

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Barre Supervisory Union – Conference Room
January 19, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Clerk
Anthony Folland
Tyler Smith (BC)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chad Allen (BT) - Chair
Brenda Buzzell (BT)
Kristin McCarthy (BT)
Carlotta Perantoni (SHS)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Thursday, January 19, 2017, meeting to order at 6:09 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the Conference room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Remove 9.1 – This Agenda Item will be added to the February agenda.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2016 Regular Meeting. Mr. Isabelle abstained.

5. New Business

5.1 First Reading Proficiency-Base Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) (G20)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the policy was modified in an effort to distinguish the difference between Proficiency Base Learning (which applies to grades K – 12), and Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (which apply to high school only). Brief discussion was held, and amendments were made relating to Flexible Pathways and the use of PLPs (Personalized Learning Plans) to support student learning.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the First Reading of the Proficiency-Base Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) Policy (G20).

5.2 Legislative Breakfast

Mr. Pandolfo has set a tentative date of Monday, January 30, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at Spaulding High School, in the “Lunch Box”. After the date has been confirmed with legislators, an e-mail will be sent to all Board Members.

6. Old Business

6.1 Second and Final Reading Class Size Policy (G14)

Copies of policies in Agenda Items 6.1 and 6.2 were distributed. The Board agreed to discuss/approve Agenda Items 6.1 and 6.2 simultaneously. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the policies.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Readings of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.1 and 6.2 (G14 and F28).

6.2 Second and Final Reading Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (F28)

This policy was approved under Agenda Item 6.1.

6.3 FY '18 BSU Budget Update

The following documents were distributed; BSU FY18 Budget Summary, and the FY18 BSU Assessment Information report (dated 01/12/17), the BSU Expense Budget Status Report (dated 01/12/17). Mr. Pandolfo advised that in December, the SU Board approved a proposed FY18 BSU General Fund Expenditure Budget, not to exceed \$13,949,842. The revised, proposed General Fund Expenditure Budget is now \$13,878,236 (approximately \$70,000 less than the 'not to exceed' approved expense budget. It was noted that there is no money budgeted in the line item for an increase to the Superintendent's salary.

6.4 Act 46 Update

Mr. Pandolfo reminded community members of the upcoming re-vote on January 31, 2017. A copy of a letter to school board members, from VSBA was distributed. This letter identifies a slate of Act 46 changes that VSBA will present to the General Assembly. Mr. Pandolfo advised that in speaking with legislators, he believes they are supportive of the changes proposed by VSBA. Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Cecchinelli, and Mr. Rousse will be meeting with members of the Senate Education Committee on Friday. In response to a query from Mr. Isabelle, pertaining to some community members' belief that it is allowable for the SU to remain structured as it is currently; Mr. Pandolfo advised that he does not believe the current structure will be allowed. Mr. Isabelle stressed his belief that the communities choose their own destiny, rather than be subjected to a mandatory consolidation structure decided by the State.

6.5 Labor Relations Agreements

Four documents were distributed; updated Proposal Status Forms for Teachers and Para-educators, the Wage and Insurance Proposals for BSU Teachers and Paras (dated 01/18/17), and the 'Analysis of Board's VEHI Proposal using 2015 Claims Data' document. Mr. Pandolfo distributed the up-to-date status forms and provided a brief overview of items recently discussed and tentatively agreed to (TA'd). Negotiators met with teachers on 01/17/17, and will be meeting with para-educators on 01/26/17. Mr. Pandolfo provided a comprehensive overview of the Analysis document, advising that under the proposal, some employees (teachers) will be better off, and some will be worse off. The analysis was provided using some assumptions and estimates. The new tier (Parent/Child), should prove to be beneficial. A planning meeting is slated for 01/20/17. The following meetings are also scheduled; 01/26/17 and 02/06/17 (with para-educators), and 02/07/17 with teachers. Salary and benefits appear to be the largest impediment to the finalizing of agreements.

7. Other Business as Needed

None.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated January 19, 2017 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to; the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office, Curriculum, Special Services, Technology, the Early Education Program, Human Resources, and Facilities. Additionally, the following documents were distributed; a copy of an e-mail from Laura Soares (pertaining to the approval of VEHI FY18 Health Rates), and a letter of resignation from Debra Gibson, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. A copy of an e-mail titled 'GMP Special Program Opportunity – immediate action suggested' – dated 12/15/16) was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding receipt of e-mails lauding the SU for its monitoring of grant procedures. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding a Green Mountain Power Pilot Shadow Program (a study), regarding rate options. This pilot program is separate from the solar agreement and no Board action is necessary at this time. Confirmation has been received that the VEHI rates have been approved. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of ADM data received from the State, which documents an overall decrease in numbers, resulting in a drop in the number of Equalized Pupils. It was noted that pre-k students who were previously in centers undergoing the licensing process, can now be included in the student count, and are now eligible for tuition payments (tuition could not be paid to centers until they received licensure by the State). Mr. Pandolfo will contact the Business Manager for additional information regarding Workers' Compensation (report item 2d).

8.2 Committee Reports

Policy Committee – Minutes from the 12/13/16 and 01/10/17 meetings were distributed. There were no questions or comments.

Negotiation Committee – Minutes from the following meetings were distributed; 11/17/16, 11/30/16, 12/05/16 (2 sets), 12/09/16, 12/14/16, 01/06/17, 01/11/17, 01/13/17 and 01/17/17. There were no questions or comments.

8.3 Financials

There were no questions relating to the Warrants being presented. Mrs. Spaulding advised that upon review of this batch of warrants, she more fully understands why legislation was passed to merge Special Education within supervisory unions. A review of the warrants for Special Education services (for the entire SU), including a sizeable amount from Washington County Mental Health, gives incentive to research how to more efficiently operate Special Education within the BSU. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Special Education Administrators meet bi-weekly and have been focused on efficiency. The topic of Efficiency within Special Education will

be added to February agendas (to allow input from existing board members, prior to the end of their terms), and will subsequently be added for further discussion in March or April.

9. Executive Session as Needed

~~9.1 Superintendent's Evaluation~~ This item will be added to the February agenda.

9.2 Personnel

A Personnel item was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:12 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. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously agreed to accept Debra Gibson's resignation with regrets and many thanks for her years of service.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin