

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

Budget Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2026

Members in Attendance

Joseph Hall of Bellingham
Tyler Bartlett of Upton
Christopher Pilla, District Treasurer

Anthony E. Steele II, Superintendent-Director
Matthew Connors, Assistant Superintendent
Nicole Ferguson, Business Manager
Jacquenette Raad, Assistant Business Manager
Jaime Patriarca, Assistant Business Manager

Members Absent

Gerald Finn of Millville
James Mitchell of Sutton
Joseph Broderick of Blackstone

Guests in Attendance

Mark Conley, Technology Coordinator

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:44 p.m. by Mr. Bartlett in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Mr. Bartlett asked members to review minutes from the January 29, 2026 Budget Subcommittee meeting.

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

Agenda items

Mr. Conley opened the meeting with a review of the District-Wide Technology budget which showed a total increase of \$5,547 or 3.08% from the prior year budget. Significant components of the change consisted of:

Technology Software [\$3.8K increase]

- \$ 4.2K *Vocational Assessments*: Increased quantity of ETA testing (Engineering) and addition of MACWIC (Manufacturing) testing that was formerly provided at no cost
- \$ 3.0K *Metal Fabrication*: Addition of online subscription for MindTap
- \$ 2.4K *Information Tech*: Increased cost of virtual training (Lab Sim) and the addition of Replit licenses
- \$ 2.2K *Plumbing*: Renewal of MindTap subscription for all grades
- \$ 2.1K *Auto Collision*: Addition of iCar software, offset with the removal of Rome Billing
- \$ 1.8K *Manufacturing Technology*: Annual increases in various machining software packages
- \$ 1.5K *Automotive Technology*: Annual increases in ALLDATA and CDX online
- \$ 0.9K *Drafting*: Increased cost and quantity of online textbook subscriptions
- \$ 0.9K *Guidance*: Addition of check-in software and counseling/meditation apps for students
- \$ 0.6K *Academic*: Annual increase for Study Island (study tools) and Turnitin (plagiarism and cheating)
- \$ 0.5K *SPED*: Annual increase for Notable (unlimited teacher PD) and Ori Learning (transition curriculum)
- \$ 0.3K *Dental*: Annual increase for Dentrix subscription renewal
- \$ 0.2K *Design & Media Prod*: Addition of Pantone Library subscription
- \$ 0.1K *Construction Technology*: Increase number of licenses for Chief Architect
- (\$ 1.6K) *Vocational Assessment*: Migration to a new platform (JobReady260) for Co-Op and post-graduation data, which comes with more features at a lower cost than the prior platform (College Central)
- (\$15.3K) *Math*: Removal of 3-year Pre-Calculus subscription, next needed in FY29

Technology Hardware [\$0.2K increase]

- \$ 3.7K Manufacturing Technology: Addition of Prototrack software keys
- (\$ 3.5K) Humanities: Removal of iPads purchased in prior year

Contracted Services [\$1.6K increase]

- \$ 1.3K SPED Director: Increase in number of IEP's requiring translation
- \$ 0.2K Principals: Annual increase for My School Bucks (student activity accounting)
- \$ 0.1K Guidance: Annual increase for Naviance (data tracking for students and alumni)

Next, Mr. Conley presented the Technology Department budget which had an overall increase of \$49,422 or 6.53% from the prior year budget. Mr. Conley explained the major components of the budget change as follows:

- \$ 63.7K Tech Dept. (Tech-Hardware): Driven by the 5 year replacement plan for obsolete devices, including additional increase for specialty devices for engineering programs, in addition to the replacement of a Digital Signal Processor (DSP) for the competition center
- \$ 9.5K Tech Dept. Supplies & Materials: Replacement of UPS batteries for data closets and server rooms to protect data in case of power failure
- \$ 4.8K Tech Dept. Contract Services: Increased ArxED subscription to include LITIX school benchmarking platform to build fair compensation and competitive benefits
- \$ 2.1K DW Info Management & Tech Software: Annual increase for PowerSchool (Student Information System) and all associated plug-ins
- \$ 1.9K Building Security Software: Increased software needs to support the increased number of cameras used for building security
- \$ 1.0K Tech Dept. (Tech-Software): Annual increases for various software, offset by reducing the number of licenses for some platforms and eliminating redundancy where possible
- \$ 0.2K Library Tech Contracted Services: Annual increases for News Bank and EBSCO database subscriptions
- (\$ 6.7K) Tech Dept. Prof Development and Travel: Reduction of travel costs for PowerSchool University, now offered in Massachusetts
- (\$27.5K) Bldg. Network/Maintenance: Mainly driven by the reduction of support services that will be included for three years with the newly replaced firewall and Wi-Fi access points, offset by minor increases and decreases to various other services (Veeam, Paessler, Mimecast, Dell backup)

Mr. Conley presented a handout outlining the 5-year plan for technology life cycle replacement plan, demonstrating an attempt to avoid unanticipated large increases to the budget year over year. Mr. Hall requested the replacement of UPS batteries to be added to the life cycle replacement plan.

Moving on, Mr. Conley and Mr. Steele presented the Fixed Asset budget which had an overall increase of \$8,483 or 6.92% from the prior year budget. They explained the major components of the budget change as follows:

- \$ 25.0K Equipment: Replacement of a floor scrubber that has reached end of life
- (\$ 16.5K) Technology: Replacement of the firewall and three switches, offset with E-Rate funding and removal or Wi-Fi replacement completed in prior year, consistent with the life cycle replacement plan

Mrs. Ferguson directed attention to the budget summary for items reviewed to date, which reflected a preliminary increase of 7.22% from FY2026. It was reiterated that budget items presented to date were first pass department requests, and as the Subcommittee continues through the process, all requests will be evaluated further during the administrative review. The next scheduled meeting is set for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn made by Mr. Hall at 6:00 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Pilla; motion voted and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jaime Patriarca, Recording Secretary