

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library  
November 16, 2016 – 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  
Scott Griggs, Principal  
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal  
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal  
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Ryan Bellavance	Marcia Biondolillo	Jeff Blow
Laurie Brown	Craig Chase	Mike Graves	Pat MacAskill	Jaime Cushman
Keith Cushman	Rob LaClair	David LaCroix	Paul Malone	Adam Martin
Kristen Martin	Mark McCarthy	Topper McFaun	Ashley Morris	Sonya Spaulding
Carlotta Simonds-Perantoni		Jon Valsangiacomo		

**1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, November 16, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 6:34 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 5.1 Election Results

**3. Visitors and Communications**

Visitors were present for discussion of Act 46.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2016 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2016 Regular Meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Election Results**

Mrs. Buzzell advised of the election results; 71% of registered Barre Town voters turned out. Barre Town voters defeated Article I by a large majority. Mrs. Buzzell suggested that voters were educated on Article I and suggested that some of the Articles of Agreement be revisited and possibly revised. Mr. Paterson provided a brief overview of the work of the Study Committee and of the choices available going forward, which include a possible revote or formation of a new Study Committee (which would be required if items in the Articles of Agreement are to be revised). There were differing opinions expressed regarding whether or not voters were voting based on accurate information or misinformation. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the legal requirements for reconsideration of Article I.

**6. Old Business**

**6.1 FY '18 Budget Development**

The Finance Committee met prior to this evening's Board Meeting. Mr. Allen reported that the Committee is building a draft budget based on needs, including Special Education, Transportation, educational and staffing. The Committee has been working in conjunction with Administrators to identify needs. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

## **6.2 Act 46 Update**

Two documents were distributed; 'Barre Act 46 Process – Next Steps (November 2016), and a document from the State Board of Education (dated August 23, 2016) pertaining to '3400 Proposals for Alternative Structures Under Act 46 (2015)'. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the various options were discussed at the Act 46 meeting on November 10, 2016. Mr. Pandolfo advised that a new 706 Committee would need to be formed if any changes were to be made to the Articles of Agreement. Mr. Pandolfo provided detailed information regarding the requirements for reconsideration of Article I, including the deadline for submission of reconsideration petitions ( December 8, 2016), the number of petition signatures required (between 5% and 20%), and that a revote must pass by 2/3 (333 or more votes) of the margin by which it failed. Lengthy discussion ensued, which included input from community members, Board Members (BTMES and SHS), Act 46 – 706 Study Committee Members, and governmental representatives. Discussion included possible changes to Act 46 (current discussions include possible modifications, but no discussion of repealing the law), State requirements regarding consolidation and legal authority to consolidate districts that are not in compliance with the law, tax incentives, concerns regarding restructuring, representation, property values, and misinformation of voters, circulation of petitions requesting reconsideration of Article I, use of Capital Improvement funds, equity of asset contribution, historical information relating to formation of the Union High School, and subsequent conveyance of half-ownership of SHS to the Town of Barre, achievement scores, impact of achievement levels for students living in poverty, the value of school choice (state-wide), and areas within the SU that are currently shared/consolidated. Jeff Blow distributed 2 documents; a copy of Act 46 (pages 1 – 11 of 64 total pages), and copies of pages from the Final Report (pages; 18, 20, 25, 29, 37, 38, and 39).

The Board meeting was suspended at 8:25 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m.

## **6.3 Negotiations**

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the negotiation process to date. Meetings have been held in open session. Discussion has included wages and health insurance. Proposals have been given to teachers and para-educators. Proposals to Custodial/Maintenance staff will be presented at a 'to be determined' date. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the proposals, including the proposed salary increase and 'cost sharing' of health insurance.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.1. Superintendent**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that all items have been discussed under agenda items. No additional report is necessary.

### **7.2 Principals Report**

The BTMES Administration Report for November 16, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food Drive (11/07/16 – 12/09/16), the Harvest Luncheon (held on 11/16/16), the Liz City Workshop (held on 11/16/16), Transportation (winter stops will begin soon), Pre-kindergarten (Family Fun Event on 11/15/16), Report Cards, and the November break (11/23/16 – 11/27/16). Additionally, administrators thanked guests for attending the Harvest Luncheon, advised that there are currently 116 students enrolled in the pre-kindergarten program, and that there are 10 Barre Town pre-kindergarten aged children enrolled in community based pre-k programs.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

**Finance** – The Committee has been working on budget development. The current year's budget currently shows a deficit, but it is too early in the year to make year-end projections.

**Facility and Transportation** – New security measures have been implemented at the school. Proposed building projects will be discussed at the next budget meeting

**Curriculum** – The next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the BTMES upstairs conference room.

**Policy** – The Committee met on November 4, 2016, and reviewed policies that are at the SU level. Some policies, such as the class size policy and the policy relating to disruptive students, will need to be modified for each individual school within the SU.

### **7.4 Financials**

The BTMES Expense Budget Status Report was distributed. The next meeting will be on December 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

## **8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings**

Finance – Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. – the agenda will include Budget Development.

Curriculum – November 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the BTMES upstairs conference room.

Supervisory Union – Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

## **9. Approval of Warrants**

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

**10. Executive Session**

**10.1 Labor Relation Agreements**

It was announced that there were no items to be proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at **6:30 p.m.**

**12. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:41p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*