



REGULAR MEETING – January 27, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute (Tech Valley High School), a joint venture of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga Counties, 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road, Albany, New York, and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties, 10 Empire State Boulevard, Castleton, New York, was held on January 27, 2016 at the Tech Valley High School, SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, 246 Tricentennial Drive, Albany, New York 12203. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Puccio.

PRESENT

John Bergeron
Edward Brooks
John Hill
Kevin Kutzscher
Lynne Lenhardt
Marilyn Noonan
Carol Orvis
John Phelan
Paul Puccio
Charles Dedrick, Dist. Supt.
Gladys Cruz, Dist. Supt.
Gretchen Wukits, Clerk of the Board

ABSENT

Jeff Bradt

STAFF

James Niedermeier
Susan DiDonato

GUESTS

James Church
Meghan Heimroth
Heather Nellis
Matthew Sloane
Lynne Wells
John Yaglieski

President Puccio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It was moved by Mrs. Orvis and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Kutzscher to accept the November 18, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. John Yaglieski presented an update on the TVHS Study. He indicated that 12 informational meetings had been held to date and that the TVHS students were the only group who had not yet been given a presentation. Mr. Yaglieski related responses to the presentations had been mostly positive, and he had met with the Business Alliance the previous evening. He noted that being able to

UPDATE ON TVHS STUDY

spread the success of TVHS through replication was a concern raised in the discussion. He explained the process used to compare how TVHS students are performing on regents exams compared to their counterparts in their respective school districts in order to yield significant data. One of the examples cited TVHS students doing 2% better in algebra. President Puccio stated the analysis confirms that TVHS is a “typical” school. Mr. Yaglieski said a group would be meeting to decide how to measure TVHS success. Mrs. Lenhardt asked what kind of questions school superintendents had at their presentation. He responded that the presentation generated interest in TVHS among the superintendents. He stated that development of an independent research partnership is being considered to generate a clear statement and broad agreement of what TVHS is about. He emphasized the need for a different model of how TVHS is working with school districts. Dr. Bergeron asked how the unique presentation skills of TVHS students could be measured. Mr. James Niedermeier, Principal and Chief Academic Officer, acknowledged that home school districts do not measure these skills. Mr. Yaglieski concurred that a better job needs to be done describing such skills.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Noonan to approve the following:

**PERSONNEL
CONSIDERATIONS
(Appointment)**

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the following Teacher Aide be jointly appointed:

Name:	Bradford Hale
Position:	Teacher Aide (1:1)
Effective:	November 16, 2015-June 23, 2016
Type of Appointment:	Non-Competitive Civil Service
Probationary Period:	N/A
Annual Salary:	\$20,796
Benefits:	As set forth in the TVHS Support Staff agreement

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the November 6, 2015 through December 31, 2015 Internal Claims Auditor Report as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTERNAL
CLAIMS
AUDITOR
REPORT**

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the periods ending November 30, 2015 and December 31, 2015 as presented.

**TREASURER’S
REPORTS**

President Puccio asked a question about the decrease of TVHS students while tuition increased. Ms. Meghan Heimroth, Treasurer, responded it was due to CTE rates and that 2015-16 is the first year with contact hours for the Special Education teacher.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to approve the following:

**APPROVAL OF
AFRIM'S SPORTS,
INC. AGREEMENTS**

RESOLVED: that the Tech Valley High School Operating Board hereby approve Agreements with Afrim's Sports, Inc. effective September 9, 2015 through December 30, 2015 for \$6,000 and March 1, 2016 through April 27, 2016 for \$3,200 for facility rental.

Mr. Kutzscher commented that the rental cost for Afrim's Sports is high. Mr. James Church, Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives, Questar III BOCES, responded that the rental was supposed to be a short-term solution for a physical education facility carried over from the last school year. He stated his optimism about his conversations with SUNYA for facility rental for the next school year. He indicated other options, such as the Ciccotti Center, are being considered until CNSE builds an athletic facility. Dr. Bergeron and Mr. Phelan raised questions about maintaining insurance to cover students' liability. Mrs. Noonan inquired about other options. Mr. Church stated that transportation and the time from the school day for such transportation is an issue when investigating options. Mr. Niedermeier commented that TVHS has a number of students who do not feel comfortable with traditional physical education. Mrs. Lenhardt shared that she had observed a demonstration of alternative physical education and was impressed. Mr. Phelan asked if the TVHS program is different from a regular high school. Mr. Niedermeier responded that the emphasis is on lifetime wellness activities.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to approve the following:

**APPROVAL OF
SUNYA
AGREEMENT**

RESOLVED: that the Tech Valley High School Operating Board hereby approve the Agreement with the State University of New York at Albany effective May 3, 2016 through June 15, 2016 for \$5,950 for facility rental.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to approve the following:

**ACCEPTANCE OF
DONATION FROM
NATIONAL GRID**

RESOLVED: that the Operating Board gratefully accepts the donation of a giant tool kit from National Grid, to be used for the storage of tools and equipment in the STEM@cse program. The Operating Board also directs that a letter of appreciation be sent to National Grid on behalf of the Operating Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. James Niedermeier began his report with an overview of PSAT results. He provided an update on the college level classes offered at TVHS. Mr. Kutzscher inquired how the Operating Board could help with the tuition costs for students. Mr. Niedermeier replied that the students taking the college level courses are a combination of those in need of financial assistance and those who are performing really well. He stated that part of the money from Senator Bruno's gift to TVHS could be used for such assistance. Excelsior College was mentioned as a cost-effective model. Mrs. Lenhardt emphasized the reimbursement for tuition should be based on student need. Dr. Charles Dedrick, District Superintendent, Capital Region BOCES, praised Mr. Niedermeier for his efforts with the college credit courses and extended thanks on behalf of the Operating Board. Mr. Niedermeier shared the schedule of the informational sessions and the January regents exams. Dr. Lynne Wells, Assistant District Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Capital Region BOCES, noted that regents exams had not been offered at TVHS in January 2015. Mr. Niedermeier concluded his report with a description of I-term activities.

**PRINCIPAL'S
REPORT**

Mr. Church began the Advancement Activity Report with an overview of the Foundation Board bank balances and highlighted notable contributions from Mr. Dale Thuillez, Dr. James Baldwin and Specialty Silicon Products. He indicated the Foundation Board was waiting for conclusion of Mr. Yaglieski's TVHS study before deciding on its direction. Mr. Church confirmed that TVHS is in the Governor's Budget. Mr. Kutzscher asked if an invitation to TVHS had been extended to the candidates running for the seat to be vacated by Congressman Chris Gibson. Mr. Church responded it had not at the present time.

**DEVELOPMENT
REPORT**

Mr. Church indicated he was learning the ropes of the Business Alliance since the departure of Ms. Denise Zieske, Business Partnership Coordinator.

**BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIP
REPORT**

Dr. Dedrick asked Ms. Heather Nellis, Communications Specialist, to distribute copies of the new TVHS brochure. President Puccio commented that Ms. Nellis did a great job with the brochure. Dr. Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent, Questar III BOCES, shared that Mr. Matthew Sloane, Deputy Superintendent of Questar III BOCES, would be going out to meet with school district guidance counselors due to a great deal of support among 8th graders interested in attending TVHS. A discussion followed about the Chinese Exchange and its pending visit to TVHS within the next week.

**DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENTS'
REPORT**

Attention was called to the recognition wall in the lobby of TVHS. It was noted that a ceremony was held to honor Mr. Jeffrey Lawrence and Ms. Amy Johnson which brought Business Alliance members to TVHS.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION**

It was moved by Mrs. Lenhardt and seconded by Mr. Brooks to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

March 23, 2016

Date



Gretchen E. Wukits
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Clerk of the Board