

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VT
STATE EDUCATION BOARD
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 7, 2007**

Members Present: Dwight Davis, Blanche Kelley, Dave Luce, Don Messier, Wilma Paronto, Albert Pearce & John Stewart

Members Absent: Richard Fraser

Administration Present: Robert Lucenti, Superintendent
Stephan LaTulippe, Principal
Mary Koen, Special Education Chief
Maureen McIntyre, Business Manager

Guests Present: Sarah Whitener

CHSVT Chittenden Campus Faculty Present: Mary Poulos, Correctional Instructor
John Long, Correctional Instructor

Students Present: Frankie, Randy, Luis & Bill

The meeting was held at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. Review and Acceptance of January Meeting Minutes:

**John Stewart made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 7, 2007.
Dwight Davis seconded the motion.**

Discussion followed. Under New Business,”Connect Learning to Earning” which is the Governor’s imitative to keep youth....”, the word *imitative* needs to be changed to *initiative*.

Also under New Business....The Rutland/Bennington Local Advisory Board would *like to see* the mandated age, to attend education, increase from 21 years of age to 25 years of age. The words, *like to see*, need to be changed to *support*.

With the noted changes, **the motion was called, and it passed unanimously.**

2. Presentation by the Chittenden Regional Education Program:

John Long, CHSVT Correctional Instructor, began the presentation by introducing himself and Correctional Instructor, Mary Poulos, to the Board. John has taught for CHSVT for ten years, and Mary has taught for 16 years. John continued by introducing four CHSVT students, Frankie, Randy, Luis and Bill. He acknowledged that these four students each have high attendance at school. John then explained a typical day at the Chittenden facility. The population changes steadily every two weeks. This is a detainee facility and there is a cap of 197 residents. Even though client movement is frequent, the students are able to continue with their education plan at another CHSVT campus. The Chittenden facility could be considered an assessment and orientation facility. This campus has the most intakes compared to our other campuses.

Each student shared their thoughts on CHSVT.

Frankie looks forward to school. He likes the individual attention, and now actually likes school. He is working toward his HSD and plans on attaining it!

Randy comes to school Monday through Friday. He is up each morning is ready to go to school. He attends from 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. He is 38 years old. He was suspended from public school and never went back. He has gone from having no high school credits to 17. When he receives his diploma, he knows it will be a great achievement!

Luis is under the age of 22 years old. Most of his high school credits were earned here at CHSVT. He only had a half credit from his public school. He is working toward attainment of his diploma and is getting close. He did not want a GED. Math and science are his favorite subjects. He is at the algebra and geometry level. Tod Lessard, a CHSVT Instructor who worked at Chittenden (now teaches at the Springfield facility) worked with Luis when he was detained at the Woodside Facility prior to his transfer to the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

Bill did graduate from his public high school, but attends school here anyway. He comes to school to review courses that he really hasn't used over the years. Bill also volunteers in education. Presently, he is working with another resident on reading and writing and enjoyed these one-on-one tutorials.

Frankie feels like he needs vocational skills, but there are not many courses offered in this area at this facility. Louis stated that there are facility jobs, which do teach some of vocational skills. For example, you can get jobs in the laundry, the kitchen and with the recreation program.

Computer skills are very important in today's job market and computer classes are offered at this facility. Instructor, Mary Poulos is planning to start a parenting class. She feels the need for this as many at the facility are youngsters with youngsters. Bob

Lucenti talked of the Career Resource Center initiative. The Habits of Mind curriculum is still being implemented and introduced in the regional facilities.

Randy, Frankie, Luis and Bill all feel that Mary and John are phenomenal teachers!

This concluded the Chittenden Education Presentation.

A board member asked what the connection is between Woodside and CHSVT. It was explained that one connection is special education services. If you are under 16 years old, but are tried as an adult, CHSVT is sometimes involved through a MOU, especially with special education, and we continue the service when the student is under the custody of Corrections.

3. Self Study Recommendations:

Bob Lucenti and Stephan LaTulippe will be going to Massachusetts on Sunday, February 11th, to attend the NEASC Commission Meeting. They have been asked to attend and asked to do a presentation of our school. The Commission will be voting on the Visiting Team's recommendation of a 10-year accreditation for the CHSVT during this meeting.

At an earlier Board meeting, the Board reviewed the recommendations, from the CHSVT Self Study and the NEASC Reports, and identified the ones they thought they should participate in. They are noted by an asterisk *. Now we need to decide which recommendations should be considered the top three priorities and begin to work on them by selecting a standard to discuss at each Board meeting. He shared the process that has been put in place regarding the Action Plan for each recommendation. The time frame to complete the Action Plans is 18 months. This is a self improvement process.

Blanche would like to put Standard 2 (Governance), Recommendation #6 & #7 on the Board's Annual Meeting Agenda. This would be a good recommendation to discuss with the local advisory boards.

John Stewart feels this is a project that should be given an extra day for review of the Standards and Recommendations with discussion and guidance from the administration, prior to making the choice of which are priorities for Board action.

Don asked if it is mandatory by NEASC for the Board to participate in this school improvement process. Bob responded that it is not mandatory.

Dwight Davis made a motion to add Standard 2, #6 & #7 to the Annual Meeting Agenda AND to form an Ad-Hoc Committee with the charge of reviewing the Self Study & NEASC Recommendations and report their priorities back to the full Board. Don Messier seconded the motion. The motion was called and it passed unanimously.

It was decided that John Stewart would Chair the Ad-Hoc committee, and Don Messier and Dwight Davis would serve on the committee. John will contact central office to schedule a day for the meeting. This committee will report to the full Board at the April meeting.

Dave Luce made a motion to combine #6 & #7 of Standard 2 for the March Annual Meeting. Blanche Kelley seconded. The motion was called and it passed unanimously.

4. *Campus Performance Standards:*

Stephan said he would welcome input from the Board on how our campuses are meeting the 21 listed performance standards. However, please understand that they do not have to participate. It would be the member's decision.

Blanche said she will not go to observe or evaluate, but will go in to visit. She feels it is not a Board members job to evaluate. She feels there is not a need for the Board to have a list of program expectations. Stephan assured the Board that he does not want them to evaluate either, but felt the Board should have the list only as a source of information on school design and school components.

5. *Vermont Adult Learning – Act 176:*

Bob Lucenti handed out a copy of Act 176, which is an Act relating to High School Completion Program Guidelines. Bob shared a short explanation of this Act and how the CHSVT could be involved. Bob respectfully requested the Board review Act 76 and think about whether they believe CHSVT should participate or not and if CHSVT does participate, what would be our level of participation. This will be an agenda item for a future Board meeting.

6. *Old Business:*

Board appointments were discussed. There still remains a vacancy on the Board from the resignation of Dave Mulholland on February 1, 2006. The Board has submitted at least three names to the Governor's office, but they have all been rejected due to a conflict of interest. We will continue to search for someone to fill this vacant position.

Wilma Paronto shared information about a reading program that the women are involved in at the Southeast State Facility in Windsor. This program is through the Vermont Council on Humanities. It's very well received.

Wilma also announced that the Southeast State Facility is creating a Community Alert Network (CAN). This Network is an automated call system that will be used to notify people in the area surrounding the facility of any emergency or unusual event which may constitute a threat. Any family, individual, business or organization in the area may add

their name to the Southeast State Correctional Facility Community Alert automated call list by calling the facility.

The Bennington State Offices are still in the sick building. They are supposed to be moving to trailers and local hotels anytime now.

A question was asked about whether or not the CHSVT will be opening a new campus at the new Springfield Probation & Parole office. If we are planning on this, it was requested that Dave Luce be consulted for appropriate space.

7. New Business:

Dale Board member, Dave Luce, and Workforce Development Grant Manager, John Gorczyk, met with Green Mountain Coffee Roasters to discuss employment opportunities and a vocational transition piece for women, when they are released back to their communities. This was a positive meeting.

An article was shared with the Board. This article was about Dave & Margaret Luce being the recipients of the Kathy O'Dell Revitalizing Waterbury Award. This award has an influential status. Congratulations to Dave and Margaret.

Wilma is concern that the Southeast State Facility is no longer allowing cats at the facility. She feels that having animals in facilities is a very good idea. She would also like to see a training of therapy animals program at the facilities. This could be a very valuable vocational skill these days. She would like the Board to address this issue.

The Vermont Retired Teacher's Association is now working with our youth. They have asked Blanche to approach the CHSVT and request that our school present some information to the organization to assist them with this initiative.

8. State Education Board's Annual March Meeting:

To date the agenda for this meeting is:

- NEASC Accreditation Update
- Review of CHSVT's Action Plan
- Legislative Update
- State & Local Board Question & Answer Session

The Board would like to see a Special Education Update added to the agenda, and to replace the Board Question & Answer Session with Standard 2, #6 & #7.

Dwight Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Don Messier. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

