

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
March 8, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Allen - Chair
Jay Paterson – Vice Chair
Alice Farrell - Clerk
Kristin McCarthy

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennifer Hutchinson

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 Patty MacAskill

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Superintendent, Mr. Pandolfo, called the Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 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

Agenda Item 5.1, Board Reorganization, will be discussed after Agenda Item 2.

Agenda Item 5.3 – This item does not require discussion. Delete, but keep on Agenda as place-holder.

Agenda Item 5.4 – This item does not require discussion. Delete, but keep on Agenda as place-holder.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2017 Regular Meeting. Mrs. Farrell abstained.

5. New Business

5.1 Board Reorganization

VSBA Board Re-organization documentation was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Board re-organization, provided an overview of the slides contained in the documentation, and requested nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Mrs. McCarthy nominated Mr. Allen for the position of Board Chair, seconded by Mr. Paterson. There were no additional nominations. The Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Allen as Board Chair. Mr. Allen chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs. McCarthy nominated Mr. Paterson for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Mrs. Farrell. There were no additional nominations. The Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Paterson as Vice Chair.

Mr. Paterson nominated Mrs. Farrell for the position of Clerk, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy. There were no additional nominations. The Board unanimously voted to elect Mrs. Farrell as Clerk.

The Board appointed Mr. Allen, Mrs. Farrell and Ms. Hutchinson as Representatives to the Barre Supervisory Union Board. Mrs. Hutchinson will be contacted to confirm she is able to serve as Representative.

There will be a meeting of the Tri-Board on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library. All Board Members are asked to attend this meeting. The Board Chair and new Board Members are asked to arrive at 5:00 p.m. to attend the New Board Member Orientation Meeting.

Mr. Pandolfo recommends the formation of committees at the SU level, with elimination of committees at the district level. The Board is agreeable to SU level committees for Negotiation, Policy and Curriculum, but wish to form a Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee at the district level. Discussion also included district representation at an SU level SHAC Committee. Mrs. McCarthy is interested in serving on the Curriculum Committee, Mrs. Farrell is interested in serving on the Policy Committee, Mr. Paterson would like to continue working on the Negotiations Committee and volunteered to Chair a combined Finance/Facilities Committee (at the district level). **The Board agreed to postpone discussion of Committee assignments until a later date.** Committee assignments will be finalized at or after the Tri-Board Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Board Chair to sign Teacher Contracts and other contracts, as approved by the Board.

The Board agreed to hold Board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, and to reserve the third Wednesday of each month for an additional Board Meeting (when necessary) or a meeting of the Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee (when necessary).

The Board agreed that the date of the 2017 Board Retreat will be determined at a later date. The Board is considering a retreat in June 2017.

The Board agreed to post Agendas and Minutes at Barre Town School, the Supervisory Union, the Barre Town Clerk's Office, and on the BTMES web site.

The Board agreed to use Roberts Rules.

The Board Members present, reviewed and signed copies of the 'Code of Ethics For Vermont School Board Members' document. Mr. Pandolfo will meet with Ms. Hutchinson for review and signature of a copy of the 'Code of Ethics For Vermont School Board Members' document.

The Board reviewed communication practices, Board development opportunities, and Board advocacy. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated the importance of Board Chairs and new Board Members attending the 5:00 p.m. Board Orientation Meeting on March 23, 2017. The meeting will be held in the SHS Library and the Tri-Board meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m. The Board was advised that information shared as a discussion (verbally, electronically or written), outside of board meetings, violates the Open Meeting Law. Board Members were cautioned that use of personal e-mail accounts for Board business, results in personal e-mail accounts being subject to review under the Freedom of Information Act. Discussion also included emphasis on using the proper chain of command for communication and/or resolution of concerns/complaints.

The Board agreed to designate the Times Argus and The World as the newspaper publications to be utilized for meeting notices, warnings and employment advertisements.

5.2 Field Trip Approvals

A copy of an e-mail from Mr. Griggs to Mr. Pandolfo, dated February 22, 2017, was distributed. Mr. Griggs provided an overview of the proposed field trips, which according to policy (due to out of state travel and overnight stays) require Board approval. Brief discussion was held regarding financing/scholarships, chaperone ratios, and accommodations planned for students who decline to participate on the field trips. **On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the two proposed field trips.**

5.3 School Traffic Flow Report

A document from Multiline (Vermont School Board Insurance Trust) was distributed. The document is titled 'Review of School Traffic Flow Report'. As indicated under Agenda Item 2, no discussion will be held.

5.4 Resignations

A letter of resignation from Billie Marcotte was distributed. As indicated under Agenda Item 2, no discussion will be held.

5.5 First Reading Proficiency-Based Learning (G20)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held regarding this policy which has been approved by the SU Board, including Flexible Pathways, and the continued administration of required standardized tests. **On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Proficiency-Based Learning Policy (G20).**

6. Old Business

6.1 Labor Relations Agreements

Mr. Pandolfo advised that mediation with the teachers is scheduled for April 27, 2017. At this time, the Teachers Association does not wish to participate in Mediated Fact Finding. The February 22, 2017 meeting with para-educators resulted in minimal progress. The next meeting with para-educators is being scheduled. Negotiations with Custodial/Maintenance staff have not started. Mr. Pandolfo met with the new bargainer. Four meetings have been scheduled; 03/29/17, 04/03/17, 04/11/17, and 04/25/17. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated that negotiation meetings are open to the public and encouraged interested parties to attend. The open meetings are held at Spaulding High School. It was noted that all contracts being negotiated, are contracts that end this year. The teachers are proposing a 4 year contract. Para-educators are proposing a 3 year contract.

7. Board Reports

7.1. Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated March 1, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Negotiations, Health Care (transitioning to the new VEHI plans in January 2018), SU Office renovations, and the Tri-Board Meeting which is scheduled for March 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. (new Board Member Orientation will take place at 5:00 p.m.). A memorandum from Rebecca Holcombe, Ed.D., Secretary of Education (dated 02/28/17) was distributed. The document pertains to 'Our Responsibility for the Learning of our Students'. Mr. Pandolfo provided an update regarding an adjustment to the cost per equalized pupil (a \$10 decrease), and the resulting decrease in the tax rate. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding receipt of the annual audit pertaining to the Solar Agreement, which indicates \$7,700 in additional revenue. Mr. Pandolfo encouraged Board Members to read the memorandum from Rebecca Holcombe, which is thorough and conveys an interesting message.

7.2 Principals Report

The BTMES Administration Report for March 8, 2017 was distributed. The Report contains information regarding Special Education, the Middle School Lip Sync Battle, the Pre-K – Grade 4 Luau (held 02/24/17), notification to parents regarding the transition of Transportation, the YMCA vacation camp, March Enrollment, IGNITE 2017 Recipients (Jessica Van Orman, and Michael Pope), the 2017 National Physical Education Conference, and events that are scheduled during the month of March. A copy of the Transportation related letter to parents was distributed. The BTMES Monthly Enrollment Report for March 8, 2017 was also distributed. Administrators provided an overview of the Administrative Report, and highlighted the need to increase enrollment in the YMCA camp to assure that camps can continue to be held during school vacation periods. It was noted that students from Barre City Elementary and Middle School are eligible to attend the YMCA camps. Mrs. Nye advised she would forward YMCA Camp 'PR' to BCEMS to assist with promotion of the program, and hopefully increase enrollment. A review of the Enrollment Report identified an increase of 63 students (since August 2016). Information relating to staffing will be presented at the April meeting. Special recognition was given to; Laura Thygesen, Ted Mills and Jake Patoine (for efforts relating to Unified Sports), Jessica Van Orman and Michael Pope (who have been selected by Vermont Vita-Learn to be part of the 2017 IGNITE Cadre – for recognition of their innovative and transformative ways of using technology for learning), and Laura Thygesen (for her upcoming presentation at the National SHAPE Conference).

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Finance – There has not been a meeting recently. The public was thanked for their continued support of the budget.

7.3.2 Facility and Transportation – Nothing to report.

7.3.3 Curriculum – Nothing to report.

7.3.4 Policy – The next SU Policy Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2017. As this date falls within the week of April vacation, the meeting may be rescheduled.

7.3.5 SHAC – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2017. Information from this meeting will be included in the next Principals' Report.

7.3.6 Barre Town Recreation – Brent Tewksbury will continue to attend these meetings (until his term expires) and forward information to all Board Members. The Board may query Ms. Hutchinson regarding her interest in being the BTMES Representative on this Committee.

7.4 Financials

The BTMES Expense Budget Status Report (dated 03/01/17) was distributed. Mr. Allen advised that the numbers contained in the report are rough as there is approximately a quarter of the school year remaining.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Future Agenda Items:

- Finalization of Board Reorganization

- Committee Assignments
- Rescinding of Policies – (a list will be provided by Erica Pearson)
- Second Reading of Proficiency-Based Learning (G20) (Approval of Second Reading and Ratification of Policy)
- Staffing Requirements for 2017-2018 Academic Year

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

SHAC – Monday, March 14, 2017

Finance – To be announced.

Facility and Transportation – To be announced.

Curriculum – To be announced.

Policy – To be announced.

Supervisory Union – The Tri-Board Meeting scheduled for March 23, 2017 will replace the Regularly scheduled monthly SU Board Meeting.

Barre Town Recreation – To be announced.

9. Approval of Warrants

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

10. Executive Session

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

11. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Pandolfo will not be available for this meeting.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin