

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
November 2, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Buzzell - Chair
Brent Tewksbury – Vice Chair – arrived at 6:19 p.m.
Kristin McCarthy
Jay Paterson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chad Allen - Clerk

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Richard McCraw, M.Ed., Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Doug Farnham Bob Hildebrand Carl Rogers Tom White

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, November 2, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 6:05 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 5.2 Retirement Announcement

The Board agreed to discuss Agenda Items out of sequence to allow guests to depart.

3. Visitors and Communications

This communication was conveyed during Agenda Item 7.3, Committee Reports. Mr. Tewksbury, speaking on behalf of The Barre Youth Sports Association (BYSA), advised that they are promoting “Hockey Night in Barre”. The purpose of this program is to promote excitement for hockey in the Barre Area. Each ‘Hockey Night’ will promote an individual team. The events will be hosted two Fridays per month. The first Hockey Night will be held this Friday, 11/04/16 at 7:15 p.m. at the BOR, and will feature the Barre 12 Girls team vs St. Albans. BYSA is requesting that these events be announced on the PA system as part of Morning Announcements. Mr. Tewksbury will provide a written list of events.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2016 Regular Meeting. As Mr. Allen and Mr. Tewksbury were not present, Mrs. Buzzell voted.

5. New Business

5.1 SBAC

A document titled ‘The SBAC Assessment: An Overview of the Spring 2016 Results’ was distributed. Mr. McCraw addressed the Board advising that a Power Point presentation would be presented to provide an overview of BTMES SBAC scores. Mr. McCraw advised that all students in grades 3 – 8 were tested. Though testing has occurred for 4 years, this is the first year that contains usable data and is the first year of being held accountable for the results. No trend data is available, as 3 years of ‘usable’ data is required for trending purposes. Mr. McCraw presented the Power Point presentation which included results of Spring 2016 testing, with and without disaggregated data based on gender, free/reduced lunch, and students with disabilities. Additional data included comparisons between BTMES and State averages. It was noted that the majority of BTMES ELA and Math scores, ranked higher than the state average. It was also noted that data on specific subgroups was not provided by the State, as there are too few students in those categories (English-language learners, Migrant works, and Races other than white). Mr. McCraw also provided an overview of ‘observations’ and ‘next-steps’.

5.2 Retirement Announcement

A letter from Diane Meyer (Speech Language Pathologist), dated October 2016, was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo read the letter to the Board, advising that Ms. Meyer will be retiring effective June 30, 2016. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with regrets and best wishes, the retirement of Diane Meyer.

6. Old Business

6.1 Purchase and Sales Agreement for Recreation Fields

A copy of the 'Commercial Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement' was distributed. Mr. Rogers, Mr. White, and Mr. Farnham were present to represent the Town regarding the sale of recreational property. It was noted that voter approval is required, and could be presented to voters for approval at the March 2017 election. Mr. Rogers advised that the Town is present to request that the Board authorize the Board Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, to sign the Commercial Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement, so that the Town can proceed with the land survey and sub-division plan, over the winter. Deeds would need to be written after the March election. Mrs. Buzzell provided a brief overview of Act 46 and the Board's reasoning for proposing the sale of the recreational land. Mr. Paterson conveyed concern that the prioritization of recreational land was not included in the document. It was noted that the prioritization of use during the school day, is currently documented in a "Field Use Agreement" document (which is set to expire on 07/01/17). Mr. Rogers and the Board agreed to have Mrs. Buzzell amend, by hand written notation, the Commercial Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement", such that it includes a clause that advises that the Field Use Agreement will continue to be honored and that such agreement will be noted in the deed.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Commercial Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement for Recreation Fields, and authorized Board Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, to amend and sign the document.

6.2 Board Discussion/Action on Upcoming Act 46/School Consolidation Vote on November 8th

Mrs. Buzzell began the discussion advising that the purpose of Act 46 is to provide equitable educational quality and fiscal responsibility. Board Members advised regarding concerns relating to information included in documents distributed for Agenda Item 6.4, including the 'Talking Points' document and the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document. Mrs. Buzzell voiced concern regarding transparency (possibility of school restructuring after 5 years), accuracy of facts relating to assets, Tax Rates, and the importance of the CLA in the tax formula. Mr. Tewksbury conveyed his concerns relating to equity of asset contribution and loss of the implementation grant (item 14 in the FAQs document). Mrs. McCarthy conveyed her concerns regarding availability of Capital Improvement funds (contributed by Barre Town tax payers), and the possible loss of the 'personal touch' under a consolidated board. Mr. Paterson, Board Member and Act 46 Study Committee Representative for the BTMES Board, distributed a copy of a letter to the editor that he plans to submit to the Times Argus, in support of consolidation. Brief discussion was held. Mr. Paterson advised he will be making revisions to the document prior to submission for publication. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the document from the Department of Education (distributed under Agenda Item 6.4), pertaining to the original Union High School Agreement.

6.3 Budget Development

Mr. Griggs advised that the budget process is progressing well, including meetings with various departments. Administrators are currently compiling a 'needs' list, as opposed to a 'wish' list. Some changes will be necessary due to changes in grant funding. Two new positions that are being considered for inclusion in the budget are; a School Resource Officer and a Technology Integrationist. It was noted that some expenses are not within the control of administrators (e.g., salaries and benefits). Though Special Education and Transportation expenses are being reviewed, they will be budgeted at the SU level. The Business Office is in the process of researching new accounting software. There are three items that are being kept on the forefront for possible completion within the current fiscal year; repairs to the roof air conditioning unit, paving of the parking lot, and acquisition of a generator. Due to the number of items to be discussed by the Finance Committee, the November 16, 2016 BTMES Board Meeting will be slated to start one half hour later (6:30 p.m.). Mr. Tewksbury will be presenting a priorities list regarding proposed maintenance items.

6.4 Act 46 Update

Five documents were distributed; A document from the State Board of Education (dated October 18, 2016), titled 'AGENCY OF EDUCATION', 'Talking Points on Act 46 in Barre', 'Barre Act 46 Frequently Asked Questions – October 2016', Draft Minutes of the October 6, 2016 Act 46 -706 Study Committee, and a copy of the Sample Ballot for the November 8, 2016 Barre Town School District Special Meeting. All discussion was held under Agenda Item 6.2.

6.5 Pre-K Milk and Lunch Program (Bob Hildebrand)

Mr. Hildebrand addressed the Board and advised that the Abbey Group would like to implement a meal program for the students in pre-school. The pre-school program is currently in the "Special Milk Program", which provides free milk to all pre-school children at BTMES. Regulations prevent having both the Special Milk Program and a meal program at the same time. The State would like the school to move away from the Special Milk Program and offer meal service. The Abbey Group proposes offering a "cold meal" lunch to both morning and afternoon pre-school classes. Those who qualify for free/reduced meals, would receive the meal at no cost. Those who don't qualify would pay \$1 per meal. The Business Manager is currently researching the impact of the change. Additional information will be provided at a later date. Additionally, Mr. Hildebrand advised that the new policy pertaining to outstanding charges is making a difference. The proactive approach, including letters and phone calls to parents is producing results. There is

currently an outstanding balance of \$2150, \$1809 of which is for accounts that are in arrears by over \$10. Abbey Group is prepared to start providing bagged lunches for students' whose accounts are greater than \$20 in arrears, and are working with administrators regarding how to deliver the meals in an inconspicuous manner such that student privacy is not compromised.

6.6 Second and Final Reading of BSU Tobacco Prevention Policy (E8)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview. Discussion was held regarding how the sale of the recreational land will impact the policy (as the land will no longer be considered school property). This issue will be slated for review next year.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the BSU Tobacco Prevention Policy (E8).

7. Board Reports

7.1. Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated October 26, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Study Committee, the VSBA/VSA Conferences, and Negotiations. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Act 46 ballot is available for review. Mr. Pandolfo distributed a copy of a letter from the Secretary of Education, confirming their approval of the Transportation Plan and recognizing that the BSU is in compliance with 16 V.S.A. §261a(a)(8)(E).

7.2 Principals Report

The BTMES Administrative Report for November 2, 2016 was distributed. The report contained information pertaining to; the PTO, a PBIS update, Fire Safety, the Harvest Luncheon, Science Curriculum Work, Transportation, the Pre-K Program, Polls held at BTMES on November 8, 2016, Staff Development Day (Friday, November 11, 2016). Mr. Griggs reported that the 50th Anniversary Celebration was well attended and very successful. Tina Lunt was recognized for the instrumental role she played in coordinating the celebration. Mrs. Nye circulated thank you notes from first graders (for the 50th anniversary tee shirts they received). The BTMES Monthly Enrollment Report for November 1, 2016 was also distributed. Mrs. Nye advised that the October report contained an error. The total number of students enrolled at BTMES is 873, including 118 pre-school students.

7.3 Committee Reports

Facility and Transportation – Mr. Tewksbury advised that many of the proposed projects will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Policy – A recent meeting at the SU included a review of local policies and student handbooks. The BTMES Policy Committee will meet on Friday, November 4, 2016 at 7:30 a.m., and will include comparisons between BSU policies and the Barre Town Policy Manual as well as the Student Handbook.

SHAC – The meeting on November 7, 2016 at 3:40 p.m. will include discussion of 'Whole School/Whole Child', physical activity of all students, and community wellness.

7.4 Financials

BTMES and BSU Expense Budget Status Reports were distributed. No discussion was held.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Finance – Wednesday, November 16, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Facility and Transportation – to be announced.

Policy Committee - Friday, November 4, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

Supervisory Union – Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Barre Supervisory Union in the First Floor Conference Room

SHAC – Monday, November 7, 2016 at 3:40 p.m.

Curriculum – To be announced.

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

The item proposed for discussion in Executive Session is Labor Relations Agreements.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place Barre Town Middle and Elementary School at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 8:18 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

11. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at **6:30 p.m.** at the BTMES Library

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:42p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin