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Since its inception over 50 years ago, the Central Vermont Career Center School District has experienced significant changes and improvements. It has evolved from the Vocational School to the Career Center and now to its own self-governing school district. The programs have also changed and grown to meet the needs of the workforce, the communities we serve and the students.

The mainstay programs - Building Trades, Electrical, Automotive, Culinary, Cosmetology, and Plumbing- are still strong, having grown and matured as techniques, tools, and technology have impacted what students need to know to be successful in the workforce. Over the years we have added courses both at the behest of our community partners and requests from students for pathways to their future. Graphic Arts and Design & Fabrication have been added to meet the needs of artistically oriented students. Medical Professions, Emergency Services I and II, were added as the need for skilled health care professionals, both locally and throughout the state, was deemed necessary. As recently as the 2024 school year, a Welding program was established due to requests from both employers and students. Additionally, educational practices have matured and grown. Where formerly it was "all hands on," our students now have their academic requirements being met through integrated academics focusing on math, history, science, and English along with continuing to learn the hands-on skills of their chosen field.

At this time, the Career Center School District is experiencing tremendous growth. Many of our programs are full, having experienced a 16% growth in our population. Our applicant pool is greater than we can accommodate, 334 students alone in the first round for the 2025-2026 school year. This has obliged the Board, Advisory Councils, administrators, staff, and sending schools to review how best to continue to meet our goals and the needs of the ever rising student population choosing Career and Technology programs in a situation of finite space and stressed economy. Not an easy task but we will do it.

We will continue to work with our close partner, the Barre Unified Union School District, and collaborate with each of our sending schools to assure that the Career Center District makes strong and transparent decisions. We will look to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Agency of Education for continued guidance on how best to meet the needs of our students and our communities. More importantly, we will listen to the needs of our workforce partners, parents, students, post-secondary institutions for opportunities to maintain and advance the workforce with the skills each requires.

The Board of the Central Vermont Career Center School District is made up of representatives from sending schools and elected at-large members. We are a strong group dedicated to not only our center but the students, staff, administration, and community which make it up. We are dreamers. We are workers. We are independent business people and employees from both white and blue collar jobs. We value education and respect the need for students to have an opportunity to succeed in both what they want and what they need for a solid future. Most of all, we are realists. We recognize the importance of "book learning" but also know that one size does not fit all. There are those who learn best in a more traditional academic environment, and there are those students who learn best through direct exposure to a task at hand. Those are our Career Center students. Our task as Board members is to continue to serve them well which calls for continued community support.

Since 1969, the Central Vermont Career Center School District, in its many ideations, has provided the community with public servants, business owners, skilled craftspeople, health care workers, hairdressers, chefs, bakers, auto

mechanics, soldiers, sailors, marines, and even a Governor. It is our intent to carry on with that charge in the development of strong citizens, strong economies, strong families and even stronger communities. For support of that ideal, we thank each and every one for their positive view of career and technical education.

On behalf of the Central Vermont Career Center School District Board, I remain your servant and supporter,

Alice S. Farrell

**Board Chair**