

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Barre Supervisory Union – Conference Room
August 18, 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.
Kristin McCarthy (BT)
Tyler Smith (BC)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brenda Buzzell (BT)
Carlotta Perantoni (SHS)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Thursday, August 18, 2016, meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the Conference room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

It was noted that policy DFA was listed twice under Agenda Item 5.4. The second entry can be deleted.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the July 21, 2016 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Resign/Retire/New Hire

A document titled ‘BSU-New Hires’ was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that BCEMS recently approved the hiring of Spencer Horchler, as an EEE Speech Pathologist. As this individual’s position falls under Special Education, hiring needs to be approved at the SU level. **On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Spencer Horchler.**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he recommends hiring Venus Dean as the Pre-K – 8 Curriculum Specialist for Math (formally Beth Hulbert’s position). Ms. Dean currently works at BTMES and was recently approved for a one year leave of absence so that she could pursue the Curriculum Specialist position. Mr. Pandolfo advised that it is also his recommendation, that the position of Curriculum Specialist for Math be filled for a period of one year. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Ms. Dean’s experience. **On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Venus Dean, to fill the Curriculum Specialist position for a period of one year.**

5.2FY18 Budget Development

A document titled ‘Barre Supervisory Union BCEMS/BTMES/SHS-CVCC Budget Development Schedule for FY 2018 DRAFT 8/9/16’ was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that this schedule is similar to last year’s budget schedule, but has been altered some due to Act 46 considerations. If Act 46 passes, the 3 district budgets will roll into one unified union budget. In response to a query, Mr. Pandolfo advised that it is too soon to quantify how big of an impact Act 46 would have on budget creation. It is not known if changes for Act 46 consolidation would require that three separate budgets be created, then, combined, or if the Tri-Board would be

responsible for budget creation. Many details of Act 46 consolidation need to be determined. Mr. Pandolfo will be seeking guidance from VSBA. Mr. Pandolfo advised that if Act 46 passes, the current district Boards will remain active until June 30, 2016, at which time, the new unified Board will inherit the budget passed in March 2016. At this point, Mr. Pandolfo is requesting SU Board approval of the budget schedule presented this evening. **On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Budget Schedule as presented.**

5.3 Rescind BSU Hazing Prevention Policy (F24)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the reason this policy is presented for rescindment. The SU is currently operating under the new model policy (F20). **On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to rescind the BSU Hazing Prevention Policy (F24).**

5.4 Rescind Old Fiscal Policies DA, DB, DBJ, DBK, DCA, DCB, DDA, DF, DFA, DFAA, DH, DIC, DID, DIE, DJ, DJC, DJG, DJH, DK, DL, and DN.

Copies of the referenced policies were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the SU is currently operating under policies E1 and E2, as well as the Business Manager's Procedural Manual. **On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to rescind the policies as listed on the Agenda (DA, DB, DBJ, DBK, DCA, DCB, DDA, DF, DFA, DFAA, DH, DIC, DID, DIE, DJ, DJC, DJG, DJH, DK, DL, and DN).**

5.5 Appointment of Negotiations Committee

Mr. Pandolfo requested that the Board present a formal motion approving the appointments made by the district Boards. **On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Blakely, Mr. Paterson, and Mrs. Spaulding, as representatives to the Negotiations Committee.**

6. Old Business

6.1 Sub Pay SU

A copy of a document titled 'Vermont Sub Rates' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo distributed an updated 'Vermont Sub Rates' document (dated 08/18/16), advising that changes have been made due to recent discussions relating to new rules relating to hourly pay vs per diem pay. The document proposes hourly rates for the categories; Day Sub, ED Certified, LT or Permanent, PA, BI, Nurse, Support Staff, and Licensed Day Subs. The rate for Licensed LT subs (greater than 30 days) is a per diem rate. In response to a query, it was noted that the number of ED Certified substitutes is unknown. Mr. Pandolfo would like the Board to authorize the Superintendent to set sub rates as needed for the upcoming school year, and advised that sub rates would be reviewed more in the coming year. **On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously authorized the Superintendent to set sub rates as needed for the upcoming year and to research sub pay further in the upcoming year.**

6.2 Act 46 Update

Six documents were distributed; the Act 46 Timeline, the VSBA's Building a Strong Foundation for Unified Districts document, the Act 46 Communication Strategy document, the Act 46 Quick Update informational document, a copy of the Barre Unified School District Act 46 Study Committee – Final Report – Draft 5, dated August 15, 2016, and a document from the State Board of Education titled 'GUIDANCE: Proposals by One or More Non-Merging Districts for an "Alternative Structure" Under Act 46 (2015) (dated July 29, 2016).

Mr. Pandolfo started the discussion with an overview of the Timeline, advising that efforts to recruit new Board Members (for the unified board) need to get started. Mr. Pandolfo is waiting to hear back from counsel regarding deadlines and ballot wording. Mr. Isabelle suggested that it may be beneficial to know who plans on running and for which seat they will be petitioning for. Public outreach has been good so far, and should be increased in October. Mr. Pandolfo gave an overview of highlights from the VSBA handout, including sections titled 'Building Your New Policy Manual', and 'Introduction to Budgeting in a Unified System'. Discussion moved to the Communications Strategy document. Mr. Pandolfo gave an Act 46 presentation to the Rotary Club on 08/17/16. Other Act 46 Committee Members will be addressing additional service groups. WDEV has been contacted regarding broadcasting some type of public service announcement. It was stressed that educating the voters is very important. It was noted that the document 'Act 46 Quick Update' was mailed to all students' parents in August. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Final Report – Draft 5, advising how the document was crafted and proceeded to provide additional information pertaining to the Articles of Agreement, placing emphasis on some of the more critical Articles (Articles 8 – 14). These articles pertain to structure and terms on the new board, voting, commencement of the new district, restructuring, and redistricting. Mrs. Spaulding requested that the spreadsheet on page 30 be reformatted to be more user-friendly. Mr. Isabelle thanked the Committee for their efforts on this project. Brief discussion was held regarding the VSBA 'Guidance' document. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Survey "#2 has been released and that response to-date has been good (208 responses within a couple of days of release). Results indicate that voters are becoming better educated on the implications of Act 46. The SU's web site will need to be updated to include the finalized report and Articles of Agreement.

6.3 Transportation Plan Approval

Mr. Pandolfo advised that due to recent changes in staffing at the AOE, he has not officially heard back regarding approval. There are no anticipated issues with the proposed plan. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

7. Other Business as Needed

None.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated August 18, 2016 was distributed for review and discussion. The extensive report included information pertaining to the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office, Curriculum, Special Services, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. A copy of a memorandum, dated July 29, 2016, from the State Board of Education, relating to the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was distributed. A copy of a letter to John B. King Jr., Secretary of Education, US Department of Education, dated July 2016 was distributed. A copy of a letter to John B. King Jr., Secretary of Education, US Department of Education, dated July 27, 2016 was distributed. In response to a query regarding staffing, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the implementation of new processes and procedures, including the AESOP Substitute system is time consuming, and that when time permits, he is hoping to transfer some payroll clerk duties to HR. All staff are currently working to capacity and beyond. In addition to the written report, Mr. Pandolfo provided some highlights of the Administrative Retreat (a copy of the agenda was distributed), including the Theory of Action discussion (which he will expand on at a future meeting), and advised that implementation of the Veritime system will occur in July of 2017. Mr. Pandolfo also provided an overview of the evaluation process and of discussions with the Barre City Council regarding recent drug overdoses in the area, including a newspaper article which will be published in the near future.

8.2 Committee Reports

Policy Committee – The next meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Supervisory Conference Room.

8.3 Financials

Three financial reports were distributed; BSU FY16 Expenditures/Year-end Projection (August 10, 2016), BSU General Fund Revenue, and BSU Budget – FY16. It was noted that the numbers are very similar to the last report. Mr. Isabelle extended thanks to the team for keeping the SU within budget. In response to a query, Mr. Pandolfo advised that he believes the audits paid for by the SU show a deficit because they were not included in the adopted budget, but are being paid by the SU based on a surplus in the SU budget. Mr. Allen commented that he felt the letters from the Vermont State Board of Education to the US Department of Education were a bit course.

9. Executive Session as Needed

9.1 Labor Relations Agreement

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

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, 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. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with the Superintendent, at 7:39 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:51 p.m.

The next SU Board Meeting will be held on September 15, 2016.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin