



**June 11, 2026, 5:00 pm
HDEC Conference Room and Via Zoom Meeting**

Approved Revised Board Minutes

Board Members:

Voting:

Jessica Austin – Present
Bob Flint – Present
Lyza Gardner – Present
Desiree Giroux – Present
Chris Hodsdon – Absent
Jerry Ucci – Present
Andrew Pennell – Present
Kelly Tarbell – Absent
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, Scott Farr, Tina Bixby, Christine Balch, Jennifer Fribush

Bob Flint, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

Agenda Item I: Board Re-Organization

MOTION: (Jessica/Jerry) to open nominations for the At-Large Board Member from Chester for the three-year term ending June 2029. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Jessica Austin nominated Lyza Gardner.

MOTION: (Jessica/Jerry) to close nominations and accept the nomination of Lyza Gardner as Chester At-Large Board Member for the three-year term ending June 2029 and have the Superintendent/Director cast one vote in favor of Lyza Gardner. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Jerry/Lyza) to open nominations for FY 27 for the following positions on the RVTCS Board of Directors, Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Clerk.

Andrew Pennell nominated Bob Flint as Chair, Desiree Giroux as Vice Chair and Kelly Tarbell as Secretary/Clerk.

MOTION: (Jerry/Lyza) to close nominations and elect Bob Flint as Chair, Desiree Giroux as Vice Chair and Kelly Tarbell as Secretary/Clerk of the RVTC Board for FY 26 and have the Superintendent/Director cast one vote in favor of the slate of officers nominated. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item I. Agenda Changes or Additions

New Business item, RVTC Support Staff RIFs is not needed, and Non-Union Support Staff Rate Increase should read as FY27.

Agenda Item II. Public Comments

None

Agenda Item III. Consent Agenda

Enrollment Update – Derek Williams reported we are ending FY26 with 211 students which is 17 less students than at we had at this time last year.

We currently have 235 program requests for FY27, which is 18 less than we had for FY 26 at this time last spring.

Financial Report – Derek Williams shared that we are currently projecting a \$2,696 surplus in the local budget for FY26.

Tina Bixby provided confirmation that Board Member, Kelly Tarbell, did indeed attendance the April 7, 2026 Board meeting.

MOTION: (Andrew/Desiree) to accept and approve the consent agenda with two adjustments to the agenda. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item IV. Old Business

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

- *VTVLC Financial Report* – Referred to the report included in the Board packet. Revenue is up due to various factors including CDP student enrollments and less spending.
- *FY2027 Proposed Budget* – Provided a quick overview of the proposed budget included in the Board packet including that they already have 3 custom projects scheduled for FY27.
 - a) *FY27 & FY26 Comparisons* – Review the report from the Board packet.
 - b) *Flex Pathways Goals for FY27* – Build VTVLC goals from the Flex Pathways Grant goals.
- *Current Enrollment* – Referred to the report included in the Board packet and noted they continue to grow enrollments. Enrollments are lower at this time of year as students are finishing up classes.
- *Directors Report* – Reviewed the report included in the Board packet. They had an in-person staff meeting to reflect on FY26 and plan for FY27. They distributed 2 scholarships to students and eSports teams had a great season.
- *Spring Survey Results* – Completed by students annually sharing why they come to VTVLC, how they feel about VTVLC and what are their challenges.
- *Upcoming Events* – June 15th is their annual “lake day” at Lake Elmore.

MOTION: (Lyza/Andrew) to approve the VTVLC FY27 budget as presented. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Statewide CTE Update – Derek Williams reported

Under H. 955, on or before December 15, 2027, the River Valley Technical Center School District needs to join the Vermont Learning Collaborative which is a group that works together to purchase services that might be cost prohibitive individually. It also places RVTC in guidance Group 7 that includes Springfield, Chester, Cavendish, Baltimore, Andover, Ludlow, and Mt. Holly to discuss what districts could look like in this area in the future.

S. 313 has many components directed around CTE including access, making sure students are getting the credits they are assigned for their CTE programs. It also addresses studying what the barriers are to CTE, how to improve access, how to fund things appropriately once transitioned to a foundation formula, share technology and resources, how to align curriculums and more.

Union Support Staff Negotiations – Discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: (Desiree/Andrew) to authorize the Board Chair to execute the union support staff FY27-29 agreement upon receipt of ratification from the Springfield School Staff Association. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Policies Review – Third Reading & Adoption – Tina Bixby reported there are no changes since the last meeting to these policies:

1. B3 Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace
2. C16 Student Use of Cell Phones
3. R1 Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes

MOTION: (Jerry/Desiree) to approve the third reading and adoption of policies:

1. B3 Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace
2. C16 Student Use of Cell Phones
3. R1 Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item V. New Business

Authorization for Retirement Stipend, Groenewold – Derek Williams explained how David Groenewold qualifies for this stipend and David provided proper notification to RVTC in November of 2025. Thank Chef Dave for man years of service to RVTC.

MOTION: (Andrew/Lyza) Pursuant to Article XIX, Section 19.1 of the Agreement between the RVTC Board of Directors and Springfield Teachers Association to authorize payment of a \$14,500 retirement stipend for David Groenewold, Culinary Arts Instructor, as described in the agreement. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

VTVLC Administrator Contracts – Discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: (Lyza/Andrew) to authorize the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board Chair, to negotiate VTVLC administrator contracts for FY27. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Administrator Contracts - RVTC – Discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: (Lyza/Jessica) to authorize the Board Chair, to negotiate FY27 annual salaries for the RVTC administrators. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Non-Union Support Staff FY27 Rate Increase – Discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: (Desiree/Jerry) to authorize a pay rate increase of 6% for non-union support staff for FY27. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Payment of 5 Unused Vacation Days – Bob Flint explained, per administrator contracts, they have the right to request payment for up to 5 unused vacation days. We received requests from the following administrators:

- Derek Williams
- Nate Bisson

MOTION: (Jerry/Desiree) to authorize the payment for up to 5 unused vacation days to the following VTVLC administrators at their per diem rate, per their contracts:

- Derek Williams
- Nate Bisson

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Summer Meeting Schedule – No meeting in July. Next meeting August 5, 2026.

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

Shout out to staff and students at the NTHS Induction Ceremony and Awards Night.

Other – None

Agenda Item VI. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting – August 5, 2026

Agenda Item VII. Proposed Executive Session

MOTION: (Desiree/Andrew) pursuant to Title 1 VSA, Section 313, the Board enters Executive Session to discuss the union support staff agreement negotiations, administrator contracts and non-union support staff pay rates because premature general public knowledge would clearly place a person(s) at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Derek, Ashley.

MOTION: (Sarah/Jessica) to exit Executive Session 5:44 pm. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bixby, Recording Secretary