

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VT
STATE EDUCATION BOARD
MINUTES
Wednesday, September 7, 2005**

Members Present: Dwight Davis, Blanche Kelley, Dave Luce, Don Messier and Albert Pearce

Members Absent: Richard Fraser, Dave Muholland & Wilma Paronto

CHSVT Administration Present: Bob Lucenti, Director
 Stephan LaTulippe, Principal
 Mary Koen, Special Education Chief
 Maureen McIntyre, Business Manager

The meeting was held at the Stagecoach Inn in Waterbury.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

1. Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes and Agenda:

Dave Luce made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 1, 2005. Dwight Davis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **The motion was called, and it passed unanimously.**

Dwight Davis made a motion to accept the agenda for today's meeting. Dave Luce seconded the motion. Mary Koen asked to change the order of the agenda items because Bob Lucenti would be arriving a little late due to a conflict with his morning schedule. It was determine that the agenda will flow as follows:

- New Board Member Update – Chuck Pearce
- NEAS&C Update – Stephan LaTulippe
- Principal Updates – Stephan LaTulippe
- Special Education Updates – Mary Koen
- CHSVT Updates – Bob Lucenti
- Policy & Procedure Update – Bob Lucenti
- New Business

The motion was called, with the change of order for agenda items, and it passed unanimously.

2. New Board Members:

Chuck Pearce updated the Board regarding our Board vacancy and the response from the Governor's office regarding the Board's recommendation of Betty White as a new appointee – 05/02/05 letter. He phoned Marty Searight at the Governor's office. Marty was going to check into why the Board has heard nothing to date. Chuck then saw the Governor a few days after calling his office and asked where our recommendation was in the process of filling our Board vacancy. The Governor told Chuck that he had not seen anything yet, but would look into it.

Chuck reminded everyone that the vacant position is an "at large" position. Discussion took place regarding why it is taking so long to fill this vacancy. Some thoughts were that maybe the Board should clarify what they want, for example, credentials, gender, Geographic's. The Board wants a decision soon. They have sent two

letters with recommendations of appointments to fill the vacancy. The first letter was written in December of 2004 with a recommendation of Ross Anderson. The second letter was written in May 2005 with a recommendation of Betty White. There has not been any response to these letters. Chuck said that if he has not heard anything from the Governor's office within the next two weeks, he will pursue further.

3. New England Accreditation of School & Colleges Update:

Stephan LaTulippe updated the Board on our initiative of pursuing approval through the NEASC. He has been corresponding with Bill Bennett, NEASC Director of the Commission on Independent Schools. NEASC had 82 standards, but revised and combined them to 16 standards for school approval. Stephan said this will be a faculty based decision. He is planning on having a committee for each standard. This process will have a CHSVT faculty member act as a chair for each "standard" committee.

Mr. Bennett has stated that this will take a year to complete the process. During this year, self study will be completed; the NEASC teams will visit and monitor all of our programs. Our mission statement will need to be revised to address each standard. Mr. Bennett plans on attending our CHSVT October state-wide faculty meeting.

Dwight Davis shared that the NEASC will be hosting three seminars in the fall. Dwight strongly recommends that Stephan and another faculty/staff member attend one of these seminars. The seminars normally run for three to four days, and he believes they will be held in Boston. They are very informative and would be helpful to us in our school approval process.

4. Stephan LaTulippe – Updates:

Stephan reported that he and Mary Koen have been working on the CHSVT Evaluation Tool, the Program Performance Standards. They have made some revisions to this document, and they feel it is now ready for print

He continued his update with a discussion of our school's annual report, which is presently being printed. There were 136 graduates during FY05. That was up from 104 graduates the prior year, or a 25 percent increase. Student hours were also up from the prior year. Total student hours were 205,613 up from 182,157 from FY04. Assessments were level from the prior years. Students placed on Grad Plans increased from 308 to 402. High school credits awarded were 2,242, up from 1338 the prior year, a 67 percent increase. Stephan went on to say the syllabus must support all credit requests. He also looks at the number of hours spent to earn a credit and prior learning is taken into consideration.

The award of Trades & Industry Certificates went down from 356 to 187. A short discussion took place regarding why Trades & Industry Certificates were down. Some were wondering if we are offering less in vocational education. They also wondered if we are receiving certifications for the Step-Up and Reach-Up programs. Stephan believed we are receiving certification in those programs. He believes that one reason is because we have added new vocational programs, for example, the Graphic Arts Program. Now that this program is fully functional, we are pursuing certification in this field from the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation/Printing Industries of America. This is similar to the Woodworking Program at the Southeast State Correctional Facility. They are pursuing certification from the Millwork/Cabinetmaking Program.

In May, a student at the Southeast State Facility took the SAT and scored 490 in Math and 480 in English. This is the first SAT administered within the CHSVT. This student is now attending Burlington College.

Stephan continued his updates by highlighting a few accomplishments that he thought the Board should be aware of.

At the Southern State Facility, students built a Van De Graaf generator in their Physics class.

The woodworking students at the Southeast State Correctional Facility built a 17.5 foot canvas canoe. The highly refined birch canoes of the Northeast Indian tribes served as the design of the canoe. This canoe was donated to Camp Ta Kum Ta, which is a camp for children with cancer. A ceremony took place at Southeast State Correctional Facility on Tuesday, August 30th. It was well attended and well received by all attendees.

The students who participated in the garden project at Northwest State Correctional Facility donated 500 tons of produce to the local food shelf. They had 25 entries at the agriculture tent at the Champlain Valley Fair and were awarded 24 ribbons.

A replica of the Ship's Wheel Chandelier was built in the shop class at Northwest State Correctional Facility. They also built eight park benches for the St. Albans Park.

The Beryle Gardener award winner will be announced at the CHSVT September faculty meeting. The Workforce Development Program is going very well at the three sites where it is being implemented – Southeast State, Northern State and Northwest State.

The Rutland Probation & Parole office will be moving to their new space on Friday, September 23rd. The education program ended up with appropriate space, thanks to the help of Dave Luce.

5. Mary Koen Update:

Mary announced that one of our faculty members, Tom Woods, Special Education Instructor, wrote an article for the "National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy." It was a very well done article. The article can be accessed by logging on to <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=827>.

Mary also updated the Board on the No Child Left Behind changes. This year there is a transition piece that needs to be implemented. Between 15 to 30 percent of our Title 1 monies need to be used for the grant's transition piece. We have budgeted thirty percent of our three Vocational Coordinators salaries in to the Title 1 grant to provide the transition. We also need to show progress in reading and math during this year's grant period. The Title 1 committee has been working on the process to make sure this is incorporated.

There has been a comprehensive compliance of the Department of Education's special education monitoring team. This is a three person team that has been doing the monitoring visits, which started on April 4th, and ended on September 1st. This team has said very good things about our program. They have been impressed with our special education program. They have complimented us on our improvement and the school in general.

Dwight Davis asked how we are doing with recruitment of "highly qualified teachers for special education". Mary said that it has been difficult finding certified special educators, but at this time, CHSVT has all our special education positions filled, but one.

6. Bob Lucenti Update:

Bob announced that he was late for today's meeting because he was scheduled to testify to the Corrections' Oversight Committee. He testified on our school approval process and the special education issues related to the delay with this process. He stated that he will need the Board's advice and support on the following:

- 1) School Approval – Commissioner Cate is adamant that we are not an Independent School but a Public School. Title 28, § 120 states that we are an Independent School. Commissioner Cate says we can't be an Independent School because we are funded with public money.

Steve Gold, Deputy Secretary of Administration and former Corrections Commissioner, has been brought in to the debate. He has referred this to the Attorney General's Office so they can make a determination whether we

are public or independent.

Public schools receive education funds, not general fund. We receive general funds.

There is a follow up meeting scheduled for September 15, 2005. Participants at this meeting will be Commissioner Cate, Commissioner Hofmann, Bob Lucenti, Deputy Secretary of Administration, Steve Gold and Deputy Secretary of Human Services, Cindy LaWare.

Our community sites had 53,000 student hours during fiscal year 05. The total cost to operate all our community sites was \$880,000. This equates to a cost of \$17 per student hour. Presently, Adult Basic Education spends \$30 per student hour.

The Board believes this is a good time to invite the Department of Education State Board Chair and Vice-Chair to their October 5th, meeting to discuss these issues. Chuck will be sending them an invitation letter to join us at our October meeting.

Our hope is that the participants at the September 15, meeting will achieve a preliminary finding that we are an Independent School. We also hope that they agree that moving our street site students to the ABE program is not good public policy.

We hope to maintain our status quo, as we are a program that really works and has for ten years. This is a State decision, not a Federal decision. We are suffering from success. We have many students attending our schools on the street. It would be a terrible mistake to remove this opportunity to these youth on the street.

The Board recommended that we do a cost work-up to see how much it would cost to have the CHSVT be a true public school. The CHSVT administration said we can do that, pending results of the September 15th, meeting.

Bob closed his updates by sharing that our faculty is doing an excellent job. There was a survey completed by the faculty over the summer regarding our school's culture. The survey results scored very well. He is very proud of our faculty, students and overall school.

7. *New Business:*

Blanche Kelley announced that the Executive Committee of the Retired Teacher's Association is very impressed with the CHSVT, its success and growth. They have invited Stephan LaTulippe to be their guest speaker at their luncheon in Barre on September 28, 2005.

Dwight Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m... Don Messier seconded the motion. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen McIntyre