

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Barre Supervisory Union – Conference Room
February 16, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Allen (BT) - Chair
J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Clerk
Anthony Folland
Brenda Buzzell (BT)
Kristin McCarthy (BT)
Tyler Smith (BC)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
Carlotta Perantoni (SHS)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech John Mudgett

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Allen, called the Thursday, February 16, 2017, meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the Conference room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 5.4 Resignations
Add 9.2 Personnel Issue under Executive Session

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the January 19, 2017 Regular Meeting. Mr. Allen thanked Mr. Cecchinelli for chairing the meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Audit Presentation

A copy of the Audit Report was distributed. John Mudgett of Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. introduced himself to the Board and provided an overview of the recent audit. Mr. Mudgett advised the Board that the audit was 'clean'. The Financial Statements represent fairly, there were no findings or identification of mechanical weaknesses. Mr. Mudgett provided a brief overview of the audit of internal controls relating to Federal Awards. It was noted that the audits at the SU and district schools, all went very smoothly and there were no disagreements with management. Mr. Mudgett reported that he has seen a steady improvement over the years and credited the smoothness of this year's audit to Business Manager Lisa Perreault's second year at the SU. Mr. Mudgett answered questions from the Board, including brief discussion of the retirement fund liability (which is not actually an expense of the district), and the Capital Project Fund. Brief discussion was held regarding multiple lines for the 'same item', though it was explained that the lines are reported separately due to differing 'Pass Through Identification Numbers'. In response to a query regarding possible risks to the SU, Mr. Mudgett advised that the State Teachers' Retirement Fund is drastically underfunded. The deficit is not listed as a liability because in the past the SU did not have to pay into the program. Information pertaining to the fund is disclosed (page 20), though not allocated. Additionally, Mr. Mudgett advised that his firm is available year round to answer any questions, provide information, or to advise regarding specific areas of concern.

On a motion by Mrs. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Audit as submitted.

5.2SPED Consolidation / Collaboration

Mrs. Spaulding believes that the schools should be paying for educational, rather than mental health issues and would like to continue exploring ways to better serve students at a lower cost. Mrs. Spaulding would like to discuss cooperation/collaboration between the schools in an effort to better serve students and be more cost effective. It is Mrs. Spaulding's belief that providing services in a more cost effective manner, would allow the districts to serve additional students' needs. Lengthy discussion was held regarding current programs and services (in-house and outside placement), cost / reimbursement, shared staff, services provided by Washington County Mental Health, collaboration with schools (planning for in-coming freshmen), life skills, behavioral challenges, pooling of resources and training, and research for efficiency in scale. Mr. McMahon was thanked for providing information to the Board, as well as his ongoing efforts as Director of Special Services.

5.3 March 23rd Tri-Board Meeting / with New Board Member Orientation at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Pandolfo proposed holding a Tri-Board Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2017. This meeting would take the place of the regularly scheduled BSU Board Meeting for March 2017. New Board Member Orientation is proposed for 5:00 p.m., with the Tri-Board Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Board agreed with the Superintendent's proposal. The date for the next BSU Regular Board Meeting will be announced at a later date.

5.4 Resignations

Resignations from Carrie Caouette-DeLallo and Leah Racliff were distributed. Brief discussion was held regarding these Special Educators. Ms. Caouette-DeLallo works at SHS and Ms. Racliff works at BTMES.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Folland, the Board unanimously voted to accept with regrets, the resignation of Carrie Caouette-DeLallo.

On a motion by Mrs. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to accept with regrets and best wishes, the resignation of Ms. Racliff.

6. Old Business

6.1 Act 46 Update

Three documents were distributed; 'Barre Act 46 Process – Next Steps February 2017', the 'Education Legislative Report', and a document from the State Board of Education (dated August 23, 2016) titled 'GUIDENCE: Proposals for Mergers under Act 46 (2015), Act 153 (2010), and Act 156 (2012)'. Mr. Pandolfo recommends that any additional action be postponed until after the current legislative session has concluded. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the available options and advised that many districts will hold consolidation votes between now and June 2017. It may be beneficial to review the outcomes of the upcoming votes. It was noted that the State Board of Education is required to issue a mandatory statewide education governance plan by November 30, 2018.

6.2 Labor Relations Agreements

Three documents were distributed; updated Proposal Status Forms for Teachers and Para-educators, and the Wage and Insurance Proposals for BSU Teachers and Paras (dated 02/08/17). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Negotiation Committee has gone to 'Impasse' with the teachers and are looking to schedule a mediator and fact finder. Areas of greatest division are; salaries, benefits, and length of school day. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Negotiations Committee will be meeting with para-educators on 02/22/17. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the expense of the mediator would be paid from the SU budget, and then would most likely be factored out to the schools. The Fact Finder expense would be split between the Board and the Teachers Association.

6.3 Second and Final Reading Proficiency-Based Learning Policy (PBGRs) (G20)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Buzzell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Proficiency-Based Learning Policy (PBGRs) (G20).

7. Other Business as Needed

None.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated February 17, 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. A document titled 'VSBIT Multi-Line Inter-municipal School Program Loss Ratios by Member (7/1/2004 to 6/30/2016)' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided additional information pertaining to opened and filled positions and advised that the SU has received notification that the State will be performing a 'Wage and Hour Visit' on Thursday, February 23, 2017. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the of the School Program Loss Ration report, which included liability and Workers' Compensation data.

8.2 Committee Reports

Policy Committee – The Policy Committee has not met recently. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Negotiations Committee - Minutes from the following Negotiations Committee Meetings were distributed; 02/07/17, 02/06/17, 02/03/17, 01/26/17, and 01/20/17.

8.3 Financials

A copy of the BSU Expense Budget Status Report (dated 02/09/17) was distributed. Brief discussion was held. Mr. Pandolfo will request additional information relating to deficit amounts in line items 2600 and 2160 (Plant Operation and Maintenance and Occupational Therapists). Mr. Allen requested that Business Manager Lisa Perreault provide an overview of the financial report to new Board Members.

9. Executive Session as Needed

9.1 Superintendent's Evaluation

9.2 Personnel Issue

A Personnel Issue and the Superintendent's Evaluation were proposed for discussion in Executive Session. The Board agreed to discuss the Personnel Issue first.

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance for the Personnel Issue, at 7:55 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. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin