

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

Budget Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
February 12, 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
Jacquenette Raad, Assistant Business Manager
Jaime Patriarca, Assistant Business Manager

Members Absent

Joseph Hall of Bellingham
Joseph Broderick of Blackstone

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Mr. Mitchell in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Mr. Mitchell asked members to review the revised minutes from the February 5, 2026 meeting.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Finn, seconded by Bartlett; it was voted and approved with two abstentions from Mr. Finn and Mr. Mitchell as they were not in attendance at said meeting.

Agenda items

Ms. Ferguson opened the meeting by presenting handouts regarding open inquiries from prior meetings. The first handout provided proposed athletic fee increases. It was suggested that Ice Hockey remain the same at \$350 and all other sports increase from \$50 to \$100 per sport, a change that would increase revenue by approximately \$40,000. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding fee revenue, which includes athletic fees, parking fees, and facility rental fees. Taking into consideration that fees have not increased in several years, it was unanimously agreed that it is time to gradually increase fees to better align with operating budget demands. The second handout, presented on behalf of Mr. Laflamme, provided costs for commonly used materials across a variety of vocational shops, with increases ranging from 12% to 33% over the past three years.

Next, Ms. Ferguson presented the proposed budget summary scorecard, which represents a final expenditure increase over FY26 of 2.50% or \$805,644, with the total increase in member assessments being 3.83% or a total of \$778,740.

Ms. Ferguson then presented the FY27 Administration Proposed Changes in comparison to the FY27 Initial Department Requests. She noted that several adjustments were necessary to balance total revenues to total expenditures, while attempting to minimize the financial impact to member towns when feasible, and protect the quality of education at BVT.

Total revenues included the recently published FY27 Governor's Local Aid Proposal for Chapter 70 School Aid (adjusted for PN allocations) and Chapter 71 Regional Transportation, however these amounts are subject to change as the FY27 Local Aid budget progresses through the House, Senate, and Conference Committee. Also included in revenues were recently published FY27 Minimum Required Contribution amounts for each town, in addition to all other miscellaneous revenue sources for the District. Mr. Steele explained that a reconsideration of needs and trends were taken into account when determining which expenditures could be reduced to balance the anticipated revenues presented. A discussion ensued regarding changes to the proposed use of unreserved fund balance to help offset the total member town assessments. The Subcommittee agreed to move forward with the FY27 Budget process as presented.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted to approve the FY2027 Budget as presented, on the Budget page A-1 'General Fund FY2027 Summary of Revenues, Assessments and Expenses' document [\$33,031,281] and to recommend said budget to the full school committee for approval which, in turn, will be presented at the public hearing on March 12, 2026 and to Member Towns.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted to include the footnote regarding use of Excess & Deficiency Funds up to [\$600,000] on Budget page A-1.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to apply a total of [\$250,000] of Unreserved Fund Balance as a funding source to the FY2027 Budget.

In closing, Mr. Steele provided the Subcommittee with a few recent articles for their review, addressing budgetary concerns in other towns throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ms. Ferguson reminded Subcommittee members of the FY27 Budget Public Hearing set for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026 in the Cafeteria.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn made by Mr. Bartlett at 6:32 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Finn, voted and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jaime Patriarca, Recording Secretary