

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
August 14, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Michael Deering
Andrew McMichael – arrived at 5:35 p.m.
Sarah Pregent

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennifer Chioldi

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Michael Dreiblat, Principal
James Taffel, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Kris Pavek

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, August 14, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:32 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

9.1 Will involve a Personnel Issue, but will not involve the “Co-Principal Interview and Recommendation”.
Add 9.2 Labor Relations

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – June 12, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the June 12, 2017 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Garden Tour and Discussion

Kris Pavek distributed a flier titled ‘Pathways to Accessibility’. This flier outlines the project for modifications to the garden to make it more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Ms. Pavek addressed the Board, provided an overview of the flier and advised regarding success of the garden area, and goals, which include accessibility improvements (past and planned), increased yield, and use for academic activities. Ms. Pavek led the Board on a tour of the garden beginning at 5:40 p.m. The Board Meeting reconvened at 5:57 p.m. Ms. Pavek continued her presentation to the Board which included discussion of the ‘Stone Project’ and advised that Justin Beyerie of Greenscapes Land Works is volunteering his services to assist with the accessibility project. Ms. Pavek advised regarding upcoming planting of raspberry and blueberry bushes, the apple orchard, which is producing fruit, and her request to the public, for their assistance. Ms. Pavek thanked Ben and Jerry’s for their donation of graphic art services, and advised that she will be making presentations to National Life, area banks, and other businesses, in an effort to raise funds for the garden. It was noted that no BCEMS budget money is utilized to fund the garden. It was noted that Ms. Pavek’s position is a volunteer position. Ms. Pavek was thanked for her presentation and for all the effort she puts forth to support the BCEMS Garden.

5.2 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

Letters of resignation from Julia Blatchford (Spanish teacher), Eugene Ziske (Technology Education teacher), Donna Tully, and Jessica Vest (Administrative Assistant) were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo recognized Ms. Vest for her many years of dedicated service, and advised the Board that they did not need to take any action regarding her resignation.

Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the individuals who have submitted letters of resignation.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Julia Blatchford.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Eugene Ziske.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Donna Tully.

It was noted that there is currently no exit interview process/procedure in place. Mr. Pandolfo provided information regarding the status of the hiring process for the open positions.

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Michael Dreiblatt (Co-Principal), Allison Mills, Kellie Mead, and Carl Hubbell (Special Educators) were distributed. It was noted that no action needs to be taken on Mr. Dreiblatt.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of each candidates education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Allison Mills, Kellie Mead, and Carl Hubbell. These Special Educators will also be presented to the SU Board for approval.

New staff will be invited to a reception at the September meeting.

5.3 Truant Officer Appointment

A document titled 'Title 16 Education, Chapter 25 ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE §1125 was distributed.

Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the requirement that the Board appoint a Truant Officer. Mr. Pandolfo recommended that Assistant Principal, Pierre Laflamme, be appointed to the position of Truant Officer. Discussion was held regarding the work involved with Truancy investigation and reporting, which also involves the court system. Procedures include many individuals throughout the SU and the work involved is estimated to involve the equivalent of 1 'man year'. It was noted that there is an effective model being used in northern Vermont. The SU will look into using this model, but implementation will take time. The SU is trying to secure grant funding for social workers to assist with truancy matters.

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Pierre Laflamme, as Truant Officer for Barre City Elementary and Middle School.

5.4 Budget Development for FY19

Five documents were distributed; BSU Budget Development Schedule for FY 2019 (Draft dated 07/25/17), a Budgeting and Financial Management Self-Assessment form, a document titled 'Develop and Adopt a Budget and Assure Sound Financial Oversight', and two policies (Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability (E1) and Budgeting (E2)). Policies are being distributed for informational purposes only. Mrs. Pregent provided an overview of the documents, including the proposed schedule. It was noted that budget development needs to be started very early in the year to allow sufficient time for review, discussion, and revisions. It was noted that engagement of parents and community members is important. Mrs. Spaulding polled Board Members regarding their feedback on the self-assessment documents. The Board agreed that they would like to work more actively on community involvement (sharing of information and receipt of input) and that more robust reports would be beneficial.

5.5 Summer Process for Board Approval of New Hires

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the general process for approval of new hires, including the annual 'March' approval for the Board Chair to sign contracts. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the statute for the Superintendent to present prospective employees (for licensed positions) to the Board for approval. Given the length of time between Board meetings, Mr. Pandolfo is concerned that potential employees could be hired by other districts, if their contracts are not signed in a timely manner. Mr. Pandolfo would like to implement year-round procedures, in written form, that would allow the Board Chair to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts in a timely fashion. In general, procedures (to be developed) would assure that Board Members receive for review and comment, information for all pertinent potential new hires. Board Members would have a specified timeframe in which to convey (to the Board Chair) any questions, comments and concerns. If no 'red flags' are raised within the given timeframe the Board Chair will authorize the Superintendent to sign the contracts. It is believed that the proposed procedures do not violate open meeting laws.

6. Old Business

6.1 Labor Relations Agreements

The Negotiations Committee met with Para-educators on July 10, 2017, July 24, 2017, and August 14, 2017. The Para-educators have declared an impasse. A mediator will need to be scheduled, which could prove difficult at this time of year.

The Negotiations Committee met with AFSCME / Custodial Staff on July 31, 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2017.

The Negotiations Committee is in the process of hiring a Fact Finder to meet with Teacher Representatives. Scheduling a Fact Finder is also difficult at this time of year.

The SU will continue to operate under the 'current' (past) contract until such time as a new contract is negotiated.

The current health care plan will be going away on 12/31/17. If a new contract is not in effect at that time, it may be problematic to determine the 'cost share' to be used with the new health care program which goes into effect on 01/01/018.

6.2 Summer Project Updates

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of summer work, including; replacement of flooring in the Pre-K rooms, boiler room pipe fitting replacement, building of an outdoor structure (lean-to type building) to be used as an 'outdoor classroom', repairs to parking lot storm drains, and general summertime cleaning and painting, which is difficult to achieve due to much activity in the building. In response to a query regarding safety/security procedures for outdoor academic activities, it was noted that the procedures currently in place for current outdoor activities (recess/P.E.), will be used. Additionally, it was noted that no roof work was done this summer. Some re-sealing work was done to the boiler. Mr. Evans is not satisfied with the re-sealing work, and will be working with the contractor to remedy the problem. This work should be covered under the boiler warranty. There will be a 'walk-through' for plowing on Tuesday, August 15, 2016.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated August 11, 2017 was distributed. The report includes information pertaining to; Administrative Retreats and Professional Development, Negotiations, Act 46, Federal Grants, and BSU Central Office Changes. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo distributed a BSU Organizational Chart, and two documents relating to Act 46 (legislative changes and changes related to 'Side by Sides'). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the highlights of his report, briefly explained Act 46 related legislation and provided detail and examples of the new 'side by side' structures, advising that it appears that none of the new side by side structures applies to the BSU.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated August 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; classroom preparation by staff, recruitment of new staff, the revised Parent/Student Handbook, completion of State required reports, summer work, Summer School (very successful), and installation of 3 new granite plaques by artists Giuliano Cecchinelli and Stan Lutastanski. Mr. Taffel highlighted professional development, new lock down language/procedures (common language), including 'Clear the Halls', Lock Down', and Evacuate the Building'. It was noted that lockdowns will now include announcements (when possible and appropriate) to keep staff/students apprised of what is happening.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

There will not be an August meeting. The regular September meeting date conflicts with the Labor Day holiday weekend. An alternate meeting date will be announced. Mr. Cecchinelli expressed interest in serving on a school safety/security committee.

7.3.2 Finance

Minutes of the July 25, 2017 meeting were distributed. Vermont Statutes Title 16 – Chapter 009 - §555 and Vermont Statutes Title 24 – Chapter 051 - §1523 were also distributed. There is an unaudited projected deficit of \$39,601

7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

The BSU Policy Committee met on June 19, 2017. Three policies will be presented to the SU Board for approval of First Readings; Transportation Policy (F9), Student Clubs and Activities Policy (F33), and the Community Use of School Facilities Policy (H3).

The BSU Curriculum Committee will meet on Monday, August 28, 2017. Discussion will include math scores and professional development.

7.4 Financial Report

A copy of the BCEMS FY Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report (dated 08/04/17) was distributed. Discussion was held under Agenda Item 7.3.2.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the next regularly scheduled board meeting falls on Columbus Day. The Board agreed to change the meeting date to Monday, October 2, 2017. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the cohort formed for the merging of schools under Act 46, and advised regarding a second cohort to be formed for those who decide to merge after the first group. This group will also include those who are consolidating Special Education.

Mr. Dreiblatt thanked fellow administrators, staff and custodians noting their support and hard work over the summer.

Mrs. Spaulding requested that 'Board Communications' be included on all future BCEMS Regular Board Meeting Agendas.

Facilities Committee – to be announced

Policy Committee – Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Upstairs Conference Room

BSU Curriculum Committee – Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library

9. Executive Session

9.1 Personnel

9.2 Labor Relations

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Issue and Labor Relations Negotiation Strategies.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of labor relations negotiation strategies proposed for discussion, 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. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:54 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 Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin