

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library
November 12, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Jennifer Chioldi
Andrew McMichael
Chris Riddell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Pregent - Clerk
Michael Deering

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Hayden Coon, Principal
Chris Hennessey, Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager – departed at 7:21 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus Ben Matthews

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, November 12, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 5:36 p.m., which was held at Barre City Elementary and Middle School in the James Taffel Library. The flag salute followed.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Riddell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the October 9, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Staffing Update

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the progression of hiring for non-professional positions through the Fall of 2018. It was noted that all professional positions are filled, though there remain some openings for substitutes, para-educators and behavioral support staff. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding shifting of staff to fill positions based on greatest need. This shifting of staff results in a greater shortage of substitutes and provides a greater strain on the system. Due to changes in the behavioral support system and the low unemployment rate, there are more positions to fill, but fewer individuals applying. It is a goal to have 5 permanent substitutes in each of the district's schools. A staffing update will be provided in the December Principals' Report. Mr. Cecchinelli advised he has a personnel/student matter he would like presented in Executive Session.

5.2 BSU Board and Committee Assignments

Mrs. Spaulding advised that some Committee/Board assignments have been changed and advised of the current assignments for each committee.

BCEMS Finance Committee – Mr. Deering, Mrs. Pregent, and Mr. Riddell
BCEMS Facilities Committee – Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Deering, and Mr. McMichael

BSU Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Chioldi and Mr. Riddell
BSU Policy – Mrs. Chioldi, Mr. McMichael, and Mrs. Pregent
BSU Finance Committee – Mrs. Pregent
BSU Communications Committee – Mrs. Spaulding
BSU Negotiations Committee – Mrs. Spaulding
BSU Board – Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Chioldi, and Mrs. Spaulding
Barre Education Coalition – Mrs. Chioldi

The Board was advised that if a merger is implemented, the BCEMS Board will remain in existence until 07/01/19 (or until all business is finalized). The seven member Board will need to be maintained until the work of the Board is completed. Some Board Members have seats that will expire in March 2019. If a merger is being implemented it would be beneficial for those whose seats are expiring, to run for the seats so that consistency can be maintained during the transition to a merged district.

6. Old Business

6.1 Act 46

Four documents were distributed; a report of the Funds (General/Tax Stabilization/Capital – unaudited for FY18), the Agenda for the State Board of Education Meeting on 11/15/18, and letters to the State Board of Education from each of the Boards (BCEMS and BTMES). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the merger vote on 11/06/18 failed in Barre Town. The State Board of Education will meet on 11/15/18 (a copy of their Agenda was distributed). The State Board of Education will make preliminary decisions at the meeting and is slated to present their Final Plan on 11/28/18. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Agenda, and advised that if a merger is forced under the draft Articles of Agreement, the unified board will consist of 4 board members. Mr. Pandolfo reported that the BTMES Board agreed to send a letter to the State Board Of Education, and distributed a copy of their letter. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Funds Report advising that as of the end of FY18, the Fund Balance difference (unaudited) between BCEMS and BTMES is approximately \$70,000. This report is for fund balances and does not include debt. Mrs. Spaulding advised that in response to the 11/06/18 vote, she has drafted a letter to the State Board of Education (a copy was distributed). Mrs. Spaulding read the draft letter and advised that she would like to e-mail the letter to the State Board of Education. The plan is for Mr. Cecchinelli to read the letter at the State of Board of Education’s meeting. All Board Members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Mrs. Spaulding advised of her belief that the Barre community and schools are great and that she believes some mistruths were told in an effort to defeat the merger. Mrs. Spaulding advised that not all of the goals of Act 46 are being met, including; not being one Pre-K through 12 district, and not meeting student counts required by the law.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the letter drafted by Mrs. Spaulding and agreed to send the letter to the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that her 7 years of experience on the Board and having children attend elementary, middle and high school in the district convinces her that a unified board, ‘looking through a bigger lens’ would be more beneficial to students. Mr. McMichael voiced concern over negative comments that have been made about Barre City and advised that he believes these comments are hurtful to students. Mr. Riddell believes the current governance structure does not meet the complete goal of sharing resources, and does not allow the BSU budget to be voted on by the communities. Mr. Riddell advised that the revised Articles of Agreement were crafted to address concerns of the Barre Town community, but a forced merger will result in the use of the Default Articles of Agreement.

6.2 Budget Development FY20

Eight documents were distributed; BCEMS FY20 Budget Considerations (11/12/18), ‘Estimated per pupil spending based on info. from FY19’, BCEMS Budget Draft #1 (11/07/18), BSU FY20 Budget Considerations (11/01/18), FY20 BSU Assessment Information (Draft #1 – 11/01/18), BSU FY20 Budget Draft #1 (11/01/18), the BSU Special Education Assessment document, and the BSU District and SU Unaudited Fund Balances June 30, 2018 Report (dated 11/07/18).

Mrs. Perreault began the discussion with an overview of the BCEMS FY20 Budget Considerations document, advising of fund balances (General, Tax Stabilization, and Capital Improvement funds), Equalized Pupil data (from December 2018), Child Counts from December 2017, and FY19 Per Pupil Spending (BCEMS is \$12,919). Information that is pending includes; Equalized Pupil Counts (should be received in early December), transportation aid, Commissioner announced yield/rate, and the CLA. Salary and benefit increases will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations. It is known that health insurance (the Gold Plan) will be increasing 11.8%. Additional increases include; \$8,000 for the Garden, replacement for aging classroom furniture (a few classrooms per year), the increase for Building Maintenance (using the industry standard), snow plowing, and the VSTRS Assessment. Several items are being moved to the BSU Budget; general education para-educators, copier lease/maintenance, technology expenses (except equipment), and curriculum/instructional improvement and in-service budget lines. It was noted that Curriculum Coaches will be grant funded in FY19. There is the potential for a mandated merger, which will result in one consolidated budget for the BSU. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there is a small increase in overall grant funding.

Mrs. Perreault advised that the new SPED reimbursement formula (Act 173) is anticipated to decrease the overall BSU SPED revenue by \$184,473 (the impact to BCEMS is an approximate reduction of \$60,000 for extraordinary services). Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the 5 year transition of SPED funding (to a census based model).

Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of ongoing initiatives that SPED Directors are working on including the addition of a counselor to reduce dependence/usage of contracted services, restructuring of behavioral supports (increasing internal capacity to avoid outplacement and contracted services where possible), the shared Occupational Therapist, the collaborative Early Childhood Program (serving City and Town students), combining extended school year services, and a reduction of 2 FTE special educators (at BTMES) to align caseloads. Decisions are being made to best serve the interest of students. It was noted that the BSU cannot take out loans or purchase property.

Mrs. Perreault advised that the Unified Chart of Accounts will break out expenses by school (except for SPED and Transportation, which will have to be broken out differently). Mrs. Perreault advised that using FY19 Equalized Pupil Counts, the proposed draft budget results in an 8.9% budget increase (over FY19). Under the proposed draft budget, per pupil spending is \$14,074. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the per-pupil spending is calculated with the assumption that BCEMS remains as a separate district. The numbers will change if there is a merger.

Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the BSU Budget Considerations document, including; an increase in the Communications line item, the Act 166 Coordinator position, the possible lease of 2 Suburbans (to supplement STA transportation), and items being moved to the BSU Budget (discussed earlier).

Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the BSU Assessment Information document. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the calculations used for the BSU Special Education Assessment, which is 42% for BCEMS .

An overview of the BSU District and SU Unaudited Fund Balances, indicates a change in the BTMES General Fund Balance. The General Fund Balance is now \$597,188, of which \$100,000 is reserved for FY19. This change brings the total difference between the BCEMS and BTMES fund balances to approximately \$70,000. This item was also discussed under the Act 46 Agenda Item.

Mrs. Spaulding believes that too much is 'in the air' right now, and would like more extensive discussion held after the State Board of Education makes a decision on consolidation. It is Mrs. Spaulding's preference to spend more money on students and reiterated that the Barre schools have one of the lowest per-pupil costs in the state. Mr. Pandolfo advised that budget overviews will occur at the Tri-Board Meeting.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated October 26, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Barre Education Coalition, Administrative Evaluations, Health Insurance, Volunteer Record Checks, and Act 46 (including the revised web site). Mr. Pandolfo advised that a Tri-Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will also include a meeting of the BSU Board. Agenda Items include; the BSU Budget, possibly other budgets, and Act 46. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Open Enrollment ended Friday (11/09/18). HR is working to obtain enrollment information from a few employees and is obtaining additional information from some employees whose forms are not complete. DataPath is down to ten open items and has asked that any additional claims be submitted to them.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated November 12, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; recent community events held at the school, the Walk, Run, Fun event, completion of playground structure repairs, the selection of Hayden Ross as a Legislative Page, and Professional Development. Mr. Coon and Mr. Hennessey reported on the success of the PTO organized Walk/Run/Fun event which raised over \$30,000. The Principals advised they are very impressed by the devotion of parents. Mrs. Spaulding congratulated Hayden Ross on being selected as a Legislative Page. The Benefit Brunch raised approximately \$1,200.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

The Committee met earlier this evening. Discussion included the next phase of roof maintenance, the new glass partition, a long term goal of additional parking spaces, and concern of vehicles passing school buses. SRO Officer Fleury is looking into issues of buses being passed.

Next Facility/Security Meeting is Monday, December 3, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

7.3.2 Finance

Minutes of the October 23, 2018 meeting were distributed. The next meeting is November 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

7.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees

Minutes from all BSU Committee meetings were previously sent to all Board Members.

BSU Curriculum Committee -

The Committee met on October 29, 2018. Discussion included; updates on A.L.I.C.E. Training/Implementation (at each of the schools), a report on Professional Development, and distribution of the Elementary and Middle School Report Card Guide.

The next meeting is Monday, November 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

There is no meeting scheduled for December.

The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

BSU Policy Committee -

The next meeting is Monday, November 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Area

BSU Finance Committee -

No discussion.

BSU Facilities Committee -

The October meeting involved a tour of the BSU Central Office and SHS.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS. The meeting will include a tour of the BCEMS facility.

BSU Communications Committee -

The Communications Committee met on Thursday, November 8, 2018. The meeting included discussion on budget promotion, and next steps for the Barre Education Coalition. The next meeting of the Coalition is to be announced.

The next meeting of the Communications Committee is Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Office.

7.4 Financial Report

Two reports were distributed; BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary Report (dated 11/07/18), and the BSU Expenditures FY19 Report (also dated 11/07/18). It is too early in the year for year-end projections.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding mass e-mails from the schools to parents. Mr. Pandolfo will have information on this issue at the BSU Board Meeting. Mr. Matthews reported that Infinite Campus Messenger is up and running and can be used by teachers. Teachers will need additional training on the use of the application. Mr. Matthews believes that some dedicated time to meet with the Technology Director is necessary. Mr. Matthews will contact the Director of Technology regarding this. It was noted that I.C. has the capability to hold multiple e-mail addresses for students' parents.

December Agenda Items:

FY20 Budget Development

Act 46

SBAC Results and other Assessment Data (Education Quality Reviews)

Student Presentation

Administrative Evaluation Process

The Tri-Board Meeting will be Thursday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library. Board Members are encouraged to attend the CVCC Open House prior to the meeting.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be Monday, December 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS in the James Taffel Library.

9. Executive Session

9.1

A personnel/student matter was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo and Mr. Coon in attendance, at 7:49 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 Chair.

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin