



Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District

Serving: Bennington, No. Bennington, Twin Valley, Stamford, Arlington, Manchester, Dorset, Sandgate, Pownal, Readsboro, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, and Woodford

Dr. Frank Barone
Director/Superintendent
Greg Lewis
Business Mgr.

Robert Montgomery
Assistant Director
William Swisher
Guidance

Robert Mazur
Adult Education
Wendy Klein
Co-op Coordinator

To: Frank Lamb and the Governing Board of the SVRTSD
Fr: Dr. Frank J. Barone and Mr. Robert Montgomery
Sub: CDC Year in Review 2008 – 2009
Date: June 15, 2009

CDC YEAR IN REVIEW 2008-2009

Changes in administration and changes in the governance structure of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District have resulted in subtle but steady positive change in the focus and the operation of the Career Development Center. In spring 2008 Ms. Donna Oyama, the director of the CDC retired from her position at the center. Mr. Robert Montgomery, the assistant director, stepped up and assumed the role of interim director until a suitable replacement for Ms. Oyama could be found. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Montgomery and the rest of the office staff, school opened in September without any major hitches.

BOB, YOU'RE STUFF HERE

On January 20, 2009, Dr. Frank J. Barone, assumed the duties and responsibilities of Director/Superintendent of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Career Development Center.

Beginning in January, the faculty, staff and administration of the CDC began to focus on improving student attendance.

The CDC set up organizational email accounts for all current board members. This effort is designed to keep the board better informed relative what goes on at the CDC. It also serves as a vehicle for better ongoing communication between the board and its Director.

The Annual Report was completed and made available on our website. Hard copies were also available Wednesday on February 11th.

In February, our focus continued to be on attendance. In addition, we refocused our efforts on recruitment of students.

Dr. Barone attended a conference earlier this month in Burlington on the topic of the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** or more commonly known as the stimulus package. Our voice was heard relative to the role the CDC should play in the retraining of displaced workers.



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The CDC Marketing program sent several students to the State Wide DECA competition in Burlington. Statewide competition for FBLA and Skills USA also took place. CDC students made a fine showing in each of these competitions.

Dr. Barone requested CDC students and staff to come up with a theme song relating to their program. The theme song would be performed in a contest held March 27, 2009 in the Atrium. The winning students received a beverage certificate from the Campus Store and the winning Program instructor won a DVD player, care of Doc. Barone. This activity proved to be a real morale booster.

In February, the good people of Bennington County approved the 2009-2010 CDC budget. The voters also elected two new board members, Mr. Larry Johnson and Mr. Jon Peaslee.

School recruitment visits took place in Arlington and Burr and Burton. Sophomore summit took place at Southern Vermont College. This also proved to be a powerful recruitment tool.

At our last March workshop day, we listened to Mark Perna, a marketing specialist from Cleveland, Ohio. His workshop was informative and timely. The center plans to implement many of Mr. Perna's recruitment recommendations.

The Director was asked to testify at a Senate Committee hearing on the 2nd of April in Montpelier. Representing all of the tech centers across the state, he informed the senators that the tech centers are ready and eager to serve as workforce retraining sites for displaced, unemployed and underemployed workers when the time comes to fund these programs.

The Director met with Ken Facin, the Superintendent of Schools for the Hoosick Falls Central School District. He indicated to me that he would be in favor of allowing Hoosick Falls students to attend the CDC if certain barriers could be overcome. Since this meeting, the CDC worked very hard to overcome these barriers. However, more work will need to be done before Hoosick Falls is ready to begin sending students to us. This remains a work in progress.

The Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District drafted and approved a new policy governing the appropriate use of communication technology in school. This policy proved compelling enough to be used as the template for both the Mt. Anthony policy and the SVSU policy. We led the way on this one.

At its April 2-3 meeting of the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions, the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. (NEASC) reviewed and accepted, without change in membership status, the two-year progress report submitted by the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center. Further, the commission noted, during its deliberations, **commendations** in five separate and critical areas. The full content of the notification is available in the CDC office for board



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and public review. Kudos to Bob Montgomery and the rest of the team who worked on the two year report.

In April, the board approved and the CDC purchased a 7 passenger van. We were able to get an almost new van (only 11,000 miles) for under \$14,000 dollars. The van has already led to cost savings relative to fuel and drivers' salaries.

At the April board meeting, a comprehensive powerpoint presentation was given relative to enrollment trends here at the CDC over the last five years. The presentation demonstrated that while there is work that still needs to be done relative to recruitment and retention of students, the overall trend in enrollment indicates that we seem to have turned the corner and that center wide enrollment is finally beginning to tick upwards. This is encouraging news.

The CDC will be installing an additional WiFi system at the CDC over the summer so that students can also have access to the internet. The student system will have many more filters than our staff access which is already pretty restricted.

The CDC will also be installing and upgrading our security camera system, replacing a "workable" system with a state of the art system which can be accessed from any authorized computer terminal.

Students in various programs attended several educational field trips in April and May. Two such trips were Cosmetology's trip to the International Fashion Show in New York City, and the Law Program's trip to Washington, DC.

The Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Career Development Center put on an incredible Awards Banquet at the Elk's Club on June 4th. Everyone in attendance was awed at the elegance and organization of the event. It was great.

Finally, the administration and staff look forward to the autonomy we will enjoy after July 1st relative to the governance and operation of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District. We approach the future with PREPARED optimism.