Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 17, 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
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
Mark J. Potter of Douglas
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon, 6:03 p.m.
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton
David R. 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
Michael Denise, Athletic Director
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Chair. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that Mr. Intinarelli and Mr. Koopman would not be in attendance and that Mr. Cray would be delayed. Mr. Cray arrived at 6:03 p.m. The Superintendent also informed the Committee that he would transition to the Competition Center to address the BVT Fall Sports teams briefly: Boys & Girls Soccer, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Golf, and Cheer during their Athletic Awards. Therefore, there would be a brief intermission between Item 6 and Item 7. Then a moment of silence was held in remembrance of former School Committee member Peter L. Lynch, 81, of Uxbridge, who died on November 7, 2022. Mr. Lynch finished his educational career at Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School, where he retired as Director of Guidance in 2004.

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 October 20, 2022 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2022 was presented. The report reflected an ending balance of $3,838,452.72 for Total Funds, including $1,151,991.30 in Project Funds, and $2,686,461.42 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2022 as presented.

3.2. The Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2022 was presented. The report reflected an ending balance of $5,934,432.65 for Total Funds, including $1,106,011.35 in Project Funds, and $4,828,421.30 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2022 as presented

Item 4. Staff Recognition - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

4.1. A letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, was presented to two BVT seniors:

a. Owen Mathieu of Grafton (HVAC/R) was recognized for being named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

b. Jackson Staheli of Hopedale (Electronics & Engineering Technology) was recognized for being named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

4.2. Three BVT seniors who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program were recognized with Certificates of Recognition:

a. Camila Ramirez of Hopedale (HVAC/R) was presented with the African American and Hispanic Recognition Award.

b. Marcella Ferreira of Milford (Construction) was presented with the Hispanic Recognition Award.

c. Natalia Vazquez of Mendon (Engineering & Robotics) was presented with the Hispanic Recognition Award.

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

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that he was notified in advance that the Student Council Representatives could not attend the School Committee meeting this evening as they were attending the annual Student Council Fall Conference in Worcester.

Item 6. Business Manager - L. Mangano

6.1. The FY22 Audit Report presentation by Hague, Sahady & Co., P.C. needed to be rescheduled. Ms. Mangano did mention, however, that the District Financial Audit, which began on site in August, came back with no findings, which was great news. The Student Activity Audit, typically done every three years, was last done in FY19, and 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.

There was a brief intermission to allow for Dr. Fitzpatrick to address the fall sports teams during their awards ceremony in the Competition Center

Item 7. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

7.1. The annual General Advisory Dinner was held in person at the school on October 26, 2022. The Culinary Arts program provided a barbeque southwestern-themed dinner. The school recognized the close working relationship with its DESE liaison, David Edmonds, with an award for his 15 years of service. It was a great evening.

7.2. There was a Police Chief's Breakfast at BVT on November 8, 2022. The event is done in partnership with Upton Police Chief Michael Bradley, all thirteen sending town Police Chiefs and School Resource Officers were invited to attend. It is a network of support, and it was a well-attended event.

7.3. The annual Admissions Open House was held on November 16, 2022. The in-person event had approximately 2,000 visitors tour the school. The event saw many alums with children return to tour the school or speak in shops. The application portal is open, and there is a strong interest in attending BVT.

7.4. Ninety-two BVT students will be recognized as 2023 John & Abigail Adams Scholar recipients during a brief ceremony during school on November 18, 2022.

7.5. The Safety, Health, and Accessibility Feedback Summary completed by DESE staff was provided to the school as part of the CCTE Program Process to provide feedback regarding the learning environment, facilities, and equipment relevant to student participation in the MA Chapter 74 programs. During a site visit on October 26, 2022, of the following programs: Electrical Board Review: Electricity; District Review: HVAC (updated program) and Plumbing - there were no findings.

7.6. NASA Club Approval / Advisor: Christine Cote:

The ideology of this club is based on Dr. Charles Camarda's Innovative Engineering Design methods. Dr. Camarda refers to the annual challenges as Epic Challenges because it takes multiple parties to devise proposed solutions, and each one is current with NASA research and ongoing missions. The students of the Innovation Conceptual Engineering Design Club (NASA) have been working on research projects pertaining to developing a sustainable lunar colony, aligning with the current Artemis missions and Gateway development. This afterschool program offers students from all vocational studies the opportunity to apply their skill set to a real-world problem. They are researching and developing an innovative solution while building communication, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the formation of the NASA Club and the associated Student Activities account.

7.7. Out-of-State Trip Approval:

a. On a motion by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously 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.

<u>Item 8. Budget Subcommittee Report – Chair (TBA)</u>

In FY23, Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton was Chair of the Budget Subcommittee, and Gerald M. Finn of Millville was the Vice Chair of the Budget Subcommittee. Mr. Finn informed the School Committee that the Budget Subcommittee held its first meeting at 5:00 p.m. on November 17, 2022. The agenda included electing the Chair and Vice Chair of the FY2024 Budget Subcommittee, verifying meeting dates, and the first review of the Debt function (8000). However, not all members were present, so they did not elect the FY2024 Budget Subcommittee

Chair or Vice Chair. Mr. Finn thanked Mrs. Mitchell for serving as the Chair for the prior fiscal year. He indicated that he would consider serving as either the Budget Subcommittee Chair for FY24 if another School Committee member would consider taking his leadership place on BVT's Negotiation Subcommittee.

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

9.1. The unofficial results of the 2022 Regional School Committee Election were shared with the Committee. The Town Clerk in each of the thirteen sending towns will provide the school district with certified results. Once the certified results are publically shared, the elected candidates must be sworn in by their Town Clerk by January 1, 2023.

9.2. The Committee received in advance a Draft Ballot Question for their welcome input on a future District-wide election. A yes vote would approve the Regional District School Committee of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District to authorize the borrowing of $20,000,000 to pay costs of repair, replacement, renovations, and furnishings for Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and related athletic facilities, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, Massachusetts 01568. The Finance Committee will consider this matter in the FY24 Budget planning process.

9.3. The Committee is in receipt of the amended FY23 Superintendent Draft Goals for FY2023. The goals were reviewed, discussed, and approved.

9.4. A revised 2023 School Committee Monthly Meeting Calendar was provided.

9.5. A Veterinary Science Feasibility Study was provided at the meeting. The document included the research and feasibility of a scaled-down program expansion. Several vocational schools near BVT, including Bay Path, Monty Tech, Nashoba Tech, and Worcester Tech, were granted programs in the same Animal Science framework as Norfolk Aggie. However, since then, the ability to open new vocational programs under the Animal Science CIP code is no longer an option with DESE. New frameworks, currently being designed at the State level, will eventually allow programs to open under a new "Veterinary Science" CIP code. A timeline of the release of these frameworks has not been made available to schools interested in providing this curriculum but is anticipated sometime in 2023. A handout provided at the meeting titled Appendix A listed 19 Workforce Skills Cabinet Programs. Veterinary Assisting, Veterinary Science, and Animal Science were not on the list. Dr. Fitzpatrick noted that his FY2023 goals include subsequent updates to School Committee into master plan elements included within grant proposals and FY24 budget components, for example, Veterinary Assisting.

9.6. Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference held in Hyannis from November 2-5, 2022. He informed the Committee that Vice Chair, Mr. Finn, also was in attendance and received the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Division III All-State School Committee 2022 Award. The award recognized his long-term service on BVT's School Committee and was presented to Mr. Finn during an awards dinner on November 4, 2022.

9.7. Notification of Resignation(s)

a. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 10/13/22 from Donna Rose, Vocational Instructor – Cosmetology, was accepted with an effective date of 10/28/22.

b. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 10/13/22 from Leuila Petri - Cafeteria Monitor, was accepted with an effective date of 10/28/22.

c. A Notification of Resignation letter dated 10/31/22 from Robert O'Grady - Custodian-Mid Day Shift with an effective date of 10/31/22.

Item 10. New Business

There was no new business to report. The School Committee is in receipt of the Parent Newsletter, the Link (Winter 2022), and BVT School Counseling News, The Compass (Winter 2022).

Item 11. 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 12. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on December 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 13. Athletics Report – Michael Denise:

Mr. Denise informed the Committee that the Athletic Department had two ceremonies earlier in the evening. First, it recognized the introduction of our Ice Hockey Program, and then the Fall Sports Awards Ceremony recognized all of our fall sports teams except our boys' soccer and football teams because they still had games left to play. The boys' soccer team will play in the state championship in South Hadley on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at Doyle Field in Leominster. The football team will play Nipmuc across the street on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. in the Battle for the Pleasant Street Trophy. Our field hockey, volleyball, football, and boys' and girls' soccer teams secured Colonial Athletic League Championships in 2022. It has been a great season.

13.1. Mr. Denise informed the Committee that the school was selected by its district to receive the 2022 MIAA District 2 Sportsmanship Award. He attended the 28th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette Stadium on Thursday, November 10, 2022, for the award presentation.

13.2. Mr. Denise shared an update on the MIAA proposed rankings system. BVT is in Division 4 with most schools, Division 6 football, and Division 2 track.

Item 14. Meeting Closure:

14.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:55 p.m.

14.2. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was voted to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of October 20, 2022
Item 3.1. Treasurer’s Report dated September 30, 2022
Item 3.2. Treasurer’s Report dated October 31, 2022
Item 7.5. BVT Safety Health and Accessibility Review (SHAR) - Electricity HVAC Plumbing

Item 7.6. Suggested Motion – NASA Club Approval
Item 7.7.a. NASA Club Out-of-State Field Trip Request
Item 9.2. Draft Ballot
Item 9.3. Amended FY23 Superintendent Draft Goals
Item 9.4. Revised Calendar - 2023 School Committee Meetings
Item 9.5. Veterinary Assisting Feasibility Study Research (available at meeting)
Item 9.7.a. Notification of Resignation: Donna Rose - Vocational Instructor - Cosmetology
Item 9.7.b. Notification of Resignation: Leuila Petri - Cafeteria Monitor
Item 9.7.c. Notification of Resignation: Robert O'Grady - Custodian-Mid Day Shift
Item 10. The Parent Newsletter, the Link (Winter 2022), and BVT School Counseling News, The Compass (Winter 2022)
Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee
Item 13.1. MIAA District Sportsmanship Award

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary