

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
September 16, 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
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services
Sandra Cameron, BSU Early Ed Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Pat MacAskill Lauren May

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, September 16, 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

None.

3. Visitors and Communications

There were no visitor comments. Mrs. Buzzell advised the community that the Consolidation Study Committee is a study committee, not a done deal. The Study Committee will be researching all aspects of the potential consolidation including educational and financial aspects. Extensive research will be performed before anything is brought to the voters. Mrs. Buzzell thanked Chad Allen and Brent Tewksbury for representing the Barre Town School Board on the Consolidation Study Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes

4A. Approval of Minutes – September 2, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5A. Preschool Update with Implications of Universal Pre-K Legislation (Sandra Cameron)

Mrs. Buzzell introduced Ms. Cameron and advised the community that although BTMES expanded its pre-k program last year, recent legislation will have tax implications, and requires identification of and provision of pre-k programs, for more individuals residing in Barre Town. Ms. Sandra Cameron, SU Early Education Director, addressed the Board regarding the implications of recent legislation pertaining to pre-school. Ms. Cameron gave a Power Point presentation providing an overview of the following areas; Estimated Need for Universal Pre-K, Current Enrollment (including wait list and students in partner centers), Feasibility for BTMES Expansion (including transportation costs), Act 166 Cost of Tuition to Pre-Qualified Private Pre-K Providers, Tax Rate Considerations, Act 166 Requirements for School Expansion, Defining a Prekindergarten Region, and Implications for families of children with special needs. Lengthy discussion ensued and included discussion of pre-qualified partners (SHS's early education program does not meet state requirements for a collaborative site), busing considerations, deadlines for submission of paperwork to expand the BTMES program and/or limit region boundaries, licensure, community meetings/public input (including public family survey), cost of expansion (with and without transportation), tax rate considerations, payment to qualified partners, limitations on capacity, options for students (if not enough capacity at BTMES), the limited number of pre-qualified partner centers (religion based licensed pre-school programs do not qualify), and services for students that qualify for Special Education. Mrs. Pritchard commended Ms. Cameron for providing a concise summary of this very complicated legislation. Mrs. Buzzell reminded the public that additional research will need to be conducted prior to decisions being made.

5B. Resign/Retire/New Hire(s)

Mr. Crowley advised that progress is being made on the Tech Ed/Art teacher position and that the committee has sent a recommendation to the Superintendent. The Tech Integration position is unresolved.

6. Old Business

6A. Busing

Mrs. Buzzell clarified that three (grant funded) buses are being ordered, rather than four, as indicated at the last meeting.

6B. New Teacher Recognition Reminder

An electronic invitation has been sent out. This event will be held on October 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The Curriculum Director will be present at the meeting to provide an overview of SBAC test results. Mr. Pandolfo advised that given the November 1st deadline for requesting a defined Pre-k region, research will continue on that topic, with information provided at the October 21, 2015 meeting. The Finance Committee meeting will immediately follow the Board meeting. Mr. Crowley commended the new Curriculum Director and thanked the hiring committee for their excellent choice in selecting Mr. McCraw for this position.

7. Board Reports

7A. Superintendent

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the first Consolidation Study Committee meeting will be held on September 29, 2015 at 5:30 pm. The location is to be determined. Mr. Pandolfo advised that this meeting will be publicly warned and posted.

7B. Principals Report

Mrs. Nye advised that grades three through eight have received SBAC results. Parents are encouraged to call with any questions. The Pre-K through grade four Open House/Harvest Dinner, Farmers Market will occur next Thursday, September 24, 2015 from 5:30p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The first ‘Walk to School’ day will be held on October 7, 2015. Picture day is October 15, 2015. A special ‘Thank you’ goes out to Tony Campos of Video Visions of Barre who volunteered countless hours over the past couple of years creating a video of the Crops by Kids Garden. The video highlights students and staff and includes Artist-in-residence, Jon Gailmore. The video can be viewed on the school web site. Mr. Crowley advised regarding the beginning of year assemblies, and advised regarding utilization of the student data base (Infinite Campus), to identify students who have outstanding/missing assignments. Reports are generated and a process is followed (working with students and their TA’s) to resolve outstanding issues. Mr. Crowley advised regarding the orderly dismissal of students. The new process works very smoothly.

C. Committee Reports

Finance – The committee will meet on October 21, 2015, immediately following the Board meeting.

Facility and Transportation – The Barre Town Select board will have the generator on an upcoming agenda. Grant Fleming will attend the meeting.

Curriculum – The Committee met and previewed the SBAC results. The general results of BTMES were very good compared to state-wide results. Training to allow for proficient use of computers had a positive impact on testing. The present kindergarten class has a higher number of students with intensive behavioral needs. It was noted that more students with intensive needs are being kept in-house, allowing for significant savings. Mrs. Buzzell thanked the tax payers for allowing BTMES to institute these changes. Karen Heath spoke briefly regarding literacy programs and will return at the next meeting to provide more detail. The meeting day has changed. The Curriculum Committee will begin meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on November 17, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the meeting are posted on the web-site.

Policy – A copy of the Minutes from the September 11, 2015 Policy Committee meeting were distributed for review.

Mrs. McCarthy provided an overview of the minutes, including progress on agenda items, identifying completed items, and those requiring further action. It was noted that the new rule pertaining to the philosophical exemption for immunizations, does not go into effect until next year. The next meeting will be on October 9, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Mr. Crowley’s office.

Supervisory Union Report –

The SU Board met on September 10, 2015. The draft Minutes are available on-line. Mrs. Buzzell provided an overview of the meeting, including extensive discussion of goals and direction, the Consolidation Study Committee consultant, and the HR position. The next regular meeting is being replaced by the October Tri-Board meeting. The next regular SU Board meeting will be held in November.

Barre Town Recreation –

Mr. Tewksbury advised that the individual who currently runs the meetings is no longer available. The next meeting date is not known at this time.

SHAC -

The next meeting will be on October 6, 2015 at 3:40p.m., in the BTMES library.

8. Future Agenda Items

SBAC Results
NECAP Results

9. Approval of Warrants

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants, with one possible correction.

10. Executive Session

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session

11. Next Meeting Date

Tri-Board Meeting – October 8, 2015
BTMES – October 21, 2015

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin