

## SVFT Executive Council Meeting

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
Eli Whitney Tech

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

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

### Emily DelPiano Treasurer's Report:

Emily reviewed the Income & Expense Report from March 2026. Items discussed were as follows:

Total Income for the month was \$126,891.33

▪ **Item 4200 Rebate Income \$22,908.58**

Jan. & Feb. 2026 rebate from AFT-CT

▪ **Item 4355 Rental Income \$1,505.00**

March rent for both tenants and one February rent

Total Expenses for the month were \$100,655.61

▪ **Item 6112 Utilities \$900.56**

Paid electric bill for both Feb. And March

▪ **Item 6120 Office Supplies \$1,044.77**

Toner and bookshelf

▪ **Item 6140 SEBAC \$8,339.18**

Assessment for 2026

▪ **Item 6155 Legal \$1,518.75**

Lawyer fees for arbitration

▪ **Item 6160 Training and Education \$386.35**

CPR/AED training digital certification cards

▪ **Item 6200 Office Maintenance \$705.01**

February Snow removal

Net operating income for the year to date is \$134,178.53

**Reminder: Mileage is \$.725 per mile**

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

**Questions for Treasurer: None**

### Melanie Perry's Executive Union Rep Report:

#### **Administrative Leave (10)**

- They should have no contact with members regarding the case, or at all during working hours.
- Members should have no contact with them regarding the case, or at all during working hours.
- Please shut down any gossip or speculation—especially in front of students.

#### **Terminations for the Year (19)**

- 2 Tenure Teachers
- 9 non-tenure
- 5 Subs
- 3 non-renewals

#### **Arbitrations (5)**

- Night Event Comp Time-Ruled in favor of CTECS
- Website Coordinator-Arbitration April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Wrongful Termination-May 5<sup>th</sup> arbitration
- Masonry Silica Air Quality-Filed for arbitration, waiting for AAA to assign an arbitrator.
- ECE Payment- Filed for arbitration, waiting for AAA to assign an arbitrator.

#### **FOIA/SERA (3)**

- Camera evidence for Weingarten violation and selective enforcement of door propping

- Evidence for wrongful discipline
- All investigations and disciplines for all administrators against whom we have filed complaints.

### **Board Charge (0)**

### **Grievances (4)**

- SVFT v. CTECS – Wrongful termination and violation of just cause (L2)
- SVFT v. Goodwin Principal –Weingarten Rights (L1)
- SVFT v. Grasso, Wright and any other affected members—ELL teaching ELA (L2)
- SVFT v. Platt and any other affected members—Late payment of winter sports stipends (L2)

### **Complaints (7)**

- BMS – Unprofessional behavior
- SRO –Targeting, harassment, hostile work environment, violation of MOA
- Principal—Unprofessional behavior, being reviewed by Leadership
- CTECS Consultant being unprofessional in front of students—Investigation complete, report submitted to Leadership
- 3 Kaynor Administration—Unprofessional behavior, FOI filed to get status
- Retaliation complaint rejected by Affirmative Action, being reviewed by Labor Relations
- Unprofessional behavior (peer and administration) Interviews pending

### **Fact-Findings – DCF/Police (1)**

- Fight in shop – Investigation in progress

### **Fact-Findings – HR/School Level (4)**

- Propping open shop door
- Refusing to speak, fitness for Duty form sent 3/12/26
- Failure to report an arrest—Waiting for a stipulated agreement
- Aggressive behavior and questionable social media posts—Investigation completed and being reviewed by Leadership

### **Fact-Findings – Affirmative Action (1)**

- Lack of classroom supervision—Investigation complete, waiting for Leadership’s decision

### **SVFT Investigations (2)**

- Prepping for a vacancy
- New building issues at Bullard

### **Loudermills (1)**

- Student accusations of racial comments—Loudermill date TBD

### **Stipulated Agreements (0)**

### **Other (1)**

- Remember the Three Ts.

### **Questions for EUR:**

- Q – If we call out on a give back day, we will be charged a full day of sick time?  
A – Yes, and a PL day.
- Q – We have brand new Bullard Havens building and there are a bunch of safety concerns.  
A – There are a lot of issues that we are dealing with. The biggest is the humidity levels in the building. There are more than 200 issues.
- Q – If a member puts in for a PL day can they cancel it?  
A – Yes, they must ask to cancel the PL day. Obviously, not the day of.
- Q – We are being asked to accept late work from a list of kids a day before the quarter closes for the entire quarter. Is this something we must do?  
A – If it is a directive we do have to follow the directive. There needs to be more conversations about this.
- Q – School discipline issues and unsafe environments. I have concerns about administrators not following up with discipline issues and our building and won’t even log them into PowerSchool.  
A – The only thing the contract says is that administration will support staff with discipline. We are having constant conversations with leadership about this. Not only is discipline not handled the same at every building, but there seems to be some confusion of what restorative practices are and how to implement them.
- Q – If there are more conversations about the after school program, can we talk about putting some parameters around what the students should be doing during the day. We have kids that

either don't show up to school or choose to do nothing during the day knowing they can stay after school and work on it.

A – We need stronger language around our attendance policy!

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

#### **Committee Reports**

- **Constitution & By-Laws** – Met on March 24 to review multiple proposals, which will be presented later in this meeting.
- **Health & Safety Committee** – Conducted a visit to Norwich on March 12. The next visit will be at Platt Tech on April 23.
- **Minority Teacher Committee** – Meeting has been rescheduled to April 6 at 5:00 PM via Zoom.
- **Nominations & Elections** – Currently meeting to count the contract ratification votes.
- **Sick Bank Committee** – Met to review one Sick Bank application.
- **Teacher of the Year** – The award ceremony is scheduled for May 7. Please confirm that your recipient has received both the questionnaire and the invitation.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- **Upper Parking Lot Legal Issue**  
The owner of the mall and the adjacent property have discontinued discussions. I have contacted our real estate attorneys to pursue legal action against both parties.
- **Maximizing Savings Account**  
I will be meeting with Maletta & Company this month to review the safest available options.
- **Office Roof Condition**  
We have received three bids for a full roof replacement (complete strip and replacement). The bids are as follows:
  - Russo Roofing – \$11,300.00
  - Yalesville Roofing – \$14,273.68
  - Brown Roofing – \$16,970.99
- **Building & Grounds Maintenance Plan**
  - A 1-, 5-, and 10-year maintenance plan for the office building and grounds is currently in progress.
  - Water is seeping into the basement.
  - Siding near the parking lot is cracked and damaged.
  - The Route 70 side of the building has mold present.
  - Sidewalks need to be extended on Main Street side of Building
- **Officer School Visits**  
Visits will begin in late April and continue through mid-June. We aim to make these as informative and productive as possible. Please share any building-specific concerns in advance so we can address them effectively.
- **Regional Get-Togethers**
  - June 4<sup>th</sup> - Bridgeport – Two Roads
  - June 9<sup>th</sup> – Southington – Kinsmen
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> – Norwich – These Guys

### **Questions for Vice President: None**

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

#### **SEBAC**

Almost all the other SEBAC unions are at the same point in contract negotiations as us. There are about four unions that are not negotiating at this point. We get a lot of questions about retirement and healthcare changes in SEBAC and as of right now there are no changes.

#### **Legislative Session**

I would like to thank all our members who showed up at the Capitol for the SEBAC event. There were over 550 people in attendance.

We had a good showing of SVFT members at AFTCT Legislative Meetings in New Haven, Central Connecticut, and Hartford. We are hoping for an Eastern Connecticut event in late April, perhaps at a CTECS school. If we can make it happen, we will let you know. On April 8th, we will be hosting a post card writing event at Kinsmen Brewing Company in Southington.

### **Paraeducators**

We will be getting our own Paraeducators for the district. The conversations have just started about paraeducators with leadership and more than likely they will be in our union. Leadership will identify which schools are the most difficult to fill the paraeducator positions and fill all paraeducator positions in that school with our own. We don't want some that are in our system and some that are through CREC in the same building.

### **Assistant Superintendent of Support Services**

He started a couple of weeks ago and we have started to visit buildings to see what the issues are in the district. As soon as he started, we were made aware of an investigation from the State Department of Education. He will be interviewing people and asking them questions for the investigation. These conversations are not disciplinary investigations.

### **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 April 20th. We will have an in-person meeting in May with details to follow. All newer teachers are welcome.

### **Strategic Plan**

On March 19th the officers met to develop our plan for the rest of the year and to work with Stuart Savelkoul on the "Good to Great" matrix. This helped us identify areas of growth.

### **SVFT APP**

Meeting by Zoom on 4/23/26 at 6pm for Executive Council only. Please make sure you have your phone available at the meeting so you can download the app.

### **Calendar Issues**

The Superintendent has brought up some concerns about the 2026/2027 school calendar.

### **Questions for President:**

- Q – I see in the new contract it states that we can do PD remotely.  
A – We cannot work remotely if PD was remote, we would report to our building instead of driving across the State to attend the PD.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

Constitution and By-Laws proposals.

Proposal 1 – Passed

Proposal 2 – Passed

Proposal 3 – Passed

Proposal 4 – Passed with a friendly amendment.

Proposal 5 – Passed

Proposal 6 – Passed

Proposal 7 – Passed

Proposal 8 – Passed with a friendly amendment

Proposal 9 – Passed

**Good and Welfare:** Don Poulan passed away.

**Motion to adjourn. M/S/V**