

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR TRI-BOARD MEETING**

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD
BARRE CITY SCHOOL BOARD
BARRE TOWN SCHOOL BOARD
SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL BOARD**

Spaulding High School - Library
March 23, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BCEMS BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding- Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Jennifer Chioldi
Andrew McMichael
Sarah Pregent

BCEMS BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Deering

BTMES BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BTMES BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

SHS BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone - Chair
Tim Boltin
Anthony Folland
J. Guy Isabelle

SHS BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

David LaCroix – Vice Chair
Joe Blakely - Clerk
Ed Rousse

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus

1. Call to Order

The BCEMS Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Thursday, March 23, 2017, meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

The BTMES Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Thursday, March 23, 2017, meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

The SHS Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, March 23, 2017, meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 4.6 Committee Restructure

3. Visitors and Communications

Board Members introduced themselves. There were no visitors.

4. New Business

4.1 Meeting Norms

A document listing BSU Board Meeting Norms and BCEMS Ground Rules for Meetings was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo distributed a copy of a document titled 'BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD MEMBERS 2017-18'. The document contains contact information for Board Members and lists the Board Members who are representatives on the Supervisory Union Board. Board Members reviewed a copy of the Meeting Norms. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of each Board to use the 'BSU BOARD MEETING NORMS' with the addition of 2 items from the BCEMS Ground Rules list. The two items to be added are: 'Make decisions based on clear information', and 'Keep the best interest of the school and children in mind, while balancing the needs of the taxpayers'. Mr. Allen would like to see the listing posted on foam boards and displayed at each board meeting.

4.2 2016 – 2017 Calendar – Make-Up Days

A copy of the 'Regional Calendar - Barre Supervisory Union 2016-17 Calendar' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised of 4 snow days for the 2016/2017 academic year. Graduation for SHS is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2017. It is the Superintendent's recommendation to make up snow days in the following manner; Thursday and Friday (06/15/17 and 06/16/17) would be student days. Monday and Tuesday (06/19/17 and 06/20/17) would be staff-only days. It was the consensus of the Tri-Board, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent. The decision on whether the last day of school will be a full day or a half-day, will be determined by Administration at a later date. Mr. Cecchinelli suggested that during future school calendar discussions, administrators consider using April Vacation days for make-up days. It was noted that some schools use Saturdays for make-up days.

4.3 2017 – 2018 BSU Calendar

A copy of '16 V.S.A. § 1071. School year and school day' was distributed. A copy of draft #3 of the Regional Calendar for the Barre Supervisory Union for 2017 – 2018 was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the process to create the school calendar. The process involves collaboration with other supervisory unions. Though it is common for schools to have 175 student days and 5 staff days, the BSU has been scheduling 180 student days and 10 staff days. The state requirement is for 175 student days. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Tri-Board to allow Administration to finalize the school calendar for the 2017 – 2018 academic year. It was noted that the high school graduation date is set by Spaulding High School Administrators.

4.4 Board Priorities and Strategic Direction

A document titled 'Agenda Item 4.4 – Board Priorities and Strategic Direction' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo suggested that the Tri-Board break into smaller groups, hold discussions and report back. It was the consensus of the Tri-Board to proceed with the Superintendent's recommendation and break into smaller groups for thirty minutes of discussion. The Tri-Board moved to small group discussion at 6:55 p.m. The Tri-Board reconvened at 7:25 p.m. to debrief on their discussions. A spokesperson from each group provided a brief overview of their group's discussion. Mr. Pandolfo offered to collect each group's notes and compile a master list.

4.4.1 Performance Expectations from Superintendent Evaluation

A document titled 'Performance Expectations from Superintendent Evaluation (dated February 22, 2017) was distributed. Discussion took place under Agenda Item 4.4 - Board Priorities and Strategic Direction.

4.4.2 Barre SU Theory of Action

A document titled 'BSU Theory of Action and Strategic Objectives – Master Working Copy (updated 01/09/17) was distributed. Discussion took place under Agenda Item 4.4 - Board Priorities and Strategic Direction.

4.5 Budget Re-Votes (SHS and BCEMS)

Five documents were distributed; 'Status of School district Budget Voting Results Through Town Meeting Day, March, 7, 2017', 'Act 46: Town Meeting Day 2017 results', a memorandum from Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) testing window, and Proposed Expense Budget packets for BCEMS and SHS.

4.5.1 Approve Revised Budgets

Mr. Malone provided an overview of the proposed revised expenditure budget, including reductions, the tax impact and the change in the cost per pupil amount. The revised expenditure budget, totaling \$13,372,971, reflects an increase of \$362,505 (2.8%). It was noted that over \$100,000 of the overall increase, was due to unfunded mandates. The proposed budget equates to \$13,347 education spending per equalized pupil. This per pupil cost is the lowest in the state, and represents a 3.5% increase in spending per equalized student. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Folland, the SHS Board unanimously voted to approve the expenditure budget as presented (\$13,372,971).

Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of the proposed revised expenditure budget, including reductions, the tax impact and the change in the cost per equalized pupil amount. The revised expenditure budget, totaling \$14,596,184, reflects an increase of \$556,519 (4 %). It was noted that the budget increased 4%, but the increase in cost per pupil (4.9%) is what will be presented on the ballot. The proposed budget equates to \$12,447 education spending per equalized pupil, which is well below the state average (approximately \$15,000). This per pupil cost is one of the lowest in the state. It was announced that the revote would occur on May 9, 2017 (the same day as the Barre Town vote). Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the BCEMS Board unanimously voted to approve the expenditure budget as presented (\$14,596,184).

4.5.2 Approve Revised Budget Warnings

Two documents were distributed; a copy of the 'Spaulding Union High School District #41 Warning for May 9, 2017 Vote', and a copy of the 'Barre City School District Warning for May 9, 2017 Vote'. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Spaulding High School Board unanimously voted to approve, as presented, the Warning titled 'Spaulding Union High School District #41 Warning for May 9, 2017 Vote'. The Warning was distributed for signatures.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Board unanimously voted to approve, as presented, the Warning titled 'Barre City School District Warning for May 9, 2017 Vote'. The Warning was distributed for signatures.

4.6 Committee Restructure

Mr. Pandolfo addressed the Board and advised regarding his recommendation for the formation of SU level committees. The recommendations are as follows:

Negotiations Committee – Representatives: Mrs. Spaulding (BC), Mr. Paterson (BT), and Mr. Blakely (SHS)

Policy Committee – Representatives: Mr. Deering (BC), Mrs. Chioldi (BC), Mrs. Farrell (BT), and Mr. Isabelle (SHS)

Curriculum Committee – Representatives: Mrs. Pregent (BC), Mr. Smith (BC), Mrs. McCarthy (BT), Mr. Blakely (SHS), and Mr. Rousse (SHS)

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the BCEMS Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the formation of SU level Negotiations, Policy, and Curriculum Committees and agreed to appoint the BCEMS representatives as noted in the recommendation.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, the BTMES Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the formation of SU level Negotiations, Policy, and Curriculum Committees and agreed to appoint the BTMES representatives as noted in the recommendation.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the SHS Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the formation of SU level Negotiations, Policy, and Curriculum Committees and agreed to appoint the SHS representatives as noted in the recommendation.

The meeting schedules for the newly formed SU level committees will be determined and announced at a later date.

It was noted that district board representation on the SU Board will be announced after confirmation by district boards.

Mr. Isabelle expressed his belief that the newly formed SU level committees will be more efficient, result in significant time savings, and move the SU in the direction of consolidation of business functions.

Additionally, it was noted that the next Regular SHS Board Meeting has been moved to Thursday, April 13, 2017.

The next BSU Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The next Negotiations Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2017.

5. Other Business as Needed

None.

6. Reports to the Board

6.1 Superintendent's Report to BSU Board

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated March 23, 2017 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, Human Resources, and Facilities. Three additional documents were distributed; 'Proposed Hypothetical Homestead Property Tax Rates', a letter of resignation from Curriculum Director Rick McCraw, and a colored map showing Act 46 activity around the state of Vermont. Mr. Pandolfo advised that an Early Education update would be provided in April, no action is required of the Tri-Board regarding the resignation of Mr. McCraw, Federal Budget development may result in a 13.5% decrease in Federal Funds, advised that the US Department of Labor inspection was very positive requiring no follow-up visits at the district schools, and provided information pertaining to legislation that could positively impact the tax rates for districts which have lower cost per pupil rates. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the Act 46 'map'.

6.2 Committee Reports

Two sets of Minutes were distributed; the BSU Policy Committee Meeting (02/20/17) and the BSU Negotiations Committee Meeting (02/22/17). No discussion was held.

7. Executive Session as Needed

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the BCEMS Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson, the BTMES Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the SHS Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin