clerk by January 1, 2023.

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

9.4. The results of the five-year out graduate survey of the Class of 2017 were shared with the Committee. There were 169 alums out of 273 graduates who responded, which was a 62% response rate.

9.5. The 2022-23 NESDEC Enrollment report was provided.

9.6. BVT Visitation/Tours

a. Dr. Fitzpatrick meet with the Boilermakers on November 30, 2022 on campus in Welding. They were very impressed with the level of skilled students for future apprenticeships.

9.7. Notification of Resignations:

a. A Notification of Resignation letter dated November 28, 2022, from Stacy Willar, Receptionist - Main Office, was accepted with an immediate effective date due to family obligations.

b. A Notification of Resignation letter dated December 4, 2022, from Arianna Power, Secretary - Main Office, was accepted with an immediate effective date due to health concerns.

Item 10. Budget Subcommittee Report - G. Finn

Mr. Finn provided a Budget Subcommittee update. The Subcommittee met on November 17, 2022, where Mr. Finn agreed to serve as Chair and Mr. Hanratty as Vice-Chair. The meeting included a review of the debt budget (8000 series), which showed a reduction from the previous year. With only one year remaining after FY24, the District will continue to see a decline in principal and interest over the remaining year.

10.1. The Subcommittee met on December 8, 2022, to review administration (1000) and fixed charges (5000) functions.

10.2. The Subcommittee met on December 15, 2022, to review of salary, wage, and fringe benefits. Mr. Finn indicated that with the increasing cost of health insurance, the District pricing increase was negotiated down to only a two only a percent increase. Mr. Finn also

indicated that the proposed budget factored three years of salary for all teachers as part of negotiations.

Item 11. New Business

There was no new business to report. However, Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that District had received a generous grant donation for the amount of \$10,000.00 from the PulteGroup, Inc. Charitable Foundation, Inc. in December 2022. The grant is to be used to improve the learning experience of students in the following vocational training programs at BVT: Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication (welding), Construction Technology, Electrical, HVAC&R, and Plumbing. He also informed the Committee that a handout regarding the FY23 MA Skills Capital Facility Expansion grant for \$1.25 million was included in their packets.

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 January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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

On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Bartlett a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 7:35 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Yes	Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Yitts – Yes
Mr. Hall – Yes	Mr. Finn – Yes	Mr. Cray – Yes
Mr. Koopman – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes	Mr. Potter – Yes
Mr. Ebbeling – Yes		

On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 7:41 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Yes	Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Yitts – Yes
Mr. Hall – Yes	Mr. Finn – Yes	Mr. Cray – Yes
Mr. Koopman – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes	Mr. Potter – Yes
Mr. Ebbeling – Yes		

Item 15. Decide: Release Status of Exec. Session Minutes of October 20, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was voted to not approve the release of the Executive Session Minutes of October 20, 2022. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Yes	Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Yitts – Yes
Mr. Hall – Yes	Mr. Finn – Yes	Mr. Cray – Yes
Mr. Koopman – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes	Mr. Potter – Yes
Mr. Ebbeling – Yes		

Item 16. Meeting Closure:

16.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:41 p.m.

16.2. On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2022

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

Item 7.1. FY22 District Financial Audit and Student Activity Audit (available at meeting)

Item 7.2. FY23 Monthly Budget Report

Item 8.1. 2022-2023 School Cancellation Contact List

Item 8.2. 2022 Staffing Retention Report

Item 9.3. FY23 Delineation of Subcommittees

Item 9.4. Class of 17 Five Year Alumni Survey

Item 9.5. NESDEC Enrollment Projection Form

Item 9.7.a. Notification of Resignation: Stacy Willar: Receptionist – Main Office

Item 9.7.b. Notification of Resignation: Arianna Power: Secretary – Main Office

Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary