

# Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

## Budget Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes - Public Hearing

March 12, 2026

### **Budget Subcommittee Members in Attendance**

James M. Mitchell of Sutton	Anthony E. Steele, II – Superintendent-Director
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton	Dr. Matthew Connors, Assistant Superintendent
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Nicole M. Ferguson, Business Manager
Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Vice Chair	Christopher C. Pilla, District Treasurer
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Chair	

### **Budget Subcommittee Members Absent**

Jacquenette Raad, Assistant Business Manager  
Jaime Patriarca, Assistant Business Manager

### **School Committee Members in Attendance**

Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
Mark J. Potter of Douglas	James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge
Jan P. Hanratty of Millbury	Paul J. Braza of Milford

### **Guests in Attendance**

Michele Denise, Vocational Director	Brian Halacy, Technology Support
Edward Evans, Academic Coordinator	Elise Bogdan, Communications Specialist
Miranda Dolegiewicz, Admin. Asst. Supt-Dir.	
Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Former Superintendent-Director	

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Steele in the school cafeteria.

### **Approval of minutes from prior meeting**

Mr. Mitchell asked the Budget Subcommittee members to review the minutes from the February 12, 2026 Budget Subcommittee meeting.

*Motion:* On a motion moved by Mr. Finn to approve the Budget Subcommittee meeting minutes of February 12, 2026 as written, seconded by Mr. Bartlett the motion was voted and unanimously approved.

### **Discussions**

Mr. Steele presented the FY27 proposed budget in a newly digitized format, alongside printed copies for guests to follow along. The first section was an overview of the budget building process, highlighting various groups that contribute throughout the process, including the Program Advisory Committee, Budget Subcommittee, School Council, and School Committee. The second section was a summary comparing FY26 to FY27 revenues and expenses, emphasizing the 2.5% total increase in the overall budget. Next was an overview of Excess & Deficiency (E&D), indicating that per the Department of Revenue, the Certified E&D balance as of January 16, 2026 is \$1,384,579. Also of importance are the Capital Stabilization and Transportation Stabilization accounts, which each have a balance of \$0 as of June 30, 2025. The next part of the presentation outlined each town's FY27 assessment, and Mr. Steele explained that the minimum contribution amounts are determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Steele explained that the transportation, capital equipment, and retiree medical costs are traditionally presented as items outside of Net

School Spending, and therefore allocated based on the operation ratio, based on each town's enrollment. There is no debt included in the FY27 town assessments as the MSBA accelerated repair project is underway, and once the project is bonded it will be assessed accordingly in future years.

The presentation moved on to the details within expenditure function codes, per the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education chart of accounts. A summary of how the Budget Subcommittee arrived at a final increase of 2.5% ensued, displaying various strategies for cost saving measures such as other funding sources where possible. Mr. Steele also presented a list of grants and donations, as of February 17, 2026, which help to offset budgetary requests. He also presented a per-pupil cost comparison for all Massachusetts vocational schools, indicating that Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School has a relatively conservative per-pupil cost when compared to its peers.

On a motion made by Mr. Broderick, Seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to bring forward the budget of \$33,031,281 to the full School Committee. Mr. Hall called for discussion; hearing none, the motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, it was voted to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nicole Ferguson, Business Manager