

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library

October 9, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Jennifer Chioldi
Sarah Pregent

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Deering
Vacant Position
Chris Riddell

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Hayden Coon, Principal
Chris Hennessey, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus Andrew McMichael

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Tuesday, October 9, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Modify Agenda Item 4.0 – Change from ‘Executive Session’ to ‘Board Seat Interviews’
Delete Agenda Item 4.1 – Board Seat Interviews
Delete Agenda Item 4.2 – Act 46 Seat Interviews
Add 10.1 Deliberation of Board Seat Interviews

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Board Seat Interviews

A copy of an e-mail from Tyler Smith (dated 09/21/18) was distributed. It was noted that Mr. Smith has submitted his official letter of resignation and as of Friday, September 21, 2018 Mr. Smith no longer resides in Barre City and therefore can no longer serve on the Board or its Committees. Letters of interest (to serve on the Board) from Lane Pike Fury and Andy McMichael were distributed. Mr. McMichael was present and was interviewed by the Board in person. Ms. Pike Fury was not able to attend, but was interviewed via conference call. Each candidate provided a brief overview of their background and experience, and interest in serving on the Board. It was announced that three seats were set to expire (Mr. Cecchinelli’s seat, Mr. Smith’s vacant seat, and Mrs. Spaulding’s seat). Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding the impact Act 46 may have on seat terms. Candidates were advised that the Board would make a decision in Executive Session and that candidates would be notified of the outcome.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

There were no resignations, retirements or new hires to approve. A document titled ‘Vermont Labor Department Works With Fuel Dealers To Address Driver Shortage’ (by Howard Weiss-Tisman – dated 10/01/18) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the article advising that there is a labor shortage across the state and the nation, with employers experiencing an inability to fill positions.

6.2 Public Panel Project

Mrs. Spaulding advised that the letters are ready to be signed by Board Members, but she needs to put the letters on BCEMS letterhead. The Principals will e-mail the letterhead to Mrs. Spaulding. Mrs. Spaulding will bring the letters, on letterhead, to the next Board Meeting so that Board Members may add their signatures.

6.3 Board Clerk

As Mr. Smith is no longer serving on the Board, a new Clerk needs to be appointed.

Mrs. Chioldi nominated Mrs. Pregent to serve as BCEMS Board Clerk. Mr. Cecchinelli seconded the nomination. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Pregent as the BCEMS Board Clerk.

Appointment of the BSU Board Representative will be determined at the November Board Meeting. This item will be added to the November Agenda.

6.4 VEHI Annual Meeting

A Memo from VEHI, dated 09/04/18, regarding the VEHI Annual Meeting was distributed. The Annual Meeting is on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. at Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the upcoming meeting, noting that nothing critical is planned for discussion. Mr. Pandolfo advised the Board regarding the options for voting.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Superintendent John Pandolfo to appear and vote on behalf of BCEMS for Health, Dental, and Unemployment Programs. The VEHI and VSBIT ‘PROXY OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY’ forms were circulated for signature.

6.5 VSBIT Annual Meeting

A Memo from VSBIT (Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust), dated September 4, 2018, regarding the VSBIT Annual Meeting was distributed. The VSBIT Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. at Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the VEHI Annual Meeting. **See action taken under Agenda Item 6.4.**

6.6 Transportation Update

BCEMS is currently in the first year of an SU-wide contract with STA (Student Transportation of Vermont). It was noted that in the past, there were separate contracts for each district school. This year, Mrs. Perreault has entered into an SU-wide contract. Brief discussion was held regarding the installation of seat belts on buses. STA will be retrofitting the BCEMS buses with seat belts. When new buses are ordered, they will come equipped with retractable seat belts. It is the goal to have adult riders on all bus runs. Currently 2 or 3 buses do not have adult riders. Bus rider positions are voluntary (not required) positions for para-educators and for some other hourly employees. Though there is not data available, it is thought that approximately 20% of schools use adult riders. In response to a query, Mr. Coon advised that he will research to ascertain if seat belt use is required when buses are equipped with them.

6.7 Behavior System Update

Mr. Coon and Mr. Hennessey provided an update on the Behavior System, advising that administrators continue to make adjustments, and are trying to move from being reactive to being proactive. A Behavior System Steering Committee continues to meet and work on improvements the Program. It was noted that a fair number of new employees were hired for the FY19 school year, so the implementation is a work in progress. Though it is very early in the school year, administrators feel that good progress is being made. It was reported that there was some confusion regarding how to support some students in specific circumstances, but this issue has been clarified. Documentation for practices and procedures (not policy) is in Google Drive. The document has been shared with staff. Mr. Hennessey advised that there are a few open staff positions, but things are still working relatively smoothly. It is hoped that all positions can be filled. It was noted that debriefs are held after any occurrence, the Behavior Team meets weekly, and the Steering Committee meets monthly.

7. Old Business

None.

7.1 Act 46

A document titled 'Act 46 2018 Committee Expenses' was distributed. Barre City voting expenses are anticipated to be \$2,600 which includes printing and programming costs. Barre Town has a longstanding agreement with the school district, whereby, if an election is held in conjunction with a regular vote, there is no cost billed to the school district. Given this information, Mr. Pandolfo believes that the additional amount approved by the Board will need to be used to cover Barre City voting costs, but an additional \$1000 will need to be allocated to cover additional expenses (meetings, pamphlet printing costs). The BTMES Board did approve an additional allocation of \$1000. Mr. Pandolfo would like the Board to approve the allocation of an additional \$1000 for the Act 46 706 Study Committee.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to allocate an additional one thousand dollars to the Act 46 706 Consolidation Study Committee for the purpose of covering the remaining expenses.

A document titled 'Decision Points – Sec. 9 Proposals and Secretary's Proposed Statewide Plan Overview' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Decision Points document noting that of the 47 decision points (relating to requests for retaining current governance structures or requesting mergers) for the Section 9 submissions, the Secretary (of Education) agreed with 32 requests and disagreed with 15. Mr. Pandolfo advised that of the three situations most like Barre, none were approved for retaining their current structures. If Twinfield is merged into a supervisory union, an SU board will be necessary. If Twinfield is merged into a district, there would be one district board and no SU board. There are many different scenarios to consider. It was noted that if Twinfield were merged into the Barre district, board make-up would not be equitable under the Draft Default Articles of Agreement. The Draft Default Articles of Agreement would form a board consisting of 2 members from each town (2 Plainfield, 2 Marshfield, 2 Barre City, and 2 Barre Town). There are many questions relating to the placement of Twinfield and how the placement will impact other districts/supervisory unions. There are many unknowns regarding whether or not Barre will be forced to merge and if so, with whom. It was noted that there is a class action lawsuit that has been filed under the premise that Act 46 is unconstitutional. A previous lawsuit relating to Act 46 was dismissed. Some school districts in the vicinity have voted to join the class action lawsuit, some have decided not to join, and some are undecided. Mr. Pandolfo advised that as of 5:00 p.m. this evening, the petition deadline has passed (petitions to run for Unified Board Seats). Of the two 1-year seats, Mr. Folland is running for one seat and there are no candidates for the second seat. Mr. Cecchinelli is running for the one 2-year seat, Ed Rousse is running for the one 3-year seat, and Guy Isabelle is running for the At-Large seat. In Barre Town, Victoria Pompei is running for the one 1-year seat, Paul Malone and Dave LaCroix are running for the two 2-year seats, and Gina Akley is running for the one 3-year seat. Those interested in the one seat that has no candidate, may run a write-in campaign, or the new Board will appoint an individual to the seat. If the Act 46 Consolidation vote does not pass in both the City and the Town, the Board seats referenced above will not exist.

7.2 Budget Development FY20

A copy of the VEHI Files FY 20 Health Plan Rates for Active School Employees was distributed. It is anticipated that the rate increase will be 11.8%, though rates will not be finalized until January 2019. Mr. Pandolfo, the Administrative Team, and Mrs. Perreault have been working on draft one of the FY20 Budget. Draft 1 will be presented to the Board at the November Board Meeting. The Board should be sharing budget goals (financial, philosophical and /or educational). Mr. Pandolfo asked the Board to be considering the request from Mr. Evans regarding budgeting money for building maintenance, as well as monies that will be requested/necessary to assure that technology infrastructure improvements can be made. The Board faces a challenge of keeping the budget reasonable, but investing as much per pupil as possible. Mr. Pandolfo advised that much information still needs to be gathered, and cautioned that not everything will be included in the first draft.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated September 27, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; VSBA Dues, Health Insurance (including selection of a new Third Party Administrator), and Act 46. A letter from VSBA, dated 09/01/18 was distributed. The letter pertains to membership dues, which for FY19 is \$8,733 for the BSU. A copy of the VEHI Files FY 20 Health Plan Rates for Active School Employees was distributed. It is anticipated that the rate increase will be 11.8%, though rates will not be finalized until January 2019. Mr. Pandolfo acknowledged the Governor's Proclamation that October is National Principal's Month and extended his appreciation to the Principals. In response to concerns raised by Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Healthy Dollars Company has been thoroughly vetted and he is confident with the decision to contract with that vendor. Mrs. Spaulding reminded the Board that the VSBA Regional Meeting is being held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 in Montpelier. Board Members should have received an e-mail advising them of the meeting.

8.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated September 10, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the start of the school year (Month Two), Celebrations (Recognition of Amanda Pierce by UVM, the Students on the Move Assembly, and the upcoming Walk-Run-Fun Event on 10/12/18), Professional Development, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Mrs. Spaulding thanked the Principals for their efforts on behalf of BCEMS. Mr. Hennessey reiterated the value of meetings held with faculty members (part of the Entry Plan) and his belief that these discussions of goals and aspirations are assisting with

improvements and growth. It was announced that the Walk/Run/Fun Event is being held on Friday, 10/12/18. This event is organized by the PTO. The PTO at BCEMS is a thriving organization with much energy and enthusiasm. The Walk to School Event will be held this Wednesday, 10/10/18. Mr. Coon highlighted the recognition of Amanda Pierce by UVM, and advised that a “Pizza with the Principals” will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

8.3 Committee Reports

8.3.1 Facility/Security

The October 1, 2018 meeting was cancelled and may be rescheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

8.3.2 Finance

The September 25, 2018 meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

8.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

Minutes to BSU Committee Meetings were previously sent to all Board Members.

Policy Committee

The Committee met on 09/17/18 to discuss and review a number of policies, including the policies pertaining to admission of resident and non-resident students. The Committee will hold additional discussion prior to any policies being presented for approval. The meeting scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2018 has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Central Office.

BSU Curriculum Committee

The Committee met on Monday, October 1, 2018. Discussion included Technology and a review of the Report Card Guide (for parents on Proficiency Based Grading). Discussion also included use of a use of a new substitute model at SHS, student cell phone usage, and A.L.I.C.E. Training for students.

The next meeting is Monday, October 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BSU Finance Committee

The Committee met on September 20, 2018. A brief update was given regarding the FY18 audit. Other discussion included budget development, changes to budget development, SPED funding, and a possible change of auditor (for best practices).

The next meeting is Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BSU Facilities Committee

The Committee met on September 11, 2018. Mr. LaCroix was appointed the Committee Chair. Discussion included the role of the Committee, use of a common format for the purpose of long term planning, district budgeting based on the industry standard of \$1 per square foot, and holding tours of each of the district buildings and the Central Office.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office. A tour of the Central Office and SHS are planned.

BSU Communications Committee

The Committee met on September 13, 2018 and discussed organization, purpose, monitoring progress on creation and implementation of the new web site, discussed future engagement of the community (including informing and encouraging support from voters and tax payers), and discussion about the Barre Education Coalition (that will be formed to work with Public Agenda to state the mission of the BSU and to assist with creation of Site-Based Councils. A document titled ‘The Barre Education Coalition’ was distributed.

Mr. Merrill created the draft letter (The Barre Education Coalition) to be used to assist with recruiting members to form a Coalition to assist with creating Site-Based Councils. The Coalition will be working to define the role and responsibilities of Site-Based Councils, as well as the structure of the Councils. Once the draft letter is finalized, it will be sent to various community members who are being asked to consider joining the Coalition.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 11, 2018. The first meeting of the Coalition is tentatively set for Wednesday, October 24, 2018.

BSU Negotiations Committee

The Negotiations Committee hasn’t met recently, but has sent formal invitation letters to the Association. The Association has sent a formal reply that they will be back in contact with potential dates for negotiation sessions.

8.4 Financial Report

The BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary and BSU Expenditures –FY19 Reports were distributed. There was not discussion.

9. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Pregent advised of a problem with parking and student drop off/pick up. There are not enough parking spots and some staff members are parking in areas that should be reserved for parents/visitors. Mr. Coon advised that he has been working to address employees parking in the wrong area. Mr. Coon will continue his efforts to address this issue. This parking issue will be added to a Facilities Committee Meeting Agenda.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that the Walk/Run/Fun event (being held this Friday – 10/12/18) is very fun and supports student field trips and other school/student related events. Mrs. Spaulding advised that those wishing to make a donation can donate on-line and can have their donation allocated to a specific student or class.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that a Tri-Board meeting should be held in the relatively near future. Mr. Pandolfo suggested that the Tri-Board Meeting be held following the November 15, 2018 BSU Board Meeting. Mr. Pandolfo will discuss this with the other Boards and finalize the date.

Future Agenda Items:

Appointment of BSU Board Representative

Public Panel Project

Committee Assignments

Act 46

Budget Presentation

SBAC Results

10. Executive Session

10.1 Deliberation of Board Seat Interviews

Deliberations for the Appointment of a Public Officer was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:31 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. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:51 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Andrew McMichael to fill the vacant Board seat until the March 2019 election.

11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin