

## **SVFT Executive Council Meeting**

February 4th, 2026  
Wilcox Tech

**President Makenzie Hurtado called the meeting to order.**

**Motion to approve January's minutes. M/S/V**

**Emily DelPiano Treasurer's Report:**

- **Emily reviewed the Income & Expense Report from January 2026. Items discussed were as follows:**
  - **Total Income for the month was \$115,319.53**
    - **Item 4200 Rebate Income \$11,352.05**
      - Rebate for December 2025 from AFT-CT
      - **Item 4355 Rental Income \$1,505.00**
        - Rents from Tenants – includes a December rent
  - **Total Expenses for the month were \$100,043.09**
  - **Line items of note included**
    - **Item 6030 Salary Reimbursement \$14,998.51**
      - Reimbursement to the state for 2 officers instead of 3
    - **Item 6045 Property Tax - \$3150.80**
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> payment to Wallingford Tax Collector
    - **Item 6097 Negotiations \$471.05**
      - Ongoing meeting expenses
    - **Item 6155 Legal \$7,157.75**
      - Retainer fee for lawyer for driveway easement issue
    - **Item 6160 Training and Education \$1,005.58**
      - OSHA and Organizing Training with AFT-CT
    - **Item 6159 Accounting \$9,000**
      - Yearly fee for audit and tax services
  - **Net operating income for the year to date is \$109,399.54**

**Reminders:**

**Submit any outstanding reimbursements**

**Change in Mileage \$0.725 per mile for in person meetings as of January 2026**

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

**Questions for Treasurer:**

- **Q - What is the easement issue?**  
**A - We paid the previous owner for a 20 year ground lease on the parking spots up above. The new owner forged my signature on a document and we have hired an attorney to fight it.**

**Bob Riccitelli's Executive Union Rep Report:**

**Administrative Leave (8)**

## **Terminations for the Year (12)**

- 2 Tenure Teachers
- 6 Non Tenure
- 4 Subs

## **Arbitrations (5)**

- Night Event Comp Time
- Vinal Website Coordinator
- Wrongful Termination
- Masonry Silica Air Quality
- ECE Payment
- Plato

## **FOIA/SERA**

- HBC Internal Job Interviews
- Investigative report

## **Grievances (3)**

- Class Coverage
- Videotaping
- Wright Math Placement

## **Complaints (7)**

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

## **Fact-Findings – DCF/Police (3)**

- Gun on State Property
- Inappropriate Comments to a female student
- Risk of injury to a Minor, not school related

## **Fact-Findings – HR/School Level (8)**

- Hands on a student
- 2 - Failure to Report and Arrest
- 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 (7)**

- Inappropriate Comments to 3 Students
- Inappropriate use of a cell phone
- Inappropriate comments to a student
- Inappropriate comments to a student
- Inappropriate Comments to a female student

- Racial Discrimination
- Lack of Classroom Supervision

### **Questions for EUR:**

- Q – What happens if you fail a drug test?  
A – We aren't sure how they will react. This is the first one. They will definitely lose their CDL if this doesn't get overturned. I think we will be able to get this overturned.

### **Bob Riccitelli's Vice President Report:**

#### **Committee Reports**

- Budget will be meeting on February 25
- Contract Negotiations met on 1/21 (Negotiation), 1/28(Planning). Next Negotiations meeting is 2/24
- Grievance & Arbitration met yesterday
- Health & Safety visited Wolcott and Aero and will be at Vinal on Thursday, February 5 & Stratford on the February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Management met on January 13
- Nomination and Election is meeting right now for Executive Union Representative Elections
- Sick Bank met about qualifications and end dates on 1/7

### **Questions for Vice President:**

- Q - Can Union Reps get released to attend the Health and Safety meetings?  
A - It is up to the building principal. In our contract it is only the Safety Committee, but we can ask. If you have a specific list of areas we should visit please provide that ahead of time.

### **Makenzi Hurtado President's Report:**

#### **SEBAC**

The Governor did put out his proposed budget. In the proposal there is \$1.2 million for 36 para educators to be hired for next school year, \$1.5 million for Adult Education and \$5 million for increased utilities costs. This is a proposed budget, it will still have to be voted on. We intend to bargain for the SVFT to represent all para educators that are hired by the district.

#### **Negotiations Updates**

We had a negotiation session on January 21 and met as a committee on January 28. We had a session planned for February 2, but it was cancelled. We have another session planned for February 24 and will schedule March dates. We are confident that we will complete negotiations in time for the General Assembly to vote.

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.

#### **Legislative Session**

The new legislative session began today. I will be spending much of my time lobbying for SVFT and State Employees. I attended a meeting with the Blue-Collar Caucus on Sunday night and also have meetings scheduled with the Governor and leadership. We are advocating for a fair State budget, contracts, funding for CTECS, special education reform, and many other bills.

There will be opportunities for members to testify and AFTCT will be hosting training sessions for people to learn how to testify.

AFCT also hosts Legislative meetings. These are local meetings with your senators and representatives where we get to speak directly in an informal setting (like speed dating) on our issues.

## **Evaluations**

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

## **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. The next session is February 9 and the theme is A. I. Resources. Jamie will be sharing some great resources, but we also welcome other teachers to share what they are doing. While we usually focus on new trade teachers, we believe this session will be helpful to all teachers.

## **Organizing Training**

We had our first organizing training on January 24. It was a great training, but more importantly, we spent a good amount of time discussing areas where our union can grow and strengthen. One area that we discussed was the 10:1 ratio of leader to member. We have great member density, but our goal is to have more active members. We are going to be working on identifying and reaching out to members who would like to be more active members at the building level or larger union level. If you are aware of people that you think would be good building leaders, please let me know. We will be planning more organizing training and I do hope that more building reps will attend the next ones.

## **Union Leadership**

Now that we will have a full team of officers, we will spend some time reviewing our roles and responsibilities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of our building representatives. We will also be working on our goals and strategic plan for the rest of this year and term. We are hoping to have our new officer on release by the end of the month.

**TOY** - See Makenzi's email.

## **Questions for President:**

- Q – Teacher evaluation items that were brought back in seem to be a bit subjective and troublesome.  
A - Those items were always going to be brought back in. They decided to not have those items in the evaluation in the first year.
- Q - Do you anticipate anything else being added to the evaluation next year?  
A - No, I have not heard any feedback about the evaluation. There might be a change to some of the forms but I don't think there will be any more components.

- Q - There have been some political changes and we usually back Democrats, but the Democrats don't always come through for us.  
A - If there is a Republican candidate that would like to sit down and talk with us we would be all ears. The AFL/CIO just endorsed their first Republican State Rep. Based on his voting record I think they will continue to support him. We as the SVFT do not endorse anyone. Most State Reps and Senators that are Republican propose budgets where we take nothing but zeros and want to get rid of collective bargaining. We would not support that.
- Q - General Membership meetings at new locations? The attendance has been pretty low.  
A - Yes, we are trying to have one at Platt this year. We are hopeful there will be a better turnout. Some schools don't have the space to fit everyone, so some of the schools that would be a good location there isn't a room in that building that can accommodate the meeting.
- Q - Did another union come to an agreement?  
A - Yes, there are about 6 unions that have tentative agreements. One of them should be voting on it soon or already has.

**Union Business:**

- Q - Sick bank. I have a teacher that is out of sick time and waiting for a response from sick bank  
A - Have them call me or Bob.
- Q - Any update on our HVAC guy. Do we know if he is coming back?  
A - I don't have an official word yet.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- We do have a winner for Executive Union Rep. Melanie Perry has won the election.
- Taylor presents a proposal for staff to use the fitness centers in the schools. Please report back next month to let us know if your staff support the proposal.

**Good and Welfare:** Weather is improving!