

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
December 9, 2015 – 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
Timothy P. Crowley, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Terrie Murray, Transportation Coordinator – departed at 6:23 p.m.
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Tamara Cooley Sarah Hill

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, December 9, 2015, Regular meeting to order at 6:01p.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

No additions to the Agenda.
5E. Superintendent’s Evaluation - will be conducted in Executive Session.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4A. Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2015 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5A. Second and Final Reading Life Threatening Allergies in School Policy

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held. It was noted that the next agenda item is a policy for ratification, rather than approval, thus the agenda items will be considered separately. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Life Threatening Allergies in School Policy.**

5B. Second and Final Reading Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Policy

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview of the policy, advising that this policy would become applicable if BTMES became a Title I school. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Policy.**

5C. PATH Grant

It was noted that this agenda item is for informational purposes only. There is no action required by the Board. Two documents were distributed; ‘Barre Supervisory Union Wellness in the Workplace Funds ACTION PLAN’, and ‘Wellness in the Workplace Funds FUNDING REQUEST’. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the PATH program, which is a grant funded program, promoting healthy lifestyles of employees. The program is available to qualifying districts and SUs that are part of the Vermont Educational Health Initiative. This is a one year, no strings attached grant. There is no obligation to continue the program in the future. Mr. Pandolfo thanked and recognized the following individuals for their efforts in coordinating the PATH program: Laura Thygesen, Melissa Brown, Jen Bombard, Beth Bicknell, Jesse Carpenter, Wendy Clark, Linda Rodriguez, Diana Flood, and Pam Wark.

5D. Transportation

Terrie Murray distributed a document titled 'School Board Meeting'. Mrs. Murray read the document, which provided information pertaining to an increase in the number of students being transported, service provided, the nationwide shortage of bus drivers, cancellation of bus routes, costs associated with substitute drivers/buses, stresses associated with bus route management, including the time consuming process of notifying parents of bus route cancellations, difficulty finding qualified applicants to fill open bus driver positions, student safety, transportation expectations, possible changes for consideration, and a request for interested candidates to contact Mrs. Murray to discuss openings and training. It was noted that the following positions are available: 1 position: (6:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.), and 2 positions: (7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.). Applicants are required to have a clean driving record and a clean back-ground check. CDL training assistance is available. Training takes approximately three months. The starting hourly rate is \$19.00 per hour. Full time employees will be eligible for benefits. Part time employees do not receive benefits. Mrs. Murray advised that BTMES would be flexible for individuals who are interested in a position involving driving and custodial work. The current cost for using an STA (Student Transportation of America) substitute bus and driver is \$75.00 per run. It was noted that STA drivers are not allowed to drive buses owned by BTMES. It may be possible to obtain a better rate under a long term contract. BCEMS currently contracts with STA. Parental notification has been performed only for cancellations. The document being presented this evening has not been distributed to parents. Mrs. Buzzell reminded the public of Act 153 which requires Transportation and Special Education be consolidated at the SU level. Mrs. Buzzell also noted that it was beneficial for the public to hear about the obstacles affecting transportation services at BTMES. Mr. Crowley reiterated that working to resolve busing issues and providing the type of service parents expect is highly stressful for Mrs. Murray. The ongoing issues need to be resolved as soon as possible.

In other transportation discussion, it was noted that the bus purchase grant monies (reimbursement), should be in the mail within a week.

5E. Superintendent Evaluation

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

6. Old Business

6A. Act 153 Update

Two documents were distributed; 'Confirmation of Compliance with Transportation Consolidation' and 'Confirmation of Compliance with Special Education Consolidation'. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview, advising that in the past, the SU has been operating on a waiver, but that the waiver will not continue to be granted under Act 153. The most recent response to a waiver request was partially approved, partially denied. Mr. Pandolfo submitted a status report, advising of the current scheme and different contracts. A thorough analysis will need to be performed to determine if the disparate schemes should continue, or if transportation will need to be reconfigured/restructured. In order to maintain disparate schemes, it must be proven that they can continue at or below the cost of one scheme. If disparate schemes are maintained, without approval from the DOE, a penalty (an increase in the education tax) will be imposed. Mr. Pandolfo is waiting for a reply from the DOE regarding their approval of the SU devising a transportation plan by June 30, 2016.

Regarding consolidation of Special Education, Mr. Pandolfo advised that effective 07/01/16, all Special Educators will be employed by the SU. Para-educators, currently under a separate contract, will remain in each school's budget for 2017, but their future placement will need to be reviewed. Individuals may Google 'Act 153' for additional information on this legislation. It should be noted that if Transportation or Special Education is not consolidated at the SU level, the tax impact may be 5%, and the penalty will be imposed on all schools in the district.

7. Board Reports

7A. Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 2, 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee (update), BSU Human Resources Coordinator Position (finalist to be recommended to the SU Board on December 10, 2015), the Legislative Breakfast (December 9, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Lunchbox at SHS/CVCC), an Act 153 update, and an update on the Co-Principal Search Process. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee has met monthly, since September, and has recently scheduled a public forum. Mrs. Buzzell advised the public regarding the January 12, 2016 Public Forum on Act 46. The Public Forum will be held at Spaulding High School, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The public is strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting, which will provide information regarding consolidation of all schools under the SU, utilizing one board and one budget. The public is also encouraged to visit the BSU web-site to access the Act 46 link, to view Act 46 Agendas, Minutes, and videos. Mr. Allen emphasized that Act 46 is a consolidation of school governance, not a consolidation of schools and feels the public forum is an excellent opportunity for the public achieve a better understanding of the Act and to give input to the Committee. Additionally, Mr. Allen advised that if the Committee agrees to move forward, a 176 Committee will be formed. It was announced that the Legislative Breakfast was very productive. The Legislators would like a follow-up meeting and advised that the maximum increase caps are being looked into. Mr. Pandolfo queried regard Board Member interest in joining the Co-Principal Search Committee. Pandolfo distributed, as required by Title 16, Chapter 5, Subchapter 2, a completed Financial Management Questionnaire-BSU, for Board review.

7B. Principals Report

Mrs. Nye announced the following events; December 15, 2015 – Grades 5-6 Winter Concert at 6:30 p.m., December 16, 2015 – Grades 7-8 Winter Concert at 6:30 p.m., and December 17, 2015 – Holiday Luncheon for Grades 2-3 (students and families). Additionally, BTMES has received a \$2000 grant from the Vermont Principal's Association, which will be used in part, to assist with the Winter Carnival. The majority of the grant funds will be used for a new sound system. Staff members have recently been working on the alignment of science curriculum (Next Generation Science Standards).

7C. Committee Reports

Finance –

A copy of the BTMES Expense Budget Status Report was distributed. Mr. Allen advised that budget development is progressing well. The Finance Committee will be holding a meeting at the conclusion of the Board Meeting. Mrs. Buzzell noted that all Board Members have been reviewing the budget and forwarding their questions to Mrs. Nye.

Facility and Transportation –

Transportation issues were addressed under Agenda Item 5D. Mr. Tewksbury advised that transportation issues do have an impact on custodial issues. There is a new salt shed to accommodate bulk purchases. There is currently no update available regarding parking lot maintenance.

Curriculum –

The Committee was not able to meet this morning. The next meeting will be in January 2016. Minutes from past meetings are available for viewing on-line. The longer school day has resulted in additional interventions for elementary students, and additional Science instruction for middle school students.

Policy –

Mrs. McCarthy advised that several meetings have taken place. Mrs. McCarthy distributed a copy of the Role and Adoption of School Board Policies Policy (A1), and provided an overview of how this revised policy impacts the adoption/ratification of policies. The current goal is to try to use SU-wide policies as much as possible. Twenty-three policies are currently being worked on. Some of the policies have mandated rules of how they must be written. Eleven policies will soon be ready for review/adoption/ratification.

Supervisory Union Report –

The SU Board will be meeting on December 10, 2015.

Barre Town Recreation –

Mr. Tewksbury advised that there is no update at this time. Mr. Tewksbury advised that he has received no correspondence recently, and advised that the Town Recreation Director has since left for another job.

SHAC -

Mrs. Metivier advised that the Committee met on Monday, December 7, 2015 and held a very productive meeting, including 'brainstorming' ways to 'bring the community into the building' or 'bring the students to the community'. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016.

8. Future Agenda Items

No discussion.

9. Approval of Warrants

In response to a query from Mrs. Buzzell, it was noted that BTMES provides support to students by assisting with payment of outstanding cafeteria charges. This assistance insures that students are able to continue purchasing meals. Invoices are sent to parents for reimbursement.

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

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to temporarily adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., so that the Finance Committee meeting could be held. The Regular Board meeting will resume after the Finance Committee meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to resume the Regular Board meeting at 9:24 p.m.

10. Executive Session
10 A. Legal Matter
10 B. Personnel

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Legal Matter and a Personnel Matter (Superintendent's evaluation).

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, 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. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:26 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 Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 10:04 p.m.

No action.

11. Next Meeting Date
No discussion.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin