



REGULAR MEETING – November 17, 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 November 17, 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 6:16 p.m. by Vice President Bradt.

PRESENT

John Bergeron
Jeff Bradt
Edmund Brooks
John Hill
Marilyn Noonan
Carol Orvis
Gladys Cruz, Dist. Supt.
John Yaglieski, Chief Exec. Officer
Gretchen Wukits, Clerk of the Board

ABSENT

Kevin Kutzscher
Lynne Lenhardt
John Phelan
Paul Puccio

STAFF

James Niedermeier
Sarah Fiess

GUESTS

Wendy Ashley
James Church
Ken Claflin
Kimberly Duran
Sophia Hsia
Heather Nellis
Yi Wang

Vice President Bradt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It was moved by Dr. Bergeron and seconded by Mrs. Orvis 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 September 22, 2016 Reorganization Meeting and the September 22, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Ken Claflin, Cusack and Company, Certified Public Accountants LLC, was introduced. He presented the External Audit Report for TVHS for 2015-16. Mr. Claflin explained the difference between traditional accounting audits and government auditing standards. In light of the charges and investigation of the former CEO of the College of Nanoscience and Engineering, Mrs. Noonan inquired about the future tenancy of TVHS. Mr. Claflin indicated he did not

REVIEW OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR TVHS

believe it would have an effect on TVHS. Mr. Brooks asked if there were any restrictions on the use of the capital fund. Dr. Bergeron noted that the money in the capital projects fund was allocated for use by TVHS and the Foundation by Capital Region BOCES and Questar III BOCES. It was discussed that movement of funds might be necessary in the future if the legislative grant of \$146,000 was not forthcoming. It was agreed that Mr. John Yaglieski, Chief Executive Officer, Capital Region BOCES, and Dr. Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent, Questar III BOCES, would develop a resolution for their respective Boards to adopt that would enable the transfer of funds if necessary.

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Dr. Bergeron to accept the Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute Financial Report dated June 30, 2016. 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 Superintendent of Questar III and the Chief Executive Officer of Capital Region BOCES, the resignation of Jennifer Levesque, Special Education Teacher, be accepted effective December 9, 2016. (Resignation)

The motion passed unanimously.

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 Superintendent of Questar III and the Chief Executive Officer of Capital Region BOCES, the following Teacher for the Tech Valley High School be jointly appointed to tenure:

Name: Varada Vaughan
Effective: January 27, 2017
Tenure Area: Mathematics

The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Orvis to accept the September 30, 2016 through October 26, 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 September 30, 2016 and October 31, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER’S
REPORTS**

Mr. James Niedermeier, Principal and Chief Academic Officer, began his report by providing an update on an ongoing committee working on defining TVHS. He acknowledged the work of Ms. Heather Nellis, TVHS Communications Coordinator, for shepherding the project. Mr. Niedermeier shared a data inquiry report on student outcomes in physics. He noted he had conversations with all freshmen about considering non-required regents exams. Dr. Bergeron commented that this effort was moving in the right direction. Mr. Niedermeier provided an update on school outreach and noted a second meeting with the East Greenbush School District and a visit from Capital Region BOCES Superintendents. Ms. Sarah Fiess, TVHS School Outreach Coordinator, reported on an event at the Center for Gravity to promote the awareness of coding with teachers and to encourage introducing coding clubs in schools. Mr. Brooks inquired about student teacher placement from SUNYA. Mr. Niedermeier responded there would be two student teachers from SUNYA and one from Clarkson in the fall. Mrs. Orvis noted the need for teachers to be trained in coding. Dr. Bergeron commented on the acceleration of operating system changes and the need to keep ahead of the curve.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Niedermeier introduced Ms. Sophia Hsia, Mandarin Chinese teacher, who thanked the Board for their continued support and provided details about the upcoming exchange visit to China.

It was moved by Mrs. Orvis and seconded by Mrs. Noonan that the Operating Board approve the participation of 19 TVHS students to join in an exchange visit to Beijing, Tian Jin, and Xi An, China. The trip will be from April 13, 2017-April 23, 2017. The trip will be coordinated and supervised by Ms. Sophia Hsia. In addition to Ms. Hsia, Mr. Jason Irwin and Ms. Varada Vaughan will join the trip. Mr. James Niedermeier, Principal and Chief Academic Officer, TVHS, will serve as alternate. This exchange will provide an opportunity for the students of TVHS to (1) stay in a home of a student from Tian Jin #13 High School, (2) practice their Mandarin language skills, and (3) experience Chinese culture and society. The following requirements will apply:

PARTICIPATION IN EXCHANGE VISIT TO BEIJING, TIAN JIN, AND XI AN, CHINA

- a. Students will abide by all requirements of the trip coordinator.
- b. Parent/guardian permission forms and forms required by the coordinator, including medical authorization forms will be completed before a student may participate.
- c. Parents/guardians shall be responsible for assuring that their student is properly immunized in accordance with their own medical provider's recommendations; and
- d. Travel insurance and other costs of participation shall be solely at student/parent expense.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. James Church, Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives, Questar III BOCES, provided an overview of the Foundation Board account balances. He reported that the Board was proactively following the recommendations of the Sharing the Learning and Achieving Sustainability Report. Mr. Church shared an update on the fundraising efforts of the Foundation Board's subcommittee. He noted the importance of outreach to higher education institutions producing teachers and the promotion of project based learning. He commented that project based learning may benefit troubled youth. He stated the development of a five-year plan would help with outreach. In his legislative update, he said the target on the lobby day at the state capitol in March would be legislators who had not visited TVHS. Mr. Church continued with an update on the Business Alliance and provided an overview of one term options. Dr. Bergeron stated that the website was well done. Mr. Church indicated Ms. Nellis developed the site. Mrs. Noonan voiced her concern about the level of student involvement in fundraising activities and cautioned about stretching the students too far.

**DEVELOPMENT
REPORT/
BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIP
REPORT**

Dr. Cruz reported that she had begun her visits with component school boards and sharing news about the summer camp for 7th and 8th graders and the 11th and 12th graders. She indicated Ms. Nellis had designed a "save the date" card for the summer camps and that Mr. Niedermeier would be attending the Board meetings. She extended her thanks to Mr. Niedermeier for his student data report and to Ms. Fiess for working on the visits to the schools. Mr. Yaglieski emphasized that state legislators are extreme supporters of TVHS and that the Albany City Schools Superintendent is supportive as well. He stated that in a district such as Albany the selection of students to attend TVHS would be challenging. He noted that Albany school board members had experienced difficulties with charter schools.

**DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENTS'
REPORT**

Mr. Brooks said the TVHS students are impressive. Mr. Yaglieski concurred and stated the students are proud of TVHS and take ownership of the school.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION**

It was moved by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Hill to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

January 19, 2017

Date



Gretchen E. Wukits
Clerk of the Board