Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD) Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 10, 2023, in-person and online

RGB members present: Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Leon Johnson, Tim Kane, Fran Kinney, Ken Swierad, Glen Sauer, Dane Whitman and TJ Williams. Online, J. Kelly and C. Putney

CDC represented by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director and Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager

Audience: CAT-TV; no public attendees

Recorder: Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Meeting was called to order at 10:05AM by Chair K. Swierad. He welcomed all and asked for public comments. Board member F. Kinney shared some thoughts concerning the Spinelli Field upgrade project. He feels that some of the costs associated with the scope of this project are asinine and too much to ask of our taxpayers when there are many other needs in the education system and facilities for upgrades and improvement. He noted that there are improvements that are needed and he has no trouble with that. He suggested that as well as community assistance, there might be ways the SW Tech programs such as Building Trades and Forestry could help cut costs. Let's investigate how we can work together to use our assets and lower costs. With rising inflation, we must keep the costs down as much as possible. At 10:10AM, with no other public comments, the board journeyed downstairs to the Automotive Technologies Program area for a tour of the classroom, lab and to see students at work. Program Instructor, Tom Haskins introduced students and explained the goals, interactions and program technologies with the board. Upon returning to the board meeting at 10:30, Supt. Lawler shared the next program to be viewed in May will be Medical Professions.

The Consent Agenda was then reviewed:

- RGB Full Board Minutes, March 13, 2023, were unanimously approved with motions from Kinney and Johnson
- Payroll Warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Kinney and Cutler
- Vendor Warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Kinney and Johnson

At 10:31, the board went into Executive Session for Contracts with motions by Kinney and Edelson with unanimous approval.

At 11:45AM, the board returned to Open Session. D. Whitman announced that the board would like information from legal counsel concerning the superintendent's contract as to language additions concerning working remotely and travel reimbursement. This needs to take place this week. The board would like the Executive Committee to meet one more time and then, schedule a Special Meeting to conduct business as needed by the end of April.

Superintendent/Director Lawler shared his report:

- In the past several weeks, SW Tech students have participated in and traveled throughout Vermont and nearby New York to many of the competitions sponsored by CTSO programs such as HOSA, Skills, FBLA, ProStart . Lawler is pleased to report there are many medalists in several categories. When we have complete lists from program teachers, we will announce winners and start preparations for National competitions. As these CTSOs are equivalent to high school sports programs, we work very hard to find funding to assist the competitors in traveling to Nationals. We are very proud of all of our competing students as they showcase our programs, instructors and district. Congratulations to all!
- Lawler announced our Spring semester FTE count as very good and somewhat higher than previous years. 171 FTEs is a great indicator of students spending more time in our building and programs. This will be very helpful for our future budget discussions and financial support.

Chair Swierad indicated he had nothing to add, so with motions from Kinney and Cutler, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 11:50AM.