

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
September 2, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Buzzell - Chair
Brent Tewksbury – Vice Chair
Chad Allen - Clerk
Kristin McCarthy
Krista Metivier – arrived at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Timothy P. Crowley, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
Grant Fleming, Director of Facilities
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services
Terrie Murray, Transportation Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Pat MacAskill Douglas Moyes

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, September 2, 2015, Regular meeting to order at 6:09 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

Add 5D. October Board Meeting
Add a Legal Matter under Executive Session

3. Visitors and Communications

Mr. Douglas Moyes (parent) addressed the Board requesting information regarding the lack of bus transportation for after-school sports participants. Mrs. Buzzell and Mr. Crowley advised regarding the current policy that does not allow bus transportation for any after-school sports. This policy was adopted by the board during budget development due to lack of efficiency and budgetary constraints. Mrs. Murray explained that there is currently a shortage of bus drivers as well as that some of our drivers are also maintenance employees with fulltime work schedules. Mrs. McCarthy advised that parents currently coordinate car pools. Mr. Moyes requested that the Board reconsider the policy for events that are outside of Washington County. Mr. Allen suggested that a survey be conducted to determine the level of parental interest in two-way transportation, and the option of parental financing of transportation. It was reiterated that both a driver and a bus would need to be available to accommodate transportation of all BTMES sports teams.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes –August 19, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2015 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5A. Summer Facility Report

Mr. Fleming distributed a report detailing maintenance performed and provided a brief overview. Inspections and maintenance performed included the areas of safety and energy efficiency. Various maintenance duties were performed by in-house personnel, rather than outside vendors, resulting in significant savings. A new control panel for the furnace room is slated to be installed the week of September 7, 2015. A plan is in place for replacement of flooring. BTMES is now a certified emergency shelter. Mr. Tewksbury (facility chair) has been working with the Town of Barre regarding grant monies to fund the cost of the generator. Mr. Fleming advised that he has experience with these grants and is willing to work with the town to get the application completed for submission. **Mr. Tewksbury will contact the Town of Barre to request that this item be added to their next agenda.** The Board commended Mr. Fleming and the maintenance staff for their extraordinary work over the summer and noted that their extra effort has resulted in financial savings to the school.

5B. Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

There are no resignations or new hires to discuss. Available positions are currently advertised on School-Spring. Interviews for the Art/Tech Ed position are scheduled.

5C. First Week Transportation Report

Mrs. Murray advised the Board regarding challenges presented during the first week of school, including closed roads and a shortage of bus drivers. Parents are being very supportive as the school works to resolve the issues. Additionally, Mrs. Murray advised regarding new buses, which are scheduled to be delivered in mid-September. Grant money will be received **to cover twenty percent of** the cost of the buses. A grant application will be submitted for a fourth bus. There are currently two openings for custodial/bus driver positions. Qualified applicants must have a clean driving record, a clean criminal background check and possess the ability to work with children. Training, which will take one to three months, will be performed by the school. It was noted that there is currently a nationwide shortage of bus drivers. Mrs. Murray will attend the 'Touch a Truck' event to promote the openings.

5D. October Board Meeting

Mrs. Buzzell requested that the Board consider cancelling the October 7, 2015 meeting, as a Tri-Board meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2015. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to cancel the October 7, 2015 Regular Board Meeting.** The Tri-Board Meeting will be held on October 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. as Spaulding High School.

6. Old Business

6A. Lunch Prices

Copies of menus and the Operating Statement Schedule E were distributed for review. The Abbey Group's proposal includes no increase in lunch prices for school year 2015 – 2016.

7. Board Reports

7A. Superintendent

Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding budget development for Transportation and Special Education. The Business Manager met with Special Education staff to discuss the process and consolidation of expenses in the SU budget. Expenses will be identified separately for each school. Mrs. Buzzell advised the public that Act 153 mandates that the Supervisory Union consolidate Transportation and Special Education into the SU budget by July 1, 2016. Barre Town School will continue to manage their own transportation system for BT students but the SU will oversee the cost of transportation. Mr. Pandolfo provided an update on the Consolidation Study Committee. The first meeting is slated for late September. Grant money has been received. VSBA is compiling a list of consultants to assist with the first level of analysis. Grant application(s) will be submitted to help cover the cost of future, more in-depth analysis. On October 7, 2015, VEHI (Vermont Education Health Initiative) will hold meetings with teams from the SU to review upcoming changes. On October 8, 2015, a Tri-Board meeting will be held to review the budget development process. Ms. Perreault will present a proposal for a revised financial policy, with the goal of implementing an SU wide policy that reflects the VSBA model policy.

7B. Principals Report

The school year is off to a good start, with students taking assessments and getting into routines. September 4, 2015 will be a staff development day. The Pre-school through fourth grade open-house will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015. The public was reminded of the BTMES 50th anniversary. Those wishing to assist were asked to contact the school or Tina Lunt. Under the direction of Ms. Pearson, the school held a very successful evacuation drill. The transitioning of students went very well, with only four parents calling to discuss student placement.

7C. Committee Reports

Finance – The committee met September 2, 2015. The Operating Surplus is \$272,650, the Fund Balance is \$146,646, and the Capital Fund Balance is \$302,369.40. These are unaudited amounts. The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2015, immediately following the Regular Board meeting. Agenda items will include a presentation on budget development and budget committee formation at the SU level. The public is encouraged to attend committee meetings.

Curriculum – The meeting was changed to Wednesday, September 9, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. The public is welcome to attend these meetings. Other possible meeting dates and times will be discussed.

Policy – The next meeting will be on September 11, 2015 at 8:00 a.m., in Mr. Crowley's office. It was noted that wording to the Philosophical Exemption (to vaccines) policy needs to be updated.

Supervisory Union Report – The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, 2015.

Barre Town Recreation – There is nothing new to report.

SHAC – There is nothing new to report.

8. Future Agenda Items

Under Old Business - New Staff Welcoming

9. Approval of Warrants

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

10. Executive Session

Item proposed for discussion in Executive Session: legal matter.

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

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion. All Administrative personnel and Mr. Pandolfo were invited to join the Executive Session.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Metivier, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

No action.

11. Next Meeting Date

September 16, 2015 – Regular BTMES Board Meeting

October 8, 2015 – Tri-Board Meeting

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin