



REGULAR MEETING – May 26, 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 May 26, 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
Jeff Bradt
Edward Brooks
John Hill
Kevin Kutzscher
Marilyn Noonan
Carol Orvis
John Phelan
Paul Puccio
Charles Dedrick, Dist. Supt.
Gladys Cruz, Dist. Supt.
Gretchen Wukits, Clerk of the Board

ABSENT

Lynne Lenhardt

STAFF

James Niedermeier

GUESTS

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

President Puccio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Kutzscher and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to accept the March 31, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. James Niedermeier, Principal and Chief Academic Officer, acknowledged a TVHS parent, Mr. Brian Rozmierski, who was in the audience.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to approve the following:

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the resignation of Jaime Logan, School Counselor, be accepted effective May 6, 2016. The motion passed unanimously. (Resignation)

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to approve the following: (Tenure Appointment)

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the following Teacher for the Tech Valley High School be jointly appointed to tenure:

Name: Sean O’Brien
Effective: July 7, 2016
Tenure Area: English

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the February 5, 2016 through April 29, 2016 Internal Claims Auditor Report as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTERNAL
CLAIMS
AUDITOR
REPORT**

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the periods ending March 31, 2016 and April 30, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER’S
REPORTS**

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

**PROPOSED
RESOLUTION -
SHARING THE
LEARNING AND
ACHIEVING
SUSTAINABILITY**

WHEREAS, special legislation authorizing the creation of Tech Valley High School (TVHS) was signed into law in November 2005, and

WHEREAS, TVHS has experienced considerable success since opening in September 2007, and

WHEREAS, since much has changed in the world over the past ten years, the leadership of the Capital Region and Questar III BOCES decided to initiate an independent review of TVHS, and

WHEREAS, the fact finding portion of the independent review included:

- 1.) Individual and group interviews of representatives from all key stakeholders, including students, parents, TVHS faculty and staff, component district superintendents, the Business Alliance, the Tech Valley Foundation, Colleges of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), and numerous staff members from both BOCES, and
- 2.) An extensive review of key documents such as the enabling legislation, Strategic Alliance Agreement with the New Tech Network,

Inter-municipal Agreement between the two BOCES, Post Graduate Survey, Exit Interviews of Students, a Special Report prepared by parents, and detailed analysis of enrollment and financial records, and

WHEREAS, the review process was completed and the report of findings/ suggestions was presented to the TVHS Operating Board on December 14, 2015, and more than a dozen other presentations were given to other key stakeholder groups, with the final presentation made to the TVHS Foundation Board on March 10, 2016, and

WHEREAS, key facts documented and presented through the review included:

- 1.) The overall profile of students attending TVHS clearly mirrors the profile of the students in their home school districts – TVHS has a typical public school student body
 - 74% of all the students that have, or currently attend TVHS are from only 16 of the 46 component school districts
- 2.) TVHS students performed very well on the five required Regents exams in both 2014 and 2015
- 3.) TVHS graduates report that they considered themselves well prepared for college and their grade point averages provide evidence that they are performing well in college
 - College majors vary widely (STEM-39%, Human Services-29%, Arts-16%, Business-16%)
- 4.) There are three distinguishing features of the school:
 - The locus of control for learning shifts from the teacher to the student (from passive to active)
 - A culture of acceptance, built on trust, respect, and responsibility has been established
 - Student learning expands beyond academic requirements to include essential skills, habits and character traits needed to succeed in life, college and careers of tomorrow, and

WHEREAS, the review identified four pressing issues and offered suggested next steps:

- 1.) Resolve the issue of school identity – Small workgroup to lead a collaborative process

- A small workgroup has been organized and started
- 2.) Determine how to measure success – Small workgroup, with independent research partner
 - Exploratory discussions with School of Education at UAlbany have begun
 - 3.) Achieve Financial Sustainability – Explore suggested ideas and approaches
 - 4.) Revise the Organizational Structure – Set new lines of authority that are clear and simple, and

WHEREAS, upon the completion of the review, the independent reviewer agreed to undertake an operational review working with the TVHS principal to address both the financial sustainability and organizational structure, and

WHEREAS, the results of the operational review in the form of a presentation entitled *Sharing the Learning and Achieving Sustainability* were presented to and discussed with the members of the TVHS Operating Board at the March 31, 2016 meeting, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the TVHS Operating Board approves the steps outlined in the *Sharing the Learning and Achieving Sustainability* Operational Review presentation, specifically including:

- 1.) Set a new enrollment target of 200 students for the school, beginning with the 2017-18 year
- 2.) Phase-in a modest increase in the tuition rate over time
- 3.) Redesign our approach to recruiting students by cultivating closer ties with school districts
 - Seek financial support from the TVHS Foundation to help districts with first year costs for additional students
- 4.) Build stronger working relationship with participating school districts
 - Focus on middle school leaders, staff, students, parents
 - Establish a Coordinator position charged with the responsibility of supporting school districts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the revised organizational chart be adopted effective July 1, 2016, and administration be authorized to effectuate the elimination and creation of the following positions:

1.) Positions to be Eliminated

- 1.0 - Business Partnership Coordinator

2.) Positions to be Created

- 1.0 - Coordinator (Final title to be determined)
- .5 - Records Clerk (Final title to be determined)

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Noonan arrived at 6:17 p.m.

Ms. Meghan Heimroth, TVHS Treasurer, made a presentation on the Proposed 2016-17 TVHS Budget. She noted approval of the legislative grant again for 2016-17 and explained the change in expenditures due to the sustainability plan reflecting changes in the TVHS administration and the addition of two new positions. A discussion followed relating to special education teachers, consultant teachers, their respective rates, and how school districts are billed.

**PROPOSED TVHS
BUDGET 2016-17**

It was moved by Mrs. Orvis and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to approve the Tech Valley High School Proposed Budget of \$2,356,146 for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mrs. Orvis and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to approve the Tech Valley High School Cross Contract Rate of \$13,264 for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mrs. Orvis and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to approve the Tech Valley High School Consultant Teacher Individual Rate of \$2,700 and Consultant Teacher Group Rate of \$1,578 for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Niedermeier began his report by discussing the comparison between the elements of the New Tech Network, the parent organization of TVHS, and the unique characteristics of TVHS. He provided an update on the progress of a research partnership with the University at Albany. Mr. Niedermeier explained the formation of an advisory committee of school superintendents to serve as a LEA partner. It was agreed that both BOCES District Superintendents could come up with district superintendents and assistant superintendents who are interested in project based learning who would be willing to serve.

**PRINCIPAL'S
REPORT**

Mr. Niedermeier concluded with an update on recruitment. He stated that the recruitment for the School Counselor and Biology Teacher was nearly complete. He also stated a large panel of people from component districts would be interviewing the candidates for the position of Coordinator of School Outreach and Data Analysis.

Mr. James Church, Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives, Questar III BOCES, began the Advancement Activity Report with a legislative update. He noted the recent tour of the school by Senator Neil Breslin and how TVHS impressed the visitors. Mr. Church cited the increased role of Mr. Niedermeier with the Business Alliance and the value of the participation and input of the Business Alliance members to TVHS. In discussing renewing terms and upcoming recruitment, President Puccio suggested an inventory of projects and courses being offered at TVHS would be helpful to potential Business Alliance members. Mr. Church ended his report with an update on space for physical education for the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Orvis and President Puccio extended their thanks to Mr. Church.

**DEVELOPMENT
REPORT/
BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIP
REPORT**

Dr. Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent, Questar III BOCES, shared details of working with Ms. Terri Crowley, NYS Division of the Budget, on an RFP partnering with Schenectady County Community College to provide 24 college credits within the four years of high school. Mr. Phelan asked if there would be an additional cost to students. Dr. Cruz responded the cost would be paid within the grant. Dr. Charles Dedrick, District Superintendent, Capital Region BOCES, extended his thanks to Mr. John Yaglieski for putting together the amazing plan for achieving sustainability for TVHS and to the Operating Board for passing the resolution. He also paid his highest compliments to Mr. Niedermeier for the robotics demonstration given by the TVHS students to the Foundation Board earlier that day. In conclusion, upon his pending retirement on June 30, 2016, Dr. Dedrick wished the TVHS Operating Board the best and acknowledged their outstanding work and incredible dedication. Dr. Cruz thanked Dr. Dedrick for his efforts and commitment on behalf of TVHS. President Puccio stated the leadership shown by Dr. Dedrick after Dr. James Baldwin, retired District Superintendent, Questar III BOCES, left ensured a smooth and solid transition.

**DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENTS'
REPORT**

It was moved by Mrs. Noonan and seconded by Mr. Brooks to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

July 22, 2016

Date



Gretchen E. Wukits
Clerk of the Board