



**October 1, 2025, 4:30 pm  
HDEC Conference Room and Via Zoom Meeting**

**Board Minutes**

**Board Members:**

**Voting:**

Jessica Burlaw – Absent  
Bob Flint – Present  
Lyza Gardner – Present  
Desiree Giroux - Present  
Chris Hodsdon – Present  
Kate Lamphere – Present  
Andrew Pennell – Present  
Kelly Tarbell – Present  
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, Christine Balch, Tina Bixby, Nate Bisson, Melissa Sargent-Minor

**Program Presentation:** Information Technology, Kristen Wilson

Bob Flint, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and thanked Kristen Wilson for her presentation.

**Agenda Item I. Agenda Changes or Additions**

**Agenda Item II. Public Comments**

None

**Agenda Item III. Consent Agenda**

Correction to the minutes for September 3, 2025: one correction of SSDVT Superintendent's name in the Ex-Officio list in last month's minutes.

Enrollment Update – Derek Williams reported we are currently 30 students below our enrollment at this time last year. The decline is primarily in our Pre Tech program.

Financial Report – Derek Williams shared we are currently projecting a surplus of \$1,708 in the local budget for FY26.

**MOTION:** (Lyza/Kelly) to accept and approve the consent agenda as presented with one correction to the September 3, 2025 minutes. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item IV. Old Business**

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

- VTVLC Financial Report – Referred to the report included in the Board packet.

- Current Enrollment – VTCLC continues to grow and referred to the enrollment data included in the Board packet.
- Director’s Report - Referred to the report in the Board packet and highlighted some of the items.
- Custom Projects Update – There are many new custom projects happening.
  - A. West Rutland - Health
  - B. North Country - Chemistry Course Leasing
  - C. St. Johnsbury - French / Spanish
  - D. Blue Mountain - Pre-Calc
  - E. Twin Valley - Health
  - F. OCSU - Alternative Program K-5
- eSports Extracurricular – MS and HS Coaches - VTVLC students play under the RVTC name. Students play against other students across the country. They practice 2-3 days a week. VTVLC is looking for approval for the addition of eSports Middle School and High School Coach positions. There will be two coaches per semester.
- FY27 Partnership Agreement Draft – Reviewed the draft agreement included in the Board packet. VTVLC decided to have a completely new agreement and pricing. They worked with teacher and non-teacher partners, staff, and stakeholders when creating this new agreement and pricing. VTVLC’s website has a list of all current partner districts. There was a Q&A on how partnership agreements work with school districts.
  - A. Pricing for the 3 Levels
    1. Platinum - School provides an educator to facilitate (2) .5 credit courses and, in return, receives a \$20,000 ledger credit for them to enroll some of their students in VTVLC.
    2. Gold - School pays VTVLC \$15,000 and receives \$18,000 ledger credit for enrolling some of their students in VTVLC.
    3. Silver - Every school that signs an agreement with VTVLC receives a \$2,000 ledger credit for them to use towards enrolling some of their students in VTVLC.
    4. Every .5 credit course costs \$350.

**MOTION:** (Andrew/Kelly) to authorize the addition of VTVLC eSports Middle School and High School Coach positions. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

*Statewide CTE Update* – Derek Williams reported he attended the CTE Work Group meeting at Green Mountain Technical Center on September 30th. The meeting was led by some senators. There seemed to be a general misunderstanding around what the issues facing CTE are in the state. One of the misconceptions seems to be of career exploration vs. preparation. Another is the idea of comprehensive high school with a CTE department. They were looking at CTE in the more populated areas of the state and not CTE throughout the whole state. If you are speaking with your legislators, please share with them the importance of career development.

*FY26 Perkins Grant* – Derek Williams reported the Perkins Grant was resubmitted and has been approved funding designation for hiring a part-time bus driver for field trips and Chromebooks for WorkKeys testing. We will have to resubmit it again at the end of the month once funding has been secured from the federal government.

*FY26 Carpentry House Update* – Derek Williams shared he and Josh Chamberlain, Carpentry Instructor met with Laura Ryan. They discussed what Springfield Housing Authority is looking for at their spaghetti lot. This aligns with what Josh would like to be teaching in the program. It is a smaller house so they would be able to get to more stages of the building process. They have a follow up meeting with the architects this coming Monday. We will provide more information at the next meeting.

*Policies Review Second Readings* – Nate Bisson, Assistant Director, reported the information he obtained from VSBA regarding the Transgender & General Nonconforming Students policy.

1. F5 Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams
2. C8 Pupil Privacy Rights
3. C28 Transgender & General Nonconforming Students

**MOTION:** (Chris/Kelly) to approve the second reading and warn the third reading of policies:

1. F5 Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams
2. C8 Pupil Privacy Rights
3. C28 Transgender & General Nonconforming Students

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item V. New Business**

*VSBA Survey to Inform School District Redistricting Task Force* – Bob Flint shared this survey has been sent out to the districts with the hope the results will help inform by the redistricting Task Force. There was discussion about what sending schools are saying in their district. People are concerned about keeping the integrity of their schools and communities along with students not having to travel great distances to attend school. We will send the survey to the Board.

Derek shared his thoughts regarding the survey:

- Staying in a CTE district as opposed to being a department in a high is more likely to keep the focus on and rigor in Career and Tech Ed.
- Challenges of the current system:
  - No statewide curriculums or graduation requirements.
  - No funding to build or expand in areas with low capacity.
  - Sending regions have not been evaluated recently.
- Opportunities for a larger district. Statewide professional development and program development.
- Concerns with a larger district:
  - Slow business office processing.
  - Slow down response to local industry and community needs.
- Benefits of the current structure:
  - Mutually beneficial relationships with local businesses that serve students and businesses.
  - Reliable business office and human resources that process staff and student needs efficiently prevent delays in necessary supplies and services.

- The ability to respond quickly as an organization and make changes necessary to improve student success.

Derek will run his final submission by Bob Flint before submitting.

VSA/VSBA Annual Fall Conference – Business meeting has been broken from the conference event this year. Typically, Bob Flint represents RVTC at this meeting.

**MOTION:** Kelly/Kate) to authorize Bob Flint as the RVTC delegate at the VSA/VSBA Annual Business Meeting. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Union Support Staff Negotiations – It was reported we have received notification from the union support staff that they would like to negotiate the next contract with the RVTC Board. Discussed in Executive Session.

**MOTION:** (Kelly/Chris) to enter into agreement negotiations with the Springfield School Staff Association/Vermont NEA/NEA and appoint the Negotiation Committee to include Andrew Pennell, Lyza Gardner and Desiree Giroux. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Policies Review First Readings – Nate Bisson, Assistant Director, reviewed the following policies and the changes within them that were included in the Board packet.

1. A23 Community Engagement and Vision – proposed keeping our current policy
2. C29 District Equity Policy
3. D23 Selection of Instructional Materials

**MOTION:** (Chris/Andrew) to approve the first reading and warn the second reading of policies:

1. A23 Community Engagement and Vision
2. C29 District Equity Policy
3. D23 Selection of Instructional Materials

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

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

Other – None

### **Agenda Item VI. Next Meeting**

Next regular Board meeting – November 5, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

### **Agenda Item VII. Executive Session**

**MOTION:** (Kelly/Andrew) pursuant to Title 1 VSA, Section 313, the Board enters Executive Session to discuss the union support staff agreement negotiations because premature general public knowledge would clearly place a person(s) at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Derek and Nate.

**MOTION:** (Chris/Kelly) to exit Executive Session at 5:59 pm  
Motion voted and passed unanimously.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bixby, Recording Secretary