

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, April 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
via Zoom – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, January 23, 2023, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint, Shirley Jefferson, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, Mary Moran, Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Sue Zeller

Absent: Shawn Tester

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Mike Smith (Interim)

Chancellor's Office Staff: Wilson Garland, Director, Transformation Projects
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Government Affairs
Helen Linda, Business & Process Analyst
Pat Moulton, Executive Director, Workforce Development
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
Toby Stewart, System Controller
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Sarah Chambers, Director, Learning Technologies
Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Northern Vermont University
Jae Basiliere, Chief Diversity Officer, Northern Vermont University
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Castleton University
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Maurice Ouimet, Vice President of Admissions, Castleton University
Denise Rhodes, Consultant, Finance & Registration Services, Castleton University

Dannielle Spring, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Northern Vermont University
Sarah Truckle, Vice President of Business Operations, Vermont State University
Littleton Tyler, Assistant Vice President, Finance & Compliance, Vermont State University
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the public:

Jeff Greenberg, Reporter, WCAX
Brian Morse, VSEA
Amy Ash Nixon, Reporter, Caledonian Record
Laura Ullman, Reporter, WCAX

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Chair Dickinson welcomed new Trustee Bob Flint and Interim Vermont State University President Mike Smith and congratulated Student Trustee Perry Ragouzis on his reelection to a second term. President Smith expressed his enthusiasm for the role and looked forward to beginning work at the VSC.
3. Comments from the public

Beth Walsh provided a comment welcoming President Smith on behalf of VSC United Professionals and offering the union as an ally and resource, working for the benefit of students, in transformation.

4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 25, 2023
 - b. April 11, 2023
 - c. April 14, 2023

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the March 25, 2023 minutes, April 11, 2023 minutes, April 14, 2023 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention by Trustee Jefferson on the March 25, 2023 minutes.

5. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee
 - a. Motion/vote to approve dissolution of *Major Gift Quasi-Endowment* at Castleton University

Trustee Silverman shared an update from the recent April 17th meeting where the committee recommended to the Board four items for approval. An overview of the items for approval can be found [here](#) on pages 19-40. The first is to dissolve the *Major Gift Quasi-Endowment*. The endowment proceeds will be used to partially fund the replacement of Castleton's turf field, with the remaining funds coming from other donor sourced funds.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the dissolution of Major Gift Quasi-Endowment at Castleton University. The motion was approved unanimously.

- b. Motion/vote to approve request to payoff 2013 Debt Instrument

Trustee Silverman then reviewed the proposal to use the favorable variance in the current year budget to pay off the Series 2013 Revenue Bond. This will save the system \$1.3 million a year for the next 10 years and foregoes the payment of \$2.4M in interest expenses over the remaining life of the bond.

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the request to payoff the 2013 Debt Instrument. The motion was approved unanimously.

- c. Motion/vote to approve Policy 403, *Use of College Facilities by non-College Organizations* and VSC Policy 408, *Policy on Grants and External Funding*

Trustee Silverman described the process being undertaken by the Business Affairs Council to review and update all finance policies.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve the revisions to VSC Policy 402: *Use of College Facilities by Internal and Non-College Organizations* and VSC Policy 408: *Policy on Grants and External Funding*. The motion was approved unanimously.

- d. Motion/vote to approve Resolution 2023-005, *Authorizing Sale of FCC License for Call Number WWLR and Lease of Lyndon Property* (supplement to Resolution 2022-017)

Trustee Silverman noted that this resolution is a supplement to previously approved Resolution 2022-017 and its approval was recommended by the committee.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-005: *Authorizing Sale of FCC License for Call Number WWLR and Lease of Lyndon Property*. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Report from Audit Committee

Trustee Zeller provided a report from the April 17th committee meeting, stating that the committee heard progress updates regarding the FY22 Internal Audit and the Uniform Guidance Single Audit Finding from 2022. Trustee Zeller also shared the committee reviewed progress on the FY2022 Internal Audit Report on Chart of Accounts and the FY2022 Single Audit Finding. The committee voted to accept the FY23 Internal Audit Report on Cyber Security. A complete summary of the meeting can be found [here](#) on page 17 of the materials.

7. Executive Session

At 1:33 p.m. Trustee Cluver moved that the VSCS Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment and employment of public officers and employees. Along with members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, Interim President Mike Smith, President Joyce Judy, and

VTSU Vice President of Business Operations, Sarah Truckle to attend. Trustee Moran seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 2:34 p.m. and took no action.

8. Presentation on Athletics

Chair Dickinson invited VTSU interim President Mike Smith to speak. President Smith began by recommending extending the current athletic conferences for the next three years, with Johnson continuing in the NCAA and Randolph in the USCAA, with the goal of maintaining the existing programs on all campuses. He stated that athletic specific benchmarks and metrics will be established for all four campuses and these benchmarks will assist in evaluating the programs over the coming years with the goal of building towards long-term sustainability.

President Smith went on to inform the Board that effective immediately, he would be withdrawing the library layoff notices announced in February. He stated that work would continue towards streamlining the library collections, consistent with normal and progressive library best practices. The administration will engage with the unions to accomplish this in a productive and effective way. President Smith emphasized the need to focus on the transformation work.

9. Presentation on the Admissions Process for Vermont State University

Maurice Ouimet, VTSU Vice President of Admissions and Enrollment Services, shared a presentation on the VTSU admissions and enrollment process. That presentation can be found [here](#).

10. Presentation on Administrator Data

Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer, shared a presentation on employee data, including data on administrators, staffing plan principles, and the challenges in obtaining high quality and accurate employee data. That presentation can be found [here](#).

11. Transformation Update

Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation Projects, provided an update on transformation. Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer, also shared IT updates. This presentation can be found [here](#).

12. Presidents' Reports

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy highlighted some recent key events for CCV, including a visit from the First Lady, in which CCV played a significant role. CCV Graduation is on June 3 at which Kyle Clark, the CEO of Beta Technology, will be the commencement speaker. CCV was proud to have four students testify recently in front of the Senate Education Committee and their stories were very impactful. CCV's Newport location recently participated in a successful job fair with the state of Vermont. President Judy closed with concerns about CCV being able to meet its budget in the future. She mentioned that while

keeping tuition level for four years is the right thing for the students, it is difficult for CCV; they're looking at different methods of balancing their budget.

VTSU President Mike Smith shared that a communication would be sent out following the meeting regarding the athletics decision announced earlier, and the rescinding of the RIF notices and streamlining of the library collections. He went on to share that in his first three days, he has visited the Vermont Tech – Randolph and Williston campuses and the Castleton campus. He will be visiting the Johnson and Lyndon campuses this week. He will welcome Senator Sanders to a student forum at NVU-Johnson on April 28.

13. Additional Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.