

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 16, 2025**

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
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon *6:20 p.m.
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Jan P. Hanratty of Millbury
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
James M. Mitchell of Sutton
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent-Director/Principal
Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer
Michele Denise, Vocational Director
Kerri Baltramaitis, Vocational Director
Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator
Sosie DerKosroffian, Student Council Representative
Maddison Dos Santos, Student Council Representative
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge

Item 1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Hall, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silent reflection was held in remembrance of Robert H. Snow of Upton (May 5, 1932 – December 23, 2024), who served as member of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee from 1991 to 2002. Dr. Fitzpatrick was notified in advance that Mr. Koopman had a work conflict and would be unable to attend and that Mr. Cray had a family obligation and would need to leave the meeting early. *Mr. Cray left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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 reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of December 19, 2024 and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated November 30, 2024. The report reflected an ending balance of \$4,151,200.99 for Total Funds, including \$1,051,914.36 in Project Funds, and \$3,099,286.63 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the November 30, 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. School Committee Officers Elections/Appointments for 2025

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Hall, the Superintendent-Director, Dr. Fitzpatrick, led the School Committee through the election/appointment process. Terms of service began in January 2025 and would end at the regular meeting held in January 2026.

4.1. Chair: On a motion made by Mr. Finn and seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, 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. Intinarelli and seconded by Mr. Broderick, 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 on a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli and seconded by Mr. Finn.

4.4. Assistant Treasurer: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Joseph A. Broderick as the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District Assistant Treasurer on a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli and seconded by Mr. Cray.

4.5. Payroll/AP Warrant Signer (one required): Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Edward D. Cray, III as the Payroll/AP Warrant Signer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District on a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli and seconded by Mr. Finn.

Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signers (two required):

4.6.a. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. Paul J. Braza as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #1 for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District on a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli and seconded by Mr. Broderick.

4.6.b. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2: Applying his prerogative at the School Committee Chair, Mr. Hall appointed Mr. James H. Ebbeling as an Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer #2 for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District on a motion made by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Mr. Intinarelli.

Item 5. Student Council Representatives - Sosie DerKosroffian & Maddison Dos Santos

First, they reported that holiday fundraising efforts were a success. The Council raised \$1,400 on Fast Money Friday, and the Handball Tournament between spectators and contestants raised \$2,600, for a total of \$4,000. This money will go directly to fund next year's holiday shopping for the BVT families in need. The Council also assembled coloring packets as part of its community service efforts. During the holidays, it distributed teacher appreciation gifts, including Hershey chocolate bars wrapped as snowmen. Lastly, the Council is preparing for its Hyannis Trip and is looking to take approximately 20 people, including many freshmen and sophomores.

Item 6. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

6.1. Principal Steele presented the Committee with a copy of the preliminary proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar. On a motion made by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to approve the proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented.

6.2. Principal Steele informed the Committee that the 2025-2026 Program of Studies is available on the school website, and course recommendations are made through the PowerSchool portal. Both are used in course selection and career planning.

6.3. Academic Curriculum Coordinator Mr. Evans presented the Committee with a Competency Determination Language Proposal handout and presented the following information to the Committee. Whereas Competency Determination (CD) has been satisfied through MCAS since the early 21st century that is no longer an option. CD is now a local matter, and BVT is obligated to provide language separate from graduation requirements about locally designed Competency Determination measures for students scheduled to graduate as early as May 2025.

As outlined in the new law, a student who has not yet earned CD must demonstrate “mastery of a common core of skills, competencies, and knowledge..., by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student’s district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests...administered in 2023.”

Proposal for Satisfactorily Completing Coursework: BVT proposes that Competency Determination for students in the classes of 2025 and 2026 who did not earn CD through MCAS attempts prior to 2025 and students in any class scheduled to graduate in 2027 and beyond be considered as satisfactorily completing coursework for Competency Determination purposes by earning credit via a 60% or better, or successful completion of summer school with a 75% or better, in: Algebra I (or Algebra II for incoming 9th graders who start with Algebra II based on placement testing. The students starting in Algebra II are pre-determined to have the skills, competencies, and knowledge from Algebra I necessary for success in higher levels of mathematics), English I, English II, Geometry, and 1 Lab Science (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics). 60% (or 75% in summer school) is already the threshold for credit in all offered courses.

Proposal for Certifying the Coursework That Was Completed: To certify that the completed coursework shows mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests administered in 2023, BVT will Audit the curricula that impact CD annually for alignment with state academic standards and curriculum frameworks; Administer department-wide common mid-year and final exams in each of the courses mentioned above that align with BVT curriculum, state academic standards, and state curriculum frameworks; Annually analyze common assessment data to measure student acquisition of the skills, competencies, and knowledge to determine curricular and/or instructional adjustments.

Auditing the curricula, administering common benchmark assessments at key points in the school year, and analyzing the assessment results will allow BVT to certify with confidence that the curriculum, instruction, and assessment are aligned with state standards and frameworks.

Mr. Yitts asked Mr. Evans if he could provide the Committee with summer course options given the increased focus on academic coursework for CD should students require extra help. Mr. Evans agreed to gather that information for the Committee. Mr. Finn asked Mr. Evans if comparative MCAS data would be provided in the future. Mr. Evans shared that DESE has indicated that they plan to remain the same regarding tracking and releasing MCAS data.

6.3.a. On a motion by Mr. Finn seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to accept and approve the competency determination proposal as presented.

6.4. Vocational Director Ms. Denise updated the School Committee on Freshmen Exploratory and shop placements; Dr. Connors was not able to attend he was out-of-state on bereavement. Ms. Denise distributed a handout, which included an exploratory status report for the Class of 2028. 93.62% of students received a top-three shop choice (294 students). 6.38% of students received a shop choice lower than the top three (20 students). An interesting data point: 165 students (52.5% of the freshman class) changed their top choice at some point between the initial shop selection and the November Career Night. The handout also included charts of the first-choice shop selections for the Class of 2028 and trends by Class from the Class of 2025 to the Class of 2028.

6.5. Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Requests:

a. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to approve the proposed DECA overnight field trip request to attend the Career Development Conference Competition in Boston, MA from February 27, 2025 to March 1, 2025.

b. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to approve the proposed out-of-state Ski Club field trip request to Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, NH on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

c. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to approve the proposed Robotics overnight field trip request to compete in the Big E Robotics Competition in Springfield, MA from April 2, 2025 to April 5, 2025.

d. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to approve the proposed Student Council overnight field trip request to the MASC Conference in Hyannis, MA from March 5, 2025 to March 7, 2025.

Item 7. Budget Subcommittee Report - G. Finn

7.1. First Round Line Item Series: 3000, 4000, and 7000: Mr. Finn, Budget Subcommittee Chair, informed the Committee that the Budget Subcommittee met on January 2nd, 9th, and 16th and has reviewed the 3000, 4000, and 7000 series.

Item 8. Business Manager – N. Ferguson

8.1 There were no donations for approval. For the good of the Committee, Dr. Fitzpatrick

shared that the family of one of our graduates set up a GoFundMe fundraiser to support the BVT football program in memory of the former player. The Superintendent-Director recognized that it was generous of the family to do that.

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

9.1. An FY25 Grants to Date document was shared with the Committee. The FY25 total to date listed, as of January 7, 2025, was \$1,588,410, with an additional \$1,253,900 in progress. For the good of the Committee, Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that a MetroWest Health Foundation donation, was received after the grants list was prepared, the District continues to pursue alternate funding. Mr. Yitts asked in the MA Skills Capital-Lab Modernization Culinary Arts design meeting occurred on January 9, 2025. Dr. Fitzpatrick indicated that it had and assured Mr. Yitts the Committee would receive a bid packet for proposed work that would include a blueprint. The Superintendent-Director encouraged the School Committee to recognize that, consistent with grant procedures, we are required to implement changes and upgrades coordinated via a complex State process.

9.2. An updated School Committee Member Directory was shared with the Committee.

9.3. Updates:

a. Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that the District had formally submitted the required evidence of payment for reimbursement of \$44,000 for HVAC-related heating equipment. The Commonwealth's support for this expenditure was confirmed in the FY25 budgeted earmarks program.

b. Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Maintenance and Capital Planning Form, required documentation for its accelerated repair program, had been submitted and received. The next MSBA meeting is set for February 5, 2025 via Zoom.

Item 10. New Business

10.1. Mr. Hall informed the Committee that it would pass over discussing the appointment of a Superintendent-Director to the next regularly scheduled school committee meeting.

10.2. A letter from the MetroWest Health Foundation dated January 9, 2025, with the final installment of the foundation's grant funding in the amount of ten thousand dollars, was shared with the Committee.

10.3. On a motion made by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was voted to approve and award the construction contract for the Storefront Demolition and Masonry Repair to Zeyco Construction, LLC of Boston, MA, as the most responsible and eligible bidder, with a total bid of \$143,947. Mr. Yitts asked what shop this was for, and Mr. Steele explained that it was for the outside wall near the deli line in the school cafeteria to make room for the walk-in refrigerator.

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 March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 13. Meeting Closure:

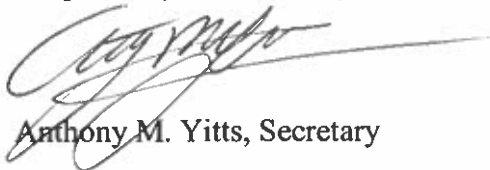
13.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:07p.m.

13.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of December 19, 2024
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2024 (available at meeting)
- 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 6.1. 2025-2026 Proposed School Calendar
- Item 6.3. Competency Determination (CD) Language Proposal
- Item 6.4. Exploratory Status Report – Class of 2028
- Item 6.3.a. Suggested Motion: District School Committee Accept/Approve CD Proposal
- Item 7.1. Proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar
- Item 6.5.a. Overnight Field Trip: DECA Boston, MA
- Item 6.5.b. Out-of-State Field Trip: Ski Club Gilford, MA
- Item 6.5.c. Overnight Field Trip: Robotics Springfield, MA
- Item 6.5.d. Overnight Field Trip: Student Council Hyannis, MA
- Item 9.1. Summary FY25 Grants and Donations
- Item 9.2. School Committee Member Directory
- Item 10.2. MetroWest Health Foundation Grant Funds
- Item 10.3. Suggested Motion: Bid Summary Dust Collector System Replacement
- Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,



Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary