Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 21, 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:

Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone
Mark J. Potter of Douglas
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge,6:10 p.m.
James M. Mitchell of Sutton
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge

Members Absent:
Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Chair
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon
Jan P. Hanratty of Millbury

Anthony E. Steele II, Superintendent-Director
Dr. Matthew J. Connors, Assistant Superintendent
Nicole M. Ferguson, Business Manager
Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer, via Zoom
Miranda Dolegiewicz, Administrative Assistant
Joann Monks, Practical Nursing Program Coordinator
Becky Corda, SkillsUSA Advisor
Mikayla Corda, SkillsUSA Advisor
Maddison Dos Santos, Student Council Representative
Madison Denise, Student Council Representative
Isla Koopman, Student Council Representative
Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Finn. Mr. Steele reported that Mr. Hall, Mr. Intinarelli, Mr. Cray, and Mr. Hanratty were unable to attend. Mr. Koopman arrived at 6:10 p.m., during the Student Council Representatives report. The Committee took Item 4 out of order to allow senior Student Council Representative Maddison Dos Santos to deliver her final report to the Committee before attending the Memorial Scholarship Night in the Competition Center.

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

The student representatives reported that ten students ran for positions on the executive board, with two candidates running for president. The presidential election resulted in a tie, and advisors approved the establishment of a co-presidency for the upcoming school year. The newly elected board has begun preparing initiatives and planning meetings for next year. The Council will participate in a volunteer service trip to Community Harvest in Grafton on June 12. Students will assist with harvesting crops, planting, and other farming activities. The Council recently held its Senior Recognition Banquet, during which 18 seniors were recognized for their commitment to the Council and received certificates and graduation medals. Lastly, the representatives introduced Madison Denise, who was recently elected Vice President of the Student Council and will serve alongside Isla Koopman as a student representative during the upcoming school year.

On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Steele thanked outgoing Student Council President and graduating senior Maddison Dos Santos for her service as Student Representative. Mr. Steele noted that it has become tradition to present the graduating student representative with a commemorative gift. As Maddison will be entering the workforce at Top Notch HVAC

following graduation, the Committee presented her with an HS33 Expandable Manual Ranging Stick Multimeter for HVAC/R, recommended by her employer as a useful professional tool. Mr. Steele congratulated Maddison and thanked her for her service to the Committee and the school community.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. Mr. Yitts moved to waive the reading of the April 16, 2026, regular School Committee meeting minutes and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Broderick and passed unanimously.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2026, was presented via Zoom by Chris Pilla. The report reflected an ending balance of $3,011,994.36, including $1,343,035.89 in Project Funds and $1,668,958.47 in Local Funds. Mr. Bartlett moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Broderick and passed unanimously.

Item 5. School Committee Fiscal Year 2027 Appointments

5.1. District Treasurer (Term: 7/1/26 – 6/30/27) Mr. Steele spoke in favor of the nomination and informed the Committee that Mr. Pilla had indicated his willingness to accept the FY27 appointment if supported by the Committee. Mr. Finn moved to appoint Christopher C. Pilla as District Treasurer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Broderick. With the candidate's acceptance indicated, the motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Recording Secretary (Term: 07/01/26 – 06/30/27) Mr. Finn moved to appoint Elise Bogdan as Recording Secretary for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yitts. With the candidate's voiced acceptance indicated, the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Skills USA State Competition Results – R. Corda

The SkillsUSA Advisors, Becky Corda and Mikayla Corda, joined by student representative Madison Denise provided an update on the 2025-2026 BVT SkillsUSA activities, which included the following conferences and competitions:
Fall Leadership Weekend Conference: (November 23–24, 2025 in Marlborough, MA), had 12 students attend and three students achieved the SkillsUSA Leadership Award.
Freshman Smart Start Summit: (January 15, 2026), a one-day conference in Boxborough, MA had 19 freshmen and the Skills Chapter Officer Team in attendance to learn about SkillsUSA.
District Leadership and Skills Conference: (March 11, 2026), had 198 student competitors selected through Shop COP testing in December/January. BVT students competed in 54 different events, capturing 81 medals, 33 Gold, 27 Silver, 21 Bronze, and 2 Sweeps.
State Leadership and Skills Conference: (April 30–May 2, 2026 in Marlborough, MA), had 92 student competitors, 24 Delegates, 1 State Officer Candidate. Madison Denise was elected to be a State Officer for the 2026-27 school year. BVT students competed in 60 different events, earning a total of 46 medals (19 Gold, 24 Silver, and 3 Bronze).

National SkillsUSA Leadership Conference: (June 1–6, 2026 in Atlanta, Georgia), BVT will send 13 Gold Medalists, 1 State Officer Elect, and National Voting Delegate to compete against peers in their field, from schools across the nation.

Item 7. Business Manager – N. Ferguson

7.1. Donation Approval(s):

a. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Broderick, the Committee voted to approve the donation of plumbing equipment and materials from Flaherty Plumbing Co., Inc., to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Plumbing program. The motion passed unanimously.

b. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Broderick, the Committee voted to approve the donation of an Epson Stylus Photo Pro 9880 Large Format Inkjet Printer from Andrew Jefferson, to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Design & Media Production program. The motion passed unanimously.

c. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Committee voted to approve the donation of a 2013 Subaru Outback Wagon from Jerry Polselli, to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Automotive Technology program. The motion passed unanimously.

d. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Committee voted to approve the donation of numerous HVAC/R equipment from Taco, Inc., to be used for instructional and training purposes in the HVAC/R program. The motion passed unanimously.

e. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Braza, the Committee voted to approve the donation of a 2016 Chevrolet Corvette, EV Drive Motor, and 5.3 Engine from Mass Bay Community College, to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Automotive Technology program. The motion passed unanimously.

f. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the donation of a 55-inch Samsung Flat Screen TV from Joann Monks, to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Electronics program. The motion passed unanimously.

g. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the donation of a NextVein Vein Visualization Device from Advocates, Inc., to be used for instructional and training purposes in the Health Services program. The motion passed unanimously.

7.2. Cash Donation(s):

a. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the $1,500.00 cash donation (given as a discount on a purchase order) from Koopman Lumber. The motion passed unanimously.

b. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the $1,500.00 cash donation from Stable Ground Technology. The motion passed

unanimously.

Item 8. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report – Dr. M. Connors

8.1. BVTi Update: Dr. Connors reported that BVTi held its first graduation ceremony on May 20, 2026. A total of 62 students completed the program and participated in a job fair, during which employers interviewed candidates for employment opportunities. Dr. Connors also shared that an open house was held on May 6, 2026, and enrollment is currently underway for the fall cohort. BVTi is looking to expand its program offerings pending the next round of grant funding. Committee members noted positive feedback regarding the program's first year. Mr. Broderick shared that his daughter enrolled in the Welding program and spoke favorably about her experience. Overall, the Committee recognized the successful inaugural year of BVTi.

8.2. Faculty & Nurse Appreciation Day (5/6/26): Dr. Connors reported that BVT administration, with support from BVTi, celebrated Faculty & Nurse Appreciation Day on May 6, 2026, by inviting the Cookie Monstah Ice Cream Truck to campus. Homemade ice cream sandwiches were provided, and the administration expressed appreciation for the dedication and contributions of the school's faculty, nurses, and support personnel. Dr. Connors noted the school's gratitude for its outstanding educators and dedicated staff.

8.3. Junior/Senior Prom Report (5/9/26): Dr. Connors reported on the Junior/Senior Prom, which was held on May 9, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. More than 625 students and guests attended the event. Dr. Connors noted that the prom was a successful, safe, and enjoyable evening for all attendees, with no incidents reported.

8.4. Out-Of-State/Overnight Field Trip Request(s):

a. On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Koopman, the Committee voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request presented on behalf of the Automotive Technology program to travel to the New England Dragway NHRA Youth & Education Services event in Epping, New Hampshire on June 5, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

b. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Committee voted to approve the out-of-state field trip request presented on behalf of the Painting & Design Technology program to travel to the Newport Mansions Preservation Society in Newport, Rhode Island on June 11, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

8.5. Nursing Assistant & Healthcare Professional Pinning Ceremony (5/13/26): Dr. Connors reported that the Health Services department held its first annual pinning ceremony on May 13, 2026. He and Mrs. Denise attended the ceremony, which recognized members of the Class of 2027 Health Services program who, as juniors, completed the Nursing Assistant program and demonstrated dedication and commitment to pursuing careers in healthcare professions. During the ceremony, several students shared reflections on their experiences in the Health Services program and in their clinical placements. Following the presentation of pins, the students recited the Nightingale Pledge. Dr. Connors noted that the pledge and class listing were included in the program materials distributed to the Committee. Dr. Connors further reported that the event had been under consideration for several years and was well attended by families, staff, and community members. He and Mrs. Denise commended the Health Services Department for organizing a successful and meaningful inaugural event.

Item 9. Policy Subcommittee Report – T. Bartlett

9.1. Revised Policies:

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

b. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Committee voted to approve the BVT Practical Nursing Faculty Guidelines and Procedures 2026-2027 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

c. On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the BVT Practical Nursing Student Financial Info Handbook 2026-2027 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

e. On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to approve the GDB-1 Support Personnel Policy Revised as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Budget Report – J. Mitchell

10.1. FY27 Budget Update: Mr. Mitchell provided an update on the FY27 Budget. He reported that eleven of the district's thirteen member towns voted to approve the FY27 Budget, resulting in approval of BVT's FY27 operating budget. Bellingham will hold its annual town meeting on May 27, 2026 and Blackstone will hold its annual town meeting on May 26, 2026.

10.2. Annual Town Meeting Status Report(s):

a. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Douglas on May 4, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

b. Dr. Connors attended the annual town meeting in Millbury on May 5, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

c. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Northbridge on May 5, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

d. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Upton on May 7, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

e. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Grafton on May 11, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

f. Mrs. Ferguson attended the annual town meeting in Sutton on May 11, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

g. Dr. Connors attended the annual town meeting in Millville on May 11, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

h. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Mendon on May 12, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

i. Dr. Connors attended the annual town meeting in Uxbridge on May 12, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

j. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Hopedale on May, 19, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

k. Mr. Steele attended the annual town meeting in Milford on May 18, 2026, during which BVT's FY27 Budget was approved.

Item 11. Superintendent-Director's Report – A. Steele

11.1. Mr. Steele provided the Committee with an election calendar outlining the dates and deadlines for candidates seeking election to the BVT School Committee for the term January 2027 through December 2030. The Committee discussed the candidate submission process and signature requirements.

11.2. Notification of Resignations & Retirements:

a. The Committee was in receipt of a notification of retirement letter from Dawn Mattair, Accounts Payable Coordinator with an effective retirement date of April 30, 2026.

b. The Committee was in receipt of a notification of resignation letter from Michelle Chesley, Payroll Officer with an effective resignation date of May 15, 2026.

c. The Committee was in receipt of a notification of retirement letter from James Woodward, Vocational Instructor: Advanced Manufacturing with an effective retirement date of January 8, 2027.

11.3. Tours/Visits:

a. Mr. Steele reported that he met with Representative Michael Soter on April 3, 2026, to discuss matters related to the school lottery process and vocational education.

b. Mr. Steele reported that he met with Maureen Sullivan of MassLive on April 13, 2026, for an interview regarding BVT and the proposed "bell-to-bell" cellphone ban in Massachusetts schools. The article was included in the Items for the Good packet.

c. Mr. Steele reported that he met with Senator Ryan Fattman on April 14, 2026, to discuss concerns affecting schools across the Commonwealth. Senator Fattman encouraged BVT to continue reaching out annually regarding legislative support opportunities. Mr. Steele also noted discussions regarding the FY27 state budget and earmarked funding.

d. Mr. Steele reported that he met with Representative Joseph McKenna on April 14, 2026. Representative McKenna expressed interest in participating in BVT community projects. Mr. Steele also noted the continued support BVT has received from area Senators and State

Representatives.

11.4. Mr. Steele provided an update regarding the BVTA Memorandum of Agreement. He reported that the negotiated contract changes had been presented to the Association and received approval. The contract process has been finalized, and Mr. Steele noted that BVT is among the few schools in the state to have successfully settled its FY27 contract agreement at this time.

Item 12. New Business

Mr. Steele formally notified the Committee that the district anticipates a reduction in force affecting positions in FY27. He noted that this information had previously been discussed during the FY27 budget public hearing and budget subcommittee meetings. Mr. Steele stated that he wanted to ensure the notification was formally entered into the record with the School Committee.

12.0. Field Trip Request: On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to give final approval of the international field trip request as presented to travel to London, England and Dublin, Ireland on June 26, 2026 through July 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee:

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

Item 14. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on June 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Item 15. Executive Session Per MGL c. 30A, §21(a)(3)

On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to MGL c. 30A, §21(a)(3), because discussion of the matter in open session could have a detrimental effect on the School District. The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Finn – Yes	Mr. Broderick – Yes	Mr. Koopman – Yes
Mr. Potter – Yes	Mr. Braza – Yes	Mr. Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Yitts – Yes	Mr. Bartlett – Yes	Mr. Ebbeling – Yes

On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Committee voted by roll call to adjourn Executive Session and return to Open Session at 7:10 p.m. The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Finn – Yes	Mr. Broderick – Yes	Mr. Koopman – Yes
Mr. Potter – Yes	Mr. Braza – Yes	Mr. Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Yitts – Yes	Mr. Bartlett – Yes	Mr. Ebbeling – Yes

Item 15.1. Decide Release Status of Executive Session Minutes (a.-i.)

On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Potter, the Committee voted to release the Executive Session meeting minutes (15.1.a.-i. dated January 23, 2014; August 28, 2014; January 22, 2015; April 16, 2015; May 21, 2015; August 18, 2016; September 15, 2016; November 17, 2016; and December 15, 2016) as presented, on the basis that their release would no longer be detrimental. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 16. Meeting Closure:

16.1. Vice Chair Finn, declared the meeting closed at 7:11 p.m.

16.2. On a motion by Mr. Braza, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting:

Item 2.1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16 2026
Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2026
Item 5.1. Suggested Motion: BVVR District Treasurer
Item 5.2. Suggested Motion: BVVR District Recording Secretary
Item 6.0. BVT 2025-26 SkillsUSA MA Competition Results & Annual Report
Item 7.1.a. Donation: Various Plumbing Supplies, Flaherty Plumbing
Item 7.1.b. Donation: Epson Printer, A. Jefferson,
Item 7.1.c. Donation: 2013 Subaru Outback Wagon, J. Polselli
Item 7.1.d. Donation: Various HVAC/R Equipment, Taco, Inc.
Item 7.1.e. Donation: 2016 Corvette, EV Drive Motor, 5.3 L Engine; Mass Bay
Item 7.1.f. Donation: Samsung 55" TV, J. Monks
Item 7.1.g. Donation: NextVein Vein Visualization Device, Advocates, Inc.
Item 7.2.a. Cash Donation: Koopman Lumber
Item 7.2.b. Cash Donation: Stable Ground Technology
Item 8.4.a. Field Trip Request: Auto Tech, N.E. Dragway, Epping, NH 6/5/26
Item 8.4.b. Field Trip Request: P&D, Newport Mansions Preservation Society, RI 6/11/26
Item 8.5. BVT Nursing Assistant & Health Care Professional Pinning Ceremony program
Item 9.1.a. Practical Nursing Program Student Handbook 2026-2027
Item 9.1.b. Practical Nursing Program Faculty Handbook 2026-2027
Item 9.1.c. Practical Nursing Program Student Financial Info Handbook 2026-2027
Item 9.1.d. Blackstone Valley Tech Athletic Department Student-Athlete Handbook
Item 9.1.e. Support Personnel File: GDB-1
Item 10.1. FY27 Budget Score Card
Item 11.1. BVT School Committee Elections Update/Calendar
Item 11.2.a. Retirement: Dawn Mattair, Accounts Payable Coordinator
Item 11.2.b. Resignation: Michelle Chesley, Payroll Officer
Item 11.2.c. Retirement: James Woodward, Advanced Manufacturing Instructor
Item 12.0. Field Trip Request: Foreign Travel London, England and Dunlin, Ireland
Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony M. Yitts
Secretary

Signed original on file in Central Office