



**June 5, 2024, 4:30 pm
HDEC Conference Room and Via Zoom Meeting**

Board Minutes - Unapproved

Board Members:

Voting:

Jessica Burlew – Absent
Bob Flint – Present
Lyza Gardner – Present
Chris Hodsdon – Present
Andrew Pennell – Present
Lois Perlah – Present
James Rumrill – Present
Kelly Tarbell – Present
Sarah Vogel – Absent

Ex-Officio:

Scott Farr – Present
Lauren Fierman – Absent
Andrew Hass – Absent
Sherri Nichols – Absent
Kendra Rickerby – Absent
Dr. Christopher Spence – Absent
Jennifer Cummings – Absent
Gabe Vastola – Absent
Kristen Wilson – Present

Others: Derek Williams, Tina Bixby, Greg Runyan

Program Presentation: Cooperative Education and Counseling – Dave Culver and Terri Herzog (Scott Farr presented for Terri.)

Bob Flint, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm and thanked Dave Culver and Terri Herzog for their presentation.

Agenda Item I. Board Re-Organization

MOTION: (Lois/Kelly) to open nominations for Bellows Falls At-Large Board Member for the three-year term ending June 2027. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Chris/Lois) to close nominations and accept the nomination of Andrew Pennell as Bellows Falls At-Large Board Member for the three-year term ending June 2027 and have the Superintendent/Director cast one vote in favor of Andrew Pennell. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Lois/Kelly) to open nominations for Ludlow At-Large Board Member for the three-year term ending June 2027. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Lois/Chris) to close nominations and accept the nomination of Jim Rumrill as Ludlow At-Large Board Member for the three-year term ending June 2027 and have the Superintendent/Director cast one vote in favor of Jim Rumrill. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Lois/Andrew) to open nominations for FY25 for the following positions on the RVTCS Board of Directors, Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Clerk. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Chris/Lois) to close the nominations and elect Bob Flint as Chair, Jessica Burlew as Vice Chair and Andrew Pennell as Secretary/Clerk of the RVTC Board for FY 25 and have the Superintendent/Director cast one vote in favor of the slate of officers nominated. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item II. Agenda Changes or Additions

Two Executive Sessions

Agenda Item III. Public Comments

None

Agenda Item IV. Consent Agenda

Enrollment Update – Scott Farr reported we are five students ahead of where we were last year, with fifteen fewer Fall Mountain students. We have more students from our Vermont sending schools which will positively impact the 6-semester average.

Financial Report – Scott Farr shared we are showing a \$126,134 projected surplus for FY 24, which was where Christine Balch, Fiscal Agent, thought we would end up. This will help our FY25 deficit. We will use the surplus towards the building overhead we are charged for by Springfield School District.

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

Agenda Item V. Old Business

VTVLC Update – Greg Runyan, VTVLC Director, presented on the following:

- FY24 Update – There is a current surplus being projected at \$112K.
- FY25 Proposed Budget – They are still working on their FY25 budget and plan to present it to the Board in August. ESSURE funds are ending that funds the K-8 program. They are currently planning to fund the K-8 program with their reserve funds and the Flex Pathways Grant.
- VTVLC Advisory Board Members – VTVLC is looking for an RVTC Board member to join their Advisory Board. Ashley Newton will be reaching out to anyone interested.
- Positions Update – All positions have been filled except the two Instruction Assistant School Year +15 days positions which are going to be posted externally.
- Upcoming Events
 - Lake Elmore K-12 Celebration - June 7th.
 - VTVLC In-Person - June 27th and June 28th.
 - Summer Sync Up – Partner and adjunct teacher workshops. August 1st at CCV and August 2nd will be virtually.
 - OBLC planning for April 2025

MOTION: (Lois/Andrew) pursuant to Title 1 VSA, Section 313, the Board enters Executive Session to discuss terms of a contract because premature general public knowledge would clearly place a person(s) at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Scott, and Derek. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Lois/Chris) to exit Executive Session at 5:42 pm. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Report on Technology Reserve Spenddown – Scott reported we have spent \$20, 452 on annual software purchases out of the allotted \$40k. A list of what has been purchased is available if anyone would like to see it.

Policies Readings/Third Reading and Adoption – Derek Williams reported there have not been any changes since the last meeting on the following policies:

1. C15 Student Conduct and Discipline (formerly C20)
2. D21 Educational Support Team

MOTION: (Chris/Andrew) to approve the third reading and adoption of policies:

1. C15 Student Conduct and Discipline (formerly C20)
2. D21 Educational Support Team

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VI. New Business

Access Equipment Reserve Funds – Scott Farr explained this request is like we took last month with the Technology Reserves; we are asking for the same for the Equipment Reserve funds. We would like to designate an amount not to exceed \$7,500 for use out of the Equipment Reserve and we would provide an update to the Board of purchases with this fund every month. This is to assist with the deficit for FY25.

MOTION: (Andrew/Kelly) to authorize accessing the RVTC equipment reserve funds, not to exceed \$7,500 with a monthly update to the RVTC Board of Directors. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) – Scott informed the Board that he and Derek Williams attended two training sessions and met with a NEASC Representative. Scott and Derek, with staff feedback, have concluded the investment of time and money is not worth the benefits. Additionally, with the Perkins requirement of a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment every two years and a five-year review requirement in State Board Rule by the AOE it seems like a NEASC review is duplicative. There was discussion regarding the need for this accreditation and other ways of doing a similar type of evaluation in the future if it determined it is needed.

MOTION: (Andrew/Kelly) to approve not renewing our accreditation with (NEASC) New England Association of Schools and Colleges effective 6/30/2024. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Administrator Contracts – Discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: (Chris/Andrew) to amend the existing administrator contract, through June 30, 2025, for Scott Farr as the Superintendent/Director per the terms of the contract negotiated by the RVTCS Board Chair. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Chris/Kelly) to amend the existing administrator contract, through June 30, 2025, for Ashley Newton as Interim VTVLC Director per the terms of the contract negotiated by the RVTCS Superintendent/Director. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Lois/Kelly) to renew the following VTVLC administrator contracts in consultation with the Board Chair per the terms discussed:

- Jennifer Fribush
- Jennifer Hindes
- Jessica Leo

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Non-Union Support Staff FY25 Rate Increase – Discussed in Executive Session

MOTION: (Chris/Kelly) to authorize a pay rate increase of 4.9% to non-union support staff for FY25. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Tuition Reimbursement (VTVLC) – Discussed in Executive Session – No action taken.

Summer Meeting Schedule – There will not be a meeting in July and will resume in August.

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

Other – none

Agenda Item VII. Next Meeting

Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday August 7, 2024, at 5:00 pm

Agenda Item VIII. Executive Session

MOTION: (Kelly/Andrew) pursuant to Title 1 VSA, Section 313, the Board enters Executive Session to discuss terms of a contract because premature general public knowledge would clearly place a person(s) at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Scott, and Derek. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

MOTION: (Lois/Jim) to exit Executive Session at 6:24 pm. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bixby, Recording Secretary