

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **RGB Finance Committee Meeting Minutes: Mon; November 18, 2024**

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4 **RGB members present:** F. Kinney, L. Johnson, K. Swierad, TJ Williams and M. Cutler
5 **SWT represented** by: Meg Honsinger, Supt./Dir. and Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager

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7 Audience: no public attendees

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9 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

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11 Meeting was called to order at 9:08AM by Chair Cutler. With no public comments, the minutes of the
12 November 7th, 2024 finance committee meeting were presented for approval. With motions from Kinney
13 and Johnson and unanimous support, the minutes were approved.

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15 Cutler requested Business Manager Tattersall share the updated FY 2026 budget work product that was
16 requested by the committee in the previous meeting. Power Point, (hard copy attached) with three
17 options-Summary:

- 18 • **Option 1-budget increase of 8.31%**; keeping all initial requests-probably not ideal
- 19 • **Option 2-budget increase of 6.24%**; removing some larger cost items and reducing field trip
20 funding-will not affect student experiences too much but may affect program equipment
21 purchases
- 22 • **Option 3-budget increase of 4.93%**; along with losses listed in #2 option, plus reduction in
23 program supplies, reduced CTSO funding, reduced health safety net, (risky) and reduced HRA
24 funding %, (risky)

25
26 Discussion ensued as to how tuition costs are formulated and how difficult it is to get accurate numbers
27 as the business office is always waiting for information from the state to finalize the tuition rates.

28 Committee members discussed whether it is better to rent some pieces of equipment instead of outright
29 purchasing the equipment That usually is a situation by situation decision.

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31 Committee members expressed their desire to keep the budget as lean as possible as costs are rising in
32 every aspect of life today for the ordinary citizen and taxpayer. However, they strongly wish to continue to
33 provide the highest quality technical learning experiences for SW Tech students. SW Tech endeavors to
34 offer programs with training that will prepare students for their future in every way. Equipment, supplies
35 and computer purchases must stay up-to-date with the latest technology. With that in mind, the committee
36 felt that Option 2 seemed to be the least impactful for students and not too harsh on the taxpayer.

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38 Tattersall was asked to modify Option 2 with a minor increase in percentage to see what could be
39 retained. She will prepare that option to be compared with Option 2 at the next finance committee
40 meeting, Monday, December 2, 2024 at 9:15AM. So, there will be an Option 2A and 2B for the next
41 meeting. She was also asked to check on the cost of renting certain equipment.

42
43 Questions came up concerning the equipment recently purchased for Adult Education. The funds for
44 those purchases and classes were made available to SW Tech thru Bennington Community grants.
45 Perhaps there are other grants that SW Tech might be able to access for future equipment purchases as
46 well.

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48 With no further business and the RGB full board meeting about to start, the finance committee adjourned
49 with motions from Kinney and Johnson and unanimous approval at 9:59AM.