

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VERMONT  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 03, 2015  
Department of Corrections  
White Cap Business Park  
Williston, VT**

**Approved**

State Board Members Present: Carol Bokan, Vice-Chair; Sarah Flynn, Brian Vachon

State Board Members Present via phone: Dan Alcorn, George Cross, Chair; Richard Fraser, Jason Gibbs

State Board Members Absent: David Luce, Secretary; Andy MacIlwaine

CHSVT Administration Present: Wilhelmina Picard, Director, Corrections Education; Dana Lesperance, Assist. Dir., Corr. Educ.; Troy McAllister, Assist. Dir., Corr. Educ.; Sheila Sayah, Admin. Svcs. Tech.

CHSVT Local Advisory Board Members Present via phone: Michelle Tarryk,

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Vice-Chair, Carol Bokan in the physical absence of Chair, George Cross.

**Public Comment** – None

**Administrative Reports**

- a. CHSVT Administrative Team's report on proposal for dealing with possible budget cuts.

CHSVT has had a lot of interest from the media lately. Wilhelmina has been busy answering questions pertaining to the Governor's proposed budget and staffing cuts that are affecting CHSVT.

The CHSVT Administrative Team created some talking points about the school to be shared with the media, legislatures, faculty, Board members. These talking points come by way of an informational brochure, the Logic Model in the FY' 14 CHSVT Annual Report, as well as spreadsheets and PowerPoints.

There had been some concern about the school's NEASC accreditation if the budget and staffing was to be cut. Dana spoke with Jim Mooney, Deputy Director of the Commission, and Jim assured Dana that as long as the school is still operating within its Mission, no matter the size of the school, we would still be accredited.

Wilhelmina has been directed to put together a DOC Work Group that is tasked with creating scenarios for the school that could happen with the budget and staffing cuts.

CHSVT Correctional Educators at the Northwest State Correctional Facility, in St. Albans invited their Franklin County Representatives to visit the classrooms and meet the students. Every Representative came to the visit and were very impressed and highly support the school and its Mission. The St. Johnsbury campuses are looking to duplicate the visit with their own local constitutes in hopes that they too, will receive the same support.

A recent Vermont Digger story was not very supportive of the school and its Mission.

### **Discussion Items**

- a. Review of Board strategies for supporting the Administrative Team's proposal.

Jason would like to see data that includes the total number of unique individuals currently being served by CHSVT, whether enrolled or taking part in Transition Workshops, outcomes from services, personal anecdotes and personal impact. This needs to be seen on paper so that it can be shared with legislators.

Sarah suggested informational literature be put in every legislative mailbox at the Statehouse.

Jason offered to draft an Opinion-Editorial, open letter to the Legislators to show Board support for the school and hopes that most, if not all, Board members will be willing to sign their name in support of this piece. Jason will write a draft this evening and share it with the Board before sending on. All Board members present were in favor of Jason creating a letter on their behalf.

Jason also suggested getting in contact with influencers like former DOC Commissioner, Rob Hofmann, the former Governor, and others and asking for their support.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 Central Office, Williston.

**Carol entertained a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12.15 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Sayah