

BARRE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
Library
April 6, 2016
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Buzzell – Chair
Brent Tewksbury – Vice Chair
Chad Allen - Clerk
Kristin McCarthy
Jay Paterson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Tamara Cooley
Elizabeth Rees

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday April 6, 2016 regularly scheduled Barre Town School Board (BTSB) meeting to order at 6:00pm. The meeting was held at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Library.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Added 5.4 Staff Resignation to 5. New Business
Added 5.5 Board Meeting Schedule to 5. New Business
Added 6.4 TriBoard Retreat to 6. Old Business

3. Visitors and Communications (Limited to 15 minutes)

Visitors Tamara Cooley and Elizabeth Rees to observe the meeting; no communications presented.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes of March 16, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 Regular Board meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 First Reading Physical Management and General Accountability Policy (E1)

Discussion: Mr. Paterson asked where the 23 model policies originated from. Mr. Pandolfo informed the Board that the 23 model policies originated from the Vermont School Board Association (VSBA).

Motion was made by Mr. Paterson seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Physical Management and General Accountability Policy (E1).

5.2 First Reading Budgeting Policy (E2)

Motion was made by Mr. Tewksbury seconded by Mr. Paterson the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading Budgeting Policy (E2).

5.3 Wellness Policy Discussion

The wellness policy will be discussed at the next SU Policy Committee Meeting.

5.4 Staff Resignation

Staci McDougall, Grades 5 – 8, Intensive Needs Special Educator submitted her resignation to take effect the last day of school.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to accept Ms. McDougall's resignation with regrets and best wishes.

5.5 Board Meeting Schedules

The April 20, 2016 regularly scheduled School Board meeting is cancelled.

The May 18, 2016 regularly scheduled School Board meeting is cancelled, however, the Board will meet on May 11, 2016 to conduct Middle School Principal interviews.

May 4, 2016 will be a regularly scheduled Board meeting preceded by a Finance Committee Meeting at 5:00pm.

6. Old Business

6.1 Reopened Principal Search

The Middle School Principal Search Committee will conduct interviews on May 2, 2016. Mrs. Buzzell requested that Mr. Pandolfo direct the Search Committee to advance the top candidates (a minimum of 2) to be interviewed by the Board at its May 11, 2016 meeting.

6.2 Act 46 Update

Mr. Paterson provided an Act 46 update. The next meeting of the Act 46 Committee will meet on April 28, 2016. Most of the meeting hovered around the topic of governance and included a discussion of what the name of the new District may be. In addition, the Committee discussed possible configurations of the new School District.

The Committee also discussed how to communicate strategically with the Barre community. The prevailing suggestion was to gather input from the community in smaller numbers at different locales or people's houses.

Once the Committee has more financial information and has developed an understanding of the financial implications that may occur then that might be the appropriate time to hold a more formal public forum in a larger community space. The Consultant, Peter Clarke, along with the SU Business Manager will be evaluating the financial implications that may occur should the school district governance be consolidated. The Committee discussed a timetable to bring a vote to the community and an election day (November 2016) vote was identified as the preferred targeted date.

Mrs. Buzzell asked if there is an attorney that is part of the process. There were comments made that Barre Town owns the athletic fields and Barre Town municipality maintains the fields. Mr. Pandolfo confirmed that these are some of the issues and relationships that must be discussed and identified in the Articles of Agreement.

Mr. Pandolfo indicated that part of the process is developing an understanding of where savings can be realized and or where additional costs may be incurred.

Mr. Pandolfo indicated that the Chittenden Central SU is consolidating and the Essex Junction Parks & Recreation is currently part of their supervisory union, which represents a similar challenge facing the Barre Supervisory Union.

6.3 Parking Lot Proposal Update

The Town has amended their budget to pave from Websterville Road to the existing gate. The design is to include a variety of treatments and the placement of 4" of hot mix asphalt. The work is expected to be conducted this summer.

The Town is also evaluating repairing the fence and backstop area behind the softball field.

Mr. Tewksbury met with BTMES maintenance personnel and a Contractor to examine an existing drainage issue. An existing swale that has filled in needs to be cleaned out and the ditch reestablished. This work should alleviate the existing drainage issue.

Mr. Crowley advocated for a future facility report regarding summer maintenance activities. Mr. Tewksbury will provide this report at the May 4, 2016 meeting. Although the current budget has a total amount of of \$80k Mr. Crowley advised that a portion of this budget be reserved to be spent at the future discretion of the new Facility Director.

There are a couple of bills in the warrants from the kitchen that the Board would like clarified. Mr. Crowley will follow-up to make sure that the bills aren't eligible to be covered under any previous warranty.

6.4 TriBoard Retreat

The Board agreed to meet for a TriBoard meeting proposed for June 21, 2016 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Spaulding High School. It is anticipated that the meeting will be conducted in a carousel format, where the first part of the meeting is a meeting of the three Boards and then the three Boards will split-up and conduct three (3) separate meetings.

The Barre Town School Board will hold its annual retreat on June 21, 2016 beginning at 2:00pm, the location will be determined. Mrs. Buzzell asked for June 21, 2016 BTSB retreat agenda topics.

7. Administrative Reports to the Board (as needed)

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Pandolfo presented his Superintendent's Report and provided the following key updates;

- The first negotiation meeting with the Custodial/Maintenance Bargaining Team will be April 7, 2016.
- Mr. Pandolfo presented a schedule of regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings aggregated on a single calendar.
- Mr. Pandolfo presented an advertisement of VSBA 2016 Spring Workshops.

- Mr. Pandolfo has had parents express interest in a formal exchange program that would allow students living in Barre Town go to Barre City and vice versa. He will discuss this topic with Barre City too.

7.2 Principals' Report

Mr. Crowley presented the Principals Report and provided the following key updates;

- No preschool due to parent-teacher conferences on April 7 and 8
- May 3, 2016 Grades 5/6 spring concert
- May 4, 2016 Grades 7/8 spring concert
- Spring Carnival to be held April 15, 2016.
- Large parent turnout for the 8th grade graduation planning meeting held April
- Eighth grade graduation to be held on June 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., in the courtyard – weather permitting.
- Provided handout outlining 2016-7 student enrollment and anticipated staffing schedule.
- Provided newsletter for March and April 2016.

7.3 Committee Reports

- Finance: Next meeting is May 4, 2016. An \$87,805 surplus was reported by the SU Business Manager.
- Facility and Transportation: There is nothing new to report.
- Curriculum: Mrs. Buzzell reported that Curriculum had a fantastic meeting today, April 6, 2016. They met with Kindergarten teachers and it was noted that this class has shown substantial maturity since the beginning of school. Mrs. Buzzell provided performance charts showing significant progress and correlated that progress back to the preschool opportunities that many of these children had access to and were able to take advantage of. Mrs. Buzzell passed out the Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from the April 6, 2016 meeting; these minutes will soon be available to read in their entirety on-line. A handwriting continuum will be developed for the school.
- Policy: Mr. Paterson reported that this Committee has not met and the date of the next meeting is yet to be determined.
- Supervisory Union Report: Mr. Allen provided noted that the SU Board is proposing to move forward with hiring a Facility Director for the three schools. The new organizational structure would require a lead maintenance person at each school.
- Barre Town Recreation: Mr. Tewksbury provided some updates earlier in the meeting regarding upgrades to the softball field.
- SHAC: Next meeting is May 2 right after school. Mrs. Pritchard provide a brief update on behalf of Ms. Pearson.

8. Future Agenda Items

Three future agenda items were recorded as follows;

- 2nd and Final Reading of the Physical Management and General Accountability Policy (E1)
- 2nd and Final Reading of the Budgeting Policy (E2)
- Facility report outlining summer maintenance activities

9. Approval of Warrants

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants.

During discussion Mr. Tewksbury questioned whether the school was receiving an equal benefit for the money it was spending on advertising in the two (2) local newspapers. The Board shared his concerns and agreed to discuss this issue as a future agenda item at the next Finance Committee Meeting

10. Executive Session (if needed)

An Executive Session was not needed.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will be held on May 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad A. Allen, Clerk