



## REGULAR MEETING – July 30, 2015

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 July 30, 2015 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  
Marilyn Noonan  
Carol Orvis  
John Phelan  
Paul Puccio  
Charles Dedrick, Dist. Supt.  
Gladys Cruz, Dist. Supt.  
Gretchen Wukits, Clerk of the Board

### ABSENT

Kevin Kutzscher  
Lynne Lenhardt

### STAFF

James Niedermeier  
Susan DiDonato  
Denise Zieske

### GUESTS

James Church  
Lucian McCarty  
Lynne Wells

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 Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the May 28, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **MINUTES**

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the June 10, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes.

**Tech Valley High School**  
University at Albany  
East Campus, B Wing  
9 University Place  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
Phone: 518.862.4960

[www.techvalleyhigh.org](http://www.techvalleyhigh.org)

It was moved by Mrs. Noonan to amend the June 10, 2015 Minutes as follows:

- The time the meeting was called to order on page 1 should be corrected to 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the Minutes of the June 10, 2015 Meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

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 Dustin Verga, Physical Education Teacher, be accepted effective June 25, 2015.

(Resignation)

The motion passed unanimously.

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

(Appointments)

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the following Administrator for the Tech Valley High School be jointly appointed, subject to the approval by the Commissioner of Education for an application of a waiver pursuant to Retirement and Social Security Law Section 211:

Name:	Karen McGraw
Position:	Interim Principal (Per Diem)
Effective:	July 1, 2015-August 31, 2015
Type of Appointment:	Temporary
Probationary Period:	N/A
Salary:	\$500 per day
Benefits:	N/A

The motion passed unanimously.

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

RESOLVED: that upon joint recommendation of the District Superintendents of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES, the following Administrator for the Tech Valley High School be jointly appointed, subject to the approval by the Commissioner of Education for an application of a waiver pursuant to Retirement and Social Security Law Section 211:

Name: Kathy Meany  
Position: Interim Principal (Per Diem)  
Effective: July 1, 2015-August 31, 2015  
Type of Appointment: Temporary  
Probationary Period: N/A  
Salary: \$500 per day  
Benefits: N/A

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent, Questar III BOCES, asked Ms. Susan DiDonato, TVHS Attorney, to research appointment language for the probationary teacher appointments to ensure it complied with Education Law §3012-c or §3012-d. Dr. Cruz also indicated that the part-time appointments of Mr. John Hartnett and Ms. Jennifer Muirhead should specify .60 FTE.

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

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:

Name: Jennifer Ezzo  
Position: Teacher, Social Studies  
Effective: September 2, 2014  
Certification: Social Studies 7-12 (Initial)  
Type of Appointment: Probationary (resignation of Stacia Snow)  
Tenure Area: Social Studies  
Probationary Period: July 1, 2015-June 30, 2019  
(will receive 1 year Jarema credit)  
Annual Salary: \$45,900  
Benefits: As set forth in the TVHS Teacher Association agreement

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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:

Name: John Hartnett  
Position: Teacher, Technology Education (part time .60 FTE)  
Effective: July 6, 2015-June 30, 2016  
Certification: Technology Education (Initial)  
Type of Appointment: Part Time (.60 FTE) (non-probationary)  
Tenure Area: N/A  
Probationary Period: N/A  
Annual Salary: \$50,000 (prorated based upon FTE)  
Benefits: As set forth in the TVHS Teacher Association agreement (prorated based upon FTE)

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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:

Name: Jennifer Levesque  
Position: Teacher, Special Education  
Effective: August 25, 2015  
Certification: Students with Disabilities 7 - 12 Generalist (Initial)  
Students with Disabilities 7 - 12 English (Initial)  
English Language Arts 7 - 12 (Initial)  
Type of Appointment: Probationary  
Tenure Area: General Special Education  
Probationary Period: August 25, 2015 – August 24, 2019  
Annual Salary: \$53,500  
Benefits: As set forth in the TVHS Teacher Association agreement

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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:

Name: Jennifer Muirhead  
 Position: Teacher, Art (part time .60 FTE)  
 Effective: July 6, 2015-June 30, 2016  
 Certification: Visual Arts (Initial)  
 Type of Appointment: Part Time (.60 FTE) (non-probationary)  
 Tenure Area: N/A  
 Probationary Period: N/A  
 Annual Salary: \$45,900 (prorated based upon FTE)  
 Benefits: As set forth in the TVHS Teacher Association Agreement (prorated based upon FTE)

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Noonan to accept the May 27, 2015 through July 10, 2015 Internal Claims Auditor Report as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTERNAL  
CLAIMS  
AUDITOR  
REPORT**

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Noonan to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the periods ending May 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER’S  
REPORTS**

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Noonan to approve the appointment of the following Business Alliance Members for the terms as follows. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS  
ALLIANCE  
MEMBERSHIP**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	(Appointments)
Robert Altman President and CEO	WMHT	June 30, 2018	
Paul DiCaprio	Specialty Silicone Products	June 30, 2018	
Matt Grattan Executive Director for Workforce Development	Schenectady County Community College	June 30, 2018	
Linda Hillman President	Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce	June 30, 2018	
Craig Keefer Vice President	M&T Bank	June 30, 2018	
Annmarie Lanese President	Greene Tree Technology	June 30, 2018	
Jim Moore President	Cambridge Valley Machining	June 30, 2018	

Tobi Saulnier  
CEO

1<sup>st</sup> Playable Productions

June 30, 2018

Chuck Steiner  
President

Capital Region Chamber

June 30, 2018

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to approve the 2015-16 TVHS Calendar. Dr. Bergeron complimented Mr. Lucian McCarty, TVHS Communications Specialist, on the format of the calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF  
2015-16 TVHS  
CALENDAR**

Mr. James Niedermeier, Principal and Chief Academic Officer, began his report by thanking Board members for his appointment and expressing his appreciation to those from whom he had learned during the first few weeks at TVHS. He acknowledged the TVHS staff wants to grow and contribute to TVHS becoming a better school. He outlined his meetings with groups since his start at TVHS and shared his impressions after attending the New Tech Network Conference in Chicago. Mr. Niedermeier stated that while TVHS members are collaborative and rooted in the NTN philosophy and pedagogy, due to the evolution of staff over the years, not everyone is coming to Project Based Learning on the same level. He recognized the need for a NTN refresher and noted that the PBL Institute for staff in August will be constructive. President Puccio asked how PBL fits with various forms of standardized tests. A discussion followed about the alignment of PBL with Common Core standards, examining the standards as they are assessed, and clarifying common goals. Mrs. Noonan asked how does TVHS convince parents standardized tests are good. Dr. Charles Detric, District Superintendent, Capital Region BOCES, reported on test refusal across the state. Dr. Cruz noted that other NTN schools focus on standardized tests. Dr. Bergeron emphasized that students entering TVHS do not have a common learning background. Mr. Niedermeier cited the commitment to data analysis to inform future discussion. President Puccio and Mrs. Orvis stressed the importance of professional staff development. Dr. Bergeron asked if students could be required to take exams prior to admission to TVHS. Dr. Detric commented on the challenge of getting students to take more than the required five Regents exams. Mr. Niedermeier stated the plan would be to have most students take the Regents exams required for the Advanced Regents Diploma. Mr. Bradt asked about providing life skills for TVHS students. President Puccio replied that the TVHS staffing scale is at a disadvantage and that multiple certifications held by teachers and the principal could help. Mrs. Noonan inquired about the date for graduation in 2016, and Mr. Niedermeier replied it is scheduled for June 23. At the conclusion of discussion, Dr. Bergeron recognized that Mr. Niedermeier has a lot on his plate.

**PRINCIPALS'  
REPORT**

Mr. James Church, Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives, Questar III BOCES, began the Advancement Activity Report by highlighting the notable donations since the last Board meeting. He noted that Ms. Eileen Lindburg had resigned from the Foundation Board due to moving out of the area. Dr. Cruz shared background on Ms. Danielle Bouton-Wells and her role in providing support for TVHS teachers and sharing practices with school districts.

**DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT**

Mr. Church outlined the initiation of discussions with CNSE regarding outreach to businesses on campus. He also touched on discussions with the University at Albany about the use of athletic facilities/recreational fields for physical education by TVHS students tentatively scheduled for March 2016 through June 2016. He said he would provide an update at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Orvis stated Mr. Church was doing a great job.

Ms. Denise Zieske, Business Partnership Coordinator, provided an overview of the activities of the Business Alliance. She noted that a directory of the Business Alliance is being developed with biographies and relevant information about the members and indicated it would be shared with Board members when it is completed. Mr. Brooks indicated that having such background information on Business Alliance and TVHS Operating Board members available to TVHS parents could be extremely beneficial. Mrs. Noonan reiterated the overwhelming challenges for Mr. Niedermeier.

**BUSINESS  
PARTNERSHIP  
REPORT**

Dr. Dedrick noted that retired Superintendent of Schools and former Capital District BOCES Board member, John Yaglieski, will be volunteering some of his time to produce a report on a ten year review of TVHS. He indicated this will allow Mr. Niedermeier to focus on academics at TVHS. Dr. Cruz welcomed Mr. Jack Hill, Questar III BOCES Board member, who will be completing the term of Mr. Robert Gibson. She shared that the monthly meeting for all of the BOCES district superintendents in the state would held on August 4, 2015 at TVHS. Dr. Dedrick emphasized that since New York State Department of Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia would be attending also, the meeting would provide an early introduction to TVHS. Both Dr. Cruz and Dr. Dedrick indicated that there were conflicts with some of the TVHS Board Meeting Dates for 2015-16. They stated they would offer alternative dates at the next Board meeting.

**DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENTS'  
REPORT**

President Puccio requested that a resolution of recognition be adopted in the memory of Mr. Robert Gibson. It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Phelan to approve the following:

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION**

RESOLVED: that the Tech Valley High School Operating Board hereby acknowledge Mr. Robert Gibson for his role as a member of the TVHS Operating Board and extend thanks for his leadership and appreciation in his memory to his wife, Donna. The motion passed unanimously.

President Puccio recognized this time of transition for TVHS and suggested a future Board retreat as an opportunity to guide a healthy discussion about how to support TVHS within the context of the statute. Dr. Bergeron asked Ms. DiDonato to forward a copy of the original TVHS legislation to all Board members. Mr. Brooks requested a print out of the full TVHS enrollment. Since the 2015-16 Board Meeting Dates were not adopted, it was decided that a date for the September Reorganization and Regular Meetings would be determined, and Board members would be notified in August.

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

September 17, 2015

Date

Gretchen E. Wukits

Gretchen E. Wukits  
Clerk of the Board