

SVFT Executive Council Meeting

January 14th, 2026
Goodwin Tech

President Makenzie Hurtado called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve December's minutes. M/S/V

Emily DelPiano Treasurer's Report:

- **Emily reviewed the Income & Expense Report from December 2025. Items discussed were as follows:**
 - **Total Income for the month was \$102,089.64**
 - **Item 4355 Rental Income \$0**
December rents were just deposited in January.
 - **Total Expenses for the month were \$93,672.68**
Line items of note included
 - **Item 6085 Meeting Expenses - \$4,385.42**
December executive council & school holiday allotments
 - **Item 6097 Negotiations- \$722.52**
Lawyer's fee for meetings and prep
 - **Item 6145 Conventions- \$765.03**
Attendance at Arbitration conference
 - **Item 6200 Office Maintenance \$164.84**
Snow removal
 - Net operating income for the year to date is \$98,092.60

Reminders:

Mileage reimbursement \$0.70

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, pending audit. M/S/V

Questions for Treasurer: None

Bob Riccitelli's Executive Union Rep Report:

Administrative Leave (11)

Arbitrations (5)

- Comp Time
- Vinal Website Coordinator
- Wrongful Termination
- Masonry and Landscaping Silica Air Quality
- ECE Payment

FOIA/SERA (0)

- None

Board Charge (0)

- None

Grievances (3)

- Plato
- Videotaping
- Wright Math Placement

Complaints (6)

- SVFT v Goodwin Principal
- Wilcox FAA
- CTECS Consultant being unprofessional in front of students
- 3 Kaynor Administration

Fact-Findings – DCF (4)

- Inappropriate Comments and Touch a female student
- Physical Abuse
- Inappropriate Comments to a female student
- Risk of injury to a Minor, not school related

Fact-Findings – HR/School Level (5)

- Pushing a Para
- Failed Drug Test
- Not reporting an arrest.
- Parent and Student complaints about unprofessional conduct in class.
- Aggressive behavior and questionable social media posts.

Fact-Findings – Affirmative Action (3)

- Inappropriate Comments to a female student
- Racial Discrimination
- Lack of Classroom Supervision

SVFT Investigations (0)

- None

Loudermills (0)

- None

Stipulated Agreements (0)

- None

Other (0)

- None

Questions for EUR:

- Q – Any update of the ? position at Vinal?

- A – None
- Q - Videotaping, what are the parameters about this? We have the capstone projects we are being asked to record the students performing tasks.
A - We will need to bring this up at Labor Management and Central Office needs to put out what the expectations are and what is acceptable.
- Q - We are being asked to keep our doors open because there are so many problems with the heating system. The students are then allowed to go into rooms unsupervised.
A - I will come up. We will see if we can come up with a solution.
- Q - Can a staff member grieve a para?
A - No, we can only file a complaint.

Bob Riccitelli's Vice President Report:

Committee Reports

- **Budget is set for 2/25**
- **Contract Negotiations will be addressed in Makenzi's Report**
- **Delegates met on December 11th**
- **Grievance & Arbitration met on January 7th**
- **Health & Safety went to Whitney and Wolcott. Will be at Aero on January 15th**
- **Labor Management met on 1/13 and the next meeting is on March 18th**
- **The Minority Teacher Committee was scheduled for 1/23 will be postponed due to Negotiation.**
- **Nomination and Election will be addressed in Makenzi's Report**
- **Political Action will be addressed in Makenzi's Report**
- **Scholarship information will be given out at the April Executive Council Meeting**
- **Sick Bank met on January 7th about qualifications and end dates.**
 - **Days in Sick Bank**
 - **Members in Sick Bank**
- **Teacher of the Year**
 - **Starts Next Month**
- **UTAC**
 - **Met in December**
 - **Will meet before the next Labor Management meeting**

Miscellaneous:

- **Legislative Visits**
 - **Stamford 0**
 - **Kaynor 6**
 - **Norwich 8**
 - **Prince will be scheduled during the next Legislative session**

Questions for Vice President:

- Q - After we submit a sick bank enrollment form do we get a notification that we are in?
A - No, if you submitted a form you are in and they should have taken out a sick day in December. They should check the list when it comes out in November.

Makenzi Hurtado President's Report:

SEBAC

We have not progressed very much since our last meeting. There was a lot of back and forth and we saw dishonorable conduct from the administration. We did have a press conference scheduled

to put pressure on the governor but that was postponed when we saw the movement we needed at some local tables. We are really in the middle when it comes to progress in negotiations. Some locals are done negotiating language and some are making no progress at all. Our siblings at Higher Ed are a great concern because we are worried about funding for those locals. We are planning actions for the future, but at this time we do not have definitive plans.

Negotiations Updates

We had a negotiation session on January 5 and have one more scheduled in January and two more scheduled in February. We are still progressing and have quite a few proposals to get through.

We will not declare impasse unless we are unable to negotiate further. We do not want to go to arbitration on issues that we are able to negotiate.

When the legislative session begins, there will be a time for members to testify on contracts to ensure we do receive a fair contract.

Evaluations

Please continue to share feedback with me on the evaluation. We still have two years to make changes and improvements.

Executive Union Rep Election

We have two candidates, Eric Klotz and Melanie Perry. The deadline to announce candidacy has passed. All voting will take place on February 4, 2026. You have packets with ballots and school lists. Please reach out to me or Bob, if you have any questions.

Miscellaneous

Jamie Lamitie continues to offer The First Cut Forum sessions for new trade teachers. These are great virtual meetings for trade teachers that have questions and need support or guidance on anything. I do want to give a shoutout to the teachers who have attended, both those who are newer to teaching and those who have shared their expertise. This past Monday we had a guest speaker, Kris Paradis from Grasso to share on the topic of TEAM. Jamie will also share some AI tools that he has been using.

Legislative Visits

Kaynor and Norwich both had legislative visits last week that were well attended. Prince will probably have one scheduled for February.

Organizing Training

Please don't forget to sign up for the organizing training on January 24th.

Labor Management

- New Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services. They are in the final stages of selecting someone.
- Title 1 funds - our entire district is a Title 1 district. We are on a watch list for misuse of funds as a district and the funds were held up. We are not sure how this will all play out but that is the cause of all of the issues and pause of the funds.
- Curriculum - There is a new law that all school curriculums must be forward facing (available to the public) by 7/1/2026. I think most of our members would be happy if they are all available. T
- We had a conversation about the paraeducators. Our ask that there is someone that is supervising the paraeducators that is not our Special Ed DH. We also ask that there are meetings and training for them so they know what their expectations are especially in a shop setting.

- Texting - The new state law about texting with a student. Please remind that teachers cannot be texting students with their personal phones. We understand there are concerns with our coaches and advisors. We are asking Central Office for a clear directive on how these people should be communicating with their students and athletes.
- We are at Wilcox next month on February 4th.

Questions for President:

- Q - Math curriculum concerns. The expectations on what we are to cover is a bit lofty. Can we bring that up with the Superintendent.
A -
- Q - We use Gamechanger as a team app. Is that Ok
A - We really need Central Office to tell us what is approved to use and some direction.
- Q - Is there a way we can request the Paraeducators get drug tested? We have had on a couple of occasions where they come back from lunch high.
A - You have to report that to Administration and I would contact DCF.
- Q - With the influx of students with an abundance of needs we have paraeducators that are not sure how to handle some of these kids that can become violent. They are concerned that they can't keep the student they are being asked to work with safe from themselves or keep the students around them safe. In addition we need to start talking about some of these kids not being fit to be in our schools. We have teachers right now afraid for their safety and their students' safety. Right now a student can go to Student Services and say I don't feel safe and we would have to write up an individual safety plan for that student. Meanwhile no teacher can do that and we can't control who is in our classroom.
A - I will talk to our lawyers about it. The last time we did the students are entitled to an education and that trumps our concerns.
- Q - With the lack of Paraeducators they have been taking subs to fill those rolls. This is putting an additional strain on sub coverage in the building. Also, these subs have no background information about the student they are being asked to work with.
A - I don't think the paraeducators are trained about the student they are working with either. I don't think it is a sub not trained, it is that no one is trained for working with those students.
- Q - Are we on track to finish contract negotiations by the end of February?
A - No, we are looking at some point in March.
- Q - If a teacher is asked to do something outside of their job do we get paid per diem rate?
A - If it is not in Appendix B, C or D and if it is not in the stipulated agreement we gave you then yes, it is at their per diem rate.
- Q - I received an email about a Vector training where I have to sign off on the updates to the employee handbook by a certain date. Is there a document that will explain what the changes are or do we have to go through the entire document to see what they are?
A - We can ask, but we are responsible for everything in that book.
- Q - Is there anywhere I can find the CTEC's budget?
A - You can see all the spending on the Controllers webpage. There is not a line item for our system. You can also FOI that information.
- Q - It states in our policy that I can't use family sick for child care issues, but the paid sick leave act says it is allowed.
A - The paid sick leave is only for the first 40 hours of sick time. After that it goes by the CTEC's policy.
- Q - There were a few more questions on our Frontline about things we are doing for the school outside of the school day. Is this something they can hold against us in our evaluation?

A - This is something that was always in the evaluation. It was not put in last year so everyone could get comfortable with the new system. This is something that should be a check off a box type of thing.

- Q - Can they put us on all these types of committees after school? Do we have the right to refuse to attend them?

A - If it is within your contractual administration time they can assign you to committees.

Union Business: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good and Welfare: Taylor is back! Our HVAC instructor's daughter has cancer and is out.