

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
February 1, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Buzzell - Chair
Brent Tewksbury – Vice Chair
Chad Allen - Clerk
Kristin McCarthy – arrived at 7:33 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Paterson

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Pat MacAskill John Mudgett Michael Pope

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Buzzell, called the Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 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

There were no additions or deletions. Numbering corrections were made under ‘Old Business’, Agenda Item 6.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2017 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Audit Presentation

A copy of the Audit Report was distributed. John Mudgett of Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. introduced himself to the Board and provided an overview of the recent audit. Mr. Mudgett advised that the audit was ‘clean’ and there were no findings and no deficits. In general, Mr. Mudgett advised that it was a smooth audit. It was noted that as the Business Manager is in her second year with the SU, she was better able to prepare the necessary information for the audit. Mr. Mudgett noted that the threshold for audits on Federal Funds has increased, thus, expenses paid by Federal Funds did not need to be audited. The Board queried regarding the 5 Adjustments, the Tax Stabilization Fund, Capital Assets, the Pension/Retirement Fund, and philosophies pertaining to potential advantages of carrying some debt. Mr. Mudgett advised that his firm was available year-round to answer questions or provide additional information.

5.2 Design Lab Presentation

The presentation began at 7:18 p.m. in the Design Lab. Mr. Pope provided an update of the Design Lab Program (previously named the Art/Technology Program). The presentation began with a Power Point presentation that included information on the ‘State of the Program’, which now includes a Design Lab course and a Design Lab Enrichment course. These programs allow for a more cohesive curriculum approach. The presentation also included a segment on ‘Next Steps’, including reorganization and optimization of Design Lab space, development of a new curriculum framework (student driven achievement, clarification of course objectives, and creation of evidence based portfolios), and an expanded network (allowing for connection with other schools, locally and nation-wide). After the Power Point presentation, the Board received a tour of the Design Lab, including a review of recently added machinery. The presentation ended at 7:56 p.m.

5.3 First Reading Class Size Policy (G14)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.3 and 5.4 were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo and Mrs. Buzzell provided an overview of the policies, noting that the new policies contained no significant changes from existing policies. The new class size policy was compared to the existing policy, and no differences were identified.

On a motion by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Tewksbury, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Readings of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.3 and 5.4 (G14 and F28).

5.4 First Reading Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (F28)

Approved under Agenda Item 5.3

5.5 House for Sale on Websterville Road

A copy of e-mail correspondence between Mr. Pandolfo and Justin Holbrook was distributed. Mrs. Buzzell advised that she was previously contacted by Renee Holbrook. After brief discussion, the Board agreed that Facilities Director Jamie Evans should contact Mr. and Mrs. Holbrook to advise that the Board may be interested in the property and would like to know the asking price.

6. Old Business

6.1 FY '18 Budget Presentation

Mrs. Buzzell announced that at the previous Board Meeting, the Board approved an expenditure budget of \$11,994,429. The increase is approximately 5%. Much of the increase is due to unfunded mandates. There is no anticipated increase in taxes. The Board created a conservative budget that benefits students but does not burden tax payers. The proposed budget includes investments for a Math Interventionist (Middle School), Responsive Classroom/Developmental Design Training, and Facility Security items. A formal presentation of the budget will occur at the next regular Board Meeting. A printed copy of the BTMES Proposed FY18 Budget Power Point Presentation was distributed.

6.2 Board Positions for March

An e-mail from Donna Kelty (dated 02/01/17) was distributed. Mrs. Buzzell and Mr. Tewksbury are not running for re-election. The Town Clerk has received three petitions for individuals interested in running for the open seats. The candidates are; Paul Malone (for the Spaulding High School Union Board), Jennifer Hutchinson (2 year BTMES seat), and Alice Farrell (3 year BTMES seat).

6.3 Act 46 Update

A copy of the voting results from January 31, 2017 was distributed. The vote will be certified in 30 days, at which point the Act 46 Study Committee will cease to exist. Discussion of the identification of avenues to pursue will be tabled until the next meeting, to allow Mr. Paterson to participate in the discussion.

6.4 Labor Relations

Four documents were distributed; updated Proposal Status Forms for Teachers and Para-educators, the Wage and Insurance Proposals for BSU Teachers and Paras (dated 01/30/17), and a revised version of the 'Analysis of Board's VEHI Proposal using 2015 Claims Data' document (dated 01/27/17). Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of items recently discussed and tentatively agreed to (TA'd), and advised of upcoming meetings (Negotiation Committee- 02/03/17, Meeting with para-educators -02/6/17, and meeting with teachers – 02/07/17).

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated January 25, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Act 46, Act 166, Negotiations, the Legislative Breakfast (held on January 30, 2017), and the retirement of Deb Gibson. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised that he was been asked to return to the State House to provide additional testimony relating to specific recommendations for revisions to the Universal Pre-school Act (Act 166). Mr. Pandolfo advised that Debbie Gibson has retired after serving 33 years in the Supervisory Union. Mrs. Gibson was thanked for her service and wished well in her retirement. Tina Gilbert has been hired for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mrs. Buzzell reminded community members of the upcoming Dabble Day which will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017 in the Spaulding High School Cafeteria. This event, sponsored by Success by Six, is for children ages birth to 6 and includes many stations with fun hands-on activities, refreshments, and a free book for every child that attends the event.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the BTMES Administration Report (dated February 1, 2017) was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the PATH skating event, Proficiency-Based Learning and Standards Based Grading, the start of Quarter 3, transportation (there is a shortage of bus drivers), the Fourth Grade Band Concert (held on January 27, 2017), report cards (were sent home 01/27/17), Staff Development Day (02/03/17), substitute shortage, Pre-k Mini-Meals (participation is increasing), the Winter Feast Luncheon (02/08/17), NAEP Testing (02/20/17 and 02/21/17 for 4th and 8th graders), and the BSU District Art Show (opening reception will be held at the Aldrich Library on 02/21/17 from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.). Administrators provided highlights of the report, including

Staff Development Day (02/03/17), the annual 2nd grade luncheon, NAEP testing, and the District Art Show (beginning on 02/21/17). Additionally, Mrs. Nye advised that BTMES is currently seeking additional substitute teachers and bus drivers.

7.3 Committee Reports

Finance – There are not meetings scheduled for February. The formal budget presentation will occur at the next regular board meeting. The next meeting date will be determined at the March 2017 (re-organization) board meeting.

Facility and Transportation – There is nothing new to report.

Curriculum – At the last meeting, discussion included; helping students learn to use print, key boarding skills, manuscript, Handwriting With Tears (not as effective as some other methods), and use of a typing application (by 2nd graders). The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., and will include discussion of Standards Based Reporting.

Policy – The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

Barre Town Recreation – A sledding event will be held. The Town of Barre web site has specific information relating to the date and time of this event.

SHAC – The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2017 at 3:40 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

7.4 Financials

A copy of the BTMES Expense Budget Status Report (dated 01/26/17) was distributed. No discussion was held.

At 7:09 p.m. the meeting was moved to the Design Lab to allow for Mr. Pope's presentation (Agenda Item 5.2).

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Finance – to be announced.

Facility and Transportation – to be announced.

Curriculum – Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy – February 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

9. Approval of Warrants

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

10. Executive Session

No Executive Session was necessary.

11. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Tewksbury, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin