

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
May 14, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Jennifer Chioldi
Sarah Pregent
Chris Riddell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Michael Deering

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Melissa Anderson	Paula Beaudet	Jason Evans
Kirsten Evans	Larry Knauss	Tedra Knauss	Lorraine Morris	
Orlando Morrissette	Amanda Pierce	Will Reece	Jane Richards	Leanne Triano
Jay Williams				

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, May 14, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 5:31p.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

Add 9.2 – Student Matter (under Executive Session)

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Student Presentations

Staff members Paula Beaudet, Amanda Pierce, Will Reece, Leanne Triano, Jane Richards and Lorraine Morris led a presentation on a project titled “Trout in the Classroom”. This project involved students raising trout from eggs to fry, which will be released into a river. The project is aligned with NGSS Standards, some of which were documented in the presentation. The project involved raising trout from approximately 2000 eggs, which were delivered in January, and will be released on May 30, 2018. Volunteers are needed

to assist with the release. The cost of the project is approximately \$1000. Funding was provided by a grant and proceeds from the Walk, Run, Fun event. Students Tia, Riley, Evelyn, and Andy addressed the Board, sharing highlights of their favorite parts of the project. Mrs. Morris provided an overview of the final project, which required students to pull facts out of fiction. Students used Screencastify to produce videos, three of which were shared with the Board. Students and staff were thanked for their attendance and presentation at the Board Meeting.

5.2 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

Letters of resignation from Treg Vroegop, Jane Richards, Linda Kogut, and Ashley Gilstad were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, and Mrs. Anderson provided information relating to the submitted resignations. It was noted that resignation and hiring of Special Educators must be formally accepted/approved by the BSU Board.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with thanks and best wishes, the resignations of Treg Vroegop, Jane Richards, Linda Kogut, and Ashley Gilstad.

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Jen Schoenig, Chelsea Haberek, Rebecca Wetmore Henry, and Karen Gadapee were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo and Mrs. Anderson provided an overview of the candidates' education and experience. It was noted that Rebecca Wetmore Henry has withdrawn her application.

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Karen Gadapee.

Mr. Pandolfo anticipates presenting additional new hires at the June meeting.

5.3 Upper Class Person & Mentoring Program

Mr. Taffel advised that middle school teacher Tana Cosgrove has students who participate in mentoring younger students. Mr. Taffel read a memo from Ms. Cosgrove regarding the program that she implemented 2 ½ years ago. The program which began with 10 teachers has now expanded to 15 teachers. Twenty students provided mentoring this year. Over 30 students expressed a desire to become mentors. The program is held during the Explore block and is held 4 times per week. The program focuses on academic and social skills as well as building community relationships. Mr. Delcore was recognized and thanked for the many years he has spent mentoring at BCEMS. Mr. Riddell believes the school should continue to foster the current program, though it was noted that student participation should be voluntary, not forced. Additional discussion will be held at the June meeting, and the item will be addressed in the fall with the new middle school Principal.

5.4 First Reading BSU Transportation Policy (F9)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview of the policy which has been adopted by the BSU Board. In response to a query regarding the Superintendent's annual decision to provide transportation to out of district students, it was noted that the decision will be made based on the number of students interested in transportation, and the availability of transportation.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Transportation Policy (F9).

5.5 PK – 4 Health

This item was recently discussed at the Curriculum Committee Meeting, in an effort to further align curriculum between BTMES and BCEMS. BTMES currently has Health and Guidance for students in Pre-k – 4th grade. BCEMS does not have this curriculum. The addition of staff for Health and Guidance was not discussed during budget development. Grant monies may be available to fund the necessary positions. Jackie Tolman will be contacted to follow up on possible grant funding. It was noted that the addition of this curriculum impacts the budget, scheduling, and report cards. Additional discussion at the Curriculum Committee Meeting included changing FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) to Health. It is not known if there is a statute regarding formal approval of the name change.

6. Old Business

6.1 Board Communications

The Business Office is moving forward with the creation of an RFP for a redesign/rebuild of BSU web sites. There is a target date of 01/01/19 for the implementation of new sites. A Communications Specialist will be hired to perform the work. The Technology Assistance Grant Workshop was held on 05/14/18. Mrs. Farrell attended the workshop. Mr. Pandolfo was unable to attend, but met

with Susan Holson on 05/13/18. The grant application has been completed. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding how to get community members to communicate with the Board.

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

A Memorandum from Thomas Anderson (Commissioner of Public Safety) and Heather Bouchey (Acting Secretary of Education), dated 04/23/18, was distributed. The subject of the Memorandum is School Safety Infrastructure Grants, and includes the applicable deadlines. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the School Safety Grant paperwork is in-house. The grant allows for up to \$25,000 per school, for a total of \$100,000 for the BSU. Questions have been raised regarding the grant fund limitation, which are currently set without regard to school size. The Bill may be altered to address this issue. Grant monies cannot be used for labor costs (personnel), but may be used for items such as cameras and card swipes.

The first two A.L.I.C.E. Community Informational Meetings have been held. Turnout has been very low. The third and final planned presentation is scheduled for Thursday, 05/17/18 at 5:00 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium. Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board that A.L.I.C.E. Training will occur at the Tri-Board Meeting, Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Pandolfo has invited the four Barre Representatives and 3 Washington County Senators to attend this A.L.I.C.E. Training Session.

6.3 Act 46

The Study Committee met on May 10, 2018 for discussion of the Articles of Agreement. Much discussion was held regarding the 'hot topic' Articles of Agreement (those that were believed to have caused many of the 'no' votes). Those Articles of Agreement deal with school restructuring, school closing, and redistricting. Discussion was also held regarding district wide voting on these items. The Committee did not make any final decisions on these Articles. It was stressed that the Committee is running out of time to hold a community vote and need to make a decision as soon as possible regarding whether or not to present a merger vote to the communities. The Committee will continue its review of the Articles of Agreement. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there may be a new Article of Agreement relating to the formation of site based councils. It may be beneficial to have 'hot button' Articles written such that they require voter approval. It is not known if Articles of Agreement can be legally changed by the Board in the future.

The next meeting is on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library.

A second meeting has been tentatively set for June 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library.

6.4 Transportation and Parking

Mr. Riddell reported that the Facilities Committee held extensive discussion regarding parking, with additional discussion held regarding various possibilities for the drop-off configuration and the condition of the sidewalk. Additional information is necessary regarding the impact of realigning the bus schedule. The next meeting will include more detailed discussion, including the possibility of a bond to finance the project(s). Mrs. Spaulding advised that Transportation will be an ongoing topic of discussion, including efficiency of routes (possible combined routes), and the use of software to assist with planning of routes. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of requests from the Public Works Director regarding sidewalk and crosswalk painting, and additional discussion relating to a crosswalk near 'Wall Street' and plowing of the bike path.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated April 26, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Negotiations, the Legislative Session, Act 46, School Safety, and Employment Contracts. A copy of a letter from the State of Vermont, Office of the State Treasurer, regarding the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System, (received 05/02/18) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the letter from VMERS, advising that VMERS is looking for Board Members. The letter provides details regarding how to run for a Board of Trustee seat. Mr. Pandolfo provided an update on the transition to a new third party administrator, advising that the transition is nearly complete. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding changes to the Section 125 Plan and use of debit cards. It was noted that the State is looking into implementing a Statewide Educational Health Plan. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the outcome of legislation relating to staff to student ratios, SPED Funding, and Educational Funding. A new legislative report should be coming out soon. It was noted that the new Chart of Accounts may help improve consistency regarding how staff to student ratios are calculated.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Principal's report dated MAY 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; community service provided by the "Students on the Move" group, services provided by the Dental Van, Summer School (07/05/18 – 08/02/18), the Memorial Day Program (Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. on the south field), and the 8th grade celebration (Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Barre Auditorium). Mr. Taffel highlighted Students on the Move projects, recent dental assistance for students, Fitnessgram testing (some of which Mr. Taffel feels is embarrassing to students), and SBAC testing (there have been some computer issues recently). Mrs. Anderson advised regarding testing of out of district students. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the upcoming Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators Spring Conference, being held at Lake Morey Resort 05/24/18 – 05/25/18. The M3 Initiative will be discussed at the conference. Mr. Pandolfo will forward a video link to all Board Members.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 BCEMS Facility/Security

Minutes of the 04/02/18 were distributed. The majority of the discussion pertained to safety and security and was held in Executive Session. The meeting also included discussion on the installation of three new cameras.

The next meeting is Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

7.3.2 BCEMS Finance

Minutes of the 04/24/18 meeting were distributed. Financial reports remain mostly unchanged. The Committee reviewed financial reports and discussed summer projects.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCMES Conference Room.

7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

Minutes to all BSU Committee Meetings were previously sent to all Board Members.

BSU Curriculum Committee -

The latest meeting included discussion on changing 'Family and Consumer Sciences', to 'Health', to more accurately reflect what is being taught. Discussion also included differences in 'Health' curriculum between BCEMS and BTMES, and what would need to be done to align the elementary and middle schools' curriculum offerings and content. Sandra Cameron and Lauren May gave a presentation on the new Autism Spectrum Disorder Program, and discussion was held regarding specialization in middle schools (BCEMS 5/6 and BTMES 5th). Mrs. Tolman and the Committee are working well together in an effort to identify and remedy gaps between the two elementary & middle schools.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BSU Policy Committee -

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be May 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Area. The Agenda will include discussion of central, combined policies.

BSU Finance Committee -

The next meeting date is to be announced.

7.4 Financial Report

Three Reports were distributed; BCEMS FY18 Expenditures/Year-end Projection (05/14/18), BCEMS General Fund Revenue Summary Report (05/08/18), and the BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary Report (05/08/18). There is an unaudited projected deficit of \$21,507. Mrs. Pregent reported that the data is very similar to the data presented in the April 2018 reports. Any line item with a large variance was reviewed to assist with future budget development.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Anderson announced the Community Celebration, Open House style, honoring Mr. Taffel on June 13, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Cafeteria. All community members are welcome to attend.

Mrs. Anderson advised that the date of the Unified Sports Bocce Competition will be announced soon.

Mr. Riddell advised that he is very glad to be a part of the Board and he is eager to participate and learn more.

Mr. Riddell announced that on Sunday, May 20, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Church in Barre, the Granite City Grocery is hosting an event. Kris Pavek will lead a gardening discussion, where she will speak about how it is to go from a non-gardener to someone who is the driving force behind the BCEMS Garden. A pot luck dinner will follow the discussion.

Mr. Taffel and the Board lauded Ms. Pavek for her efforts and contributions to the community and the BCEMS Garden.

June Agenda Items:

RAN (Revenue Anticipation Note) – Approval and Signing
Mentoring Program
Funding for Pre-k – Grade 4 Health Curriculum

August Agenda:

Parking / Transportation

(Parking and Transportation will be discussed at the June Facilities Committee Meeting, prior to presentation and discussion at the August Board Meeting)

9. **Executive Session**

9.1 **Personnel Matter**

9.2 **Student Matter**

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Matter (involving appointment or employment of a public employee), and a Student Matter (involving discussion or consideration of records or documents that are exempt from public record law(s)).

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, and Mrs. Anderson in attendance, at 7:39 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. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:31 p.m.

10. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin