

House Education
Scott Farr
1-12-17

Scott Farr – Superintendent/Director

River Valley Technical Center School District

House Education Testimony – January 12, 2017

Why Independent?

RVTC was part of the Springfield Town School District but became independent for a combination of reasons. It all started with a Pilot Study, the Springfield School District Board was very supportive during this process. The movement to being an independent began in 1998, with the input of regional industry and support of our sending schools (the towns wanted a say in the RVTC Budget), the towns in our service region voted to form the third of three technical center school districts in the State of Vermont in March 2007. The feeling was that becoming an Independent District would allow us to better focus on student and employer needs.

School Districts Served

The River Valley Technical Center, serves our member districts, partner schools, and communities: Bellows Falls Union High School District (Athens, Grafton, Rockingham, Westminster), Green Mountain Union High School District (Andover, Chester, Cavendish), Black River Union High School District (Ludlow, Mt. Holly) Springfield School District (Springfield) and Fall Mountain Regional High School.

RVTC Technical Center Board

The RVTC Board consists of nine (9) voting members as follows:

District Members: One member from each member school district who shall, as decided by the member school district's governing board, either be a director on the member school district's governing board or be a resident of the member district and elected by the voters of the member school district. These members shall collectively have six (6) votes on the board, which shall be allocated among the members equally with the exception that any member district that sends more than 25 percent of the enrolled high school students on a three year rolling average basis shall be entitled to a vote that is one half (.5) of a vote greater than members sending a lesser percentage. (60% of votes to school district boards/weighted by student enrollments)

At-Large Members: Not more than five (5) members, including four (4) members elected at large by the district members and one member of the governing board of the Fall Mountain Regional School District appointed by the FMRSD board. (The at large members are intention chosen to come from different employment sectors and different service region towns: one member and board chair is the Regional Economic Development Coordinator, one member is a Nurse, one member is from the Manufacturing/Engineering Sector and one member is a manager for a large oil/fuel distribution company.

Staffing/Programming Offered at RVTC

1 FTE Business and Financial Services	1.5 FTE Culinary Arts	.5 FTE Engineering
.5 FTE Advanced Manufacturing	1 FTE Industrial Trades	1 FTE Carpentry
1 FTE Humans Services	1 FTE Information Technology	1 FTE Health Careers
2 FTE Audio/Video Production	1 FTE Horticulture/Natural Resources	
1 FTE Criminal Justice	1 FTE Pre Technical Studies – Exploratory	
Pre Technical – Foundations – All Teachers		

Program Support Staffing

1 FTE Superintendent/Director	1 FTE Administrative Assistant/HR coordinator
.5 Assistant Director/.5 Assistant Director Adult Ed*	.5 FTE Assistant Director/.5 Adult Ed Secretary*
1 FTE Guidance	1 FTE Registrar
1 FTE Cooperative Education Coordinator	1 FTE Special Populations

*Non Local Funds

Currently 20.5 FTE Total Staff Local Budget

RVTC Position Cuts since 2004

1.0 FTE Travel and Tourism	.5 FTE Fire Fighting
.25 FTE Special Populations Program	.75 FTE Guidance Coordinator
.5 FTE Culinary Arts	.5 FTE Assistant Director
.5 FTE Assistant Director Secretary	.5 FTE Advanced Manufacturing
1.0 FTE Computer Programming	1.0 FTE Engineering Program
Total FTE – 6.5 FTE	

RVTC Budget and Vote Results since Becoming Independent

RVTC Budget Year	Local Budget Expenditures	Total Dollars Increase or Decrease	Budget Vote Percent Approval %
2008-2009*	\$2,613,515		58%
2009-2010	\$2,685,470	\$71,955	57%
2010-2011	\$2,711,130	\$25,660	61%
2011-2012	\$2,648,121	(\$63,009)	62%
2012-2013	\$2,551,648	(\$96,473)	61%
2013-2014	\$2,539,171	(\$12,477)	61%
2014-2015	\$2,524,876	(\$14,295)	63%
2015-2016	\$2,440,793	(\$84,083)	66%
2016-2107	\$2,477,288*	\$36,496	67%
2017-2018	\$2,509,856*	\$32,568	TBA

*VT FTE Increase of 9 FTE