



REGULAR MEETING – March 31, 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 March 31, 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 6:17 p.m. by President Puccio.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Marilyn Noonan
Charles Dedrick, Dist. Supt.

STAFF

James Niedermeier
John Hartnett

GUESTS

Savannah Brancato
James Church
Meghan Heimroth
Mark Jones
Heather Nellis
Brian Rozmierski
Tim Rozmierski
Matthew Sloane
John Yaglieski

President Puccio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It was moved by Mrs. Lenhardt and seconded by Mr. Brooks 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 January 27, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. James Niedermeier, Principal and Chief Academic Officer, introduced two senior students, Savannah Brancato and Tim Rozmierski, Tim's father, Mr. Brian Rozmierski, and Mr. John Hartnett, Technology Teacher. The students, who were part of the TVHS team, provided a demonstration of the robots they built and programmed to compete in the FIRST New York Tech Valley Regional Robotics Competition held March 17-19, 2016 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Mr. Niedermeier praised the efforts of Mr. Hartnett and

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mr. Rozmierski who devoted countless hours in preparation for the competition and acknowledged the students would not have been able to participate for the first time without the assistance. He indicated the team earned four wins at the competition.

Mrs. Orvis arrived at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. John Yaglieski presented an update on the TVHS Study. He distributed an analysis of 2014-2015 regents exam results comparing TVHS with school composites. It was noted that two of the regents exams were based on Common Core. Mr. Yaglieski reported the TVHS academic results over the two years were positive. President Puccio asked if the results had been shared with District Superintendents, and Mr. Yaglieski said they had. He highlighted four areas that had emerged from the study. A small group has started working on school identity which is the first area. Work has begun to find a research partner to assist in the second area, measuring the success of TVHS. He reported meeting with SUNYA and working with a grant writer to find sources for this effort. The third area is financial stability/sustainability, and the fourth is operational issues. He emphasized the need to eliminate the dependency on the annual grant from the state legislature. Mr. Yaglieski explained TVHS needs to do a better job of sharing the learning and the need to repurpose its resources. In order to do this, TVHS should support a new approach to recruiting students and set a new enrollment target of 200 students. He indicated Mr. Niedermeier is researching changes in class schedules in order to maximize the use of staff. Mr. Yaglieski recommended looking at cost efficiencies and considering phasing in an increase in the tuition rate. He reiterated the need to redesign the approach of recruiting students by focusing on building relationships at the middle school level. He provided an overview of ways to engage students, parents and educators. Mr. Yaglieski ended his presentation by sharing a proposed reorganization chart including a position of director to whom the TVHS principal would report and a proposed resolution incorporating the findings and recommendations of the study. It was concluded the Board members would review the proposed resolution in anticipation of acting on it at the next Board meeting on May 26, 2016.

UPDATE ON TVHS STUDY

Mr. Bradt arrived at 6:48 p.m.

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

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS (Resignation)

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the resignation of Leah Penniman, Science Teacher, be accepted effective June 30, 2016.

Board members voiced their appreciation of Ms. Penniman's work during her tenure and acknowledged her leaving would be a great loss to TVHS. Mrs. Orvis recommended that a letter of appreciation be sent to Ms. Penniman and that "with regret" be added to the resolution.

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the resignation of Leah Penniman, Science Teacher, be accepted, with regret, effective June 30, 2016.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Lenhardt to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the January 8, 2016 through January 29, 2016 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 January 31, 2016 and February 29, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S
REPORTS**

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

**APPROVAL OF
TOWN N COUNTRY
LANES INVOICE**

RESOLVED: that the Tech Valley High School Operating Board hereby approve the invoice from Town N Country Lanes dated February 2, 2016 for \$2,500 for facility rental.

Mr. Kutzscher commented that the rental cost for Town N Country Lanes appeared expensive. Both Mr. Niedermeier and Mr. James Church, Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives, Questar III BOCES, acknowledged the expense and indicated ongoing efforts to identify appropriate and cost-effective physical education options. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mrs. Lenhardt and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to approve the 2016-17 TVHS Calendar. A discussion followed regarding how the calendar aligned with those of Capital Region and Questar III BOCES. Also, questions were raised about snow days and how they affected the total number of school days. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
2016-17 TVHS
CALENDAR**

Mr. Niedermeier began his report by providing an overview of his TVHS goals paralleling the recommendations in Mr. Yaglieski's report. He highlighted the focus of college in high school by citing the articulation agreement with CNSE and the new college level electives to be offered in 2016-17. Noting that no TVHS students took AP exams last year, he stated that 18 students would be taking 21 exams in May 2016. He explained the mathematics sequence with STEM emphasis. Mr. Niedermeier reviewed the 2016-17 class schedule by outlining the contact time students will have with teachers. He stated there would be additional time in off-site physical education and music lessons in piano and voice. He indicated electives would be offered in ELA, SS, art and technology and technical writing integration in science 10, 11 and 12. He noted that the current level of special education and AIS support would be maintained, and additional support in science and math beyond SED

**PRINCIPAL'S
REPORT**

requirements would be provided. Mr. Niedermeier concluded his report with an overview of 2016-17 enrollment.

Dr. Bergeron suggested that a high grade video aimed at 8th graders on the TVHS web site would reflect the recommendation of Mr. Yaglieski’s report.

Mr. Church began the Advancement Activity Report with an overview of the bank account balances. He noted extending an invitation to Mr. David Bauer in recognition of his \$25,000 contribution. He shared an update of 2015-16 legislative visits and emphasized that with continuing to do outreach, it is the TVHS students who really sell the school. Mrs. Lenhardt asked about Operating Board members going to Lobbying Day. Mr. Church provided follow-up on I-term activities. He stated that Mr. Yagielski would be attending the next Business Alliance meeting on May 3, 2016. He reminded Board members that graduation will be June 23, 2016. Mrs. Orvis said she would like to order a TVHS yearbook. Mr. Niedermeier indicated Board members would be receiving invitations to the Design Expo.

**DEVELOPMENT
REPORT/
BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIP
REPORT**

Dr. Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent, Questar III BOCES, said she was very pleased to learn of the developments at TVHS and commended Mr. Niedermeier for his work. She acknowledged the challenge of getting students to TVHS and noted she would be hosting the Questar III Superintendents’ meeting at TVHS. Mrs. Orvis commented that superintendents have to have Boards willing to send students to TVHS. Dr. Mark Jones, Deputy District Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer, Capital Region BOCES, stated a more thorough strategy is needed to achieve that.

**DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENTS’
REPORT**

Mr. Brooks stated it had been a very uplifting meeting and acknowledged that Mr. Yaglieski had worked tirelessly and had done a fine job. He agreed that both Mr. Church and Mr. Niedermeier need to make their presence known in the middle schools. Mrs. Orvis echoed the need to encourage school boards to send students to TVHS. President Puccio extended thanks to Mr. Niedermeier stating that TVHS had been missing the marketing piece. Citing the transportation costs connected to off-site physical education, Mr. Kutzscher suggested exploring acquiring a vehicle with a staff person qualified to transport students and the related transportation bid.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION**

The following items are follow-up items for the next meeting.

**SUMMARY
ACTIONS**

- Feedback from TVHS Study
- Review of proposed resolution from TVHS Study

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Kutzscher to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

May 19, 2016

Date

Gretchen E. Wukits

Gretchen E. Wukits
Clerk of the Board