

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
October 2, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair – departed at 7:00 p.m.
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Jennifer Chioldi – arrived at 5:36 p.m.
Michael Deering
Andrew McMichael
Sarah Pregent

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Michael Dreiblatt, Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Jackie Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Chris Putney

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, October 2, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:30 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

None.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the September 11, 2017 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Student Presentation

Chris Putney addressed the Board advising of the outdoor classroom built over the summer. A slide show accompanied the presentation. The construction of the outdoor classroom involved 7 students, who were very involved in the project and surpassed the expectations for work to be completed. It was noted that each student built and painted a unique bench. Additional work performed by the students included building and clearing trails, installation of a table, and rebuilding the garden box in front of the school. Each day involved either a ‘check in’ or learning opportunity (e.g. Tick Safety, Tool Safety). Repurposed items were used for much of the project. The project also involved donations or involvement from area businesses or governmental entities. Two students (Carter and Silas) were present at the Board Meeting and advised regarding their favorite aspects of the projects.

5.2 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

There were no resignations, retirements or new hires presented.

5.3 Fitz-Vogt

No action.

5.4 SBAC & NECAP Scores

Five documents were distributed; A copy of the Power Point Presentation ‘Barre City School 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessment results (October 2, 2017), ‘Illustrating the gaps – English Language Arts’, ‘Illustrating the gaps – Math’, A document from the Vermont Agency of Education regarding School Performance, and an untitled report which documented detailed statistical information, broken down by grade, Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Other Characteristics. Mrs. Tolman addressed the Board advising that there are many different ways to look at the data, and proceeded to provide an overview of the data contained in the Power Point Presentation. It was noted that statewide scores have dropped. 1/3 of students show improvement, while 2/3 of students have declined in performance. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the ‘gaps’ documents and advised that she believes the gaps can be closed. It was noted that trends are consistent with previous years. Mr. Smith would like to see data documenting progression through the years. Mrs. Tolman advised that she will be performing deeper analysis. Implementation of Common Core and a new Math curriculum (Engaged New York) may have an impact on scores. Mrs. Spaulding advised that, based on the data contained in the reports, she would like to see more intervention. Mrs. Tolman advised that it would be beneficial to implement as much personalized learning as possible. Mr. Smith cautioned that SBAC assessments are only one test, and that there are other assessments performed that may show more positive results. Mr. Smith is most concerned with the large gaps in gender results and would like to address that issue by assuring that male students are more engaged. Mrs. Tolman advised that she is spending time in the schools each day to address areas of concern and it is her vision to continue guiding the work. It was noted that Math Nights are still occurring, with the next one slated for 10/04/17. The State would like identification of gaps and targets and hope to see improvement in overall scores. Mr. Deering expressed concern that ELA learning issues begin in the home and that there is no easy way to fix those issues. Higher expectations are needed both at school and in the home.

5.5 First Reading BSU Transportation Policy (F9)

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.5 through 5.8 were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that these policies were approved by the SU Board and were being presented this evening for approval of the First Readings.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Readings of the BSU Transportation Policy (F9), the BSU Student Clubs & Activities Policy (F33), and the BSU Community Use of School Facilities Policy (H3)

5.6 First Reading BSU Student Clubs & Activities Policy (F33)

Approved under Agenda Item 5.5

5.7 First Reading BSU Community Use of School Facilities Policy (H3)

Approved under Agenda Item 5.5

6. Old Business

6.1 Budget Development

6.1.1 Budget Survey

A document titled ‘Bare City School District 2017 BCEMS School Budget Survey’ was distributed. Mrs. Pregel advised regarding the draft budget survey and advised that it would be available on-line as well as within the school, including open house. In response to a concern regarding question “B” being premature, it was noted that the question is on the survey to help set a ‘baseline’. Completed surveys can be returned to BCEMS in person or via mail.

6.2 Board Communications

6.2.1 Listserv

Mr. Deering advised that he would present listserv information at the November meeting. Brief discussion was held regarding e-mail communications with parents. This year’s goal is to get systemic levels set up and perform training. Many staff members are involved in the phase-in of this implementation. More parent e-mail addresses need to be obtained and entered into the system. Mr. Pandolfo is confident that the various ‘pieces’ of the project have been identified and are being actively worked on.

6.2.2 Electronic Calendar

The list of those ‘tied’ to the calendar has been updated. The list will continue to be updated (additions/deletions), as appropriate. Three steps for implementation/ongoing usage are; 1. Share the calendar, 2. Send google invites at the time Agenda/Packets are sent out, and 3. Identify who controls the events calendar for each districts’ web page and implement procedures to see that they are notified and can updated the calendar in a timely fashion.

Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief recap of discussion at the BSU Board Meeting relating to the proposal submitted by Video Vision. The BSU Board agrees that a better foundation regarding communications needs to be determined prior to hiring someone to start a communication campaign. It was also suggested that the BSU consider hiring a Communications Specialist.

6.3 Act 46

Mrs. Spaulding advised that Act 46 'next steps' were discussed at the BSU Board Meeting. BTMES held a public forum, but has not yet made a final decision on which path to take going forward. The three options were outlined. The BCEMS Board has mixed feelings regarding how to proceed (do nothing, follow the wishes of the Barre City voters or form another 706 Study Committee). After extensive discussion, including deadlines for submissions and consolidation, requirements for tax incentives, possible negative impacts for Barre City residents/students, possible conflicts in the original Articles of Agreement, and other unmerged districts (Twinfield and Cabot) the Board agreed to postpone their decision until after learning how the BTMES Board wishes to proceed.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated September 25, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Statewide Education Fund, the upcoming Tri-Board Meeting (10/12/17), Negotiations, Act 46, and Federal Grants. A document titled 'Summary of the Education Fund (dated 08/30/17) was distributed. The BSU September Newsletter (for staff) was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the Summary of Education Fund document and advised that the State will most likely ask for budgets to be level funded. Given the state of the State Education Fund, the FY19 budget year is predicted to be very difficult.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated October 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; School Pictures, the Pre-kindergarten – grade 4 Open House (09/21/17), Parent Teacher Conferences (11/09/17), the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support system), the Backpack Program, the 'Walk to School' event (10/04/17), the annual PTO Fund Raiser, "Walk, Run, Fun" event (10/13/17), and an Enrollment Update. Mr. Dreiblatt provided an overview of the highlights of the report, including upcoming events.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

Minutes from the April 24, 2017 meeting were distributed. The Committee met on 10/01/17, prior to the Board meeting. Discussion included roofing issues and use of monies in the Security Budget Line Item. The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. The plowing RFP has been updated to reflect the cost per school. The cost for BCEMS has been changed to \$10,500.

7.3.2 Finance

Mrs. Pregent reported that the Business Manager has advised that there are many adjustments to be made to the financial reports. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

The BSU Curriculum Committee met on September 25, 2017 for discussion of Literacy.

The next BSU Curriculum meeting is Monday, October 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. Discussion will include Homework and Technology Hardware.

The BSU Finance Committee met on September 14, 2017. The next meeting is Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library.

Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding the formation of a BSU Transportation Committee. Mr. Pandolfo advised that this will be discussed at the BSU Board Meeting. It was noted that BTMES continues to work to smooth out the transition to contracted busing.

The BSU Policy Committee met on September 18, 2017. The next meeting is Monday, October 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd floor conference room. Topics for discussion will include Search/Seizure/Interrogation policies.

The Negotiations Committee reached a tentative agreement with para-educators on September 25, 2017. A Fact Finding Hearing will be held with Teacher representatives on October 25, 2017. Prior to that meeting, Mr. Pandolfo would like to meet with the Labor attorney and the Teacher Team to discuss a default health insurance plan.

7.4 Financial Report

A document titled 'BCEMS FY19 Budget Considerations (dated 09/26/17) was distributed. The BCMES General Fund Expense Summary Report (dated 09/24/17), and the BSU Budget FY18 Report (dated 09/24/17) were distributed. The Board was advised that the Business Manager has cautioned that the financial reports need to be updated as many adjustments need to be made.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Agenda Items: Budget Development, Communications, NECAP 4th/8th Grade Science Scores (when available for presentation)

Future Meetings:

Tri-Board Meeting – Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Policy Committee – Monday, October 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Room

BSU Curriculum Committee – Monday, October 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library

BCEMS Finance Committee – Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

BSU Finance Committee – Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BCEMS Regular Board Meeting – Monday, November 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Library

BCEMS Facility/Security Committee – Monday, November 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Mrs. Anderson advised regard Training for Special Educators (with John Tapper), and attendance at the VCSEA (Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators) Fall Conference that covered the topics of changes to assessment, grading, and feedback.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Labor Relations Agreements

Labor Relations Agreements (Negotiation Strategies) were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item 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 Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Chioli, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Dreiblatt in attendance, at 7:20 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 7:35 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin