

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library  
December 5, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alice Farrell - Chair  
Jay Paterson – Vice Chair  
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins – Clerk – departed at 8:50 p.m.  
Chris Hull  
Victoria Pompei

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
Scott Griggs, Principal  
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal  
Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech	Gina Akley	Dave LaCroix	Paul Malone	Tara Reil
Dotty Ricks				

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

**The Chair, Mrs. Farrell, called the Wednesday, December 5, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Library. The flag salute followed.**

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Add 5.5 Facilities Projects

**3. Visitors and Communications**

Dotty Ricks read a prepared statement advising of her belief that the Act 46 merger is not in the best interest of the tax payers or students and requested that the BTMES Board join a class-action lawsuit. Gina Akley, Co-Chair of the Act 46 Study Committee addressed the Board and advised that she believes the Board's primary responsibility is to the school and students and that remaining in a state of uncertainty is not beneficial. Mrs. Akley urged the Board to accept the State's decision and move forward with the work necessary to accomplish a smooth transition. Spaulding High School Board Chair, Paul Malone addressed the Board advising of his vested interest as an SHS Board Member and tax payer. Mr. Malone advised that governance structure, tax incentives, the implementation grant, and protective Articles of Agreement are at stake with the upcoming revote. A yes vote will assure that tax incentives and the implementation grant are received, that the newly formed district will be run by a properly sized board, and will have the protections granted under the Articles of Agreement drafted by the Study Committee. If there is a 'no' vote, the district will still be merged, but will lose the tax incentives and implementation grant, and be run under the State's Default Articles of Agreement. Mr. Malone believes the Board should work to form a new Study Committee to work on amending the Default Articles of Agreement so that there are some limited protections and a better governance structure. Mr. Malone reiterated that Act 46 is law and that he does not believe the Legislature will make changes to the law. Mr. Malone stressed that the schools in the BSU are obligated to follow the law. Mrs. Pompei advised that she received an e-mail and has forwarded the e-mail to all Board Members.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1. Approval of Minutes – November 7, 2018 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

**4.2. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Hull, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the November 15, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires**

A letter of resignation from Lexa Jones was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the letter of resignation submitted by Lexa Jones. A long-term substitute is currently filling the position. The position has been posted.

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Lexa Jones.**

### **5.2 SBAC Assessment Results Review**

Three documents were distributed; 'Annual Snapshot Update' (BTMES 12/2018), 'Introduction', and 'Annual Snapshot Multiple Measures'. Mrs. Tolman advised that her presentation includes Agenda Items 5.2 and 5.3. The Annual Snapshot is an online tool used to review quantitative performance data of students in the school and statewide. The Annual Snapshot includes an equity gap metric to assist with addressing performance gaps. Areas measured under the Annual Snapshot include; Academic Proficiency, Personalization, High Quality Staffing, Safe, Healthy Schools, and Investment Priorities. The Annual Snapshot is one way to assess success in meeting Education Quality Standards. The AOE has advised that due to not receiving all census data, the availability of the Annual Snapshot has been delayed. The presentation included links to websites that provide additional information. Mrs. Tolman provided a brief overview of the roll out schedule for the various components of the Annual Snapshot. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of Integrated Field Reviews, which will first occur in academic year 2019-2020, and advised regarding 'next steps'. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of SBAC results (from 3 years of data). It was noted that data is for students who were BTMES students for all of the three years (2016, 2017, and 2018). The presentation included information on; scale scores, proficiency, levels, and data for both Math and ELA. It was noted that BTMES utilizes local assessments, rather than SBAC results, to measure success and improve curriculum to meet the needs of students.

### **5.3 Education Quality Review**

Documentation was distributed under Agenda Item 5.2. Discussion held under Agenda Item 5.2.

### **5.4 Approval – June 2019 Music Field Trip**

A document titled 'Barre Town Music Department 2019 Music Festival Field Trip, Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>' was distributed. Mr. Griggs provided an overview of the proposed field trip and requested, as policy dictates, Board approval.

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to approve the June 7, 2019 Music Field Trip.**

### **5.5 Facilities Projects**

An e-mail from Facilities Director Jamie Evans (dated 12/04/18) was distributed. The document lists seven building projects that could possibly be completed within FY19. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the listed projects and advised that he is asking Board approval to allow Mr. Evans to move forward with pursuing the projects. Completion of these projects would use most of the General Fund balance. The work will involve much preparation, including RFPs. Mrs. Pompei asked that one item be added to the list; installation of sound absorbing tiles in the cafeteria. Projects over \$15,000 will each require Board Approval. Mr. Hull voiced concern that if all of the projects are completed, there may not be funds available to cover emergency types of repairs. It was noted that some of the proposed projects can be completed over winter break if enough advance notice is given. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Board will need to make a philosophical decision on whether or not they want to spend down the General Fund. The Board agreed to discuss this issue in 2 weeks (at the next Board Meeting).

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 Act 46**

#### **6.1.1 Next Steps**

Seven documents were distributed; an e-mail from Mr. Pandolfo to all Board Members (dated 12/05/18), 'Barre Act 46 Information', a letter from the AOE dated 12/03/18, a 38 page document titled 'Final Report of Decision and Order on Statewide School District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46, Sections 8(b) and 10', a 12 page document titled 'The Barre Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement', a 5 page document titled 'Articles of Agreement Barre Unified Union District' and a document from the AOE titled 'SBE Final Order' (November 28, 2018). Mr. Pandolfo queried the Board regarding their approach to and involvement in the upcoming vote (01/08/19). Concern was expressed that it will be difficult to get enough 'yes' votes to overturn the 11/15/18 'no' vote. Mr. Paterson believes the chance to overturn the 'no' vote will be greater if the Board makes a statement in support of the vote. Mr. Paterson advised that a 'yes' vote is a chance to get the tax break and use the improved Articles of Agreement. Mr. Hull voiced concern regarding the Board 'ignoring' the voters previous 'no' votes. Mrs. Farrell advised that the upcoming vote is not whether or not to merge (the state has mandated a merger), but that this vote is to gain the tax incentives, implementation grant, and use the Articles of Agreement crafted by the Study Committee. Lengthy discussion was held regarding whether or not to join the class action lawsuit, including possible costs associated with joining the suit. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he could not encourage the Board to move forward with the suit without first having a comprehensive discussion with an attorney. Mrs. Farrell queried the Board regarding how they wish to focus their energy at this point in time. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the 'map' document advising that approximately 80% of the state is 'merged'. Mr. Pandolfo provided a comprehensive overview of the 'e-mail' document, advising of what will result from both 'yes' and 'no' votes. A 'yes' vote will result in 1 additional vote, and a 'no' vote will result in at least 3 additional votes. As these votes will most likely not fall on days of other Town votes, there will be a cost associated with each vote.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that a transitional board will need to be in place and advised that a recent change allows for boards to appoint members to the transitional board. The transitional board will be comprised of 6 members (2 from each district board). Mr. Pandolfo recommends that the organizational meeting of the transitional board be held on 01/10/19. Mr. Pandolfo advised that given the deadlines imposed by the State, work to begin changes to the Default Articles of Agreement, including changes to board structure, cannot wait until after the 01/08/19 vote. Under the current Default Articles of Agreement, the unified board will be comprised of 4 board members. Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board that the sitting BTMES Board needs to remain operational until 06/30/19, and encouraged those whose terms expire, to submit petitions for re-election. Mr. Malone addressed the Board advising that much is at stake with the 01/08/19 vote. Mr. Malone reiterated that Act 46 is law, and that the State has already mandated a merger for Barre. Mr. Malone stressed that the 01/08/19 vote is not about whether or not to merge (that has already been mandated by the State), and he is very concerned that a 'no' vote on 01/08/19 will result in the loss of tax incentives (20¢), the implementation grant, and use of the Default Articles of Agreement, which offer less local control. Mr. Malone requested that the Board support the law and support a 'yes' vote on 01/08/19. Tony Compos addressed the Board and stressed that a 'no' vote will be very costly to tax payers, as 20¢ in tax incentives will be lost. Tara Reil addressed the Board to express her feelings that Barre Town voters have voted 'no' in the past, and she believes there should be a 'no' vote on 01/08/19. Mr. Paterson voiced concern that the Board is divided regarding how to proceed, and he does not wish to have a divided Board. The Board agreed that they were a divided Board (regarding how to proceed) and agreed that they could not vote unanimously on the issues of the Board's stance or for entering a class action lawsuit. Mr. Pandolfo requested that the Board vote on which two members will be on the transitional board.

**On a motion by Mr. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins to the Transitional Board.**

Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Default Articles of Agreement that can be amended (with voter approval), and that it is his recommendation that a study committee be formed. Mr. Pandolfo believes amendments should be fairly easy to define and it is his recommendation that a committee of two, with a budget of \$0 be formed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that for a committee to be formed, the board will need to vote to form a committee, define the number of committee members, define the budget, and appoint committee member(s), one of which must be a BTMES Board Member. The committee cannot be officially formed unless the BCEMS Board also votes to form the committee. There is concern that given the history of 'no' votes in Barre Town, citizens may vote down any Articles put forth relating to Act 46. In response to a concern raised by Ms. Ricks, it was reiterated that the Board, not the Superintendent, appoints representatives to study committees.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to form a 2 person Study Committee to revise the Articles of Agreement, and that Mr. Hull will be the BTMES Board Representative.**

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted that the Study Committee have a budget of zero dollars.**

The Board agreed to authorize the Superintendent to contact an attorney to schedule an appointment to discuss the aspects of joining the class-action lawsuit (against Act 46).

### **6.1.2 Board Activities**

Discussed under Agenda Item 6.1.1

### **6.1.3 Community Involvement**

No discussion

### **6.1.4 School Board Statement**

The Board has no official statement at this time.

## **6.2 FY20 Budget**

Eleven documents were distributed; 'FY20 Barre Unified Union School District Budget Considerations – December 5, 2018' (Draft 2), BTMES FY20 Budget Draft 2 – 12/05/18 (Consolidated with BUUSD 12/05/18), 'BUUSD FY20 estimated per pupil spending – 12/5/18', 'Barre Unified Union School District FY20 Proposed Budget – 12/5/18', 'BSU BUUSD FY20 Revenues – 12/05/18', 'BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations Budget Years 2019-2020', 'BSU Spending DRAFT 1 – 11/15/18', 'Commissioner of Taxes Releases FY2020 Education Yield Letter', a letter from Kaj Samsom (Commissioner, Department of Taxes), dated 11/30/18, 'Consensus Education Fund Outlook for FY2020 Based on Current Law', and a document titled 'The Education Fund and Education Finance'. Mrs. Perreault advised that she feels the budget looks good at this point. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the BTMES budget considerations outlined on page 2 of the 'Considerations' document. Budget items that have changed (seen in bold on the report) since draft 1 were reviewed. It was noted that there may be an additional change to allow for hiring a second FTE literacy interventionist. Mrs. Perreault highlighted that the amount budgeted for Facilities-Construction Services is \$158,000, not \$238,000. The amount reflected in draft 2 was calculated using the standard square footage formula that is being utilized across the BSU. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the per-pupil spending document, advising that under the BUUSD budget, the FY20 per-pupil spending is \$14,124.22, 8.7% higher than in FY19. Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the

BUUSD FY20 Budget document, noting that BTMES Direct Instruction is shown on line #14. Mrs. Perreault advised of the announced tax yield for FY20. It was agreed that the budget will need more in-depth discussion at a future meeting.

### **6.3 Board Goals**

Discussion will be held at a future meeting.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.1. Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated November 26, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Act 46, the Barre Education Coalition, Administrative Evaluations, Health Insurance, and Weather Cancellations and Delays. Mr. Pandolfo had nothing to add to the report. There were no questions or comments from the Board.

### **7.2 Principals Report**

The BTMES Administrative Report for December 5, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Collaboration (between middle school and elementary school students and staff), December Enrollment (a copy of the report was distributed – enrollment has decreased by 2 students), the David Stefaniak Food and Gift Drive, Mid-Year Assessments, Notes of Gratitude (to the Barre Rotary Club and Dr. Curt Healey), the Report Card Companion Guide, Pre-school News, and Upcoming Events. The Report Card Guide was also distributed.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

#### **7.3.1 Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee –**

The next regularly scheduled Committee Meeting (12/19/18) will be replaced by a Regular Board Meeting. The next Committee Meeting date will be announced.

#### **7.3.2 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 26, 2018. Discussion included; CVCC Programs and Standards alignment, the Professional Development Survey, upcoming Professional Development, and an update on the Homework Committee. The next meeting is Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library

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

The Committee met on November 19, 2018. Discussion included review of 7 policies, one of which is newly required. Some of the discussed policies will be presented to the BSU Board for review and approval. The next meeting is December 17, 2018 in the BSU Central Office 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Area.

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

No discussion.

#### **BSU Facilities Committee -**

The November 20, 2018 meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS (location rotates).

#### **BSU Communications Committee -**

The next meeting of the Communications Committee is December 17, 2018.

#### **BSU Negotiations Committee -**

No discussion.

### **7.4 Financials**

Four reports were distributed; the BTMES FY19 Expenditures/Year-end Projection report, the BTMES General Fund Expenditures Report, the BTMES General Fund Revenue Report, and the BSU Expenditures-FY19 Report. Reports are dated 11/29/18. No discussion.

## **8. Other Business**

None.

## **9. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings**

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

The Agenda was not discussed.

## **10. Executive Session**

### **10.1 Personnel**

Employment of Employees was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mr. Hull, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 9:15 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.**

**On a motion by Mr. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.**

## **11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Hull, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:21 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea Poulin*