

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, Monday, February 8, 2016, 2:30 PM**

3
4 Attending: RGB members – Gloria Alexander, Heidi Pickering and Jim Boutin;
5 CDC represented by Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director and Meg Honsinger, Assistant
6 Director
7 Public Attendees: Bob Howe and Alisha Del Tufo, Lake Paran Association
8 Recorder: Sandra Redding
9

10 Gloria asked for approval of the minutes from January, 2016. Approval was unanimous.
11 She then invited Supt. Lawler to give the committee some updates. Supt. Lawler took this
12 time to acknowledge the nine years of service Gloria Alexander has given to our community
13 thru her involvement as a CDC Regional Board member. She has been the guiding force on
14 the Strategic Planning Committee of the board for many of these years. Her leadership in
15 this area has led to many forward thinking ideas and future plans for the CDC. We shall
16 miss her faithful input. She was presented with a beautiful, soft blue CDC sweatshirt as a
17 token of our appreciation. She thanked Mike and stated that even though she would not be
18 an elected member of the board, she would always be available as needed. Mike then
19 introduced our public attendees and invited them to give their presentation concerning the
20 Lake Paran Project.
21

22 Both Bob Howe and Alisha Del Tufo gave us a history of the Lake Paran Association and
23 how this building project came to be. Our building trades program led by Brian Coon, has
24 been involved from the beginning in building the new pavilion/bathhouse/foodstand. Our
25 guests spoke very highly of Brian and the students and the work that is being done on this
26 project. Considering the small amount of time the students are able to spend at the jobsite,
27 much work is being accomplished. Donations from many sources in the Bennington area
28 have helped considerably with the cost of materials. The hope is to have some parts of the
29 pavilion ready to go for the Memorial Day weekend. The roof should be set in place this
30 coming week and Coon has been contracted after a bidding process to work on the building
31 during vacation week as a private contractor. There have been several articles in the
32 Bennington Banner about the project and we plan to get more info on our own Facebook
33 page concerning the project. This is a win/win for the area as it is a not for profit association
34 and our tech center, by playing a pivotal part in seeing the project thru to completion,
35 demonstrates the solid partnerships that can be established in our community. More local
36 coverage would be a very positive thing. A public opening celebration will take place
37 eventually and all involved parties will be included.

38 Committee members asked about the cost for citizens to use the park. Very small fees are
39 requested with numerous grants made available for families in need. Our guests provided a
40 great deal of information to the committee and we thank them very much for attending this
41 meeting.
42

43 After the departure of our guests, Mike Lawler updated the committee on our in-service
44 program that was attended by CDC faculty and staff today. He shared a great deal of
45 information concerning the Southern Vermont Education and Development Zone report that
46 just recently came out. This was commissioned by the state and has been turned over to
47 the state already. Most on this committee did not know of or have any input into this report
48 any more than our administrators here at the CDC. Because of that, there was erroneous
49 information included and Supt. Lawler has worked very hard to seek more information about
50 the structuring of this report and the correction of the offending material. Discussion ensued
51 as to the evolution, development and final results created by this report. The Agency of

1 Education is also not thrilled with this report as it reflects badly on some areas of that
2 agency. Again, Supt. Lawler has been very active in getting to the bottom of the problem.
3 He has spoken with some major players and is hopeful some adjustments will be made.
4 This report could affect funding, so the AoE is very interested in seeking the actual facts.

5
6 The group discussed the many ways that funding of tech centers is a challenge. The
7 committee feels that school boards, as a whole, need to be addressing the problems of
8 enrollment, funding of budgets, competitions of other entities for the same students, flexible
9 schedules with early graduation, the acceptance of online learning credits and full use of our
10 facility for evenings and summers with support/recognition from the state. How we reach out
11 to our community partners/businesses to form sponsorships for programs is an area that
12 must be developed. We have many areas of interest for the strategic planning committee
13 and the board to research and develop for the future of the CDC.

14
15 As this is Gloria's last meeting with us, she wanted to share some thoughts for the future.
16 She believes that it is important to provide the Northshire with information about the CDC:

- 17 • Develop more partnerships with businesses in the Northshire
- 18 • Provide pictures and articles to the Vermont Newsguide
- 19 • Use GNAT for promotion of the CDC and programs
- 20 • Seek out more work based learning experiences in the Northshire
- 21 • Offer more programs at BBA and AMHS
- 22 • Offer more adult evening classes in Manchester, perhaps at the libraries
- 23 • Research the Green Mountain Academy of Life Long Learning and develop a
24 relationship with them
- 25 • Encourage residents from the Northshire to run for the board

26
27 Jim Boutin opened a discussion of ideas for summer programs and camps for the CDC. We
28 would keep our involvement with the Bennington Police Department and add other weeks of
29 specialty camps here at the CDC. We should start now in developing ideas for this,
30 contacting faculty, staff and other outside venues for plans and possibilities. The shared
31 experience with the BPD was enjoyed and appreciated by all who were involved. We
32 should continue to build on this for the CDC. Jim is presently developing grants for this very
33 aspect of future use for the CDC. We will look forward to the results and continue to search
34 for other methods of support for these projects.

35
36 No next meeting date was set as board elections are soon and committees will be re-set.
37 Meeting adjourned at 4 PM.

38
39
40