

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
September 21, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Buzzell - Chair
Brent Tewksbury – Vice Chair
Chad Allen - Clerk
Kristin McCarthy – arrived at 6:11 p.m.
Jay Paterson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, September 21, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 6:07 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

Executive Session will not be necessary.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the September 7, 2016 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Act 46 Update

Copies of Draft 7 of the Final Report, which was previously distributed to Board Members, were available to those who wished to have an additional copy. It was announced that the required Board review and comment process would occur at this evening's meeting. The Board's comments will be presented to the Act 46 Committee at their meeting on September 22, 2016. Mr. Pandolfo advised that counsel has provided clarification regarding commingled votes. Article 12 states that votes will not be commingled. There are statutes which regulate when votes can be commingled. Under Article 12, sub totals for each community will be reported individually, and then will be combined to determine if items/Articles pass. Mrs. Buzzell advised that she believes it is important to record how each community votes. Mr. Paterson proceeded to provide an overview of the Final Report, beginning with the Executive Summary. It was noted that consultant, Peter Clarke, created the Final Report, including the Executive Summary, based on input from the Act 46 Committee. Lengthy discussion ensued. The Board agreed to propose wording changes that would better reflect past efforts to strengthen and align curriculum. Mrs. Buzzell advised that she felt it was important to recognize past and current efforts regarding improvements to curriculum and programs. Mr. Paterson advised that any additional comments would need to be submitted prior to the Committee's meeting on Wednesday, September 22, 2016. In response to a query from Mr. Tewksbury, Mr. Pandolfo advised that Act 46 legislation did not define or mandate who the BSU needed to discuss consolidation with, and that no other districts have been in contact with the BSU regarding possible consolidation. Mr. Tewksbury noted that Washington Village School and Orange Center School are geographically very close to the BSU and perhaps may have been good candidates for consolidation. It was confirmed that neither of those districts contacted the BSU to discuss any type of merger. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Committee's communication plan and advised that there have currently been 403 responses to Survey #2. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the proposed Unified Board 'make-up', and advised regarding the deadline for submitting petitions to run for a seat on the Unified Board. Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Act 46 Committee Meeting were distributed. The Agenda for the September 22, 2016 Act 46 Committee Meeting was also distributed.

5.2 Act 46 Final Report Review & Comment

See discussion under Agenda Item 5.1.

5.3 Act 46 Ballot Warning Approval

A copy of the Draft Warning was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the document and advised that he is seeking approval from the BTMES Board, as well as the Act 46 Committee. The BCEMS Board has approved the Barre City Warning.

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warning for the November 8, 2016 Act 46 vote, (Articles I and II). The Warning was circulated for Board Members' signatures.

Mr. Tewksbury advised that the land transfer (recreation fields), will most likely be completed before the effective date of unification.

5.4 Pre-Kindergarten Update

Three documents were distributed; 'Barre Supervisory Union Prequalified Partners 2016-2017', a memorandum from the Secretary of Education (dated September 14, 2016), and a memorandum from the Vermont Department for Children and Families (pertaining to Act 166 Record Checks). Discussion included enrollment of Barre Town students at qualified centers, communication and contracts with qualified centers, and the current backlog of fingerprinting and background checks (due to Act 166 requirements).

6. Old Business

Mrs. Buzzell read a thank you letter from retired Principal, Tim Crowley. Mr. Crowley thanked the Board for their retirement gift and briefly advised regarding his adjustment to retirement after many years of service in Education.

7. Board Reports

7.1. Superintendent

A letter dated August 25, 2016 from the Vermont School Board Association was distributed. The document provided an overview of the assistance and services that the VSBA provides.

7.2 Principals Report

The BTMES Administration Report for September 21, 2016 was distributed. Mrs. Nye advised regarding the upcoming Open House for grades PreK – 4. The event is scheduled for September 22, 2016, beginning at 5:00 p.m., and will include a Harvest Dinner, Farmers' Market, access to the bookstore, and visits to the classrooms. Mr. Griggs reported a successful Summer Reading program that culminated with book group discussions. All staff were involved in the Summer Reading program. Mrs. McCarthy advised that she felt the 'bingo' card system implemented this summer was a welcome change, and was very encouraging to students. Mrs. Nye encouraged parents to provide feedback regarding the new Summer Reading program. It was noted that the Times Argus is printing multiple articles relating to the history of the Barre Town School System. Annette Bisson Rossi was thanked for her involvement, granting interviews to the Times Argus in their efforts to obtain information for the articles. Part of the BTMES 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held on October 6, 2016. From 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., informational booths will be open in the gym. A more formal program will be held from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend this celebration. Tina Lunt was recognized for her efforts assisting with coordinating the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Mrs. Nye advised that the fall walk to school event will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016.

7.3 Committee Reports

Finance – The next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room.

Facility and Transportation – The Town has been instrumental in making improvements to new and existing walkways, and have begun preparations for installation of a time capsule.

Curriculum – The Committee met on September 21, 2016. Discussion included homework practices and concerns regarding the Engaged New York math program, which some have complained is difficult to understand. The Curriculum Committee felt that the math program is consistent with Common Core expectations and believe that confusion is centered on the use of new terminology. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Policy – The Committee has nothing new to report at this time. The BSU Policy Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the BSU Conference Room. At this point, most policies are being written at the SU level and are then forwarded to the district boards for approval and ratification.

Act 46 Committee – Mr. Paterson will send the Board's proposed changes (to the Act 46 Final Report) to Mr. Pandolfo. The proposed changes will be presented to the Act 46 Committee at its meeting on Wednesday, September 22, 2016.

Barre Town Recreation – Nothing to report.

SHAC – The Committee continues to discuss goals and prioritization. The Committee would like to see increased participation, including students and middle school staff representation.

7.4 Financials

No discussion.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Finance – October 5, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the BTMES upstairs conference room

Curriculum – October 19, 2016

SHAC – October 3, 2016 at 3:40 p.m. in the BTMES Library

9. Approval of Warrants

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

10. Executive Session

10.1 Labor Relations Agreement

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

11. Next Meeting Date

October 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the BTMES Library

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin