

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, September 15, 2008**

3 Arlington High School Library, Arlington VT
4

5 Members Present: Claude DeLucia; Kevin Goodhue; Leon Johnson (arrived at 6:38); Rickey
6 Harrington; Fran Kinney; Frank Lamb, Chair; Ed Letourneau.
7

8 Members Absent: Gloria Alexander; Justin Corcoran; Bob Kobelia; Rob Sperber.
9

10 Staff and Others Present: Greg Lewis, Business Manager; Larry Molloy, Arlington resident &
11 Select Board member; Bob Montgomery, Interim Director; Sandy Redding, Office Manager.
12

13 Video Taping: Billy Trask
14

15 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger
16

17 Lamb called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and thanked the Arlington School District for
18 hosting this meeting. The Board members then introduce themselves.
19

20 **Agenda**

21 **Harrington moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to accept the Agenda as written**
22 **and to add the Forestry Field trip to the Consent Agenda. All were in favor.**
23

24 **Consent Agenda**

- 25 - Minutes of the August 19, 2008 RGB Meeting
- 26 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant(s)
 - 27 ▪ # 104 8/28/2008 in the amount of \$ 14,611.84
 - 28 ▪ # 1007 8/28/2008 in the amount of \$ 57,234.07 (\$57,041.76)
 - 29 Minus void check # 5326 in the amount of \$192.31
 - 30 ▪ # 105 9/11/2008 in the amount of \$ 15,709.94
 - 31 ▪ # 1009 9/11/2008 in the amount of \$ 48,704.57
 - 32
 - 33 Total Disbursements (104/ 105/ 1007/ 1009) \$ 136,068.11
- 34 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant
 - 35 ▪ # 1008 8/25/2008 in the amount of \$ 84,289.36
 - 36 ▪ # 1010 9/15/2008 in the amount of \$ 42,588.61 (\$ 39,859.10)
 - 37 Plus voided check # 9085 (Warrant # 1002 7/15/2008) in the
 - 38 amount of \$2,729.51
- 39 - Nominations
 - 40 ▪ Safety Services Officer Bruce Gabrus
 - 41 ▪ SkillsUSA Co-Advisors Barbara Gorbaty
 - 42 Kathy Slade
 - 43 ▪ Human Services Club Stephannie Peters
 - 44
- 45 - Field Trip Forestry/ Heavy Equipment 10/2 to 10/3
46 Destination: Paul Smith's College, upstate NY
47

48 Discussion:

49 Johnson commented that Field trip applications should be filled out and kept electronically.

1 Johnson also expressed that, regarding nominations, at least two people (the CDC Director
2 and another Administrator in the school system) should be interviewing and recommending
3 the nominees.

4
5 It was noted that the Safety Officer's role is for overseeing compliance in OSHA/ VOSHA
6 matters.

7
8 The Forestry/ Heavy Equipment Field Trip was added to the Consent Agenda.

9
10 **Harrington moved and Kinney seconded a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. All
11 were in favor.**

12
13 **Superintendent's Report George Carpenter was not in attendance.**

14
15 **Chairman's Report**

16 Lamb proposed a new format where people from the community (ie parents, students,
17 business leaders, et al) are invited to come and discuss what they feel a good education
18 should be in their community. This will allow for the Board to start listening to its clients.
19 With this information/ feedback we will be able to build our goals as a Board and as a school
20 district.

21
22 Lamb reported that he recently read the NEASC report and that he'll be making suggestions
23 to the Board to look at and react to. CDC needs to become better known and to build a
24 strong bond/ partnership with the countywide school base.

25
26 To accomplish this goal, Lamb suggested creating a Strategic Planning Committee
27 consisting of Harrington, Alexander, himself, a teacher representative, an administration
28 representative, and an Advisory Board representative to put together a five-year plan. The
29 duties of the this committee would be to review the community's input, develop the ideas
30 into plans, and then form policies. Questions to consider are where are we going and where
31 do we want to be in five years? It was noted that NEASC recommends a "plan".

32
33 Discussion regarding a Strategic Planning Committee and the overlapping/ duplication of the
34 work of Outreach and the Director followed. Johnson would like an organizational chart to
35 better see what is currently being done and by whom. Montgomery summarized that the
36 new committee would be board level with input from the director and the community.

37
38 **Goodhue moved and Letourneau seconded a motion to set up a Strategic Planning
39 Committee. All were in favor except Johnson who voted nay.**

40
41 **Student Representative**

42 Montgomery reported that James Weber, RGB Student Representative has a scheduling
43 conflict and will not always be able to attend the meetings. Weber is actively recruiting
44 another representative with the goal of at least one student representative attending the
45 monthly Board meetings.

46
47 **Public Comments**

48 Montgomery thanked Larry Molloy for responding to his invitation and coming to the
49 meeting.

1 Molloy, an Arlington area businessperson and member of the Arlington Select Board, had
2 the following comments:

- 3 → With the amount of businesses in the county, these businesses should be putting
4 in more input, then you can mold the plan to the type of person needed. This will
5 allow the non-college bound students to be involved in a program that will work
6 them into the community.
7
- 8 → CDC should reach out to the plants (for example Mack Molding, Orvis, Arlington
9 Industries, et al). They should all have a bearing on what they are looking for
10 and how they can absorb some of the people coming out of CDC programs to
11 their benefit. It would be worthwhile if the board met with the “spokesperson”
12 from each company to find out where or if CDC has failed. Everyone has to work
13 at, and continue to work at, making it work for the community.
14
- 15 → Communication is a big problem; as a poll worker he has seen that the average
16 person does not know who the CDC is nor what the CDC is trying to do. Of
17 importance is the CDC Board being open, including press to let everyone know
18 that the CDC is alive and well.
19
- 20 → Students should be prepared for the trades if warranted by community needs.
21 The job should be to let the child be ready for the challenge.
22

23 The role of the Advisory Boards was discussed. Johnson noted that the Board was set up
24 to have industry participation and to make sure all the connections are being made.
25 Letourneau suggested inviting the Advisory Boards to RGB meetings.
26

27 Montgomery noted that he had sent out a total of fifteen invitations to local Arlington
28 businesses and also one notable person for each program at the CDC. He was hoping to
29 begin a dialog tonight. The goal was to get some different voices, a broad section, from the
30 community to provide feedback.
31

32 The “trades”, apprenticeship requirements, CDC programs, Adult Education and funding
33 were discussed. Montgomery elaborated for Molloy on the current programs. Harrington
34 noted that the public should be better informed about what CDC offers. Lamb noted that
35 community input is critical as to what is offered and needed.
36

37 Independent study, providing students with the instruction they desire and the role of
38 guidance was also discussed. Better communication with guidance from sending schools
39 and Mount Anthony is needed. Johnson would like the question of “are students being
40 turned away?” answered.
41

42 Molloy thanked the Board for the opportunity. Lamb thanked Molloy for coming and
43 commented that it was a great discussion.
44

45 **Director’s Report**

46 Montgomery noted that the Tech Center is off to a good start and reported on the following
47 program activities:

- 48 → A Cosmetology instructor went to Montpelier today to attend a Board meeting to
49 discuss the exit exam. The goal is to raise the percentage of people who pass

1 the exam. The Board will review the assessment to find out if it is too rigid or if
2 the students were receiving the required training.

- 3 → Building Trades is de-constructing a small barn in North Bennington for lumber.
4 They are also contracting with a portable saw mill owner to make lumber for the
5 house project on Laura Lane.
- 6 → Mike Lawler, Law Enforcement, reports that the Bennington police department
7 has expanded their involvement with the program.
- 8 → Communications Technology will be offering dual enrollment credits through CCV
9 for both semesters.
- 10 → Jeannie Jenkins (CCV) reported that sixty students are enrolled in "Fast Forward"
11 Intro to College Studies course. Upon successful completion, the students
12 receive a voucher for any other course they would like to take.
- 13 → FBLA will be holding a community tag sale fund raiser at the CDC on September
14 20.
- 15 → FBLA and SkillsUSA will be fund raising by selling pizza, salad and cookies at
16 the Open House on September 23 (5:30 PM).
- 17 → Burr and Burton's administration team will be touring CDC on September 26
18 between 10:00-12:00.
- 19 → Forestry & Heavy Equipment visited the Battenkill last week during the recent
20 torrential rains. They will be assisting the USFS with trout habitat restoration
21 beginning next year. They will be shooting the elevations.

22
23 Montgomery also informed the Board that upon inspection by Tom Haskins, it was
24 discovered that Law Enforcement's 1997 cruiser needs costly repairs. Research for a
25 replacement was done and a 2004 police-equipped vehicle located nearby in NY. The price
26 of this "first choice" vehicle is \$6,800. There is also another proposed vehicle in Texas for
27 \$10,000. Law Enforcement plans to cover this expense by using the approximately \$3,000
28 recouped from selling unused fire fighting equipment and the balance from Law
29 Enforcement's program budget.

30
31 Discussion followed where the Board expressed its strong desire to have the supporting
32 documentation presented and that policy is followed. Montgomery noted the need to move
33 quickly; he and Haskins will be looking at the vehicle tomorrow. There was also discussion
34 as to spending program money and if it would jeopardize the program.

35
36 **Harrington moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to purchase the vehicle if it met**
37 **Haskin's approval. All were in favor excepting Johnson who voted nay.**

38 39 Committee Reports

40 41 Search Committee

42 Goodhue reported that there were twenty-five candidates who applied for the Director's
43 job. Sandy Redding has made binders of the committee members and superintendent
44 to review at the CDC. When all the members have reviewed the material, the
45 committee will meet.

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47 Goodhue noted that one application came in late and asked the Board what they would
48 like to do. Consensus was that the application was late therefore it should be discarded.

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Finance

Lamb reported that the committee would meet before the next Board meeting.

Facility

Kinney read through the September 3, 2008 Minutes which were passed out at the meeting. The committee discussed parking, the storage shed building, road parking and the unregistered, untitled vehicles at the facility. The minutes will be put in for approval at the next meeting.

At 8:00PM Kinney Moved and Harrington seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in favor.

Attachments:

- RGB Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2008
- Payroll Warrants: 8/28/2008 #’s 104/ 1007
9/11/2008 #’s 105/ 1009
- Vendor Warrants: 8/28/2008 # 1008
9/15/2008 # 1010
- Treasurer’s Statement of Cash Flow, Operating Accounts & Balances, Revenue & Expenses (8/1 – 8/31, 2008)
- Nomination Forms (4)
- Forestry Field Trip Request (handed out at meeting)