

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, October 30, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, October 30, 2023, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Betsy Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint, Shirley Jefferson, Karen Luneau, Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Bill Lippert, Jim Masland

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Mike Smith, (Interim)

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Affairs
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Sarah Chambers, Director, Learning Technologies
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Vermont State University
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Vermont State University
Karry Booska, Director of Career Development, Vermont State University
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People & Culture, Community College of Vermont
Rich Clark, Faculty, Vermont State University
Mary Droege, Faculty, Vermont State University
Maurice Ouimet, Vice President of Admissions & Enrollment, Vermont State University
Julie Theoret, Faculty, Vermont State University
Sarah Truckle, Vice President, Business Operations, Vermont State University
Beth Walsh, Co-President, VSCUP, Vermont State University

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 18-19, 2023 Board Retreat
 - b. September 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
 - c. September 22, 2023 Special Meeting
 - d. October 24, 2023 Special Meeting

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve the September 18-19, 2023, September 19, 2023, September 22, 2023 and October 24, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was approved with one abstention.

3. Report from the Audit and Risk Management Committee
 - a. Motion/vote on Resolution 2023-011, *Acceptance of the FY2023 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report*

Trustee Zeller provided a report from the October 16th, 2023 Audit & Risk Management Committee meeting stating the committee reviewed the results of the financial and single audits. Both audits were successful with the financial audit experiencing no findings and the single audit noting several findings related to student aid programs, also known as Title IV funding. Trustee Zeller noted that the findings related to student aid are relatively common issues, and ones that tend to recur on college campuses. Each of the Vermont State Colleges have identified appropriate mitigation strategies to address these issues and the Audit Committee will receive a regular update on progress toward achieving this goal. Trustee Zeller added that the committee met privately with Withum to discuss the internal workings of the audit and were satisfied with the results. The committee is forwarding resolution 2023-011 *Acceptance of the FY2023 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report* to the Board for approval.

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-011, *Acceptance of the FY2023 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report*. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Comments from the public

Julie Theoret expressed dismay at the recent decisions and actions taken by President Smith and Vice President Truckle in relationship to Administration Optimization. She believes the staff cuts are short sighted and that the six staff affected that are based on the Johnson campus will adversely affect the students there. She stated that cuts at a higher level would better serve the institutions. She felt the decisions were made on faulty data.

Rich Clark urged the Board to call out the state of Vermont for its lack of funding provided to the Vermont State Colleges, which he believes led to what he's called the flawed decision making of Administration Optimization.

Mary Droege shared how stunned she was with the choices of staff who were laid off recently, stating how hard working and integral to student life they are. She wondered who will now do the work that they performed. She felt that the Board has made a grave error and has the authority to reverse this decision.

Beth Walsh reiterated her position that she believes the Vermont State Colleges should eliminate the Chancellor position, and now, as well, the Director of Transformation Projects position. She believes the needs of the students were not put first with the decisions recently made. She

lamented the loss on the Johnson campus of the Associate Dean of Students, budget coordinator, a financial aid position, and a conferences and events position.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.