

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Regular Minutes of Special Meeting
February 24, 2026**

A special 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
Mark J. Potter of Douglas
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon (Zoom)
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge
James M. Mitchell of Sutton
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge

Anthony E. Steele II, Superintendent-Director
Miranda Dolegiewicz, Administrative Assistant
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
Jan P. Hanratty of Millbury

Item 1. Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Chair, Mr. Hall. Mr. Cray participated remotely via Zoom.

Item 2. Law Firm Transition – A. Steele

Superintendent-Director Steele reported that Attorney Marc L. Terry left Mirick O’Connell on January 31, 2026, to join the firm of Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP in Boston, Massachusetts.

On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to approve the continuation of legal services with Marc L. Terry, Esq., following his transition from Mirick O’Connell to Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP, Boston, Massachusetts and authorizes the District to retain Attorney Terry under his new firm in order to ensure continuity of legal representation and institutional knowledge. The motion was adopted. Mr. Steele will follow-up with the necessary letter confirming the School Committee’s decision.

The Chair proposed taking Items 4 and 5 out of order. There being no objection, Items 4 and 5 were taken up before Item 3.

Item 4. Overnight Field Trip Request

On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, it was voted to approve the proposed overnight field trip for the Class of 2026 seniors to attend a senior class event at Pinz Bowl in Milford, MA from Friday, March 20, 2026, to Saturday, March 21, 2026. The motion was adopted.

Item 5. Excess and Deficiency Fund Transfer – A. Steele

Superintendent-Director Steele reported that transfer is authorized under the FY26 annual budget, as approved by the School Committee and its 13-member towns. The District may use Excess & Deficiency (E&D) funds to support unanticipated expenditures, capital projects, or other fiscal obligations, as disclosed in the FY26 Budget Book (page A-1a). The certified E&D balance before the transfer was \$1,384,579; after the transfer, it is \$784,579. Additionally, DOR and the Massachusetts General Law require the District (through a letter from the District Treasurer) to alert its local stakeholders (member towns) of (potential) FY26 utilization of up to \$700,000 of DOR Certified E&D funds following the vote to transfer funds. A draft of that letter was available for members to review.

Certified E&D Transfer to Capital Projects: On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was voted to approve the transfer of \$600,000 from the District’s Certified E&D Fund (Account #1000-00-0302-000-0) into the Program and Facility Expansion Capital Projects Fund (Account #6100-00-0498-000-0), titled “OFS: Xfer from General Fund.” The motion was adopted. Mr. Steele affirmed that Treasurer Pilla would send the required letter and each School Committee member would be copied for their awareness.

Item 3. Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, §21(a) #3

On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 6:16 p.m. because discussion of this subject in open session would be detrimental to the School District. The roll call was as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Hall – Yes | Mr. Braza – Yes | Mr. Mitchell – Yes |
| Mr. Koopman – Yes | Mr. Potter – Yes | Mr. Ebbeling – Yes |
| Mr. Cray – Yes | Mr. Bartlett – Yes | Mr. Yitts – Yes |
| Mr. Finn – Yes | | |

On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Braza, a vote of call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 6:36 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Hall – Yes | Mr. Braza – Yes | Mr. Mitchell – Yes |
| Mr. Koopman – Yes | Mr. Potter – Yes | Mr. Ebbeling – Yes |
| Mr. Cray – Yes | Mr. Bartlett – Yes | Mr. Yitts – Yes |
| Mr. Finn – Yes | | |

Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Item 6. Meeting Closure:

6.1. The Chair, Mr. Hall, declared the meeting closed at 6:37 p.m.

6.2. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting:

Item 2. Suggested Motion: Law Firm Transition Letter (Marc L. Terry)

Item 4. Overnight Field Trip Request: Senior Class of 2026 (Pinz Bowl in Milford, MA)

Item 5. Certified E&D Fund Transfer

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony M. Yitts
Secretary

