

# **BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library  
May 8, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonya Spaulding – Chair  
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair  
Tyler Smith - Clerk  
Jennifer Chioldi  
Michael Deering  
Andrew McMichael – arrived at 5:37  
Sarah Pregent

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
James Taffel, Principal  
Jackie Tolman, Principal  
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech      Sage Johnson      Mykala Rieder      Allie Shaffer      Porter Walbridge  
Alyson West

#### **1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, May 8, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

#### **2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Add 9.2 Labor Relations Agreements (under Executive Session)

#### **3. Visitors and Communications**

None.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1 Presentation/visit 6<sup>th</sup> VTC Bridge Building Students**

Allie Shaffer gave a slide show presentation on the Bridge Building Project. Students competed at VTC on 04/13/17. Bridges were subjected to the application of pressure/weight. Sage Johnson, Mykala Rieder, Porter Walbridge, and Alyson West (4 of the 17 students involved in the project) attended the Board Meeting to share their experience. Students worked for 9 weeks (4 days a week) to construct their bridges. The students wish to enter next year's competition and plan to spend more time working on improving their bridge designs. The Board thanked Ms. Shaffer and her students for sharing their experience.

##### **5.2 Resign/Retire/New Hire**

The resume and BSU Notification of Employment Status form for Tori Berry was distributed. Ms. Berry is a candidate for the position of Behavioral Specialist. It was noted that this position does not require licensure. Ms. Berry's position will be approved at the SU Board Meeting. Mr. Taffel spoke very highly of Ms. Berry, advising that BCEMS was very fortunate to be adding her to staff. There were no resignations or retirements to be presented. It was noted that staffing for next year is in good shape. Letters of Intent for teachers, were distributed on 04/01/17, and were due back on 04/15/17. The teachers' contract automatically grants a 15 day extension to all teachers who request an extension. There is one BCEMS teacher who requested and received an extension. Some

candidates for open positions are being interviewed. Letters of Intent for para-educators, were distributed 05/01/17, and are due back by 05/15/17.

### **5.3 Rescind BCEMS Policies: IIC and IG**

Copies of the policies were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of the policies presented for rescinding.

**On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to rescind policies IIC and IG.**

### **5.4 Co-Principal Search Process**

A document titled 'Barre City Middle School Co-Principal Search Process and Timeline' was distributed. Congratulations were extended to Jackie Tolman who has accepted the position of Curriculum Director for the Barre Supervisory Union. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the process for hiring a new Co-Principal, including selection of committee members to assure representation from a variety of stakeholders. Mrs. Spaulding advised that some Middle School parents would like to be involved in the process. Mr. Taffel noted that Ms. Tolman will be missed and wished her the best in her new position.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 FY 18 Budget Revote**

A copy of the budget flier was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the flier has been posted on Face Book and Front Porch Forum. The flier explains the revised budget, which has an overall increase of 4%. Mrs. Spaulding reminded the community that the revote will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Mrs. Spaulding has a sign-up sheet for flier distribution. Mr. Taffel advised that notification was sent home with students. Mrs. Spaulding asked that Board Members remind community members (especially parents) to vote. Mrs. Spaulding advised the public to contact her or any other Board Member with questions.

### **6.2 Board Retreat Planning**

Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding retreat options; district board retreats, Tri-Board retreat, or hold both district board retreats and a Tri-Board retreat. Mr. Pandolfo recommends holding the retreat(s) on Thursday, June 8, 2017. The BTMES Board plans to hold a district retreat prior to the Tri-Board retreat. Possible topics for discussion at the Tri-Board Retreat include reviewing legislative action on Act 46 'type' issues, shared goals, and improved communication. Retreat(s) will be discussed further at the upcoming BSU Board Meeting (05/18/17).

### **6.3 Labor Relations Agreements**

A document titled 'VEHI Health Plan (Barre School Board Presentations – May, 2017) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo gave a presentation regarding the new health insurance plans that will be offered to staff. The presentation included 'out-of-pocket' costs, and benefit/premium information, for all plans, (including the current plan) as well as information pertaining to the financial impact. Mr. Pandolfo advised that some of the data in the presentation was derived using certain assumptions. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the recent meeting with teachers and a mediator did not result in a settlement. The next step will involve use of a 'Fact Finder'. It was noted that topics discussed in mediation, as well as Fact Finder results, are confidential. Meetings scheduled with para-educators (05/02/17) and custodial/maintenance staff (4/25/17) have been postponed.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's Report dated May 1, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Negotiations, Pre-K Collaboration, Truancy Collaboration, Building Access via Swipe Cards, Curriculum Director Search, and the FY18 Consolidated Federal Programs Grant. Mr. Pandolfo provided an update relating to the Workers' Compensation claims relating to student related injuries, the majority of which involved two incidents, one of which was accidental. A significant amount of training is performed with staff, but perhaps additional training could occur. It was noted that BCEMS does not provide Workers' Compensation for Washington County Mental Health employees. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding additional information from VSBIT relating to the prevention of student injuries and slip/trip/fall/push/pull/lift injuries.

### **7.2 Principals Report**

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated May 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; A Student/Teacher Award from Central Vermont Waste Management District, BCEMS students Jasmine Sayah and Alyssa Winkler, who have been nominated for the Vermont Association for Middle Level Education Scholar Leader Awards, Breakfast for Dinner community event hosted by Fuel Up to Play 60 participants, SBAC Assessments, the Elks Club's presentation of individual copies of Thesaurus to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, the FoodPlay presentation, the summer Race to Read initiative, Summer School (07/05/17 – 07/28/17), and the school garden. Mr. Taffel reported that Pete Cudney (from North Eastern Family Institute), who works with staff regarding children who suffer from early childhood trauma, put on a 'parent night'. The event was very successful, with parents asking many questions and requesting that Mr. Cudney return to give another presentation. A meal, prepared by Craig Locarno, was served at the event. NECAP Science Testing starts on 05/09/17. On Wednesday, (05/10/17), students will participate in International Walk to School Day. Mr. Taffel highlighted the FoodPlay event sponsored by Hannafords. In light of the recent lowering of standards for food service, the Board expressed concern regarding lowering the standards at BCEMS and agreed that they would like

the school to continue to follow the more stringent standards. Mrs. Spaulding requested a review of the standards that are currently being met or not met. It was noted that the Board should review the existing policy relating to nutrition standards for the school. Mr. Taffel will send out pictures of the winning entries of the CVSWDM compost bin repurposing competition.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

**7.3.1 Facilities Committee** – The Committee met on April 24, 2017. Mr. Cecchinelli provided an overview of the meeting, including the audit of the security cameras performed by Officer Fleury, who offered suggestions on improved camera coverage, replacement of flooring in pre-school rooms, discussion of summer projects and the possibility of funding for a well (to be used in emergency situations). The next meeting of the Committee will be June 5, 2017.

**7.3.2 Finance Committee** – Minutes from the April 25, 2017 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Pregent provided an overview of the Minutes provided (in the board meeting packet). There were no questions from the Board. The next meeting is May 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Brief discussion was held regarding the BSU Policy Committee and how information will be distributed. The Policy Committee has not met yet. It was noted that Mrs. Poulin will e-mail the minutes (BSU Policy and BSU Curriculum Committees) to members of all the district boards. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of adding '7.3.3' to future agendas, for the purpose of hearing verbal reports on the BSU-wide committees. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the BSU Curriculum Committee meeting. The next BSU Curriculum Committee meeting is 05/22/17.

### **7.4 Financial Report**

The BCEMS FY17 Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report (dated 04/18/17) was distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of the report, which identifies a possible (unaudited) deficit. It was noted that some adjustments need to be made and that the projected deficit (approximately \$120,000) represents a very reasonable number, given the size of the budget.

## **8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the BSU is tremendously excited to have Ms. Tolman join the central office, and expressed gratitude to Mr. McCraw for his contributions to the SU during the past two years.

Ms. Tolman advised that Shane Aldrich's group of students (who created the model rail road system), have been invited by the North Western Vermont Railroad Association to display their model railroad at the Vermont Rails Extravaganza (November 2017 – at the Barre Auditorium). Ms. Tolman also called the Boards attention to the bulletin board (on the wall in the ramp area) that is used for students' recognition of staff and fellow students for specific ideals.

## **9. Executive Session**

### **9.1 Personnel**

### **9.2 Labor Relations Agreements**

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Personnel Issues and Labor Relations Agreements.

**On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion, specifically Labor Relations Agreements, would clearly place Barre City Elementary and Middle School at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:25 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.**

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

**On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on FY18 pay increases for non-unionized staff.**

## **10. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*