

**VENANGO TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
1 Vo-Tech Drive  
Oil City, Pennsylvania 16301**

**MINUTES**

**January 2, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Venango Technology Center Joint Committee was held this evening in the Conference room of the Venango Technology Center, 1 Vo-Tech Drive, Oil City, PA 16301. Mr. Johnston called the meeting to order at seven o'clock (7:00) p.m.

Mr. Johnston asked the members to pause for a moment of silence.

Mr. Johnston asked the members to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Present: Ben Carbaugh, Leslie Boyer, Dr. Melanie Anderson, Lynn Cressman, Cheryl Ferry, Shari Neely, Mark Marterella (Zoom), Justin McFall, Troy Johnston

Absent: Monica Chatham

Also Present: Mr. Mario Fontanazza, Mrs. Amanda Hetrick

Mr. Johnston stated the Joint Committee members had received copies of the Minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting in the mail. He asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions.

Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mr. Cressman, moved to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting as submitted.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Ben Carbaugh, Leslie Boyer, Dr. Melanie Anderson, Lynn Cressman, Cheryl Ferry, Shari Neely, Justin McFall, Troy Johnston

Nayes: None, motion carried.

The Treasurer and Secretary's Report as of 1/2/24 were submitted for information.

Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mrs. Ferry, moved to accept the Treasurer and Secretary's Report as of 1/4/24 as submitted.

The motion was unanimously approved.

A list of bills from 12/8/23 – 1/2/24 in the amount of \$731,624.89 were presented for approval.

Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mr. Ferry, moved to approve the list of bills as presented.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Ben Carbaugh, Leslie Boyer, Dr. Melanie Anderson, Lynn Cressman, Cheryl Ferry, Shari Neely, Justin McFall, Troy Johnston

Nayes: None, motion carried.

Mr. Mark Marterella signed into the meeting via Zoom at 7:04 p.m.

Under Communications, Mr. Fontanazza discussed the Professional Advisory Committee. He also discussed the Calendar of Events for the month of December. The Monthly Enrollment Report as of 1/2/24 was submitted.

An executive session for personnel matters was called at 7:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Johnston indicated that there was nothing to approve under action item 8 a) i.

Mr. Johnston requested approval of the action items as presented. Item 8. a) ii. - viii. in one motion.

Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mr. Carbaugh, moved to approve action items 8. a) ii. - viii. in one motion as follows:

- ii. Approve James Woodworth to attend the annual PASBO conference March 5 – 8, 2023 at a cost not to exceed \$1,400.00. Funding – local
- iii. Approve Mario Fontanazza to attend the PDE 339 review at Forbes Road CTC January 9 – 11, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$800.00.
- iv. Approve Adult Evening School Schedule for Spring 2024.
- v. Approve the Comprehensive plan.
- vi. Approve the Comprehensive Plan Professional Development Plan. (Act 48)
- vii. Approve the Comprehensive Plan Mentor Teacher Plan. (Act 49)
- viii. Approve Shanda Kelly as the Venango Technology Center parent representative for all PDE reporting committees.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Ben Carbaugh, Leslie Boyer, Dr. Melanie Anderson, Lynn Cressman, Cheryl Ferry, Shari Neely, Mark Marterella, Justin McFall, Troy Johnston

Nayes: None, motion carried.

Mr. Johnston requested approval of action item 8 a) ix. the proposed contract with the Venango Technology Center Faculty Association for the years 2024 – 2029 pending review by the labor counsel.

Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mr. Carbaugh, moved to approve the proposed contract with the Venango Technology Center Faculty Association for the years 2024 – 2029 pending review by the labor counsel.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Ben Carbaugh, Leslie Boyer, Dr. Melanie Anderson, Lynn Cressman, Cheryl Ferry, Shari Neely, Mark Marterella, Justin McFall, Troy Johnston

Nayes: None, motion carried.

Mr. Johnston requested approval of action item 8 a) x. the 2024-2025 Venango Technology Center Budget.

Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mrs. Cressman, moved to approve the 2024-2025 Venango Technology Center Budget.

Dr. Anderson indicated that she would vote no for this budget as the Valley Grove School District did not want to raise taxes. Mr. Adams commented that he had included a five-year summary of increases and the Valley Grove's increase of 2.09% was less than the 5.69% increase that they had last year.

The total dollar increase net of the subsidy for Valley Grove was \$9,966.50.

Mr. Fontanazza reminded the members that we are adding a program and had taken the opportunity to do this during a year when the capital lease payment went away. This payment in the budget was \$250,000.00. Mr. Adams added that the cost of adding the Child Care program along with retaining a custodian that had been funded with ARP/ESSER funds approximated \$205,000.00. He also added that the instructional aides are paid \$12,500.00 annually with full benefits. The ability to attract and retain aides have become very difficult. This budget included a one-time \$5,000.00 bump for all aides. The cost of this for 8 aides would be \$40,000.00 plus payroll related fringes. He indicated that non-bargaining salaries are approved in May and that they could either approve or deny this at that time. He mentioned that the budget included an 8.33% increase in health care and that we had recently found that it would be closer to 4.5%. Dr. Anderson asked how grants affected the budget. Mr. Adams indicated that grants, such as Perkins and equipment grants, were not included in the day school budget as fluctuations in these grants up or down would adversely affect the budget percentage increase/decrease. Mr. Fontanazza mentioned that we had received between \$20,000.00 and \$30,000.00 in supplemental grants in past years and that we found out just before the New Year that we were awarded \$63,454.00 and that this was potentially only 2/3 of the amount we were to receive. He mentioned that the excess funds were being considered for replacement of our current dump truck. Lastly, Mr. Adams commented that the Tech Center has always returned between \$200,000.00 and \$400,000.00 which is approximately 4 to 8 percent of the budget.

Mrs. Boyer asked about adding the Child Care program and what kinds of jobs students would get. Mr. Fontanazza and Mrs. Hetrick indicated that this was a pathway to the local CDC and a stepping stone to becoming a paraprofessional and a teacher. She said she was sad when cosmetology was closed and that was a viable program. Mr. Adams explained the history of how that program went away and why as those students did not go on to work in salons. Dr. Anderson asked that we provide historical information on the attendance for all programs. She questioned adding a program while some programs seemed to have low numbers. Mrs. Boyer asked that we also provide information about what students do after they leave the Tech Center. She asked to find out who stays in the field that they came to the Tech Center for.

Mr. Johnston asked if there were any further questions. None were noted.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Ben Carbaugh, Lynn Cressman, Cheryl Ferry, Shari Neely, Mark Marterella, Justin McFall, Troy Johnston

Nayes: Leslie Boyer, Dr. Melanie Anderson, motion carried.

Mr. Fontanazza reviewed his Issues/Activities for December 2024.

Mr. Johnston asked if there was any old business.

None was noted.

Mr. Johnston asked if there was any new business.

None was noted.

Upon motion by Mrs. Neely, seconded by Mrs. Ferry, the meeting adjourned at fifty-one minutes past seven (7:51) p.m.

Recorded by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Adams", is written on a light blue background.

Patrick M. Adams  
Secretary, Joint Committee