

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Barre Supervisory Union – Conference Room
July 21, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Allen (BT) - Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Clerk
Joe Blakely (SHS) – arrived at 6:07 p.m.
Brenda Buzzell (BT)
Carlotta Perantoni (SHS)
Tyler Smith (BC)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristin McCarthy

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Thursday, July 21, 2016, meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the Conference room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

Mrs. Buzzell commended Mr. Pandolfo for his recent letter to the Editor regarding clarification of how tax rates are set. Brief discussion was held regarding the process for setting the tax rate and how it is conveyed to cities and towns.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Perantoni, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2016 Regular Meeting.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the June 21, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting. Brief discussion was held regarding prior approval of these minutes by the BTMES and SHS Boards. The minutes will be presented to the BCEMS Board at their next meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Approval of Special Education New Hires

A document titled 'BSU SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS NEW-2016' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Act 153 requires Special Education Employees be hired at the SU level and that all Special Education hiring should be approved by the SU Board. The distributed document identifies Special Educator employee hires that were approved by the district Boards. These new hires need to be approved by the SU Board. **On a motion by Mrs. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the hiring of Karla Eberlein, Melinda Schmalz, Sara Thompson, Judith Watt, Kathleen Matthews, Jayne Parker, and Lynne Themistocles.**

5.2 VEHI Petition

A letter from Rick Scott pertaining to a request to change VEHI bylaws was distributed. A corresponding petition form was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided background information including the lack of VSBA representation on the current Board, and advised that he recommends that the Board authorize him to sign the petition for both Medical and Dental and vote for that change at the upcoming meeting. **On a motion by Mrs. Buzzell, seconded by Mrs. Perantoni, the Board unanimously voted to authorize**

the Superintendent to sign on the District's behalf, the petition to change the bylaw to change the structure of the VEHI Board and to vote to support the change.

5.3 October Tri-Board Meeting Planning

A revised version of the document titled 'Tri-Board Retreat Follow-up and Planning for October Tri-Board Meeting' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the July 12, 2016, follow-up meeting with Harry Frank was very productive. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the document that was prepared to assist with planning of the next retreat. Mr. Pandolfo recommends having Mr. Frank facilitate upcoming Tri-Board meetings in October and February. The Board agreed to use Mr. Frank as facilitator. No motion was necessary. The Board will review the planning documents and provide feedback to Mr. Pandolfo.

6. Old Business

6.1 Act 153 Transportation Report Approval

A copy of a letter to Ms. Rebecca Holcombe, dated July 22, 2016 was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo requested SU Board approval for the Transportation Plan to be submitted to Rebecca Holcombe. The plan needs to be submitted to the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Education by August 1, 2016. The report was drafted and has been reviewed by Business Manager, Lisa Perreault. Mrs. Buzzell provided an overview of the decision of the BTMES Board, which was based on hard data provided by Mrs. Perreault. Mrs. Buzzell advised that the BTMES Board is making the recommendation to move forward with contracted busing services. Mr. Pandolfo has been in contact with BTMES transportation employees to advise of the change and the timeframe for its implementation. It is hopeful that the remaining bus driver position can be filled before the start of the 2016/2017 year. Mr. Allen advised of one minor change to the letter. **On a motion by Mrs. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to submit the Transportation Plan as amended.**

7. Other Business as Needed

None.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated July 21, 2016 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office, Curriculum, Special Services, Technology, Early Education, and Human Resources. A revised Act 46 Timeline and Draft of Articles of Agreement were also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the SHS solar plan was progressing and should be live soon. The Solar Agreement contains a new appendix which documents the distribution. The percentage of power supporting the SU is now calculated as 2.36% (85.52% SHS and 15.11 % CVCC). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Act 46 activity, including; a slight modification to the timeline, progress on the draft of the final report and Articles of Agreement, revised savings projections (not significant after incentives are done), creation of subcommittees (for FAQs, a second survey, and communication strategies), revisiting the Article relating to Board make-up, and positive information provided to the community via the Times Argus. It was reiterated that the district schools do not have 900 students, and are not exempt from Act 46 legislation. Mrs. Perantoni stressed that Act 46 is about quality of education and equitable opportunities for all children. Brief discussion was held regarding the consolidation of 'roof funds' at the time of consolidation. The amount from each district will be identified. Brief discussion was held regarding Article 17 and the possible ceding of BTMES athletic fields to the Town of Barre. It was noted that the Town currently maintains the fields, which differs from BCEMS and SHS, where the schools maintain the athletic fields. Mr. Allen highlighted the significant amount of time spent on Articles 14 and 15 (School Restructuring and Redistricting/Choice). The Board discussed communication strategy. Mrs. Spaulding reiterated that much information can be obtained by visiting the link on the SU site. Additionally, Mrs. Spaulding advised that she is preparing an informational document to be sent with the summer school mailing. Mrs. Perantoni volunteered to assist with public outreach and education during the Barre Heritage Festival. Mrs. Buzzell suggested that a 'bulleted' informational document be available for distribution and that an insert in the Washington World may be a positive way to inform the community regarding Act 46. It was noted that the Communication Strategy Sub-Committee has a very extensive list of ways to assist with community outreach. A copy of the BSU Administrative Retreat (06/15/16 – 06/17/16) Agenda and survey results were distributed.

8.2 Committee Reports

Policy Committee – A copy of the 'Barre Supervisory Union Policy Manual Index' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview. The district level policy committees have not been meeting. The new VSBA site has been reviewed to identify a list of required policies. It was noted that there are some policies that exist at the district level, but not at the SU level. District policies need to be aligned with SU policies. If Act 46 consolidation is approved, district policies will be obsolete as of July 1, 2017. Mrs. Perantoni suggested that district level policy work be suspended until after the Act 46 vote in November 2016, but that the SU continue working on required policies. It was noted that very meticulous work needs to be performed to ascertain which policies can/need to be worked on. The SU Policy Committee will meet in August, for potential Board action in September.

8.3 Financials

Three documents were distributed; 'Barre Supervisory Union FY16 Expenditures/Year-end Projection' report (dated July 11, 2016), 'Barre Supervisory Union General Fund Expenditures – FY16', and 'Barre Supervisory Union and Member District Schools Annual

working papers and other information to be provided by client June 30, 2016'. The SU has a projected surplus of \$1,113. Mr. Allen queried regarding the Technology encumbrance total of \$27,000. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the Technology Team Salary line item. It was noted that the \$28,000 remaining in that line item was most likely due to an unfilled position. **A request was made to have 'Technology Staff Needs' added to the August Agenda.**

9. Executive Session as Needed

9.1 Labor Relations Agreement

The item proposed for discussion in Executive Session is the Labor Relations Agreement.

On a motion by Mrs. Buzzell, seconded by Mrs. Perantoni, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the Barre Supervisory Union at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mrs. Perantoni, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion, and agreed to invite the Superintendent, Mr. Pandolfo to join in Executive Session.

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mrs. Perantoni, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to support conducting contract negotiations in open session.

It was announced that the next Regular Meeting of the SU Board will be held on August 18, 2016.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin