



**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library

December 11, 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  
Sarah Pregent

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
Michael Dreiblatt, Principal – arrived at 5:33 p.m.  
James Taffel, Principal – arrived at 5:33 p.m.  
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager – departed at 5:58 p.m.

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Amelia Abraham	Paula Beaudet
Jane Richards	James Weselcouch		

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

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, December 11, 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**

Combine 6.4 Busing (Local and District) and 6.5 (Ridership)  
Add 6.6 Labor Relations  
Add 9.2 Personnel (Executive Session)

**3. Visitors and Communications**

Teacher representatives addressed the Board. Paula Beaudet read from a prepared statement advising that teachers would like to come to a settlement. Teachers have been working without a contract and would like to meet in the spirit of compromise to reach a settlement.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting.

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires**

There were no resignations, retirements, or new hires to discuss.

**5.2 Policy Rescinds: Transportation (EEA), Community Use of School Facilities (KGD), Student Participating in Extra-Curricular, Non-Credit Activities (JGA)**

A document identifying polices to be rescinded by SHS, BTMES, and BCEMS was distributed. The policies that are presented to be rescinded have been replaced by BSU policies F33, F9, and H3 which were ratified by the Board on 11/01/17. Copies of the policies presented for rescinding were distributed.

**On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to rescind the Transportation Policy (EEA), the Community Use of School Facilities Policy (KGD), and the Student Participating in Extra-Curricular, Non-Credit Activities Policy (JGA).**

### **5.3 Co-Principal Search**

A document titled 'Barre City Elementary School Principal Search Process and Timeline' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the document and advised that the names of para-educators (on the committee) will be added. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the timeline is somewhat ambitious, but he prefers to maintain the schedule with the goal of presenting a candidate at the February 2018 Board meeting. Board Members were advised to submit any questions they may have to Mr. Pandolfo or Carol Marold (Human Resources Coordinator). Mrs. Spaulding requested that plenty of advance notice be given for the parent forum. Brief discussion was held in response to a query regarding why Mr. Taffel is not a member of the hiring committee. Additional discussion will take place later.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 Budget Development**

Five documents were distributed; BCEMS FY19 Budget Considerations (12/11/17), 'FY19 Proposed BUDGET Draft #2', 'Ballot Language', 'Sec. 33. 16 V.S.A. 563:', '5 Contributing Factors Affecting Tax Rate', and '2017 Comparison of Education Spending/Equalized Pupils in Neighboring/Comparable Schools'. Mrs. Perreault addressed the Board advising that based on feedback on Draft #1, Administrators and the Finance Committee have made adjustments to the budget. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the adjustments, as outlined on the Budget Considerations document. Mrs. Perreault advised that the BSU Board will make a decision on 12/21/17 regarding a possible change to the Special Education model. Mrs. Perreault provided some background regarding the possible change from 3 SPED Directors to 2. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding other SPED reductions relating to the SHS assessment. Mrs. Perreault advised regarding the Curriculum Specialist positions that have historically been funded through grant monies. The positions may no longer be grant funded. The BSU is waiting to hear from the State regarding changes to grant funding. This has been a very challenging year with regards to CFP grants, with the Agency of Education being stricter on oversight and scrutinizing investments. It was noted that there was more carryover money from FY2017. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the FY19 cost per pupil (\$13,158) which represents an increase of 5.8%. Based on the outcome of the BSU Finance Committee meeting, the BCEMS assessment may go down. It was noted that the FY19 Draft #2, does not include any increase for salary and benefits increases. An overview of the Comparison document shows that BCEMS and BTMES continue to have one of the lowest cost per-pupil amounts in the state. The BCEMS Board should approve the budget at their January 8, 2018 meeting so that it can be presented to the Barre City Council on 01/16/18 or 01/23/18. The State should be providing the 'pupil count' (2 year weighted average) soon. It was noted that the next BCEMS Finance Committee meeting will be 12/18/17, and this is the last scheduled meeting before the budget is to be presented to the BCEMS Board. Mrs. Spaulding expressed her appreciation for the efforts put forth to reduce the budget.

### **6.2 Board Communications**

Mr. Deering will contact Technology Director Diane Stacy regarding what BCEMS would like to do for a listserv, and will ask for the name of an alternate point person.

A change in the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires that the school's web page be ADA compliant (text to speech) by 01/01/18. Brief discussion was held regarding convertible PDFs and convertible Word documents. It was noted that formats loaded to the web site should not be editable. Mrs. Spaulding voiced concern that BCEMS is not communicating effectively with the public and would like to see implementation of procedures and training.

Mr. Pandolfo advised he has been working with an independent contractor, Ben Merrill, to develop a promotional type flier. Many employees have been working hard to assist with input for this project which involves production of a 16 page landscaped flier which highlights many positive attributes of the district schools. The flier which also includes an abbreviated Superintendent's Report will most likely be distributed with budget information. Distribution will most likely take place in late February or early March 2018. A decision will need to be made regarding what/how budget information should be included. The cost of printing is approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Deering queried regarding the use of students / student interns, to produce these types of documents. It was noted that students may be able to perform some PR work in the future, but this project required the hiring of an outside vendor.

### **6.3 Act 46**

A copy of a revised draft letter (dated 12/15/17) to Rebecca Holcombe and Krista Huling, from the BCEMS, BTMES, and SHS Board Chairs, was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the requirement for the letter, and changes made at the request of the BTMES Board. Mr. Pandolfo is requesting that the Board approve the letter and authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter. Both BTMES and SHS Boards have approved the letter. Mr. Pandolfo would like to mail the letter this Friday.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to approve the letter and authorized the BCEMS Board Chair to sign the letter.**

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a document titled 'Act 46 Study Committee', which included a copy of '16 V.S.A. § 706. Proposal to form study committee' and the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the Study Committee budget and membership structure. The budget is for legal expenses, and possible video and scribe work. Mr. Pandolfo recommends a budget of \$5000, to be split equally between BCEMS and BTMES, and advises that the Committee be made up of 'up to' 14 members (7 from each Barre City and Barre Town), and by statute, must include at least one Board Member from each of the Boards (BCEMS and BTMES). It was noted that membership on the Committee must have equal representation from both Barre City and Barre Town.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 706 Study Committee budget (\$5000 total – to be split equally between BCEMS and BTMES), and Committee structure (up to 14 members, with equal representation from Barre City and Barre Town, including at least one Board Member from each Board.**

The Board agreed to postpone assignment of Committee members. Committee openings have been, and continue to be advertised on Front Porch Forum, Face Book, and Twitter. Community members are encouraged to apply. Barre City currently has 2 interested community members. This item will be added to the January 2018 Agenda.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the timeline and reiterated that the 706 Study Committee, not the individual Boards, will be making the decision on whether or not to submit a consolidation plan to the State. Mr. Pandolfo advised that grant money is not available to fund the activities of the Committee, and stressed that the Committee is responsible for the work involved and that the Superintendent's role is limited to support.

#### **6.4 Busing (Local and District) and Ridership**

Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding consistency between morning and afternoon routes, route efficiency, and whether or not the buses are full. Mr. Pandolfo advised that a list has been developed for each bus, to assure that all students can be accommodated. Efficiency in busing has been discussed by the BCEMS Finance Committee and the BSU Finance Committee. Mr. Dreiblatt advised that it has been determined that there is very little savings to be achieved by combining runs. Mr. Taffel advised that the transportation coordinator is gathering ridership figures and noted that each student is assigned a bus and a bus stop. Mrs. Spaulding recommends that this issue be handled by the Facilities/Security Committee. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding ways to make busing more efficient and suggested that all BCEMS and BTMES bus routes be reviewed to determine if they can be made more efficient. Another suggestion is to have all students on the same schedule or align start and stop times. Mrs. Spaulding would like the transportation coordinator to start gathering information, and advised she would like cost cutting changes implemented next year. Given that ridership on the middle school routes is low, would it be possible to delete one middle school route and perform a late run (4:00 p.m.)? Mrs. Anderson queried regarding requirements for supervision of students who would be waiting for the 4:00 p.m. bus.

#### **~~6.5 Ridership~~ – Combined with 6.4**

#### **6.6 Labor Relations**

A document titled 'Barre Supervisory Union Summary of Fact Finding Report' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that an post Fact Finding, Executive Session meeting was held on November 30, 2017, where agreement was made regarding premiums, but not on the out of pocket amount. The Association is asking for a 4 year contract. The Fact Finding Report advises a 2 year agreement.

### **7. Board Reports**

#### **7.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated November 29, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Governor's 2017 Education Summit, Negotiations, Act 46, the Director of Technology Search, and Administrator Evaluations. Three additional documents were distributed; a letter from Governor Phil Scott (dated 11/29/17), a document titled 'Governor's 2017 Education Summit – Building the Nation's Best Education System; Cradle-to-Career – Monday, December 18th, 2017', and the agenda for the Education Summit. Mr. Pandolfo reminded Board Members of the Governor's Summit, which is next Monday (12/18/17). Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the memorandum from the District Management Group (Cohort 2) and shared the 5 summary items. Mr. Pandolfo provided additional information relating to negotiations. Mr. Pandolfo provided a walk-through of the Fact Finding Summary Report, and provided information regarding the 10 day confidentiality window and the 30 day window that must be met before any action can be taken (Conditions imposed by Administration or a strike by teachers) Mr. Pandolfo advised that an interim health insurance agreement has been reached. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo reported that interviews for the Technology Director will begin this week and that Administrator evaluations are starting. The January agenda should include an Executive Session for evaluations. Mrs. Spaulding reminded Board Members to complete the feedback forms they have received.

#### **7.2 Principals Report**

A copy of the Co-Principals' report for December 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Literacy and Math Assessments, the 'Reading to end Racism' initiative, and Winter Band/Chorus Concerts (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade on 12/07/17, and the Grade 3 concert on 12/13/17 at 6:00 p.m.). Mr. Dreiblatt advised that the concert last Thursday, was a big success. Mr. Taffel reported on today's NIC training (Network Improvement Communities) which included representatives from 4 school districts.

Additionally, Mr. Taffel reiterated the importance of Tier I Instruction, including appropriate training and support for staff (including the identification of barriers and root causes of issues). Mr. Taffel reported that 29 volunteers came to BCEMS to read as part of the Reading to end Racism program. Readers were very enthusiastic and look forward to coming back to BCEMS.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

#### **7.3.1 Facility/Security**

Minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting were distributed. The next agenda will include busing, transportation, and testing water for lead. Testing will be performed soon.

The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2018 at **4:30** p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

#### **7.3.2 Finance**

Mrs. Pregent advised that the next meeting will include comparing FY18 expenses to the budget, revisions to the FY19 budget draft, and reviewing results from the budget survey.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the **BCEMS Library**.

#### **7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees**

Minutes from all BSU Committee meetings were previously sent to all Board Members.

#### **BSU Curriculum Committee -**

The Committee met on November 27, 2017. Mr. Smith provided a brief overview of the last meeting, which centered on Science curriculum, including the switch to NGSS Standards, the CVCC STEM Coordinator (and the possibility of working with middle school students).

Upcoming meetings are:

Monday, January 2, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) will be the topic of discussion.

Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. Social Studies and Social/Emotional curriculum will be the topic of discussion.

#### **BSU Policy Committee -**

The last meeting was on November 20, 2017. Mrs. Chioldi advised that though not all committee members were present, the Committee was able to approve 5 policy drafts which will be presented to the BSU Board as First Readings.

The next meeting is Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Room

#### **BSU Finance Committee -**

The last meeting was on December 5, 2017.

The next meeting is Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

#### **BSU Board –**

The next meeting is Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library.

### **7.4 Financial Report**

The BCEMS FY18 Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report dated 11/27/17 was distributed. There is currently an unaudited projected deficit of \$138,255. This item is not on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting. It was noted that if there is a positive result on Title I funds, they won't be applied retroactively. There is no great hope that news will be received prior to the next meeting date. This has been an extremely challenging year for receiving grant information.

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

### Future Agenda Items:

Open Board Seats

Executive Session for Administrator Evaluations

Facilities Report - Repairs to exterior walls (white sections) & Roof Repairs

Student Presentation

Budget Vote

Audit Presentation

PBIS Data – presentation of data (including comparisons to previous years) by Pierre Laflamme

Teacher to Student / Staff to Student ratios (State results and the calculation used by the State to determine ratios)

At this time, BCEMS does not have a Penguin Plunge Team. Unified Sports continues, with winter Snowshoeing and Bocce in the spring.

### **Future Meetings:**

BCEMS Finance Committee – Monday, December 18, 2017 at 4:00 in the **BCEMS Library**.

BSU Policy Committee – Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

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

BSU Curriculum Committee – Monday, January 2, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BCEMS Facility/Security Committee – Monday, January 8, 2018 at **4:30 p.m.** in the BCEMS Conference Room

BCEMS Regular Board Meeting – Monday, January 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Library

BSU Finance Committee – Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

## **9. Executive Session**

### **9.1 Labor Relations Agreements**

### **9.2 Personnel**

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

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items 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 Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Dreiblatt, and Mr. Taffel 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 Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chiodi, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:20p.m.**

## **10. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea Poulin*