



**January 13, 2025, 5:00 pm
HDEC Conference Room and Via Zoom Meeting**

Board Minutes - Unapproved

Board Members:

Voting:

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

Ex-Officio:

Scott Farr – Present
Layne Millington – Absent
Andrew Hass – Absent
Sherri Nichols – Absent
Kendra Rickerby – Absent
Cory LeClair – Absent
Jennifer Cummings – Absent
Kristen Wilson – Absent

Others: Tina Bixby, Derek Williams, Christine Balch, Ashley Newton, Desiree Giroux

Bob Flint, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Agenda Item I. Agenda Changes or Additions

New Business VTVLC Principals change to information only.

Agenda Item II. Public Comments

None

Agenda Item III. Old Business

FY26 Budget Committee Update – Scott Farr reported we were able to close the gap between expenditures from \$190K to \$105K at the last meeting with the reduction of the Assistant Directors position, to just about \$56,409 now based on the information we have found out since the last Board meeting.

The proposed increase in the assessment of 7.87% will reflect an overall local budget increase of 7.11 %, resulting in the voters voting on a total amount of \$3,480,129 with an overall percentage increase of 6.13%.

Per our Fiscal Agent, Christine Balch, the per student cost to sending schools would be \$9,170.

MOTION: (Lois/Jessica) to adopt for consideration a FY26 local budget of three million, two hundred sixty-six thousand, four hundred eighty-five dollars (\$3,266,485) and an overall FY26 budget of three million, four hundred eighty thousand, one hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$3,480,129) to be presented to the voters in the member districts. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item IV. New Business

VTVLC Principal Contracts – Scott Farr informed the Board that State statute requires that we notify Principals if the school district intends to offer a contract to current Principals. We are unable to do that at this time because they are funded annually by a grant from the Agency of Education which is approved annually by the legislature. The requested amount for the FY25 budget is in the Administration's Budget. Scott met with VTVLC Principals today to review this.

Announced Tuition FY26 – It is a statutory requirement we submit our Announced Tuition to the State by January 15th. We are asking for an Announced Tuition of \$20,535 which will be inclusive of the budget and potential actions by the legislature, of level funding the assessment per VACTED's request.

The base rate does not tie to the budget. Announced Tuition is the base rate that the state sends us on behalf of the sending school plus what we charge the sending school. If the state is willing to level fund us, we have to make sure our announced tuition is high enough to be able to accept what the state provides as a base rate. We cannot charge more than our announced tuition but we can charge less.

MOTION: (Lyza/Jessica) to approve RVTC to announce the tuition rate for FY26 as \$20,535 per full time equivalent student. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Article 1 for Australian Ballot –

MOTION: (Sarah/Lois) to approve Article 1 as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of three million, four hundred eighty thousand, one hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$3,480,129) to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Agenda/Warning Approval and Signatures –

MOTION: (Lois/Lyza) to approve the Warning and Agenda for the Annual Meeting for signature and posting. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Ludlow At-Large Board Member Nomination Committee – Scott Farr informed the Board Desiree Giroux, the Operation Manager at Magris Talc, recently toured RVTC and has express an interest becoming the At-Large Member for Ludlow. Magris Talc has hosted our students for a tour at their facility in the past.

Bylaws and Robert's Rules state either a committee must nominate an At-Large Board Member or a petition with 30 signatures submitted to the Board. We are hoping to complete this at the next Board meeting.

Other – none

Agenda Item V. Next Meeting

Next regular Board meeting – Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 4:30 pm
RVTC Annual Meeting – February 13, 2025, at 7 pm
Town Meeting Day – March 4, 2025

Agenda Item VI. Executive Session

None

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bixby, Recording Secretary