

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
February 3, 2016 – 6:00 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
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services
Richard McCraw, M.Ed., Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment – departed at 7:43 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Leah Starr-Finch Pat MacAskill

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, February 3, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 6:14 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

None.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4A. Approval of Minutes – January 20, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the January 20, 2016 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5A. Budget Presentation

A print out of the Budget Power Point presentation was distributed. Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Allen provided an overview of the proposed budget. The overview included; goals, development considerations, investments, historical information (BTMES budgets, equalized pupil counts, & spending per equalized pupil), statewide education spending, a map identifying statewide education spending per equalized pupil, historical tax rate information, the estimated tax rate for the proposed FY17 budget, new ballot language, and the Special Article. Mr. Allen thanked the community and the Board and encouraged the community to vote for the budget. Mrs. Buzzell reminded voters that they may vote by absentee ballot. Mr. Allen was thanked for his efforts in developing the presentation which explained the complex budget process in an easily understandable format.

5B. Act 46 Update

Three documents were distributed; “Act 46 Implementation Project” (Act 46 Implementation Status), “Act 46 Exploratory Study Report, Barre Supervisory Union, dated January 31, 2016”, and a color keyed map identifying the status of each SU in the state. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of consolidation activity around the state, as well as the status of the BSU Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Act 46 Committee’s report and advised that the Committee recommends moving to a 706 Study. Mr. Pandolfo has applied for the \$20,000 3718 grant. The tentative date for the first 706 meeting is February 18, 2016. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the charge of the 706 Committee. Mr. Pandolfo queried regarding Act 46 Committee Members’ plans for continuation of participation on the 706 Study Committee. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve moving forward with a 706 Study.** The Act 46 web page has links to all information pertaining to Act 46.

5C. Second and Final Reading of BSU Board Member Conflict of Interest BSU Policy (B3)

Copies of policies B3, B6, and A1 were distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided a brief overview of the process of approving/ratifying policies. It was noted that non-substantive changes need to be made to the policies. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to ratify policies B3, B6, and A1.**

5D. Second and Final Reading of BSU Notice of Non-Discrimination BSU Policy (B6)

See action taken under Agenda Item 5C.

5E. Second and Final Reading of BSU Role and Adoption of School Board Policies Policy (A1)

See action taken under Agenda Item 5C.

6. Old Business

6A. SBAC Update

Screen prints from a Power Point presentation titled 'The SBAC Assessment / The 2015 Test and Next Steps' were distributed. Curriculum Director, Richard McCraw addressed the Board, providing an overview of SBAC results, utilizing a Power Point presentation. Mr. McCraw provided an overview of SBAC testing and BTMES results, including comparison to Vermont state-wide results. BTMES students exceed the Vermont average by about the same percentage in both ELA and math. It was noted that Leah Star-Finch recently attended training, working with educators from across the country. It was noted that SBAC testing is computer adaptive and the level of difficulty rises or falls (by up to 2 grade levels) dependent on the correctness of answers. SBAC testing is performed utilizing SBAC 'tools and resources'. There is a learning curve, as students switch from 'paper and pencil' testing to computerized testing. The results of the recent SBAC testing will not be used for accountability purposes.

6B. First Reading of BSU Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F20)

Copies of policies F20 and F-20-1 were distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview of policies F20 and F-20-1. Appendix A in Policy F20 will be amended to include the names of the designated employees. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the First Reading of the BSU Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F20), and the BSU Model Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F-20-1).**

6C. First Reading of BSU Model Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F-20-1)

See action taken under Agenda Item 6B.

6D. First Reading of BSU Professional Development Policy (D2)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Professional Development Policy (D2).

6E. First Reading of BSU Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace (D8)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview.

On a motion by Mrs. Metivier, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace (D8).

6F. First Reading of BSU Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees Policy (D11)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview.

On a motion by Mrs. Metivier, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees Policy (D11).

6G. First Reading of BSU Prevention of Employee Harassment Policy (D12)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Prevention of Employee Harassment Policy (D12)

6H. First Reading of BSU Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance Policy (D13)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview.

On a motion by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance Policy (D13).

Mrs. McCarthy advised that the First Readings approved this evening need to be added to the next Agenda as Second and Final Readings.

7. Board Reports

7A. Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated January 27, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Study Committee (update), the Legislative Meeting (tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 6:15 p.m.), the Pre-K – 12 Administrative Winter Retreat (held on January 27, 2016), and preparation of the 2016-2017 BSU Calendar. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Winter Retreat was a very positive meeting. Board Members were asked to respond to Debra Gibson regarding attendance at the Legislative Meeting. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Act 46 Report, the evaluation process, the survey to be used for future Superintendent evaluations, and advised that creation of next year's calendar involves working with other area schools, to determine 'common days'.

7B. Principals Report

Mrs. Nye congratulated Will Poirier on his upcoming participation in a Geography competition. Additionally, Mrs. Nye advised that 100th day was celebrated on February 1, 2016; the fourth grade students conducted a thoughtful interview of Senator Leahy, Dabble Days will be held at SHS on February 6, 2016, students will participate in 'VT Writes' on February 10, 2016, the Semi-formal dance for 7/8th grade will be held on February 12, 2016 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.), and there will be a snowshoe/bingo event sponsored by SHAC and the PTO, on February 13, 2016.

C. Committee Reports

Finance –

Minutes from the January 6, 2016 meeting were distributed. The Committee met this evening prior to the Board meeting. The date of the next meeting is 'to be determined'. The Committee will continue to monitor and track finances for the 2015-2016 year.

Facility and Transportation –

The Committee is looking at upcoming projects, but has nothing specific to present at this time.

Curriculum –

Minutes from the January 19, 2016 meeting were distributed. The next meeting will be February 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in Mr. Crowley's office.

Policy –

The Committee met on January 29, 2016. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., in Mr. Crowley's office. The January meeting focused on preparation of policies that were presented at tonight's Board meeting. Discussion was also held relating to the request to reconsider providing transportation for sports teams. It was determined that transportation for sports teams could not be considered at this time due to the financial impact and the current shortage of bus drivers.

Supervisory Union Report –

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2016.

Barre Town Recreation –

The Recreation Department is discussing improvements to the softball field. Mr. Tewksbury will review the meeting Minutes and report back to the Board. Insurance questions (relating to Millstone trail grooming) are still outstanding. A short contract will be necessary to name BTMES as being insured under the Millstone policy.

SHAC -

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2016 at 3:45 p.m. Mrs. McCarthy advised that BTMES will use the mandated Wellness Policy. More control will be available at the procedure level.

8. Future Agenda Items

Budget

Next Generation Science Standards Presentation

A 'to be determined' Student Presentation

Second and Final Readings / Ratifications for all First Readings approved 02/03/16

9. Approval of Warrants

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants.

10. Executive Session

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will be held on February 17, 2016.

There will be no Board or Committee meetings scheduled during the February break.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:07p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin