



**October 7, 2026, 4:30 pm
HDEC Conference Room and Via Zoom Meeting**

Unapproved Board Minutes

Board Members:

Voting:

Jessica Austin – Present
Bob Flint – Present
Lyza Gardner – Absent
Desiree Giroux - Present
Chris Hodsdon – Present
Jerry Ucci – Present
Andrew Pennell – Absent
Kelly Tarbell – Present
Sarah Vogel – Present

Ex-Officio:

Derek Williams – Present
Layne Millington – Absent
Andrew Hass – Absent
Peter Burrows – Absent
Kendra Rickerby – Absent
Deb Manseau – Absent
Jennifer Cummings – Absent
Kristen Wilson – Absent

Others: Ashley Newton, Tina Bixby, Nathan Bisson, Christine Balch

Program Presentation – Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC), Jessica Leo, Principal

Bob Flint, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and thanked Jessica Leo for her presentation of VTVLC.

Agenda Item I. Agenda Changes or Additions

Under Old Business - Policies Review correct to Second Reading.

Agenda Item II. Public Comments

None

Agenda Item III. Consent Agenda

Enrollment Update – Derek Williams reported we are at 222 students for FY27 which is 8 less students than we had at this time last year.

Financial Report – Derek shared that we are projecting a \$2,802.70 surplus for FY27 at this time. Sending school fundings are coming in along with state funds.

MOTION: (Desiree/Sarah) to accept and approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item IV. Old Business

VTVLC Update – Ashley Newton, Director of VTVLC, presented on the following:

- *VTVLC Financial Report* – Remain right where they anticipate being. Invoices have gone out and payments are coming in. They received additional GearUp grants. These

funds were used to purchase equipment for students, offer new classes and offer seven scholarships for teachers to earn their online teaching specialist.

- *Director's Report* – referred to report included in the Board packet. They are working with Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance to do a comprehensive analysis of VTVLC and earn their accreditation and certification. Credit recovery courses continue to have good enrollment with a 75% success rate for completions.
- *Marine Biology Field Trip* – referred to the presentation included in the Board packet. The trip will be going to Honduras, and students have the opportunity to earn their scuba certification. We must have at least 10 students to run the trip.
- *New VTVLC Position: Instructional Technologist* – VTVLC is in need for curriculum support. This position will collaborate with the VTVLC Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning and the IT Department to improve some of the classes currently offered through VTVLC.
- *Currently Enrollment Numbers* – The numbers are always moving. Enrollment as of today is as follows: 1038 rolling enrollments, 225 fall enrollments, 167 K-8 students and 76 9-12 students.

MOTION: (Sarah/Jerry) to approve the VTVLC marine biology trip to Honduras in the spring of 2027. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Jerry/Desiree) to approve the new VTVLC Instructional Technologist position. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Act 170 Update – Derek Williams reported Bellows Falls Union High School District has joined Group #7 with Athens Grafton School District, Green Mountain Unified School District, River Valley Technical Center, Rockingham School District, Springfield School District and the Westminster School District. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 6 pm at Bellows Falls Union High School with an option to attend virtually. Ludlow/Mt. Holly decided to join the Ruland area group. Independent CTE school districts are considered non-voting members of these committees.

Springfield Resource Officer (SRO) – A.K.A. District Liaison Officer

Derek reported the Town Manager's office has provided a rough estimate of \$50,000 as the cost Springfield School District would be responsible for in regard to the District Liaison Officer position. RVTCT has approximately 10% of the district student FTEs compared to SSD FTEs. Derek requested permission to negotiate a percentage of the Springfield School District cost for the DLO position in consultation with the Board Chair. The DLO has already disposed of contraband, helped with an emergency medical event, responded to an accident in the parking lot, collaborated to solve a complicated campus access issue, and addressed community concerns about a student's driving in cooperation of our Assistant Director.

The current projected budget surplus already includes this expenditure.

MOTION: (Chris/Jerry) to authorize the Superintendent in consultation with the Board Chair to negotiate DLO services with Springfield School District for up to \$6,000. Motion voted and passed with Jessica Austin abstaining.

Federal Work Based Learning Grant Update – Derek shared that RVTC received one bid from our RFP that went out to three bus sales companies and one local dealership. Derek asked the Board to accept the bid and authorize the purchase of the multi-function activity bus (MSFAB) from Anderson Motors. This grant was given with the goal of increasing participation in co-op education and career development opportunities.

The cost of in-class field trips has significantly increased this year since Bellows Falls has significantly increased their fees. Our old bus will continue to be used for in-town field trips. We are offering a bus driver training course for teachers who are interested in taking it.

MOTION: (Desiree/Jerry) to award the bid from Anderson Motors for the multi-function school activities bus and authorize the Superintendent to complete the purchase. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Policies Review – Second Reading – Nate Bisson reported there are no changes to these policies since the last Board meeting:

1. F23 Capitalization of Assets
2. C11 Student Freedom of Expression
3. C12 Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title XI
4. C14 Sec. 504 & ADA Grievance Protocol for Students & Staff

MOTION: (Chris/Jerry) to approve the second reading and warn the third reading and adoption of policies:

1. F23 Capitalization of Assets
2. C11 Student Freedom of Expression
3. C12 Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title XI
4. C14 Sec. 504 & ADA Grievance Protocol for Students & Staff

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item V. New Business

VSBA All Members Meeting – Voting Member – We need to appoint a Board member as a voting member at the VSBA All Members Meeting on October 28 & 29. Bob Flint has already registered to attend.

MOTION: (Chris/Jerry) to authorize Bob Flint as the RVTC delegate at the VSA/VSBA Annual Conference. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

AOE dropped a new policy and procedure for Hazing, Harassment and Bullying on September 4, 2026 that must legally be in place and followed by December 15, 2026 so it will not go through three readings process. We will be asked to approve this policy at that meeting.

Policies Review – First Reading – Nate Bisson reviewed the following policies that were included in the Board packet along with the proposed changes to each of them:

1. F22 Electronic Communication Use and Retention
2. C21 Search & Seizure of Students by School Personnel
3. C27 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature

MOTION: (Chris/Desiree) to approve the first reading and warn the second reading of policies:

1. F22 Electronic Communication Use and Retention
2. C21 Search & Seizure of Students by School Personnel
3. C27 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Derek Williams reviewed his Superintendent's report that was included in the Board packet.

Other – Employment Fair held outside on September 25th this year. RVTC Boat Races video been posted by SAPATV.

Agenda Item VI. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting – November 4, 2026 @ 4:30 pm

Agenda Item VII. Proposed Executive Session

None

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bixby, Recording Secretary