

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
September 11, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Michael Dreiblatt, Principal
James Taffel, Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Carl Hubbey Kellie Mead Earl Schrader Gretchen Singer

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, September 11, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 6:07 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

Remove - 5.1 Fitz-Vogt Overview of Food Program – add to October Agenda
Add 9.2 – Personnel (under Executive Session)

3. Visitors and Communications

3.1 Introduction of New Staff

Mrs. Anderson introduced the Special Education staff members. It was noted that Allison Mills was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Dreiblatt introduced staff for Technology Design and Spanish positions. New staff members provided a brief overview of their education and experience. The Board welcomed the new staff members and thanked them for attending this evening's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2017 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Tri-Board Meeting. It was noted that the question relating to Spaulding High School's involvement, has been resolved.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Fitz-Vogt Overview of Food Program

This item will not be discussed this evening. Discussion will take place at the October meeting.

5.2 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Gretchen Singer (Middle School Spanish) and Earl Schrader (Middle School Design/Technology) were distributed.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the candidates' education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Gretchen Singer and Earl Schrader.

A copy of a document titled 'Board Approval Procedure for Licensed New Hire Candidates' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the document and explained how use of these procedures will assist with timely hiring of desirable candidates, by eliminating the lengthy time between interviews and Board approval. The current, more delayed process, risks losing qualified candidates, as they may be hired by another supervisory union prior to Board approval. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the document is for informational purposes and that no Board action is necessary.

It was noted that there is only one open position left to be filled.

5.3 Fuel Bid and Plowing Recommendations

A document titled 'RFP Results for FUEL OIL, PROPANE, and WOOD CHIPS' was distributed. The Superintendent advised regarding his recommendations: Fuel Oil – Irving \$1.95 per gallon, Propane – Irving \$1.25 per gallon, and Wood Chips – Cousineau \$60.00 per ton. Mr. Pandolfo noted that this is a one year contract, for the 2017/2018 year.

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the purchase of fuel oil from Irving at \$1.95 per gallon, propane from Irving at \$1.25 per gallon, and wood chips from Cousineau at \$60.00 per ton.

A document titled 'RFP Results for BSU Snow Plowing Bids – FY18 & FY19' The Superintendent advised regarding his recommendation to contract with Thygesen Construction Company for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 (\$14,000 per year). It was confirmed that this is a two year contract. In response to a query from Mrs. Spaulding, who feels that BCEMS should be paying less than the other district schools, Mr. Pandolfo advised that he would speak with the Business Manager regarding assessment by district. It was noted that the recommendation is based on input from the Facilities Director and the Business Manager.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to contract with Thygesen Construction Company for snow plowing for FY2018 and FY2019, at a rate of \$14,000 per year.

6. Old Business

6.1 FY19 Budget Development

Three documents were distributed; a memo from Lisa Perreault (dated 09/01/17) relating to 'FY19 Budget Development Timeline', the BSU Budget Development Schedule for FY 2019, and the BSU FY19 Budget Development Process document (flow chart). The process is currently on schedule. Mr. Pandolfo advised of the short memo from Mrs. Perreault, and highlighted the flow chart, which is new this year. It was noted that Administrators met with the Business Manager and Superintendent on September 11, 2017 to review parameters and the previous year's line items. The superintendent requested direction from the Board regarding priorities, broad goals, and specific interests, including programs. Mrs. Spaulding would like input from the community. Mr. Pandolfo cautioned that there are many unknown variables, including the withhold amount (resulting from H542), contract negotiations, benefits, and decreases in CFP funding. Mrs. Spaulding advised that the Finance Committee is looking forward to reviewing the first draft.

6.2 Labor Relations Agreements

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Negotiations Committee and AFSCME Representatives reached a conceptual agreement, which has been put in written form and is being reviewed by AFSCME representatives. If the written form is approved it will be presented for ratification. The agreement is for a one year contract. There are still some differences between salaries, insurance, and retirement between BCEMS/SHS and BTMES. It is hoped that the differences can be resolved with next year's contract, so that all custodial/maintenance staff, regardless of school district, will have the same salary and benefits. Mediation with Para-educators is slated for September 25, 2017. Teacher representatives have agreed to a Fact Finding meeting on October 25, 2017. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the impact of H.542, relating to the State calculated withholding amount, which has been determined based on estimated savings resulting from the new health care plans. At this time, it appears as though a default health insurance plan will be necessary.

6.3 Board Communications

Mr. Pandolfo reported that there is a delegated individual to set up all settings in Infinite Campus. Communication procedures will need to be put in place at both the classroom and building levels. Next year, procedures and support will be in place. There is a concern regarding parents who do not have e-mail addresses. Work is being performed relating to text messaging. The Infinite Campus application is in place and being used. Infinite Campus is used for grades 5 – 12 only. Mrs. Spaulding believes the web site could be used more efficiently/effectively to announce events. Mr. Dreiblatt advised that BCEMS is beginning to use the web site

more. Mrs. Spaulding would like to see regular updates to the school's Facebook page and would like to have a designated individual responsible for updating the Facebook page. Mr. Deering advised regarding his concern that Google documents cannot be shared with non-students. Discussion of a listserv will be added to the October Agenda (under Communications). E-mail information should be collected during Open House and at Parent/Teacher conferences. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Mr. Paterson (of the BTMES Board) will appear at BRTMES school events to share information, and receive input regarding budget development and other matters. It may be beneficial for the BCEMS Board to do something similar. It would be beneficial to post a Board Meeting Calendar on-line.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated September 1, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Opening of School, a possible 10/12/17 Tri-Board Meeting, Transportation, Negotiations, Act 46, and Federal Grants. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Agenda items for the tentative 10/12/17 Tri-Board Meeting: 1) Board Communication and Engagement of the Community and 2) Act 46. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the 09/21/17 SU Board Meeting, where a final decision will be made regarding holding a Tri-Board Meeting on 10/12/17. By 09/21/17, the BTMES Board should have a better sense of what their community wants regarding Act 46.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated September 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Enrollment, Math and Reading Assessments, the Fresh Fruit/Fresh Vegetable Bar, Developmental Designs and Elementary Designs, EST Teams, Open House, Picture Dates, Back to School Night, the Walk-Run-Fun Event, and Mr. Dreiblatt's role as new Co-Principal. Mr. Taffel provided a brief overview of the report and advised that, regardless of the lack of contracts, teaching staff seem to be 'in a good place'.

7.3 Committee Reports

Mrs. Spaulding would like Committees to assist with budget development.

7.3.1 Facility/Security

The next meeting date is to be announced.

7.3.2 Finance

Minutes from the August 22, 2017 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Pregel provided an overview of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room. Topics for discussion will include year-end data and budget development (including community input). Mrs. Spaulding advised that the deficit needs to be taken into account.

7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

BSU Finance Committee – Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Policy Committee – It was reported that there was not a quorum present at the last meeting. Minutes have been distributed to all Board Members. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Room.

BSU Curriculum Committee – Minutes of the previous meeting have been distributed to all Board Members. Mr. Smith provided a brief overview of the meeting, which centered on Math Curriculum, including alignment of curriculum at BCEMS and BTMES, and the importance of consistent curriculum which leads into the math curriculum at SHS. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. Literacy will be the focus of the September meeting.

7.4 Financial Report

The BCEMS FY17 Expenditures/Year-End Projection Report (dated 09/11/17) was distributed. There is an unaudited anticipated deficit of \$246,332. Vermont Statutes Title 16 – Chapter 009 - §555 and Vermont Statutes Title 24 – Chapter 051 - §1523 were also distributed.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Pandolfo advised that meetings were held with all staff regarding the new health insurance options.

Agenda Items: Student Presentations, a Listserv, an electronic calendar, Food Service Program, Budget Survey Questions, Budget Development, Communications, Smarter Balance and NECAP Science results, and Act 46. Busing (local and district) and Ridership, Information should be added to the November Agenda.

BSU Finance Committee – Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Policy Committee – Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Room

SU Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Curriculum Committee – Monday, September 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library
BCEMS Finance Committee – Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room
BCEMS Regular Board Meeting – Monday, October 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Library
BCEMS Facility/Security Committee – to be announced.
Tri-Board – Tentative date: Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

9. Executive Session

9.1 Labor Relations Agreements

9.2 Personnel

Negotiation Strategies for Labor Relations Agreements and a Personnel Matter were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion, specifically, Negotiation Strategies for 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 Mrs. Choildi, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Taffel and Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:45 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Choildi, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin