

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
January 4, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Sandra Cameron, BSU Early Ed Director
Scott Griggs, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Jen Bliss	Meghan Breen	Tanya Crawford-Stempel
Bob Hildebrand	Carey Miller			

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, January 4, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 6:38 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

Jennifer Bliss, a local home daycare provider, addressed the Board advising regarding her request to a change in the bus route on Beckley Hill. Ms. Bliss advised that she has addressed this issue/request with the Transportation Coordinator and with Administrative personnel. Mr. Tewksbury confirmed that this request has been discussed by the Transportation Committee. Mr. Griggs advised he has also been involved in researching this issue. Various safety issues have been cited as reasons to deny the request. The Board agreed to review the decision, including follow up with the Transportation Coordinator. Ms. Bliss will be contacted regarding the outcome of further research/discussions.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2017 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Pre-K Mini Meals

A copy of the Barre Town Preschool Menu was distributed. A copy of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Preschool Lunch Meal Pattern (through September 30, 2017) was distributed. Mr. Hildebrand presented meal samples for the Board to view. The program, which began after the winter break, has approximately 15 participants. As this program has only been in effect for 3 days, it is anticipated that participation will increase as parents become more familiar with the program. Meals are served to both morning and afternoon pre-school students. Meals are served at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. It was noted that approximately 33% of pre-school students qualify for free and reduced meals. The cost for students who don't qualify is \$1.00 per meal. It was also noted that there is a 'share' table, where unwanted/unopened food/drinks can be placed for consumption by other students. The program seems quite popular thus far and is very beneficial to students.

Mr. Hildebrand advised that accounts receivable looks good this year. The total of accounts with outstanding balances is currently \$2106, which is much lower than at this time last year. \$1193 of the outstanding balance is attributed to accounts owing more than \$20. The highest outstanding balance is \$75. Emergency meals, at a cost of 75¢, have been discreetly distributed to students with overdue balances. Parents seem to respond to the serving of 'emergency' meals, by sending in the outstanding funds.

5.2 SHAC Action Plan

A copy of the draft BTMES 2016-2017 SHAC Action Plan was distributed. Tonya Crawford-Stempel, addressed the Board regarding the SHAC Action Plan. Mrs. Crawford-Stempel is one of the BTMES nurses, and is co-chair of the SHAC Committee. Mrs. Crawford-Stempel read the SHAC Mission Statement, and provided an overview of the Action Plan, and of the stakeholders on the SHAC Committee. The overview of the Action Plan included discussion of the objectives (increased family involvement in the BTMES community and development of a sustainable physical activity system for children in grades K – 8) and the rationale behind the Action Plan. SHAC Committee meetings are normally held on the first Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the BTMES Library from 3:40 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Due to the holiday, the January meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017. Community members are welcome to attend.

5.3 First Reading Student Conduct and Discipline Policy (F1)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.3 through 5.6 were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo and Mr. Paterson provided a brief overview of the VSBA policies. The policies as presented this evening are verbatim VSBA policies which have been approved by the Supervisory Board.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.3 through 5.6 (F1, F7, F21, and F25)

5.4 First Reading Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy (F7)

The First Reading of the policy was approved under Agenda Item 5.3.

5.5 First Reading Firearms Policy (F21)

The First Reading of the policy was approved under Agenda Item 5.3.

5.6 First Reading Student Attendance Policy (F25)

The First Reading of the policy was approved under Agenda Item 5.3.

5.7 FY '18 Tuition Rate

A document titled 'FY18 Announced Tuition-BTMES' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo lead the discussion, with proposed tuition rates of \$9,321 for students in grades K-6, and \$10,582 for grades 7 and 8. It was noted that the tuition rate for K-6 remains the same as in FY17, and is lower than the \$9,888 rate for FY16. The 7 and 8 grade tuition is also the same as FY17, and is only slightly higher than the FY16 rate of \$10,563. **On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the annual tuition rates as proposed (K-6 \$9,321 and 7/8 \$10,582).**

6. Old Business

6.1 Second and Final Reading Substitute Teachers Policy (D6)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.1 through 6.8 were distributed. Brief discussion was held regarding these policies which were previously approved as First Readings, and are being presented as Second and Final Readings, for approval and ratification.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Readings of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.1 through 6.8, and agreed to ratify said policies; D6, D7, F5, F19, F23, F27, C23, and G13.

6.2 Second and Final Reading Volunteers and Work Study Students Policy (D7)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.3 Second and Final Reading Education Records Policy (F5)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.4 Second and Final Reading Limited English Proficiency Students Policy (F19)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.5 Second and Final Reading Participation of Home Study Students Policy (F23)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.6 Second and Final Reading Pupil Privacy Rights Policy (F27)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.7 Second and Final Reading Use of Restraint and Seclusion Policy (C23)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.8 Second and Final Reading Animal Dissection Policy (G13)

The Policy was ratified after approval of the Second and Final Reading, under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.9 FY '18 Budget

Three documents were distributed; the BTMES FY18 Budget Considerations document (revised 12/28/16), the BTMES Comparative Tax Rate Calculations for Budget Years 2017-2018, and a document containing screen shots for the draft of the Power Point Presentation for the BTMES Proposed FY18 Budget (dated 12/28/16). Mr. Allen provided an overview of the highlights of the draft budget and advised that the next Finance Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the BTMES upstairs conference room. The Committee intends to finalize the budget and present it for approval at the Board Meeting which follows the Committee Meeting. The Committee is trying to balance the overall impact to tax payers, while working hard to provide a quality education to students. Investments the Committee has been looking into include improved education, student safety, building maintenance/improvements and security. It was noted that a reduction in the number of equalized pupils impacts the cost per pupil that will be presented on the ballot.

6.10 Act 46

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the revote in Barre Town is warned for January 31, 2017. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Individuals, who voted via absentee ballot in November, have been mailed absentee ballots for the re-vote. Absentee ballots are available for all registered voters. Those who wish to vote by absentee ballot should contact the Barre Town Clerk.

6.11 Labor Relations

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a revised copy of the 'Proposal Status' report for teachers. Mr. Pandolfo reminded Board Members that 'TA'd' refers to items that have been tentatively agreed to. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the next negotiation meeting with teachers has been scheduled for January 17, 2017. The Negotiation Committee met with para-educators on December 5, 2016, and plan to meet again the week of January 8, 2017. The Negotiation Committee has been in contact with custodial/maintenance personnel, and will be scheduling meetings for late January or early February 2017.

6.12 March School Board Elections

It was announced that there are 2 school board seats open for the March 2017 election. One seat is for a term of 3 years. One seat is for a term of 2 years. Mrs. Buzzell (after serving 14 years) and Mr. Tewksbury will not be seeking re-election. Interested individuals need to submit petitions with the signatures of at least 30 registered voters. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk for petitions and or additional information, including the deadline for submission of petitions. Those seeking to be on the ballot were cautioned to gather more than 30 signatures, to help assure that their petitions contain 30 signatures from individuals who are registered to vote in the Town of Barre.

7. Board Reports

7.1. Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 28, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; action relating to the Act 46 Committee and the upcoming re-vote, the status of negotiations, and scheduling of a Legislative Breakfast. Mr. Pandolfo highlighted the scheduling of a Legislative Breakfast. Mrs. Gibson is working on coordinating this event. Tentative dates for the Legislative Breakfast are; January 23, 2017 and January 30, 2017.

7.2 Principals Report

The BTMES Administrative Report for January 4, 2017 was distributed. The report contained information pertaining to; enrollment, the Pre-K program, the PBIS celebration (held on 12/32/16), the upcoming New Year's Luncheon (01/11/17), mid-year assessments, the end of the second quarter (01/20/17), Winter Concerts (12/12/16 & 12/13/16), Spirit Week (12/19/16 – 12/23/16), the David Stefaniak Holiday Gift Drive Distribution Night (12/16/16), and winter weather related transportation issues. Two additional documents were distributed; the BTMES Monthly Enrollment Report (dated 01/03/17), and a copy of the BTMES January 2017 Newsletter. Mrs. Nye reported an increase in student enrollment (7 new students), bringing to 886, as of January 3, 2017. Mrs. Nye provided a breakdown of the newly registered students (Kindergarten - 1, 4th grade - 2, 5th grade - 1, 6th grade - 1, and 8th grade – 2). Mr. Griggs advised regarding recent radon testing. This testing is performed at the recommendation of the State. Mr. Griggs reported that BTMES tested well and administrators are pleased with the results.

7.3 Committee Reports

Finance – Mr. Allen announced the Finance Committee Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at BTMES, in the upstairs conference room.

Facility and Transportation – The Committee has nothing new to report at this time.

Curriculum – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the BTMES upstairs conference room. Items for discussion include; Proficiency Based Learning, key boarding skills, and handwriting.

Policy – The next **Supervisory Union** Policy Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m., at the Barre Supervisory Union. The BTMES Policy Committee will soon begin work on updating their policies, including adding newly approved policies to the web site, and identifying BTMES policies which will need to be rescinded.

SHAC – The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 3:40 p.m.

Barre Town Recreation – Pickle ball will be held at BTMES this winter. Sign-up for this winter activity is still open.

7.4 Financials

No discussion.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Finance – Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the BTMES upstairs conference room.

Curriculum – Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at BTMES in the upstairs conference room.

SU Policy Committee – Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at the Supervisory Union

Supervisory Union – Thursday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

SHAC – Monday, January 9, 2017 at 3:40 p.m.

9. Approval of Warrants

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

It was noted that a document, related to electricity expenses, requires research.

10. Executive Session

10.1 Superintendent's Evaluation

The Superintendent's Evaluation was proposed for discussion in Executive Session. The BTMES Board will discuss the evaluation and bring their information to the SU Board.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Board Members only, at 7:32 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

11. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin