

1 Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)

2 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, Monday, December 10, 2012, 5 PM

3 RGB members present-Jim Boutin and Rickey Harrington; CDC represented by Supt./Dir.

4 James Culkeen and Business Manager, Greg Lewis

5 Recorder: Sandra Redding

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7 Meeting began with a discussion of the schedule for the budget vote. The general  
8 consensus is that it is better to wait until as late as possible so that all information has  
9 been gathered to have a complete and solid understanding of the actual numbers.  
10 January 3<sup>rd</sup> seems to be a good date for the adoption of the budget and allocation  
11 agreement.

12  
13 Discussion of the allocation agreement versus a traditional lease arrangement was next on  
14 the agenda. Conversation began with an update on the previous meeting's discussion  
15 with Jim Marsden. There are many variables to consider and much information to be  
16 gathered. It was agreed that nothing could change for the coming year, but committee  
17 members would like to reach out and start a dialogue with SVSU concerning this topic.  
18 Jim Boutin will research the channels for this discussion with SVSU/MAU.

19  
20 Discussion ensued concerning the SVRTSD budget for the coming year. The beginning  
21 budget was presented as an 8% increase, then, after re-working with teachers concerning  
22 true needs and cuts shows an 4% increase at this time. Committee members felt this was  
23 still too much and requested that the superintendent and business manager work to  
24 decrease the budget even further. There are costs involved in the budgeting process that  
25 we cannot do anything about such as health care increases and bargaining unit's  
26 contractual increases. It is expected that tuition will rise even with a modest budget  
27 increase due to anticipated lower enrollments in this area as well as the whole state.  
28 There is concern with the national "fiscal cliff" as well. This state may receive less money  
29 due to that as well as much lower tax revenues from the more traditional avenues. FEMA  
30 money was also not as high as first anticipated from the Irene disaster.

31  
32 The committee requested that the business manager prepare a presentation for the full  
33 board at the December meeting. The committee will meet again at 6 PM right before the  
34 full board meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. The superintendent will endeavor to further  
35 decrease the budget before the next meeting. The budget increases have been kept at a  
36 decent level for the last several years even with a number of cost increases which are out  
37 of our control.

38  
39 The committee also may recommend a change of the date for the January meeting to  
40 better align with budgetary deadlines. Research will be done on that change.

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42 Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.