

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library  
January 6, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brenda Buzzell - Chair  
Brent Tewksbury – Vice Chair  
Chad Allen - Clerk  
Kristin McCarthy  
Krista Metivier

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
Timothy P. Crowley, Principal  
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager – departed at 7:50 p.m.

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech      Glenda Allen      Pat MacAskill      Lauren May      Douglas Moyes      Nathan Reigner

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

**The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, January 6, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 6:35 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**

A Legal Matter and a Personnel Matter will be added for Executive Session.

**3. Visitors and Communications**

Mr. Douglas Moyes addressed the Board requesting an update regarding his request that the Board reconsider the school's policy of not providing bus service to sports teams. Mr. Moyes originally presented this request at the September 2, 2015 Board meeting. Mrs. Buzzell advised that major busing issues have continued throughout this school year. There is a shortage of bus drivers, making it difficult to provide transportation to and from school. There currently would not be bus drivers available for transportation of sports teams. Due to the current busing issues, the transportation budget is already running in a deficit. Mr. Crowley confirmed that there is an official policy in place which states that transportation will not be provided to sports teams. Mr. Crowley provided historical information regarding how/why the policy was created. Efforts are being taken to resolve current bus issues and address changes required under Act 153. Mr. Moyes was advised that school policies are available for viewing on-line. Mr. Moyes is welcome to attend the next Policy Committee meeting which will be held on January 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. This meeting is open to the public and anyone may attend. Mrs. McCarthy advised that determining the cost associated with transportation for sporting events would be the first step in reviewing whether or not the policy should be amended. The Board conveyed that they understand Mr. Moyes's perspective on this issue and thanked him for presenting the issue and following up.

Mr. Nathan Reigner addressed the Board. Mr. Reigner is representing the Millstone Trails Association. Millstone trails run throughout Barre Town, including the Town Forest. The trails are open for non-motorized sports and are free and open to the public. Mr. Reigner encouraged Board members to join the MTA. The Association is in the process of expanding the number of trails that are available in the winter and are seeking Board approval to groom the trail that runs behind the school. Grooming this additional piece of trail would enable students to utilize the trails in the winter. MTA currently has an agreement in place with the Town of Barre, which allows for MTA to provide grooming on Town land. MTA holds insurance. Proof of insurance can be provided. After brief discussion, the Board and Administrative personnel agreed that the proposed grooming request would be beneficial to students and the general public. It was noted that to assure safety of the students, the grooming schedule would need to be coordinated with Facilities Director, Grant Fleming. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Millstone Trails, coordinating with Grant Fleming, to perform grooming to allow for winter recreation on the trails located on BTMES property.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4A. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2015 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2015.**

## 5. Old Business

### 5A. FY'17 Budget

Ms. Perreault addressed the Board noting that Administrators and the Finance Committee worked diligently to create a fiscally responsible budget while maintaining a quality education. The proposed budget represents a 1.6% increase in spending. Ms. Perreault provided an overview of the proposed budget which has an expenditure total of \$11,489,139, which includes \$302,463 in grant funds. The budget expenses, of which \$11,186,496 is to be paid with local taxes, is an increase of \$178,743 above last year's budget. Ms. Perreault provided an overview of the Comparative Tax Rate Calculations for Budget Years 2016-2017. It was noted that the proposed cost per equalized pupil of \$11,860, is below the Allowable Threshold limit of \$11,892, thus no penalty will be assessed to the district. The Tax Rate (combined BTMES and SHS) is 1.3826. Mr. Crowley provided a brief overview of the budgetary considerations and noted that the proposed budget honors all agreements relating to salaries and benefits. Additional information included changes to staffing, teacher/student ratios, and facilities upgrades. It was noted that due to legislation (Acts 153 and 46) Special Education and Transportation will be assessed through the SU. Costs will be assessed at cost, not on a percentage amount basis. If Technology Integrationist services are needed, services will be provided through the SU. Mr. Pandolfo distributed a visual map of Vermont showing per-pupil spending. The information confirms that BTMES has one of the lowest cost per pupil amounts in the State. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve an Expenditure Budget of \$11,186,496 for fiscal year 2017. Mrs. Buzzell advised that she also supports this budget.** It was noted that the amount shown on the ballot will be higher, as the ballot amount will include grant monies.

### 5B. Act 46 Public Meeting

The Agenda for the upcoming Act 46 Study Committee Public Forum was distributed. This document has been mailed to all parents of BTMES students. Mrs. Buzzell provided a brief overview of Act 46 and advised that a Public Forum would be held on January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Spaulding High School. Mrs. Buzzell encouraged the public to attend this important informational meeting. The Committee would like to provide information and receive questions, comments, and concerns from the public. Mr. Allen read the Act 46 Study Committee's 'Charge' and encouraged the community to assist with identifying additional opportunities. Mr. Tewksbury advised that it is important for the public to 'come out and learn' and provide their ideas and opinions. Mrs. Buzzell reiterated the importance of attending the meeting and advised that information pertaining to Act 46 can be found utilizing 'Google', and by visiting links posted on the BTMES and SU web sites. Mr. Pandolfo advised that this is an important meeting that provides information pertaining to the initial exploratory phase, the goal of which was to identify opportunities and challenges posed for consolidation of school governance. The next phase, a 706 study (much more extensive study) will be performed if it is determined that consolidation may be beneficial. Promotion of this meeting has been extensive, including; flyers to all students' parents (SHS, BTMES, and BCEMS), advertisements in both the Times Argus and Washington World, and announcements on the SU and school web sites, Facebook, and Front Porch Forum.

## 6. New Business

### 6A. FY'17 Tuition Rate

A document titled 'FY17 Announced Tuition-BTMES' was distributed. Brief discussion was held, including the requirement that the amounts be publicly announced and that notification is to be sent to the State. The proposed amounts were then announced. **On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to approve FY17 tuition rates as follows: grades K-6: \$9321, and grades 7 and 8: \$10,582.**

### 6B. Warning for March 1, 2016

A draft Warning for the March 1, 2016 School District Meeting was distributed for review and approval. The Board discussed the amounts to be added to the draft Warning; **Education Spending \$11,489,139, spending of \$11,860 per equalized pupil, resulting in projected spending that is 2% higher than spending for the current year.** It was noted under Article IV, that an individual needs to be elected for the position of Treasurer for the Barre Town School District. If no one runs for the position, by default, Donna Kelty will become the Treasurer for the Barre Town School District. Mrs. Buzzell read the Warning with the appropriate amounts included. Mrs. Buzzell encouraged the public to vote. **On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Town of Barre Vermont School District Meeting Warning for March 1, 2016.**

### 6C. School Board Member Elections

Mr. Allen thanked the voters for electing him two years ago, and announced he would appreciate their support as he runs for another two year term. Mrs. Metivier announced that she will fulfill her current 3 year term, but due to other commitments, she will not be running for re-election. Mrs. Metivier advised that she would like to see a candidate who has the time available to fulfill the commitment required of Board members. Mrs. Metivier encouraged members of the public to run for the position, stating that she found her term to be informative and a wonderful learning experience. Additionally, Mrs. Metivier expressed her belief that the Board needs an individual who can work to achieve balance between financial responsibility and affording students a quality educational experience. Mrs. Buzzell thanked Mrs. Metivier for her years of service on the Board. Mr. Crowley expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Metivier's level of objectivity while serving, as well as her advocacy relating to the Bullying and Harassment Policy and the very important Allergens Policy.

## **6D. School Board Member Stipend Payment Schedule**

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the stipend payment schedule, advising that currently all three Boards have different payment schemes. To provide more efficiency, it is the goal to change board stipend payments to one system. The proposed payment schedule is for bi-annual payments approximately every six months, after Board service has been provided. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve bi-annual Board Stipend payments (once every six months), with the first payment date to be determined by the Business Office.**

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7A. Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 30, 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee (public forum will be held on January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Spaulding High School), the upcoming Legislative Breakfast (January 25, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Lunchbox at SHS/CVCC), the upcoming Administrative Winter Retreat (January 27, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.), a copy of the VSBIT memorandum pertaining to documents which fall under the Public Records Act, and the PATH grant (the grant was not received, as grants were awarded to those with a higher need). It was noted that the invitations to the Legislative Breakfast have not yet been received by BCMES Board Members or Administrative staff. Mr. Pandolfo will check with Mrs. Gibson regarding the status of invitations. Mr. Pandolfo provided an update regarding Act 46, advising that after the Public Forum, the Act 46 Study Committee would hold one final meeting (January 21, 2016). This final meeting concludes the exploratory phase. In preparation for the anticipated more in-depth study phase, Mr. Pandolfo is in the process of applying for a \$20,000 grant. All information pertaining to Act 46 and the work performed to date can be accessed via a link on the SU web site. Mr. Pandolfo highlighted the Legislative Breakfast announced in his report and advised that he has been invited to testify before the Senate Education Committee regarding the impact of Act 46, specifically, the impact of the Allowable Threshold. Mr. Pandolfo distributed a copy of a letter from Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe. Ms. Holcombe advises that the plan outlined in the progress report dated November 6, 2015 is acceptable. The final cost study and the SU's plan for compliance needs to be submitted to Ms. Holcombe no later than June 1, 2016. Mr. Pandolfo is in the process of sending out RFPs for Transportation. Interested parties will be asked to submit proposals for each school as a separate entity, and as a whole. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo distributed a copy of the Education Legislative Report. As all Board Members receive this report electronically, Mr. Pandolfo will no longer print and distribute copies. In preparation for negotiations, Mr. Pandolfo met with BCMES Custodial staff and explained the implications of Act 153 and Act 46. Mr. Pandolfo will be meeting with BCEMS and SHS staff in the near future. Mr. Pandolfo is currently in the process of accepting applications for the position of Co-Principal, and is currently looking for representatives for the soon to be formed, hiring committee. Mr. Pandolfo queried the Board regarding having a representative from the Board on the hiring committee, and hopes a final decision on representation will be available at the February Board meeting.

### **7B. Principals Report**

Mrs. Nye advised that it's great to be back from the December break. SBAC testing – The three Curriculum Specialists and one teacher will be attending various training/learning opportunities, and will be interacting with individuals from around the country. Those attending training, will in-turn, train other in-house personnel. It will be most beneficial to increase BCMES's expertise and capacity on this front. Mr. Crowley advised that development of next year's schedule is underway. Scheduling is a complicated matter. Middle school staff have requested, and been granted more involvement in the process. Curriculum Director Rick McCraw and the three Curriculum Specialists will also be very involved in the process. Mr. Crowley read a letter from former student, and author Jan (McCormick) Gangsei (BTMES 1984 graduate). Mrs. Gangsei is about to debut her first novel titled 'Zero Day'. The book is appropriate for children age 12 and up. Mrs. Gangsei advised that she is available (at no charge) for author visits and presentations. She is scheduled for a book signing at Next Chapter Book Store on January 12, 2016. Mrs. Gangsei lauded her former third grade teacher for inspiring her to become a writer. Mr. Crowley plans to hold a surprise reunion between Jan Gangsei and her third grade teacher.

## **C. Committee Reports**

### **Finance –**

A copy of the BTMES Expense Budget Status Report, dated 12/29/15, was distributed. The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

### **Facility and Transportation –**

Mr. Tewksbury advised that the parking lot and walks ways were well taken care of after the recent storm. The Custodial Department is now fully staffed, and another bus driver was hired this week.

### **Curriculum –**

The next meeting will be on January 19, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., in the upstairs conference room.

### **Policy –**

The next meeting will be on January 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

**Supervisory Union Report –**

The next meeting is January 14, 2016.

**Barre Town Recreation –**

Pickleball seminars will be held in the BCMES gymnasium on Sunday evenings.

The Recreation Department has made repairs to area outhouses, but roof replacement is still necessary.

**SHAC -**

The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2016 at 3:40 p.m. in the BCMES Library.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

Budget Presentation

**9. Approval of Warrants**

**On a motion by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve the Warrants.**

**Mr. Tewksbury abstained.**

**10. Executive Session**

**10.1 Legal Matter**

**10.2 Personnel Matter**

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Legal Matter and a Personnel Matter.

**On a motion by Mrs. Metivier, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the Town of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.**

**On a motion by Mrs. Metivier, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.**

Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Crowley, and Mrs. Nye were invited to join Executive Session.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

**On a motion by Mrs. Metivier, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.**

**11. Next Meeting Date**

Not announced.

**12. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea Poulin*