

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library  
April 20, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chad Allen (BT)  
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Anthony Folland (SHS)  
Jennifer Hutchinson (BT)  
J. Guy Isabelle (SHS)  
Paul Malone (SHS)  
Tyler Smith (BC)  
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech

**1. Call to Order**

The Superintendent, Mr. Pandolfo, called the Thursday, April 20, 2017, meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Agenda Item 5.1, Board Reorganization will be discussed immediately after Agenda Item 3.  
Remove 4.2 because Tri-Board Meeting did not include meeting of BSU Board  
5.2 Change "Resignation" to "Resignations and New Hires"  
Add 5.5 "Swipe Card Use by Board Members"  
Add 5.6 "Board Retreats"

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes –February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Tyler Smith, seconded by Sonya Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting.

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Board Reorganization**

VSBA Board Re-organization data sheet (page 2) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Board re-organization, provided an overview from the slides presented at district re-organization meetings, and requested nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Paul Malone nominated Guy Isabelle for the position of Board Chair, seconded by Chad Allen. There were no additional nominations. The Board unanimously voted to elect Guy Isabelle as Board Chair.

Mr. Isabelle chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Sonya Spaulding nominated Giuliano Cecchinelli for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Paul Malone. There were no additional nominations. The Board unanimously voted to elect Giuliano Cecchinelli as Vice Chair.

Anthony Folland nominated Alice Farrell for the position of Clerk, seconded by Chad Allen. There were no additional nominations. The Board unanimously voted to elect Alice Farrell as Clerk.

**Committee Assignments:**

**BSU Policy Committee: Committee Members: Michael Deering and Jen Chioldi (BC); Alice Farrell (BT); Guy Isabelle (SHS). Meetings:** BSU Policy Committee Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Second Floor Conference Area.

**BSU Curriculum Committee: Committee Members: Sarah Pregent and Tyler Smith (BC); Kristin McCarthy (BT); Joe Blakely and Ed Rousse (SHS). Meetings:** BSU Curriculum Committee Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month from 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

**BSU Negotiations Committee: Committee Members: Sonya Spaulding (BC); Jay Paterson (BT); Joe Blakely (SHS). Meetings** will be held as needed.

**On a motion by Tyler Smith, seconded by Paul Malone, the Board unanimously voted to assign members to the BSU Negotiations, Policy, and Curriculum committees as voted by the district boards at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Tri-Board Meeting and restated above.** Mr. Malone asked for clarification regarding whether District Board members who were not on BSU Board could serve as BSU Committee members, and exactly who the voting members of committee would be. Mr. Pandolfo advised he would research an answer on that.

Mr. Malone asked for clarification regarding whether District Board Members who were not on BSU Board could serve as BSU Committee members, and exactly who the voting members of committees would be. Mr. Pandolfo advised he would research and answer on that. Mr. Isabelle understood two things 1) If someone from the community wanted to be added to a committee does approval come from SU or does the committee make the decision, 2) Can SU Board members serve as ex officio (non-voting members). Mr. Malone shared what occurs at High School Level with 3 Board members serving as standing committee. Votes at committee level taken by 3 SU Board members present. Recommendations from committees are brought before the full board.

**On a motion by Sonya Spaulding, seconded by Anthony Folland the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Board Chair to sign contracts as approved by the Board.**

**The Board agreed to hold Board meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at SHS Library.**

**The Board agreed that the date of the 2016 Board Retreat will be discussed later under Agenda item 5.6.**

**The Board agreed to post Agendas and Minutes at the Spaulding High School, the Supervisory Union, at the City and Town Clerks' Offices, and on the SHS/CVCC web sites.**

**The Board agreed to use Roberts Rules.**

**The Board reviewed communication practices, Board development opportunities, and Board advocacy.** The Board was advised that information shared as a discussion (verbally, electronically or written), outside of board meetings, violates the Open Meeting Law. Discussion also included emphasis on using the proper chain of command for communication and/or resolution of concerns/complaints. The Essential Work of School Boards Workshop was identified as one board development opportunity, as well as regional VSBA meetings.

**The Board agreed to designate the Times Argus and The World as the newspaper publications to be utilized for meeting notices, warnings and employment advertisements.**

**Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Executive Session requirements in the context of The Open Meeting Law.**

**5.2 Resignation and New Hires**

A letter of resignation from Richard McCraw was distributed. John Pandolfo provided a brief overview regarding Mr. McCraw's resignation.

**On a motion by Paul Malone, seconded by Tyler Smith, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Mr. McCraw.**

Letters of resignation from Dianne Meyer and Judy Watt were distributed. John Pandolfo provided a brief overview regarding Mrs. Meyers and Ms. Watt's resignations. Mrs. Meyer works as a Speech/Language Pathologist at BTMES, Ms. Watt works as a Special Educator at BCEMS.

**On a motion by Alice Farrell, seconded by Jennifer Hutchinson, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Mrs. Meyer.**

**On a motion by Tyler Smith, seconded by Jennifer Hutchinson, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Ms. Watt.**

A letter of resignation from Amy Accles was distributed. Don McMahon provided a brief overview regarding Ms. Accles resignation. Ms. Accles works as a Special Educator at SHS.

**On a motion by Anthony Folland, seconded by Paul Malone, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Ms. Accles.**

Resumes and Notification of Employment Status forms for William Poderzay and Cara Lovell were distributed. John Pandolfo provided a brief overview regarding the hiring of Mr. Poderzay for the Grade 3 / 4 Special Educator position at BTMES replacing Leah Rackliff and Ms. Lovell for the Speech/Language Pathologist position at BTMES replacing Diane Meyer. John Pandolfo answered questions from the board.

**On a motion by Paul Malone, seconded by Anthony Folland, the board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of William Poderzay pending License and completion of Master's Program in May.**

**On a motion by Alice Farrell, seconded by Jennifer Hutchinson, the board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Cara Lovell.**

### **5.3 BSU Board By-Law Revisions**

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a new draft titled 'BY-LAWS OF THE BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION (U61)' based on input from VSBA counsel, Emily Simmons.

The board discussed the by-laws extensively, and agreed one of the three actions should occur:

- 1) Vote to delete By-Laws in their entirety, as they are not required.
- 2) Vote to amend the By-Laws in some fashion, based on Superintendent and VSBA recommendations.
- 3) Vote to keep By-Laws as they exist from 2014 revision.

Mr. Pandolfo will prepare a clean copy of the 2014 document and a clean copy of proposed revisions for discussion at the May meeting.

### **5.4 Curriculum Director Search Process and Timeline**

Mr. Pandolfo distributed documents defining the search process and timeline, statute related to roles and responsibilities of Board and Superintendent regarding hiring personnel, and a list of current endorsements licensed by VT AOE. The Board discussed these documents, as well as the following six questions brought up by Mr. Malone.

- 1) Who determines what the process is for selecting which candidates are presented to the SU Board and does the SU Board have any say of what that process is?
- 2) The law seems to be silent on any SU Board members being part of any selection committee or not. How should this be viewed?
- 3) What have the past practices been over time?
- 4) Would the process be different depending on staff positions?
- 5) Would more than one "Good" candidate (finalists) be presented to the SU Board for final round interview, consideration, and ultimate appointment?
- 6) Is it to be assumed that there is going to be a personal interview of the candidate being presented by the Superintendent of the SU Board before final approval is made?

The Board agreed to the process presented by Mr. Pandolfo and set a date for finalist(s) interview(s) and the superintendent's recommendation. This meeting will be on May 1 in the SHS Library; 6:00 p.m. meeting time and 6:15 p.m. (first) interview.

### **5.5 Swipe Cards**

Mr. Pandolfo presented concerns of VSBIT and BSU Legal Council with Board members having swipe card access. The board discussed the issue extensively.

**On a motion by Paul Malone, seconded by Tyler Smith, the board unanimously voted: (1) That Board members in all districts would NOT have swipe card access; (2) Admin shall take responsibility for Board members and public having easy access to building for Board and Committee meeting; and (3) all Board members shall receive picture ID cards.**

### **5.6 Board Retreat(s)**

Mr. Pandolfo recommended that SU Board members go back to their respective boards to discuss whether they prefer to hold separate retreats for each district versus a common retreat where all boards meet together. This will then be discussed at the May 18 BSU Board meeting.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 SPED Consolidation / Collaboration**

Mr. McMahon was present for this discussion, and Mrs. Spaulding recapped the discussion and concerns expressed at the February BSU Board meeting, for the benefit of new members. Mr. McMahon and Mr. Pandolfo answered questions and explained current and planned future happenings related to Special Ed. This will be an ongoing discussion.

### **6.2 Labor Relations / Negotiations**

Mr. Pandolfo handed out documents just released regarding Governor Scott's renewed call for a state-wide negotiated health care cost-sharing arrangement for all education employee health benefits. The board discussed the implications of this.

Mr. Pandolfo also handed out a summary status sheet for AFSCME Negotiations. Upcoming meetings:

- April 25 AFSCME meeting cancelled, more meetings will be scheduled for June
- April 27 Mediation with teachers
- May 2 Negotiation session with para-educators

## **7. Other Business as Needed**

None

## **8. Reports to the Board**

### **8.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated April 20, 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. Mr. Pandolfo answered questions from Board members.

### **8.2 Committee Reports**

**Policy Committee** – Minutes from the February 20, 2017 meeting were distributed.

**Negotiations Committee** – Minutes from the March 31, 2017, April 3, 2017, April 11, 2017, and April 14, 2017 committee meetings were distributed.

### **8.3 Financials**

A document titled 'Barre Supervisory Union BSU FY17 Expenditures/Year-end Projection' dated April 20, 2017 was distributed. The Board discussed whether there should be a Finance Committee at the BSU level, since the BSU budget has increased from \$1-2 million to over \$13 million as a result of Act 153. Having the sitting Finance Chairs from each district Board make up that committee was discussed. Board Chairs will talk to Finance Chairs and come back on May 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss further as an SU Board.

## **9. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Paul Malone, seconded by Sonya Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*John Pandolfo*