

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
January 17, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager – departed at 7:12 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Holly Hoyt	Joshua Jarvis	Katie Jarvis
Tyler Kimberly	Pat MacAskill	Penny Martin	John Mudgett	Heather Slayton
Megan Spaulding				

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Wednesday, January 17, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 5:32 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 6.1 Act 46
Add 10.1 Administrators and Superintendent’s Evaluations Discussion

3. Visitors and Communications

Mr. Allen welcomed visitors and thanked them for their attendance.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Audit Presentation

A copy of a letter from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC (dated 01/05/18) was distributed. A document for BTMES, titled ‘Financial Statements June 30, 2017 And Independent Auditor’s Report’ was distributed. Mr. Mudgett addressed the Board, introduced Tyler Kimberly, and encouraged Board Members to offer comments and ask questions as he provided an overview of the Audit Report. Mr. Mudgett advised that he would provide an overview of two reports; the Financial Statements Report (Operations), and the Internal Control and Compliance Report. It was announced that there were no deficiencies, and no instances of non-compliance. Mr. Mudgett advised regarding the surplus in all funds which resulted in a total net position of \$2,681,223. It was noted that the change in the net position is \$30,700. Mr. Mudgett provided a brief overview of the Funds Reported, which includes the General Fund, Grant Funds, the Food Service Fund, the Capital Reserve Fund, and the Tax Stabilization Fund. The total amount of unassigned Governmental funds is \$731,974. It was noted that Food Services ran a deficit, with expenses of \$369,000 and revenue of \$344,000. A brief overview was provided of the notes relating to Accounting Policies and Detail of Capital Assets. Mr. Mudgett advised regarding the pension plan (which is not a direct liability of the district), and it was noted that the district’s VMERS net pension liability is \$677,252. It was noted that a few adjustment were made, including; Inter-district receivables/payables, Capital Assets (changes and depreciations), and changes in Pension. Mr. Mudgett answered questions from the Board and encouraged Board Members to contact him or Mr. Kimberly should any other questions arise. Mr. Mudgett and Mr. Kimberly departed at 5:55 p.m.

5.2 FY19 Budget and Warning Approval

A draft of the 'Town of Barre, Vermont - School District Meeting - March 6, 2018' Warning was distributed. Four additional draft Warnings (one for each of 4 different budget scenarios) was distributed. A document titled 'BTMES Board Member questions and responses – FY19 Budget (Draft 2)' was distributed. Seven additional budget related documents were also distributed; 'BTMES FY19 Budget Considerations' (dated 01/17/18), four BTMES Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations sheets (one for each draft scenario), a report titled 'Three Prior Years Comparisons – Format as Provided by AOE', a document titled '2018 Comparison of Education Spending/Equalized Pupils in Neighboring/Comparable Schools', and a document titled '5 Contributing Factors Affecting the Tax Rate'.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that information was being provided regarding 4 different scenarios. The scenario with the most reductions will result in a 9.5 cent increase in the tax rate. The scenario with the least reductions results in a 10.75 cent increase in the tax rate. Mr. Pandolfo distributed draft Warnings for each of the scenarios. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the Budget Considerations document and provided detailed information on each of the 4 scenarios. It was noted that even the scenario with the highest cost per pupil, still results in BTMES having one of the lowest cost per pupil amounts in the state (\$3,000 below the state average). Discussion was held regarding each of the scenarios. In response to a query regarding changes in the education spending amount, it was noted that a comparison to prior years is complex given recent changes relating to Transportation and Special Education consolidation at the Supervisory Union. Board Members were polled regarding their scenario preference. No Board Member favored Scenario #1. Mr. Paterson prefers Scenario #2. Mrs. Farrell prefers Scenario #3. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins and Mrs. McCarthy prefer Scenario #4,

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board voted 3 to 2 to approve an Expense Budget of \$10,234,543 for FY19 (Scenario #4). Mrs. Farrell and Mr. Paterson voted against the motion. The Board Chair, Mr. Allen, broke the 2 to 2 tie, voting in favor of the motion.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Town of Barre, Vermont – School District Meeting – March 6, 2018 Warning for Scenario #4. The Warning was circulated for signatures.

6. Old Business

6.1 Act 46

Letters of interest from Gina Akley and Dottye Ricks were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Barre City now has 7 appointed members to the Act 46 706 Study Committee. Barre Town has 6 appointed members and can appoint only one of the two interested candidates. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Gina Akley as a Barre Town Representative to the Act 46 706 Study Committee.

Ms. Ricks was thanked for expressing her interest in the position. It was noted that the Study Committee meetings are open meetings and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

7. Board Reports

7.1. Superintendent

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has spoken with the Barre Town Manager, Carl Rogers regarding status of the land transfer. The State Waste Water Permit is all set, the Act 250 Permit is ready to be submitted. The Deed, including an easement is being worked on, and the Valuation Assessment needs to be completed prior to 06/30/18. Mr. Pandolfo will follow up with Mr. Rogers regarding status of the work to be performed. It was noted that ALICE training is on schedule for next week. Administrators will participate in the training. The Barre Town and Barre City Police Departments, as well as the Barre Fire Department, have been invited to attend as well. The Board's Budget Presentation to the Barre Town Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

7.2 Principals Report

Mr. Griggs advised that the second quarter marking period has come to a close. Report cards, along with a letter regarding Proficiency Based Grading, will go out on Friday. Mrs. Nye asked that parents review report cards and contact teachers or administrators with any questions they may have.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee –

Finance, Facility, and Transportation will be discussed at the next Regular Board Meeting.

7.3.2 Verbal Report of BSU Committees –

Information was previously reported. No additional information was presented.

7.4 Financials

Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Teacher Presentations (throughout the school year)

Proficiency Based Learning
Transportation and Facilities (Mr. Evans should be invited to attend)

Upcoming Meetings:

BTMES Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library
BTMES Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

9. Approval of Warrants

No Warrants were presented for approval.

10. Executive Session

10.1 Administrators and Superintendent's Evaluation Discussion

One item was proposed for discussion in Executive Session: Discussion of Evaluations for Administrators and the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:30 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

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

11. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin