

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes January 15, 2026

Members in Attendance

Gerald Finn of Millville
James Mitchell of Sutton
Tyler Bartlett of Upton

Anthony E. Steele II, Superintendent-Director
Matthew Connors, Assistant Superintendent
Nicole Ferguson, Business Manager
Christopher Pilla, District Treasurer
Jacqueline Raad, Assistant Business Manager
Jaime Patriarca, Assistant Business Manager

Members Absent

Joseph Hall of Bellingham
Joseph Broderick of Blackstone

Guests in Attendance

Michele Denise, Principal

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Mitchell in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Mr. Mitchell asked members to review minutes from the January 8, 2026 Budget Subcommittee meeting.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Pilla seconded by Mr. Finn; it was voted and approved with one abstention from Mr. Bartlett, as he was not in attendance at said meeting.

Agenda items

Mrs. Ferguson opened the meeting by reviewing the School Choice (9000 series). She informed the Subcommittee that DESE published the School Choice Winter Rosters based on October SIMS reporting, including related tuition. The District's roster contains one school choice student with a total tuition cost of \$5,000, which represents a \$14,000 decrease from the prior year budget that included three school choice students. Mrs. Ferguson then presented updated enrollment counts that had been validated with DESE.

Mrs. Ferguson directed attention to the Budget Summary for items reviewed to date which reflected a preliminary increase of 6.88% from FY2026. She reminded the Subcommittee that the remaining budget presentations consist of Instructional, Technology, and Capital.

Next, Mrs. Ferguson addressed a previous discussion by presenting an analysis of Massachusetts Regional Vocational Technical High Schools, showing the percentage of each budget that was committed to salaries. She pointed out that the districts ranged from 52% to 63% and Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School lands in the middle at 59%.

Mr. Steele presented an article indicating that the Town of Northborough is advocating for adjustments to Massachusetts School Building Authority reimbursement program, prevailing wage, and unrestricted general government aid (UGGA). Municipal leaders are looking for solutions to address growing demands placed on local resources and assistance in funding government mandated services.

The next scheduled meeting is set for Thursday January 22, 2026 at 4:30 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Special Note: Consistent with the District's standard budget building process, the Budget Subcommittee will continue to receive and review all departmental budget requests. Once fully collected, the Subcommittee will explore and investigate all options (including grants and donations) to secure requests prior to including them in the FY2027 final proposed budget, with local municipal assessment consideration.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn made by Mr. Mitchell at 5:46 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Finn; motion voted and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jaime Patriarca, Recording Secretary