

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library  
October 17, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alice Farrell - Chair  
Jay Paterson – Vice Chair  
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins – Clerk  
Chris Hull  
Victoria Pompei

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
Scott Griggs, Principal  
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal  
Jaime Evans, Facilities Director - departed at 7:25 p.m.  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech            Dave Delcore-Times Argus

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

**The Chair, Mrs. Farrell, called the Wednesday, October 17, 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 7.3.3 Act 46 State Board Update

**3. Visitors and Communications**

None.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1. Approval of Minutes – October 3, 2018 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mr. Hull, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the October 3, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Entry Way**

Mr. Evans advised that the concrete entryway (canopy entrance) was inspected by experts and determined to be structurally sound. The assurance of ‘soundness’ is not good beyond 2 years. Mr. Evans advised regarding options moving forward, including cosmetic repairs and permanent repairs (which includes replacement of sidewalks). The process for permanent repairs has been defined. Permanent repair is estimated to cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Mr. Evans advised that possible changes to the bus loop should be discussed in the near future. Bus loop changes, if requested, should be performed at the same time as entryway repairs. The process, from concept to design (for a new bus loop) would probably take 2 to 3 years to complete. The cost to remove the existing canopy is unknown though replacement of the canopy is estimated at \$250,000 - \$500,000. Administrators advised that they believe it is beneficial to have a canopy in place, as this area provides some protection to students. Mr. Evans recommends that the Board approve making the permanent repair and advised that he believes the expense of the permanent repair is money well spent. Mr. Evans advised that \$80,000 is usually budgeted for in-house repairs/construction. Mr. Evans reiterated his request to utilize the Industry Standard for maintenance when developing the budget (\$1 per square foot - \$150,000 for BTMES). Mr. Evans stressed that more money needs to be annually allocated for construction/maintenance to begin dealing with deferred maintenance, and avoid a large bond in the future. Some areas of concern in the aging building include; roof sections, the front canopy, bleachers, floors (including asbestos abatement), and upgrades to bathrooms. It was noted that technology upgrades should be funded out of the Technology portion of the budget. Mr. Evans advised that he has drafted a 5 year plan for each of the district schools, and advised that flooring and air conditioning units will probably be the items needing work first (at BTMES). Mr. Evans advised that he understands the difficulty involved with creating budgets, and stressed that he does not take this matter lightly. Mr. Evans believes that the additional monies are necessary to assure that the building is well maintained and continues to be a safe and clean environment for students and staff. The Board thanked Mr. Evans for his efforts in identifying and prioritizing maintenance and improvements.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 Budget Development FY20**

Four documents were distributed; 'BSU Budget Development Schedule for FY 2020' (dated 10/16/18), 'BTMES FY20 Budget Considerations – October 17, 2018', a document providing a breakdown of technology related expenses (current for each school and proposed for FY20), and a document providing information relating to the new Uniform Chart of Accounts. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the unaudited Fund Balances (General, Capital Improvement, Tax Stabilization, and Food Service). Mrs. Perreault advised that given the number of Capital Projects proposed by Mr. Evans, the Board should consider asking voters to move some of the General Fund balance to the Capital Improvement fund. Mrs. Perreault reminded the Board of the budget development schedule (a copy of which was included in the packet). Mrs. Perreault advised that this evening's presentation would include budget highlights and considerations, and that a full presentation will occur at the November meeting. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the 'Budget Considerations' document including Equalized Pupil Counts and Child Counts (for each school), and how assessments will be made. It was noted that finalized 'counts' will be available in early December. Mrs. Perreault advised that Per-Pupil Spending at each district school is lower than the state overall average (\$14,651). Mr. Griggs and Ms. Pearson provided expanded information on some of the Budget Considerations including; addition of 1 FTE literacy Interventionist, addition of a School Resource Officer, addition of a Technology Integrationist, addition of 2 FTE general education para-educators, addition of a clerical position, North Branch ECO contracted services, and unpaid student lunch bills. Mr. Evans briefly advised on the budget increase for building maintenance using the Industry Standard, and an anticipated increase for snow removal (which should result in improved service). Mrs. Perreault advised regarding increases for salary and benefits, and the VSTRS increase. Additionally, Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of how BSU Assessments are planned and expenses that are anticipated to be moved to the BSU budget (and assessed back to the districts). Brief discussion was held regarding a change to SPED reimbursement. The new formula is not likely to have much of an impact. Mr. Paterson reiterated that as more budget line items are moved to the BSU budget, the BSU Board/Finance Committee will need to become much more involved with budgeting. Mr. Paterson suggested that a Transportation consideration be added, as BTMES will be having an increase due to the addition of one bus (route) and riders on all buses. Brief discussion was held regarding how budgets might look under consolidation. It was noted that between the districts, some fund balances are higher and some are lower. Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the 'crosswalk' document, noting that under consolidation, the new Financial Management system can still track expenses back to individual schools (the goal is equity for students). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the State may soon ask that the use of para-educators (use and expertise) be scrutinized.

Discussion shifted to implementation of numerous new systems (as mandated by the State), including the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (new Accountability Standards will be based on data in this system), the new Financial Management System, and the new Grant Management System. The BSU opted into round 1B of the new Data Reporting system. The first round is taking longer than expected and it is anticipated that implantation for round 1B will be extended. It was noted that the State mandated implementation of so many new systems (at the same time), is causing issues at both the State level and with school districts/SUs.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.1. Superintendent**

No written report was presented. Mr. Pandolfo advised of a tentative date (11/15/18) for a Tri-Board Meeting and provided highlights from the BSU Board Report, including; work performed by the Substitute Committee, an In-Service Day for substitutes, efforts to increase recruitment and retention of substitutes (the low unemployment rate may be making it more difficult to hire substitutes), and negotiations. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he met with representatives of the Association to advise that they need to provide dates for setting ground rules and negotiations.

### **7.2 Principals Report**

No written report was presented. Mr. Griggs provided a brief verbal report advising of activity to recruit substitutes, and Staff Development Day (much of which was based on teacher choice/input). Ms. Pearson advised of the middle school drone video, Rock/Paper/Scissors Challenge, the PAW Celebration (part of the PBIS system - recognizing students), and the upcoming 'Friday Flannel' Day.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

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

The Wednesday, November 21, 2018 meeting is cancelled.

The first draft of the FY20 Budget will be presented at the Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

#### **7.3.2 Verbal Report of BSU Committees –**

##### **Policy Committee**

The most recent meeting was cancelled.

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

The Committee has not met since the last BTMES Board Meeting. There is nothing new to report.

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

The next meeting is Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

### **BSU Facilities Committee**

The Committee met on October 10, 2018. The Committee discussed updates to safety measures and toured Spaulding High School.

### **BSU Communications Committee**

The Committee met on October 11, 2018. The first meeting of the Barre Education Coalition is tentatively set for Thursday, October 25, 2018. Those invited will meet Ben Merrill and discuss the creation of Site-Based Councils. Those who were invited encompass a broad base of citizens who are not primarily involved with the schools.

The next BSU Communications Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018.

#### **7.3.3 Act 46 State Board Update**

Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins advised that she attended the State Board of Education Meeting in White River Junction. At their previous meeting (10/02) the State Board of Education spent most of their time discussing guiding principles, two of which related to debt ratios and community input (including communities that voted against mergers). At today's meeting the State Board shared charts and graphs pertaining to projected tax rates (under current structures and under consolidated structures). Copies of the documents were not distributed to the BTMES Board. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins advised that the projected tax rates for Barre City and Barre Town under consolidation are that the Barre Town tax rate would increase and the Barre City tax rate would decrease. The projected tax rates do not reflect operational savings or tax incentive savings. The Board of Education is making efforts to see that Guiding Principles are aligned with State Statute. The State Board advised that based on legal advice, the Guiding Principles will not be a formal document. The State Board advised that they can consider input from a variety of sources, including votes and written testimony. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins advised that one common theme from a couple of Board Members was the acknowledgement that forcing districts to merge might be 'ugly' and that imposing a merger would not accomplish very much and would create highly dysfunctional communities for many years. The State Board's authority to merge districts (under Act46) ends on 11/30/18. Some of the Board Members suggested that the Board ask the legislature to give more time to finalize decisions for some districts. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins advised that the State Board is definitely not a unanimous Board and that there are different interpretations and different thoughts amongst Board Members. The State Board of Education will have more meetings before the Final Plan is issued. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins provided a brief overview of the Agenda from the meeting advising that provisional votes were made (regarding mergers).

#### **7.4 Financials**

Three Reports were distributed; BTMES FY18 Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report (dated 10/17/18), the BTMES General Fund Expenditures Report, and the BSU Expenditures-FY19 Report (both dated 10/16/18). For FY18 there is an unaudited projected surplus of approximately \$84,000. In response to a query, it was noted that the cost associated with implementation of the statewide Longitudinal System (for student reporting) is mainly 'manpower'.

#### **8. Other Business**

None.

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

Presentation of Budget Draft #1

Revisit Board Goals

Friends of the Winooski Presentation (Michele Braun)

Act 46

SBAC (contingent on approval for release of information)

#### **10. Executive Session**

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

#### **11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*