

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
June 11, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair – departed at 6:45 p.m.
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Jennifer Chioldi
Michael Deering
Sarah Pregent
Chris Riddell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Jaimie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Hayden Coon	Chris Hennessey
Kim Smith	BethWallace		

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, June 11, 2018, 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

5.1 – Student Presentation – Delete – will be kept in as a place holder.
6.4 – Discuss out of order, after Agenda Item 4.2
PTO Meeting discussion will be added into the Superintendent’s Report.

3. Visitors and Communications

Mrs. Spaulding presented Mr. Taffel with two painted photographs by local artist Shannon Alexander. One photo will remain at the school; the other is a gift for Mr. Taffel. The Board wishes to thank Mr. Taffel for his many years of dedicated service and wish him well in his retirement.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2018 Regular Meeting.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the May 17, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Student Presentation

5.2 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

No resignations or retirement letter were submitted for consideration.

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Allison Courtemanche (Special Educator), Melissa Wiggins (7/8 Social Studies), Allison Fellows (Special Educator), and Molly Emerson (3/4 Literacy Teacher loop) were distributed.

Mr. Pandolfo and Mrs. Anderson provided an overview of Allison Courtemanche's education and experience and advised that this is a 'replacement' position, rather than a 'new position' as indicated on the status form. This Special Educator position will replace multiple positions (individuals who retired), and is budget neutral.

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Allison Courtemanche.

As this is a Special Educator position, the hiring of Ms. Courtemanche will be put before the BSU Board for approval. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Melissa Wiggins's education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Melissa Wiggins.

Mr. Pandolfo has interviewed an excellent candidate for the Occupational Therapist position. All Regular Education Elementary positions have been filled. There is one middle school position open and one more Special Educator position to fill. Mr. Taffel provided an overview of some of the staff changes (in-house personnel changes / movement of staff). Mr. Taffel praised the work of Stacy Anderson, who has been working with challenging caseloads, and has been deeply involved in the hiring process (including recruitment and interviews). Mrs. Anderson was lauded for her "persistence, endurance, and dedication for getting the best for the kids, and completing everything with the same high level of quality".

Mr. Pandolfo and Mrs. Anderson provided an overview of Allison Fellows's education and experience.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Riddell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Allison Fellows.

Mr. Pandolfo and Mr. Taffel provided an overview of Molly Emerson's education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Molly Emerson.

5.3 FY20 Maintenance Budget Consideration

A document titled 'Budget Considerations for Capital Improvement Fund' was distributed. Mr. Evans, provided an overview of the document, advising of projects that will need to be completed to maintain the aging building. Though the building is well maintained, there is a responsibility to take care of the overall building and try to avoid bonds for deferred maintenance. Mr. Evans feels that budgeting should be more proactive. Mr. Evans advised regarding the industry standard of budgeting one dollar per square foot and noted that this budgeting methodology has been used successfully at SHS for approximately 10 years. Over the course of those 10 years, the SHS building has improved immensely. Using the industry standard, BCEMS should budget approximately \$126,000 per year. The current annual maintenance budget of \$30,000 cannot keep up with required maintenance. Mr. Evans also noted that roof projects have almost depleted the Capital Improvement Fund. Acknowledging that budgets are challenging, Mr. Evans respectfully requests that the Board consider his proposal during budget deliberations.

Drawings of the existing bus loop and proposed reconfiguration of the bus loop were distributed. Mr. Evans provided an overview of the documents and asked the Board to consider some changes if funds are available. Mr. Evans believes the project is doable, even if it needs to be done in phases. The project would cost approximately \$30,000, and would increase student safety. Student drop-off/pick-up by parents would also be improved though the final details still need to be worked out.

5.4 FY19 Revenue Anticipation Note

A document titled 'FY19 Revenue Anticipation Note Comparison 5/14/18' was distributed. It is the Superintendent's recommendation to utilize Community Bank for the Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN).

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and agreed to contract with Community Bank for the Revenue Anticipation Note for FY2019.

The required document was circulated for Board Member signatures.

5.5 Negotiations Update

A negotiation session was held with para-educators on May 30, 2018. The purpose of the first session was to set ground rules and goals. Ground rules have not been agreed to. Two additional sessions have been scheduled; 06/14/18 and 07/12/18. Mr. Pandolfo would prefer not to start the year without an Agreement. It is late in the year to begin negotiations. Mr. Pandolfo would like a 2 year Agreement if possible. If a one year Agreement is put in place, negotiations would have to begin almost immediately to be ready for FY 20.

5.6 Ratification of AFSCME Agreement

A document titled 'Highlights of Tentative Negotiated Agreement – Barre SU AFSCME Agreement – May 9, 2018' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the 'Highlights' document, and advised that future negotiations will involve negotiations

with one unit (BC/BT/SHS), rather than the current two units (BC/SHS, and BT). Mr. Pandolfo requested that the Board approve ratification of the AFSCME Agreement. The BSU Board is slated to approve the Agreement at next week's meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the AFSCME Agreement.

5.7 Authorization for Approval Superintendent's Recommendation for Dishwasher RFP

A document titled 'RFP Results for HOBART DISHWASHER' was distributed. Mr. Evans advised that the proposed dishwasher is energy star rated and should pay for itself in 4 years. The funds to purchase the dishwasher are coming out of profits from the food service program. The school may try to sell the old dishwasher. The Superintendent recommends purchasing the new dishwasher from Kittredge Foodservice Equipment & Supplies, Bow, NH.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to purchase a new dishwasher from Kittredge Foodservice Equipment & Supplies of Bow, NH.

6. Old Business

6.1 Board Communications

Notification was received on June 1st that the BSU has been awarded the Technology Assistance Grant. Formation of a Communications Committee will be discussed at the BSU Board Meeting. The goal of the grant is to provide technical assistance and guidance relating to communications, and to assist with the creation of site-based councils. A ½ FTE Communications Specialist (Ben Merrill) will be employed beginning 07/01/18. Mr. Taffel advised that Mr. Merrill produced the budget brochure and recently created a transition piece, including a timeline of Mr. Taffel's career in the Barre City school system. A copy of the transitional document was distributed.

6.2 A.L.I.C.E. & School Security

Mr. Pandolfo advised that training is proceeding as planned. The Tri-Board trained on 05/17/18. Central Office training will occur in June. Additional trainers will be trained in June also. The BSU has purchased a one year subscription for the on-line training program. Up to 600 individuals can utilize the 1 ½ hour on-line program, which will be followed up with 1 ½ hours of scenario training. Training can take place as part of professional development. Meetings are being held regarding a plan to train students.

On June 1, 2018 the State Safety Grant information was released. The grant allows for a maximum of \$25,000 per school. Mr. Evans is starting to work on the grant application, and is identifying items the schools should purchase/install. The grant requires a 1 to 4 match. If each school receives \$25,000, the schools will each need to spend \$6,250. The grant is more complex than originally thought. Grants will be awarded by priority at the State level. The State wants the grant to support schools with low security levels, so that they can catch up with schools with more stringent security (get all schools on the same page). It is hoped that the schools in the BSU will qualify for the grant, but given the currently level of security in our schools, we may not qualify. No work can be started before the grants are awarded.

6.3 Act 46

Mr. Smith advised that the Draft Statewide Plan has been released. Information relating to the Draft Plan was in the Times Argus. It is recommended that U32 merge. Barre was not addressed in the Draft Plan. Questions remain regarding Twinfield, Cabot, and Danville. The State is waiting to see the result of the current Study Committee and possible vote. If a voluntary merge is not approved, it is possible that Twinfield would be merged with Barre, or an even larger SU could be created, include Barre, Cabot, Danville, and Twinfield. The Articles of Agreement have been being discussed at the Committee Meetings and revised draft Articles have been written for review by the Committee. At the last Committee Meeting, quite a few Barre Town residents spoke out against holding another vote. The overall message from those community members was that they do not want another vote and are not interested in viewing revised Articles of Agreement. Mr. Smith feels it is very sad that so much negativity is being generated, and that students are at the center of it all. At the meeting, a document was distributed for Committee review and discussion. The document is potential negative aspects of merging, and was crafted by Barre Town School Board Member Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins and Barre Town Resident Jeff Blow. All of these documents are available on-line. A review of page 137 of the Draft Plan indicates that Barre Town residents' community sentiment will not stop or prevent a forced merger. The feeling by some on the Committee is that if Barre Town residents are frustrated at the thought of a voluntary merger, they will most likely be more frustrated with a State forced merger. More local control will be lost if Barre is merged with other districts. Some of the Barre Town residents at the meeting requested that the Committee disband and want to apply for a 'waiver'. It was explained numerous times that there is no such thing as a waiver and that the deadline has passed for submitting a Section 9 Alternative Structure proposal. If the Committee disbands, BCEMS can either 'do nothing', or they can make an argument to the State regarding how BCEMS would like to be structured. It was noted that a vote date in November has implications, as the State has a deadline of 11/30/18 to produce the Final Statewide Plan. Given legally required timelines for petitions for re-votes, it may not be possible to meet State deadlines. If the State does not approve a November vote, there will be a serious time crunch in which to hold a vote. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of upcoming deadlines and advised regarding upcoming State Board of Education Regional Meetings being held to collect local testimony on the Draft Statewide Act 46 Merger Plan; 07/18/18 – Newark School (Caledonia County), 08/15/18 – Statehouse in Montpelier, and 09/19/18 – Green

Mountain High School – Chester, VT. The next Act 46 706 Study Committee Meeting is on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library.

6.4 Mentoring Program – Kim Smith Coordinator of Everybody Wins Mentoring Program

Beth Wallace, Executive Director of Everybody Wins VT, and Kim Smith, the Barre Site Coordinator, addressed the Board. Everybody Wins VT is a statewide mentoring program with 21 schools. The program has been running since 2000. BCEMS was one of the first sites. Ms. Wallace provided an overview of the mentoring program and its goals to connect with the community, help students build relationships with safe caring adults, and connect community members to the school. This year there were 11 pairings of mentors and students. The goal is to have 30 to 40 pairings. The program is run without involving school staff. The program adheres to the National Standards for Mentoring. Mentors are interviewed, are provided a school orientation, and are matched with students. All mentors are screened. Each week, mentors spend 45 minutes to an hour having lunch and reading to students. The organization is trying to recruit new members and will be present at the Barre Heritage Festival as part of the recruiting activities. Board Members were encouraged to become mentors. The Everybody Wins Mentoring Program is based on a research based model that proves the importance of reading to children. Research shows that students gain more when they are being read to, as opposed to when they read to themselves. Ms. Smith asked the Board to help spread the word about this beneficial program. Informational documents were distributed, and brief discussion was held regarding attendance expectations for volunteers. Mr. Taffel and the Board thanked Ms. Wallace and Ms. Smith for attending the meeting and for the terrific service their program provides to the children at BCEMS.

6.5 PK-4 & Middle School Health

There is no plan to put this program in place for the 2018/2019 school year. The team will continue to look into alignment of curriculum and possibly add this program to budget discussions. It was noted that National Health Standards Assessments are on middle school report cards, but there is nothing related to the Standards on elementary school report cards.

6.6 Second and Final Reading BSU Transportation Policy (F9)

A copy of the policy was distributed.

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the BSU Transportation Policy (F9), and agreed to ratify said policy.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's Report dated May 31, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Negotiations, the Legislative Session, Act 46, School Safety, and Employment Contracts. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of anticipated allocations of Title grant monies that will be received. Discussion included an update on finger printing and background checks for chaperones. It was noted that if a chaperone is under the supervision of another adult, finger printing and background checks are not necessary. If not under supervision, finger printing and background checks are required. There is concern about the loss of chaperones, given the process that must be undertaken. It was noted that the ultimate goal is that no student is with an unsupervised adult unless all the required safety checks have been completed. It will be important to ensure that parents are given ample time to complete the necessary steps far in advance of events where they will be chaperoning. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the list of 'offenses' that would make a parent ineligible to chaperone or attend field trips. Lengthy discussion was held which encompassed some of the complex factors and considerations relating to background checks.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Principal's report dated June 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; SBAC Testing, "Meet the New Principal" meetings, summer literacy programs, summer school, the Food Shelf program, Field Day activities, the kindergarten graduation ceremony, 8th Grade Step-up Night, and Mr. Taffel's expression of appreciation to all, for providing him the opportunity to serve Barre City's children and families for many years. Mr. Taffel announced he was giving his 'last' Principal's Report, noting that students are enjoying end of year field trips, and remain focused and engaged. Mr. Taffel has facilitated new principals/staff exposure to each other in an effort to assist them getting to know each other. Teachers have documented questions for the principals to review over the summer, including ideas for professional development. Teachers advised why they chose to teach at BCEMS. Pictures of staff with name tags were provided, and a 'speed date' type of meet and greet was held. Mr. Coon and Mr. Hennessey liked the personal nature of the event and noted consistency in the reasons teachers choose to work at BCEMS. The format was welcoming. Mr. Taffel advised that summer school is scheduled to meet the 20 day Federal requirement. The Summer Food Program will continue this year. Cooking will be done at SHS, but food will be served to children in the BCMES lunch room. On the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, the Food Bank will be on school grounds, from 2:15 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., providing fresh food for anyone who needs it. A copy of a sample letter to parents and corresponding sample FitnessGram Report was distributed. Mr. Taffel provided an overview of the documents which provided samples of reporting for 3 different students as well as how overall results are reported for various grades. Mr. Taffel read the closing from his 'last Principal's Report', and advised that 'it's been quite a ride', he's excited to retire, but will miss his 'family' at BCEMS. A copy of 'A Fond Farewell' was distributed. The document contains a farewell letter from Mr. Taffel, a documentary of Mr. Taffel's 'long and proud' history in the Barre City school system, and an introduction to the two new principals, Hayden Coon and Chris Hennessey.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

Minutes from the May 7, 2018 meeting were distributed. Mr. Coon attended the latest meeting, which included discussion of the installation of a glass partition, and a parking lot tour that included a review of the bus lanes. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

7.3.2 Finance

Minutes from the May 22, 2018 meeting were distributed.

Discussion included how to 'make up' a deficit, Summer Projects, RFPs, and a review of the Comparative Tax Rate document which indicates the expected increase is 2 cents lower than originally projected. The BCEMS Community Garden needs to be added into future budgets. The Tax Stabilization Fund will be close to zero.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

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 Monday, June 4, 2018. Discussion included an overview of the Pre-K – 12 grade Social Studies Curriculum, including the new C3 Framework Standards that have been adopted by the State, and Community Service Graduation Requirements for SHS. The next meeting is Monday, August 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BSU Policy Committee -

The BSU Policy Committee met on May 21, 2018. Discussion included a brief overview of possible BTMES local level policies, questions related to CVCC policies which were discussed in the past, but may not have been approved, a review of SHS policies that are not BSU policies, and discussion on how to proceed with VSBA recommended policies.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Central Office in the 2nd Floor Conference Area.

BSU Finance Committee -

The last BSU Finance Committee Meeting was held on March 28, 2018.

The next meeting is slated for Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

7.4 Financial Report

Four reports were distributed; BCEMS General Fund Revenue Summary Report (dated 06/05/18), the BCEMS FY18 Expenditure/Year-end Projection Report (dated 06/11/18), the BCEMS General Fund Expense Report (dated 06/05/18), and the BSU Expenditures – FY18 Report (dated 06/05/18). BCEMS has an unaudited projected deficit of \$44,208.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be Monday, August 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Library.

Agenda Items will include:

Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

Negotiations

Act 46

A.L.I.C.E. & School Safety

Review of the Draft Budget Development Schedule

Update on Summer Projects

Board Communications

Principal's Report

Truancy Officer

Other anticipated meetings are:

BTMES – Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

SHS – Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library.

Mrs. Anderson advised regarding planning for Summer School, and the Barre Buds Program for students with more complex needs. Mr. Riddell advised that the Barre Farmers' Market is active again on Wednesday in Currier Park. Concerts in the Park follow the Farmers' Market.

Board Members thanked Mr. Taffel for his years of service, his leadership, being a great role model for the community and always being a pleasure to work with.

Mr. Taffel thanked the Board for their well wishes and support over the years.

Though the Board is saddened to see Mr. Taffel leave, they look forward to working with new leadership in the fall.

Recently, a fantastic family and staff gathering, was held at the Granite Museum to honor Jim Taffel.

A community celebration honoring Mr. Taffel will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Cafeteria.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Employment of Employees

Employment of Employees was 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 in attendance, at 8:25 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 Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:49 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin