

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
February 12, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Deering

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Pierre Laflamme, Assistant Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus Hayden Coon Tyler Kimberly Carol Marold

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, February 12, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 5:33 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

5.1 Student Presentation – Postponed
5.5 Audit Presentation – Will be discussed at the beginning of New Business
9.1 Principal Interviews – Will take place after Agenda Item 3.0 (Visitors and Communications)
7.3.1 Facility/Security Committee – The next meeting should be listed as April 2, 2018 (time and place remain as listed).

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

Agenda Item 9.1 – Principal Interview was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, Mrs. Anderson, Ms. Marold, and Hayden Coon in attendance, at 5:35 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 5:55 p.m.

A community member, who arrived after this agenda item, spoke after Agenda Item 7.3.3. The community member urged the Board to carefully consider candidates during the Co-principal interview process, and stressed that she feels that candidates need to have extensive experience and have a good understanding of what is going on in the school.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2018 Special Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2018 Special Meeting.

4.3 Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Student Presentation

Postponed.

5.2 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

A letter of resignation from Denise Martin was distributed. Mrs. Martin plans to retire at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year. It was noted that Mrs. Martin has been a teacher at BCEMS for 32 years. Mr. Pandolfo and Mr. Taffel praised Mrs. Martin as one who has continuously gone above and beyond in her duties, has always been open to, and embraced new ideas, has an outstanding ability to connect with students and parents, and overall has done a phenomenal job at BCEMS.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to accept with regrets and best wishes, the resignation of Denise Martin.

5.3 PBIS

Screen prints from a Power Point Presentation titled ‘Behavior and Support Systems and Use of Data’ were distributed. Pierre LaFlamme addressed the Board advising that the goal of the presentation was to provide the Board with a good snapshot of the highlights of the Behavior and Support Systems currently in place and to provide an overview of the data and how it is used. Mr. LaFlamme proceeded with the Power Point presentation, noting a significant change that occurs when students move from 4th grade to 5th grade. There has historically been an increase in incidents when students transfer to middle school. It was noted that there are very few instances that occur in Pre-kindergarten. It was confirmed that the data, as reported, indicates the number of incidents, not the number of students (e.g., one student could have a high number of incidents). It was noted that it is important to identify specific classrooms that need very specific expectations. It was reported that some teachers are now processing some issues in the classroom, rather than referring students (e.g. TAB out – take a break) to the Support Room. There is zero tolerance for peer aggression and defiance. Defiant behavior is broken into minor and major categories. Major defiance includes throwing of objects and tipping over desks. The lower levels of defiance are usually dealt with in the classroom. Certain behaviors result in ‘work’ by students. The work assigned is not a punishment, but rather is assigned as a way to make up for actions and contribute positively to the school. Mr. LaFlamme advised regarding data integrity and noted that data integrity is subject to many factors, including; coding issues, changes to intervention strategies, timely completion of referrals, and consistency amongst staff regarding referrals. It was noted that students that are in ‘outside placement’, are not included in the data, though data for these students is regularly shared with each students’ team. Mrs. Spaulding would like to see aggregated data for outplaced students to assist with determining if students are being dealt with effectively and to confirm if providers are meeting expectations. Though some data is broken out by ethnicity, the data is not currently sorted based on other factors such as housing status, IEPs, etc. Mr. LaFlamme advised that data integrity involves his thorough review of all data, confirmation that the presented issues are accurate, and educating staff. Mr. LaFlamme has disaggregated the data by the different reasons for utilization of the Support Room. Mr. Cecchinelli thought it would be beneficial to have 4 years of data provided. Mr. Smith queried regarding possible training needs to assure that teachers are calibrating data, and staying motivated to continue doing so.

5.4 VSBA Video

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has sent Board Members a link to the video. The video provides an overview of the current education funding system. A link will be put on the web site and possibly on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Board Members were encouraged to watch the video. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she has watched the video and it is very informative.

5.5 Audit Presentation

A copy of a letter from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC (dated 01/05/18) was distributed. A document for BCEMS, titled ‘Financial Statements June 30, 2017 And Independent Auditor’s Report’ was distributed. Mr. Kimberly addressed the Board, and encouraged Board Members to offer comments and ask questions as he provided an overview of the Audit Report. Mr. Kimberly advised that the audit process began in October and concluded in December. The audit went smoothly and there were no findings. It was noted that the inter-district activity took longer than expected to reconcile. Mr. Kimberly proceeded to provide an overview of the letter and of two reports; the Financial Statements Report (Operations), and the Internal Control and Compliance Report. It was announced that there were no deficiencies, and no instances of non-compliance. Mr. Kimberly answered questions from the Board, including those relating to depreciation, and pension liability. Mr. Kimberly encouraged Board Members to contact him or

Mr. Mudgett should any other questions arise. Mr. Pandolfo thanked Mr. Kimberly for stepping in for Mr. Mudgett. Mr. Kimberly and Mrs. Perreault were thanked for their efforts conducting the audit.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Audit Report as presented.

5.6 First Reading Scholarship Awards Policy (E31)

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.6 through 5.10 were distributed. It was noted that all of the policies presented as First Readings, were adopted by the BSU Board on 01/18/18.

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Scholarship Awards Policy (E31).

5.7 First Reading Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement Policy (E24)

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement Policy (E24).

5.8 First Reading Capitalization of Assets Policy (E23)

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Capitalization of Assets Policy (E23).

5.9 First Reading Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement Policy (F11)

It was noted that the BSU Board thoroughly reviewed the policy prior to adopting it. There was also lengthy discussion by the Policy Committee and the policy was reviewed by counsel prior to being sent to the BSU Board for approval.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement Policy (F11).

5.10 First Reading Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Student by School Personnel Policy (F4)

It was noted that the BSU Board also thoroughly reviewed this policy prior to adopting it. This policy also involved lengthy discussion by the Policy Committee and was well vetted by VSBA, VSBIT and legal counsel. A letter reiterating Mr. Deering's opposition to the policy was read to the Board. It was noted that the Handbook is not signed off on by parents or students. Mrs. Spaulding advised that Mr. Deering's opinion is respected, but that the policy has been vetted by VSBA, VSBIT, and BSU Counsel. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she would hesitate to re-write a policy that has already been reviewed by attorneys and other organizations. Mrs. Chioldi advised that cell phone searches do not happen frequently.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Student by School Personnel Policy (F4).

6. Old Business

6.1 Budget Development

Mr. Pandolfo advised that Board Representatives have met with both the Barre City Council and the Barre Town Select Board for budget presentations, including an overview of the budget highlights. The presentations were very informative and included an overview of the Budget Highlights document. This document will be posted on the website and the Highlights document, as well as the Tax Sheet will be used to supplement the color brochure. Copies will also be available at the BSU, district schools, and at other venues. The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. As the Board will not meet again until after the vote, Mrs. Spaulding encouraged the public to vote in person or by absentee ballot. Community members were encouraged to contact Board Members with any questions.

6.2 Board Communications

Mr. Pandolfo advised that those who worked with Ben Morrill to create the color brochure reviewed the document last Friday. Distribution of the brochure will begin in the near future. Mr. Pandolfo can send a copy of the brochure via e-mail if necessary.

6.3 Act 46

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the first meeting (an organizational meeting) of the Act 46, 706 Study Committee, will be held on February 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library. A copy of the proposed agenda has been sent to Committee Members. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Secretary of Education has a deadline of June 1, 2018 to submit a Statewide Plan to the State Board of Education. The Secretary of Education is holding meetings with involved districts, but because of the formation of the new 706 Study Committee, does not feel that the BSU needs to meet with her at this time. Mr. Pandolfo will share this, and other information at the organizational Study Committee Meeting.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 27, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Negotiations, Act 46, ALICE Training, Director of Technology Search, Administrator Evaluations, and the Promotional Flyer. Mr. Pandolfo had nothing to add to the report. There were no questions from the Board.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated February 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; State Level Assessments, the celebration of Reading and Writing Month (February), the upcoming Literacy Author and Appetizer Night (02/15/18 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.), the return of Camp Invention, and the Girls on the Run Program. A document from the AOE titled 'Vermont's New Statewide Physical Education Assessment: FAQ' was distributed. Mr. Taffel advised regarding new assessments resulting from the ESSA Act, including Physical Education assessments for 4th and 7th graders. Additional information is included in the FAQs document. It was noted that the State will be financing the cost of the software license. This will be a pilot year for the new Science assessments, though the results may be used in part, towards proficiency ratings. Mr. Taffel advised that given the newness of the building, he does not anticipate any issues with water testing (for lead). The testing is performed at no cost, though there will be 'time related' costs as custodial staff will need to perform testing on weekends. Mr. Taffel provided additional information regarding the February Reading & Writing Celebration, including the Author and Appetizer night. As part of the month long celebration, Mr. Taffel will be dressing in costume and visiting classrooms to read.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

The January 8, 2018 meeting was cancelled. A new DVR has been purchased (to be used in conjunction with the security cameras). Air quality testing has been performed and all elements tested within acceptable limits. The roof 'site visit' by contractors occurred on February 5, 2018. The project has not gone out to bid yet. It is anticipated that there will be 5 bidders. Next meeting: Monday, April 6, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

7.3.2 Finance

Minutes of the January 2, 2018 meeting were distributed. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

Minutes from all BSU Committee Meetings were previously distributed. There has been little Committee activity since early January. The BSU Curriculum Committee will not be meeting until March. Due to other commitments, Mrs. Pregent will be leaving the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Choildi has agreed to take her place on that Committee.

The next BSU Policy Meeting will be Monday, February 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting location will be announced.

The next meeting of the BSU Finance Committee is to be announced.

7.4 Financial Report

The BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary Report and BSU Expenditures FY18 Report were distributed. Data will be reviewed at the next BCEMS Finance Committee Meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Future Agenda Items:

- Board Re-organization
- Student Presentation
- Second and Final Readings (and Ratification) of Policies

Mr. Taffel advised that the 100th day of school was celebrated. Mr. Taffel was costumed as Zero the Hero and had a wonderful experience with kindergarten students.

Mrs. Pregent encouraged community members to get out and vote.

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Unified Sports Snowshoe competition will be held on 03/21/18 at PICO.

Mrs. Chioldi advised that the morning drop-off is very congested and there is much frustration amongst parents. Mr. Taffel agrees that Mrs. Chioldi's description portrays an accurate observation, and believes that perhaps speed bumps may be beneficial. Additionally, Mr. Taffel advised that a traffic expert has reviewed the issue and advised regarding a possible re-design.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that much discussion has been held regarding this topic, and that the solution requires funding and staffing.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Principal Interviews

9.2 Personnel

Personnel Items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, Mrs. Anderson, and Ms. Marold in attendance, at 7:56 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. Chioldi, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:23 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board voted 4 to 1 to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Hayden Coon for the Elementary Principal Position. Mr. Cecchinelli voted against the motion.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin