

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **RGB Education/Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes: Monday, May 20, 2024**

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4 **RGB members present: Education/Facilities Committee:** L. Johnson, J. Orzechowski, G. Sauer and TJ  
5 Williams; online-M. Cutler  
6 SW Tech represented by Assistant Director M. Honsinger

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8 Recorder: Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

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10 Meeting was opened by Asst. Director Honsinger at 3:03PM. There were no public comments or  
11 concerns. Honsinger asked for nominations for committee chair. TJ Williams was nominated by Johnson  
12 and Orzechowski. With unanimous approval, Williams was elected chair of this committee and accepted.

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14 Williams invited Honsinger to share the information she had concerning the welding situation and how the  
15 Perkins Grant might help the Center continue to develop this skill for interested students:

- 16 • Welding needs will be submitted to the Perkins Grant with hopes for a positive response funding  
17 wise
- 18 • Glen Sauer was involved with last year with creative and productive ideas for the program and  
19 hopefully, he will assist again.
- 20 • There is a process for the development of using Perkins money to grow the program.
- 21 • Needs must be identified.
- 22 • Cost and budget investigated.
- 23 • We do have the necessary room to increase the program.
- 24 • Sauer feels any monies should be used to purchase better equipment.
- 25 • Parts from present equipment can be used to repair any units with problems.

26 The committee, with motions from Johnson and Orzechowski and unanimous support, voted to  
27 recommend to the full board their endorsement of support for the welding program at SW Tech. Sauer  
28 agreed to continue his assistance as needed.

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30 Discussion of any bus/transportation needs will be tabled for a later date.

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32 Honsinger wanted to inform the committee that enrollment has dropped off a little bit. She feels it may be  
33 due to the fact that MAU, our main sending school, has changed their schedule of classes last year and  
34 may be enacting another change for the coming year. Enrollment also sometimes declines slightly when a  
35 new teacher steps into a well-established program. We have had several changes in the past few years,  
36 so it may take a little time for the new teachers to build up a solid reputation with the students. However,  
37 she noted all pre-tech classes are filled for next year. These classes are our introductory classes for 9<sup>th</sup>  
38 and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students as they get a taste of the programs we offer. Some run one semester, some two.  
39 Discussion ensued as to how we can increase interest and increase our numbers. Committee members  
40 shared some thoughts:

- 41 • Mau knows we are aware of the schedule changes and that it makes it more difficult for our  
42 scheduling
- 43 • We need to encourage skills courses
- 44 • We have the right tools-need to start sooner, (younger) to reach-out to possible students
- 45 • How can we work better together with our sending schools re: scheduling
- 46 • We should have a presence at our sending schools board meetings. How do we do that?
- 47 • Educate admins first, then counselors, parents, students
- 48 • Program teachers could be more creative
- 49 • The money trail following each student is complex
- 50 • Earnings for tech grads is often pretty high in well-paying fields
- 51 • Adult education boasts a number of courses to offer students that are well-paying
- 52 • Committee members would like to meet more often to work on solutions to increasing enrollment
- 53 • Must try to think outside the box for creative ideas
- 54 • Board members might attend other school board meetings to build a connection to foster better  
55 communication between schools and boards

- 1 • Program classes could once in a while, work with other programs to create bridges of learning
- 2 • Important to get everyone thinking about recruiting and creative ways to link the Center to the
- 3 communities we service
- 4 • Important to reach out to parents and educate them about the vast employment opportunities in
- 5 tech employment
- 6 • Let's start building a list of ideas to help increase enrollment and recruitment
- 7

8 Honsinger shared that we are having a very exciting event for area fifth graders here at SW Tech  
9 tomorrow. Every program will be showcasing the fantastic skills learned in-house as well as on work-  
10 based learning jobs and lastly, CTSO competitions/field trips. Program students will be leading the  
11 activities and showing-off their skills in using equipment and tools. The student visitors will have the  
12 opportunity to try many of the skills displayed. This is just one of the many creative and interesting events  
13 that happen here at SW Tech. Honsinger welcomes any of the board members to drop in and experience  
14 this event.

15  
16 The committee would like to meet more often, so Honsinger suggested they pick a time next month to  
17 continue this discussion. Meeting adjourned at 3:40PM with motions from Orzehowski and Johnson and  
18 unanimous vote.

19  
20 \*Reminder that the full board will meet Monday, June 3, 2024, 10AM at SW Tech and that the SW Tech  
21 Awards Night will be Tuesday, June 4, 2024. More details will be forthcoming.