

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
October 4, 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
Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus Chris Hull Pat MacAskill

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Wednesday, October 4, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 6:03 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

Delete Agenda Item 4.1 – Minutes were approved at the September 20th meeting.
Delete Agenda Item 5.1 – There are no resignations, retirements, or new hires for presentation.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. ~~Approval of Minutes—September 6, 2017 Regular Meeting~~

“Deleted” from the Agenda. Agenda Item number is kept in as a place holder.

4.2. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2017 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

~~5.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires~~

“Deleted” from the Agenda. Agenda Item number is kept in as a place holder.

5.2 SBAC & NECAP Scores

NECAP results have been embargoed until 10/11/17 and will not be presented this evening. A copy of screen prints from a Power Point Presentation titled ‘Barre Town 2017 SBAC Results’ was distributed. Mrs. Tolman advised that SBAC assessments are computer adapted tests and that the rigor of questions increases or decreases based on answers given. This function allows for more precise results regarding students’ capabilities. It was also noted that SBAC assessments are only one of the tools used to measure student success. Mrs. Tolman advised that there are many different ways to look at the data, and proceeded to provide an overview of the data contained in the Power Point Presentation. It was noted that statewide scores have dropped. 1/3 of students show improvement, while 2/3 of students have declined in performance. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the statistical documents and advised that she believes the gaps can be closed. Mrs. Tolman advised that she will be performing deeper analysis. Keyboarding ability, the timing of instruction, implementation of Common Core and a new Math curriculum (Engaged New York) may all have an impact on scores. Mrs. Tolman advised that SBAC results can assist with determining ways to challenge and engage students to help them meet targets. It was noted that interventions are in place for some students. Data can be further broken down, (e.g. by teacher

or by student) to assist with determining where additional interventions are necessary. The State would like identification of gaps and targets and hope to see improvement in overall scores.

5.3 First Reading BSU Transportation Policy (F9)

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.3 through 5.5 were distributed. It was noted that Mrs. Farrell and Ms. Pearson represented BTMES when the policies were discussed at the BSU Policy Committee Meetings. Mrs. Nye wanted to clarify that only Spaulding High School has transportation for extracurricular events. Each policy was discussed prior to voting.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Readings of the BSU Transportation Policy, the BSU Student Clubs & Activities Policy, and the BSU Community Use of School Facilities Policy (F9, F33, and H3 respectively).

5.4 First Reading BSU Student Clubs & Activities Policy (F33)

Approved under Agenda Item 5.3.

5.5 First Reading BSU Community Use of School Facilities Policy (H3)

Approved under Agenda Item 5.3.

Mr. Paterson voiced concern that the Superintendent is listed on the policy as being responsible for allowing use of the facilities. It was clarified that the Superintendent has overall responsibility for the use of the facilities, but that the Superintendent's designees can and do perform these functions for the most part. If there were a conflict involved, the Superintendent would be responsible for making the final decision. Mr. Griggs reiterated that individuals/groups using the facility 'for a profit' need to show proof of liability insurance and must pay the appropriate rental fee.

6. Old Business

6.1 Budget Development

Administrators have been meeting with the Business Manager to work on budget development. These budget development meetings will be continuing and a first draft of the budget will be presented at the November meeting. A document titled 'Summary of the Education Fund (dated 08/30/17) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the Summary of Education Fund document and advised that the State will most likely ask for budgets to be level funded. Given the state of the State Education Fund, the FY19 budget year is predicted to be very difficult and it will be important to keep this in mind while developing the FY19 budget. Mr. Pandolfo also provided an overview of the proposed (requested) health insurance rate increases (an average of 10%), with a prediction that 88% of the out of pocket amount will be paid for by the employer (HSA accounts). This prediction is higher than anticipated. In addition to health insurance rate increases, there will be significant decreases in grant funding which will most likely be difficult to mitigate. It is hoped that health insurance savings realized in FY18 along with the sharing of the Special Education Director, will assist with the FY18 budget. The position of Director of Special Education for BTMES has not been reposted. It is anticipated that it will not be filled in FY18. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated that FY19 will be a very challenging budget development year.

6.2 Board Communications

Board Members have access to the electronic calendar. Three steps for implementation/ongoing usage are; 1. Share the calendar, 2. Send google invites at the time Agenda/Packets are sent out, and 3. Identify who controls the events calendar for each districts' web page and implement procedures to see that they are notified and can update the calendar in a timely fashion. Mrs. Nye announced that it was great to have some Board Members (Mrs. Farrell and Mr. Paterson) present at the recent Open House. Some community members advised that they are getting used to the transportation changes. Some community members signed up to be advised regarding upcoming meetings.

6.3 Act 46

Mr. Allen advised that the Board needs to make decision on how to proceed. Mr. Allen advised regarding the 2 most viable options; formation of another 706 Study Committee or submit documentation to the AOE requesting an 'Alternative Structure'. Mr. Allen would like the Board to deliberate, discuss, and make a decision regarding how to move forward. Mr. Allen and Mr. Pandolfo thanked a community member for his attendance and participation with comments. Mr. Hull (community member) suggested considering adding an 'exit clause' to any new Articles of Agreement that may be written. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of some of the details of formation of a 706 Study Committee (including representation), advised that a 706 Study Committee could only be formed if both BTMES and BCEMS Boards agree to the formation, and advised that the BCEMS Board is waiting for a decision from the BTMES Board before making their decision on how to proceed. It was noted that the public forum provided an overview of how the BTMES Board has worked to address some of the community's concerns (spending Capital Improvement Funds, utilizing the General Fund and transferring lands). The Board remains conflicted regarding how to proceed. Mrs. Farrell believes it will be difficult to write and justify an Alternative Structure argument, given the previously submitted/approved plan. Mr. Paterson believes both communities would benefit from a merger and feels that a new 706 Committee should be formed to modify the original Articles of Agreement. Mr. Paterson is opposed to submitting an argument for an alternative structure. Mrs. McCarthy is against forming another 706 Committee and expressed that she is not comfortable with any of the options. Mr. Allen advised that he believes the

Board should move forward with formation of a new 706 Study Committee. The Board is conflicted between following the wishes of the voters (as expressed in the last two votes), and moving forward in an effort to avoid a possible State mandated consolidation which would not allow for tax incentives to be realized. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there is no grant money available to fund a new 706 Committee.

Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised that if the Boards decide to move forward with a new 706 Study Committee, they should decide on Committee size and budget at the Tri-Board Meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board voted 2 to 0 to approve the formation of a new 706 Study Committee with BCEMS. Mrs. McCarthy abstained.

6.4 Transportation Update

The last bus is now in operation and there are working cameras on all buses. There are still some questions from parents regarding stops. Administrators are working to smooth the transition. A Transportation meeting is scheduled for next week. Mrs. Nye reported on monthly meetings with drivers, the campaign to recruit adult riders, and working with STA officials to assure that buses are at BTMES by the end of the school day. Mrs. McCarthy would like discussion of the Barre City stop added to the Transportation meeting agenda.

7. Board Reports

7.1. Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated September 25, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Statewide Education Fund, the upcoming Tri-Board Meeting (10/12/17), Negotiations, Act 46, and Federal Grants. A document titled 'Summary of the Education Fund (dated 08/30/17) was distributed. The BSU September Newsletter (for staff) was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Negotiations Committee reached a Tentative Agreement with Para-educators on 09/25/17. Para-educators should be voting in the near future. Mr. Pandolfo would like the custodial and para-educator agreements ratified at the Tri-Board Meeting. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding a meeting with teacher representatives to discuss a default insurance plan if no contract agreement is reached. Open enrollment for staff (other than teachers) will begin as soon as possible. A Fact Finding Hearing will be held with teacher representatives on 10/25/17. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the September SU Newsletter, noting that this is the 2nd issue.

7.2 Principals Report

The BTMES Administration Report for October 4, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Proficiency Based K-8 Report Cards, A Proficiency Based Learning Information Night (09/21/17), the annual PreK – Grade 4 Open House/Farmers Market/Harvest Dinner (09/28//17), a PBIS celebration held on 09/29/17, the Transition of Transportation, an update on the YMCA before-school and after-school programs, Enrollment, Fundraisers, Professional Development, and Upcoming Events. The monthly Enrollment Report (for October 2, 2017) was distributed. A copy of the BTMES October 2017 Newsletter was also distributed. Mrs. Nye reported on working with the PTO for fundraising for field trips. The PTO has agreed to look into shifting what they fund. Some student activity line items were reviewed, and it appears that there are no funds available for field trips. Mr. Griggs reported on the shift to Proficiency Based Grading/Learning advising that report cards have been modified to reflect Proficiency Based Grading. Information relating to Proficiency Based Grading can be found on the BTMES web site and is also distributed at 'parent nights'. It was noted that adding a legend (of grade codes and meanings) to the Infinite Campus grades screen would be beneficial. Mr. Griggs commended staff for their efforts implementing the new grading structure. Brief discussion was held regarding opportunities for students who already meet standards in a subject. It was stressed that high achievers need to continue to be challenged. It was noted that there is a rubric for each subject, to assist students with understanding what is expected of them. Mr. Griggs shared enrollment information (a net increase of 4 students since last month) and advised that enrollment is now relatively stabilized with a total of 850 students.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Finance/Facilities/Transportation Committee –

A copy of the Minutes from the September 20, 2017 Meeting were distributed.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

Mr. Paterson advised he was very pleased with attendance at the last meeting, with discussion that centered mainly on the current year's budget. The FY19 budget will be discussed at the October meeting. An additional item for discussion is the Facilities Manager's monitoring/lifespan of machinery and systems, etc. Creation of a unified plan with consistent information should be part of the discussion.

7.3.2 Verbal Report of BSU Committees –

Mr. Allen is pleased to receive Minutes from each of the BSU Committee meetings. Mrs. McCarthy reported that the September BSU Curriculum meeting covered Literacy and included an overview showing a breakdown of curriculum by grade. The October meeting will have discussion centered on Homework and Technology Infrastructure.

7.4 Financials

A document titled 'BTMES FY19 Budget Considerations – September 27, 2017' was distributed. The BTMES General Fund Expenditures Report (dated 09/27/17) and the BSU Budget FY18 (dated 09/27/17) were distributed. The next meeting will include a review by line item, with the Business Manager.

8. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings

Agenda Items:

NECAP Assessments

Draft #1 of the FY19 Budget

Second and Final Readings (and ratification) of policies approved as First Readings this evening.

Act 46 Work

Board Members were advised to notify Mr. Griggs or Mrs. Nye with any additional items.

Tri-Board Meeting – Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Policy Committee – Monday, October 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Room

BTMES Finance/Facilities/Transportation Comm. – Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library

BSU Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Curriculum Committee – Monday, October 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Finance Committee – Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library

BTMES Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

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

10.1 Personnel

10.2 Labor Relations Agreements

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Matter and Negotiation Strategies for Labor Relations Agreements.

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item proposed for discussion, specifically Negotiation Strategies for Labor Relations Agreements, 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 Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Griggs, and Mrs. Nye in attendance, at 8:46 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. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

11. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin