Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 16, 2026

The regular 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
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
Mark J. Potter of Douglas
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon (6:07 p.m.)
Jan P. Hanratty of Millbury (6:12 p.m.)
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
James M. Mitchell of Sutton (6:15 p.m.*)
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge

Members Absent:
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton

Anthony E. Steele II, Superintendent-Director
Nicole M. Ferguson, Business Manager
Mary Sahady of Hague, Sahady & Co., CPA's, P.C.
Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator
Joseph Ursoleo, Career Enrichment Team Leader
Catherine Proctor, Assistant Principal
David Champagne, Assistant Principal
Miranda Dolegiewicz, Administrative Assistant
Maddison Dos Santos, Student Council Representative
Isla Koopman, Student Council Representative
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Item 1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Chair, Mr. Hall. A quorum was present. Members present: Mr. Hall, Mr. Broderick, Mr. Potter, Mr. Yitts, Mr. Cray (arrived 6:07 p.m.), Mr. Hanratty (arrived 6:12 p.m.), Mr. Finn, Mr. Mitchell (departed 6:15 p.m.*), and Mr. Ebbeling.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. Mr. Yitts moved to waive the reading of the March 12, 2026, regular School Committee meeting minutes and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Finn and passed unanimously.

2.2. Mr. Yitts moved to waive the reading of the April 2, 2026, special School Committee meeting minutes and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Finn and passed unanimously.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2026 was presented by the Business Manager, Nicole Ferguson. The report reflected an ending balance of $4,025,897.50, including $920,244.14 in Project Funds and $3,105,653.36 in Local Funds. Mr. Broderick moved to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Finn and passed unanimously.

Item 4. Student Council Representatives - Maddison Dos Santos & Isla Koopman

The Student Council representatives provided an update on recent and upcoming

activities, including participation in a regional spring conference, student council elections, teacher appreciation initiatives, and a planned volunteer event at Community Harvest in Grafton.

Item 5. Business Manager – N. Ferguson

5.1. FY25 Audit Update:

a. District Financial Audit:

Mary Sahady of Hague, Sahady & Co., CPAs, P.C. presented the District's financial audit reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, including the Basic Financial Statements, Uniform Guidance Report, and Single Audit Report. The audit reported no findings. The Committee discussed the audit, including pension funding.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Mitchell departed the meeting room at 6:15 p.m., he did not return to the meeting.

5.2. Donations:

a. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Broderick, the Committee voted to approve the donation of three 55-gallon drums of 0W-20 motor oil from Bek's Welding & Fuel Corp., to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Automotive Technology program. The motion passed unanimously.

b. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Cray, the Committee voted to approve the cash donation of $1,000 from Milford Federal Bank (a van subsidy) to be used in support of student transportation for the 2025-26 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

c. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Cray, the Committee voted to approve the donation of three prom gowns from Alexandria's Boutique to Student Council, for use by students in need of a gown for prom attendance. The motion passed unanimously.

d. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the donation of 25-foot tape measures from Home Depot, to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Construction Technology program. The motion passed unanimously.

5.3. Student Activity/Fundraiser Donations:

a. On a motion by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Cray, the Committee voted to approve a donation of $100 from various fundraising sources to support cheerleading. The motion passed unanimously.

b. On a motion by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Cray, the Committee voted to approve a donation of $2,760 from various fundraising sources to support the music club. The motion passed unanimously.

c. On a motion by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Cray, the Committee voted to approve a donation of $7,500 from various fundraising sources to support robotics. The motion passed unanimously.

d. On a motion by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Cray, the Committee voted to approve a $3,417 cash donation from various fundraising sources, which represents additional funds raised at the Superintendent's Dinner, to the superintendent's fundraiser account. The motion passed unanimously.

5.4. Bid Approval for Culinary Plumbing Project: On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Committee voted to award the construction contract for the culinary classroom and bake shop renovation to Stallion Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, from New Bedford, MA, as the most responsible and eligible bidder, with a total bid in the amount of $57,600. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed the qualifications of the bidder prior to voting.

Item 6. Budget Report – J. Mitchell

6.1. Finance Committee Meetings/Presentations: Committee members and administration attended and/or participated in budget presentations with various municipal finance committees as follows:

a. Northbridge (3/17/26) – J. Koopman

Mr. Steele and Dr. Connors attended the Northbridge Finance Committee meeting on March 17, 2026.

b. Grafton (3/18/26) – A. Yitts

Mr. Steele, Dr. Connors, and Mr. Yitts attended the Grafton Finance Committee meeting on March 18, 2026.

c. Blackstone (3/24/26) – J. Broderick

Mr. Steele and Mr. Broderick attended the Blackstone Finance Committee meeting on March 24, 2026.

d. Douglas (3/24/26) – M. Potter

Mr. Steele, Dr. Connors, and Mr. Potter attended the Douglas Finance Committee meeting on March 24, 2026.

e. Millbury (3/25/26) – J. Hanratty

Dr. Connors, Mrs. Ferguson, and Mr. Hanratty attended the Millbury Finance Committee meeting on March 25, 2026.

f. Milford (3/25/26) – P. Braza

Mr. Steele, Mr. Braza, and Mr. Pilla attended the Milford Finance Committee Zoom meeting on March 25, 2026.

g. Sutton (3/26/26) – J. Mitchell

Mr. Steele, Mrs. Ferguson, and Mr. Mitchell attended the Sutton Finance Committee meeting on March 26, 2026.

h. Upton (3/31/26) – T. Bartlett

Mr. Steele, Dr. Connors, and Mr. Bartlett attended the Upton Finance Committee meeting on March 31, 2026.

i. Uxbridge (4/1/26) – J. Ebbeling

Mr. Steele, Dr. Connors, and Mr. Ebbeling attended the Uxbridge Finance Committee meeting on April 1, 2026.

j. Millville (4/7/26) – G. Finn

Mr. Steele, Dr. Connors, and Mr. Finn attended the Millville Finance Committee meeting on April 7, 2026.

k. Mendon (4/8/26) – E. Cray

Mr. Steele and Dr. Connors attended the Mendon Finance Committee meeting on April 8, 2026. Mr. Cray was unable to attend.

l. Hopedale (4/9/26) – M. Intinarelli

Mr. Steele and Dr. Connors attended the Hopedale Finance Committee meeting on April 9, 2026. Mr. Intinarelli was unable to attend.

Bellingham did not request a budget presentation. Mr. Steele acknowledged the exceptional collaboration between the School Committee members and staff in all of the budget presentations.

Item 7. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report – Dr. M. Connors

7.1. Mr. Steele, on behalf of Dr. Connors, reported that the 40th Annual MAVA Outstanding Vocational Technical Students Award Ceremony was being held that evening, April 16, 2026, at Mechanics Hall. Principal Michele Denise was in attendance at the ceremony representing BVT, along with student award recipient Andrew Dolan of Milford, a senior in the Health Services program at BVT.

7.2. Mr. Steele shared a SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Medal report by town. BVT students earned a total of 81 medals, including 33 gold, 27 silver, and 21 bronze, as well as 2 sweeps.

7.3. Mr. Steele provided an admissions update. He reported that lotteries for all thirteen sending towns have been completed. Lottery results were recorded and posted on the school website. Waitlists are also available on the website. Mr. Steele noted that he has met with several state legislators regarding lottery outcomes.

7.4. Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Requests:

a. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Committee voted to approve the HVAC/R program's out-of-state field trip request to attend the Eastern Energy Expo held in Uncasville, CT on May 20, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

7.5. Career Enrichment Presentation:

Mr. Evans introduced Mr. Ursoleo, Team Leader of the Career Enrichment program, who provided an overview of the Career Action Plan and Industry Insights initiatives.

Mr. Ursoleo described the integration of the Career Action Plan into the Career Enrichment curriculum, where students develop individualized career plans aligned with industry-recognized credentials. He also described the annual Industry Insights seminar, which includes employer panels focused on workplace expectations, employability, and career readiness.

Committee members asked questions regarding student credentials, which were addressed by administration.

Item 8. Policy Subcommittee Report – T. Bartlett

8.1. Mr. Bartlett was unable to attend the meeting. Assistant Principals Catherine Proctor and David Champagne presented and reviewed proposed BVT policy updates.

a. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the 2026-2027 Student Handbook as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

b. On a motion by Mr. Cray, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the JIH-Searches and Interrogations Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

c. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, the Committee voted to approve the JH-R Attendance Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Steele acknowledged the Assistant Principals for their development of the policy refinements.

Item 9. Superintendent-Director's Report – A. Steele

9.1. Annual Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner Report:

Mr. Steele provided a report on the 32nd Annual Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner, held at the school on March 19, 2026. The event serves as a fundraiser and a capstone project for Culinary Arts seniors, and highlights what is possible within career and technical education. The dinner is planned, prepared, and served by students, faculty, and graduates of the Culinary Arts program, with support from additional technical programs for event setup and design.

9.2. A grant summary was shared with the Committee showing FY26 year-to-date funding of $2,027,075 as of March 31, 2026, with an additional $1,957,816 in pending or in-progress funding. The summary does not include in-kind donations. Mr. Steele reported that Senators Moore, Rausch, and Fattman have indicated recent support for a legislative earmark funding request in the amount of $105,000.

9.3. Mr. Steele reminded Committee members of the annual scholarship contribution request. Mr. Hall encouraged members to consider making contributions. Mrs. Ferguson noted that checks may be made payable to BVT.

9.4 The Spring 2026 edition of The Connect alumni newsletter was made available to Committee members.

9.5. Notification of Resignation:

a. The Committee accepted a letter of resignation dated March 5, 2026, from Jaime Patriarca, Assistant Business Manager/Financial Aid Coordinator, effective March 19, 2026.

Item 10. New Business

No new business was presented. Mr. Steele thanked the School Committee for the additional meetings held during the year.

Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee:

A monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence was provided to members for review.

Item 12. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on May 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Item 13. Meeting Closure:

13.1. The Chair, Mr. Hall, declared the meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

13.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Finn, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting:

Item 2.1. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026
Item 2.2. Special Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2026
Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2026
Item 5.1.a. District Financial Audit Documents (available at meeting)
Item 5.2.a. Donation: Bek's Welding & Fuel Corp. – S. Bek
Item 5.2.b. Donation: Milford Federal Bank
Item 5.2.c. Donation: Alexandria's Boutique – M. Belanger
Item 5.2.d. Donation: Home Depot – J. Montgomery
Item 5.3.a. Donation: Cheerleading (various sources)
Item 5.3.b. Donation: Music Club (various sources)
Item 5.3.c. Donation: Robotics (various sources)
Item 5.3.d. Donation: Superintendent's Fundraiser (various sources)
Item 5.4. Suggested Motion: Bid Approval of Culinary Plumbing Project
Item 7.1. 2026 MAVA Outstanding Voc Tech Student Draft Press Release – A. Dolan
Item 7.2. Skills Accomplishment Report
Item 7.3. October 1 Preliminary Enrollment Headcount
Item 7.4.a. Field Trip Request: HVAC/R – Uncasville, CT: 5/20/26
Item 8.1.a. 2026-2027 Student Handbook

Item 8.1.b. JIH-Searches and Interrogations
Item 8.1.c. JH-R Attendance Policy
Item 9.2. FY26 Grant Listings
Item 9.4. The Connect (Alumni Newsletter) – Spring 2026
Item 9.5.a. Notification of Resignation: Assistant Business Manager/Financial Aid Coordinator
Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony M. Yitts
Secretary

Signed original on file in the Central Office