

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
December 20, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, Principal
Jennifer W. Nye, Principal
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager – departed at 6:56 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Sally Beebe JoAnne Codling Patty MacAskill

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Wednesday, December 20, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:37 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

Change Agenda Item 11 from ‘Next Meeting Date’ to ‘Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items’. This Agenda Item should appear on all future agendas as well.

Add: 10.2 Student Matter (under Executive Session)

3. Visitors and Communications

Mr. Allen welcomed the visitors to the meeting and queried regarding those who may wish to present something to the Board. Patty MacAskill advised that she would like to address the Board regarding the proposed BSU Communications Specialist position. Ms. MacAskill advised that she believes that the district schools do a good job at promoting the schools and their budgets, and that tax payers are supportive of the schools. Ms. MacAskill prefers that her tax dollars be spent at the schools to support teachers, para-educators, and Special Education, and is opposed to spending any tax dollars to hire a Communications Specialist.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2017 Regular Meeting.

4.2. Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2017 Special Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2017 Special Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Clarification of Committee Assignments

BSU Board Reps: Chad Allen, Alice Farrell, and Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins
BTMES Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee: Jay Paterson (back-up is Alice Farrell)
BSU Curriculum Committee: Kristin McCarthy
BSU Policy Committee: Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins
BSU Finance Committee: Alice Farrell and Jay Paterson
SHAC Committee: Kristin McCarthy (it was noted that there are not regularly scheduled meetings at this time).

5.2 Rescind Adult Anti-Harassment Policy (GBBA)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Farrell advised that this policy has been superseded by a BSU policy which has been ratified by the BTMES Board. **On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously agreed to rescind the Adult Anti-Harassment Policy (GBBA).**

6. Old Business

6.1 Budget Development Update

Five documents were distributed; the FY19 Budget Considerations document (dated 12/20/17), Draft #2 of the BTMES FY19 Budget (dated 12/20/17), the 'FY19 Proposed BUDGET Draft #2' (the calculation of Cost Per Equalized Pupil document), the Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations document, and a document titled 'BTMES Para Assignments per Budget Expense Lines 2017 – 2018'. Mrs. Perreault advised that Administrators have reviewed the budget and proposed reductions in the amount of \$300,000 (as requested by the Board). Administrators provided an overview of the proposed reductions, and answered questions from the Board regarding the impact of cuts (elimination of the PSTL position (enrichment classes will still exist), reduction for Spanish Instruction (Spanish will continue to be taught in grades 6 – 8, and is available at the high school), with the reduction for Band Instruction, the Band Program can continue, for the most part, as it currently does, and para-educator reductions (some related to specific students and some for general classroom assistance). It was noted that the reduction in the line item for Text Books, is based on actual expenses. Mr. Paterson queried regarding the need for 3 Curriculum Specialists (2 ELA and 1 Math), given grant funding will most likely not be available to fund the positions. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of Special Education expenses, and advised that the BSU Board is discussing the possibility of utilizing a different model (2 SPED Directors rather than 3). Administrators advised that the current arrangement (sharing the SHS Special Education Director) seems to be working well. Mrs. Perreault advised regarding notations entered throughout the budget. These notations may be beneficial in the future, providing historical documentation regarding how/why particular budget items were determined. Mrs. Perreault advised that, with the new reductions, the Cost per Equalized Pupil is \$12,479 (an increase of 3.5%). This amount does include using \$100,000 from Surplus. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Administrators worked very hard, making difficult decisions, in their effort to reduce the budget. Mrs. Perreault continued the presentation by providing an overview of the Comparative Tax Rate Calculations document. Clarification was provided regarding the CLA, which goes down when property values go up. In response to a query regarding the impact that unfunded mandates are having on the tax rate, it was noted that approximately 3% of the overall tax rate increase is due to unfunded mandates. The Board expressed frustration regarding the number of unfunded mandates and their impact on the budget. At the next meeting, the Board should discuss their budget presentation to the Select Board. Mr. Allen requested that Board Members review the budget and send comments and questions to Ms. Pearson no later than 01/03/18. Administrators were recognized for their efforts producing the proposed budget.

6.2 Act 46

Mr. Allen advised that Marcia Biondolillo and Michaela Martin have expressed interest in serving on the 706 Study Committee. Paul Malone has reached out to Jeff Blow, who is interested in serving, but cautioned that he is not available for part of February, and most of March. Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins has express interest in serving as the BTMES Board Representative. The 706 Study Committee Meetings will most likely commence in January 2018. SHS Board Member Guy Isabelle has also expressed interest in serving on the Committee. Kerri Lamb would like to know when the meetings will take place and advised that she may be able to serve if necessary. Any other interested candidates were requested to contact Mr. Allen (BTMES Board Chair) or Mr. Pandolfo (Superintendent). Barre City currently has 2 community members, 2 Board Members, and 1 SHS Board Member who have expressed an interest in serving. The BCEMS Board has not made any Committee Appointments thus far. The BTMES Board may wish to make Committee Appointments at their 01/03/18 meeting. Mr. Allen would like to receive information regarding any tracking of savings associated with Act 46 consolidation, as well as the impact consolidation will have on taxes.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

Mr. Pandolfo advised that a summary of the District Management Group Report has been sent to all Board Members. The BSU's cohort group will begin meeting on 01/22/18. A negotiations meeting date has not been set. There are no statute related requirements regarding when a negotiating meeting must be held. The required 'no action' timeframe (after the Fact Finding Meeting/Report) will probably arrive before the end of the winter break. At the end of the required timeframe, action may be taken by management and/or teachers (e.g., the setting of conditions or a vote to strike). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the large task of transitioning employees to new health insurance plans is proceeding well.

7.2 Principals Report

Ms. Pearson advised regarding the 'winter scenes' hallway decorating and invited Board Members to walk through the building to view the work that has taken place. Additionally, Ms. Pearson advised regarding 'Spirit Week' and the different events that are being held daily as part of the celebration.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee –

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library

Verbal Report of BSU Committees –

Policy – The Committee met on Monday, 12/18/17 to review some ‘fine tuning’ and follow-up of 5 policies that will be presented to the BSU Board (as First Readings) on 12/21/17. The Committee anticipates presenting 2 new policies (First Readings) to the BSU Board in February 2018. Policy review will soon be done at the district level, to determine what policies should be written at the BSU level, versus policies that need to remain at the district level.

Curriculum – No discussion

Finance – No discussion

7.4 Financials

Mrs. Perreault will be contacted regarding the status of FY18 finances.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

- Superintendent’s Evaluation (Executive Session)
- Proficiency Based Grading/Reporting Information (pre-report card informational letter to parents, inconsistencies between elementary school, middle school and high school grading, and consistency of information/messages to stakeholders).
- Approval of the Announced Tuition Rate
- Audit Presentation

BSU Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Curriculum Committee – Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BTMES Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

BTMES Finance/Facilities/Transportation Comm. – Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library

BSU Policy Committee – Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Room

BSU Finance Committee – Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

9. Approval of Warrants

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

Mr. Griggs advised that the wireless headphones discussed last month, were from the technology line item. The headphones are used in the computer lab, including use during standardized testing.

10. Executive Session

10.1 Labor Relations

10.2 Student Matter

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Labor Relations Agreements and a Student Matter.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, 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 Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Griggs, and Mrs. Nye in attendance, at 7:42 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items 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 9:18 p.m.

11. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

BTMES Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

- Superintendent’s Evaluation (Executive Session)
- Proficiency Based Grading/Reporting Information (pre-report card informational letter to parents, inconsistencies between elementary school, middle school and high school grading, and consistency of information/messages to stakeholders).
- Approval of the Announced Tuition Rate
- Audit Presentation

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin