

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library
December 10, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Sarah Pregent - Clerk
Jennifer Chioldi
Andrew McMichael
Chris Riddell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Michael Deering

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Hayden Coon, Principal
Chris Hennessey, Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, December 10, 2018, Regular meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School James Taffel Library. The flag salute followed.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Agenda Item 5.1 Student Presentation – Postponed until the January 14, 2019 Meeting
Agenda Item 5.2 SBAC Assessment Results Review – Postponed until the January 14, 2019 Meeting
Agenda Item 5.3 Education Quality Review – Postponed until the January 14, 2019 Meeting
Change all January ‘2018’ meeting dates to read ‘2019’

The Principals advised that they very much support student presentations and look forward to future presentations.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – November 12, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the November 12, 2018 Regular Meeting.

4.2. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the November 15, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Student Presentation

Discussion postponed until the January 14, 2019 meeting.

5.2 SBAC Assessment Results Review

A document titled 'Annual Snapshot Update' (BCEMS 12/2018) was distributed. Discussion postponed until the January 14, 2019 meeting.

5.3 Education Quality Review

Documentation distributed under Agenda Item 5.2
Discussion postponed until the January 14, 2019 meeting.

6. Old Business

6.1 Act 46

Eight documents were distributed; an e-mail from Mr. Pandolfo to all Board Members (dated 12/05/18), 'Barre Act 46 Information', a letter from the AOE dated 12/03/18, a 38 page document titled 'Final Report of Decision and Order on Statewide School district Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46, Sections 8(b) and 10', a 12 page document titled 'The Barre Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement', a 5 page document titled 'Articles of Agreement Barre Unified Union District' and a document from the AOE titled 'SBE Final Order' (November 28, 2018). Two Warnings for a 01/10/19 Special Meeting of the Barre Unified Union School District were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he would be reviewing the distributed documents and would be requesting two motions from the Board; a motion to appoint 2 Board Members to the Transitional Board, and a motion to form a Study Committee to amend the Default Articles of Agreement (a 2 person Committee with a budget of zero dollars). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the 'map' document, advising that approximately 80% of the State is 'merged'. Mr. Pandolfo advised that short of action by the court or Legislature, the BUUSD will become effective on July 1, 2019. Mr. Pandolfo provided a comprehensive overview of the steps involved based on the outcome of the 01/08/19 vote in Barre Town.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that a recent change allows for Boards to appoint 2 members to the Transitional Board. Mr. Pandolfo recommends appointing the Board Chair and the Board Vice-Chair. Mr. Pandolfo recommends that the organizational meeting of the Transitional Board be held on 01/10/19. Mr. Pandolfo anticipates that the Transitional Board will meet in January, February, and March, though it is possible that this Board may need to meet in April. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he drafted two Warnings, one for a 'no' vote, and the other to be used in the event of a 'yes' vote. Both Warnings will be published simultaneously on 12/11/18.

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Spaulding and Mrs. Pregent as BCEMS Representatives on the Transitional Board.

Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board that the sitting BCEMS Board needs to remain operational until 06/30/19, and encouraged those whose terms expire, to submit petitions for re-election.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that 1404 positive votes will be necessary to overturn the previous 'no' vote in Barre Town. A positive (yes) vote will allow tax payers to receive the tax incentive and \$150,000 implementation grant, as well as use the Articles of Agreement crafted by the Study Committee. If the vote is 'no', the forced merger still stands, but there will be no tax incentives or incentive grant, and the district will operate under the Default Articles of Agreement (without the protections built into those written by the Study Committee). It is the Superintendent's recommendation that a study committee be formed to amend the Default Articles of Agreement. Board structure is the main concern at this time, and Mr. Pandolfo recommends that the study committee, if formed, focus on board structure. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Article 14 defines what can be amended (in the Default Articles of Agreement).

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Riddell, the Board unanimously voted to form a Study Committee to amend the Default Articles of Agreement, that the committee will consist of two members, one of which is a BCEMS Board Member, and that the committee shall have a budget of zero dollars.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Chris Riddell as the BCEMS Board Representative to the Study Committee.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that in Barre Town, there are individuals active on both sides (for and against a 'yes' vote), who are trying to influence the 01/08/19 vote. In addition to the Board, at least one State Representative will be present at next Wednesday's meeting with an attorney for the Board. The purpose of the meeting with the attorney is to gain insight into what is involved in joining a class-action lawsuit against Act 46. The BTMES Board did not provide a statement regarding their position on the re-vote or whether or not to join the class-action suit. The BTMES Board is divided regarding how to proceed. The SHS Board unanimously supports a 'yes' vote on 01/08/19. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she hopes Barre Town voters will support the vote and recognize that Barre City voters have been very patient during the process and are willing to work with Barre Town for a successful merger. BCEMS Board Members were encouraged to reach out to their Barre Town friends to encourage a positive vote.

6.2 Budget FY20

Eleven documents were distributed; 'FY20 Barre Unified Union School District Budget Considerations – December 10, 2018' (Draft 2), BCEMS FY20 Budget Draft 2 – 12/10/18, 'BUUSD FY20 estimated per pupil spending – 12/10/18', 'Barre Unified Union School District FY20 Proposed Budget, DRAFT – 12/10/18', 'BSU BUUSD FY20 Revenues – 12/10/18', 'BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations (for BC and BT) Budget Years 2019-2020', 'Commissioner of Taxes Releases FY2020 Education Yield Letter', a letter from Kaj Samsom (Commissioner, Department of Taxes), dated 11/30/18, 'Consensus Education Fund Outlook for FY2020 Based on Current Law', and a document titled 'The Education Fund and Education Finance'.

Mrs. Perreault began the discussion by introducing the Consolidated Budget Considerations document. The overview included discussion of fund balances and included highlights of the items that have been changed (for BCEMS) since the last draft. Changes include a budgeted amount of \$126,000 for Building Maintenance (a reduction of 30,000) and removal of the \$50,000 transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of two changes to the SPED portion of the budget; addition of 1 FTE Assistant Director position (to oversee students in alternative placements), and increasing the transportation portion of the budget by \$60,000. Additional changes (consolidation related) may impact the budget; BSUUD savings related to Boards (\$25,000), possible receipt of the Transitional Grant (\$150,000), and possible tax incentives. Mrs. Perreault advised that the consolidated budget totals \$42,111,786. The estimated cost per-pupil is \$14,124.22, which is 8.7% higher than FY19. Mrs. Perreault advised that 'location code' can be used to identify some school specific expenses. Mrs. Perreault advised that due to the anticipated loss of some revenue for extraordinary expenses, revenue is expected to be less in FY20. The BCEMS FY20 Budget Draft 2 provides budget detail relating to BCEMS. The Comparative Tax Rate Calculation indicates a 5 cent increase without tax incentives and a 3 cent decrease if tax incentives are realized. Mrs. Perreault advised of the announced tax yield for FY20. It was agreed that the budget will need more in-depth discussion at a future meeting.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated November 26, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Act 46, the Barre Education Coalition, Administrative Evaluations, Health Insurance, and Weather Cancellations and Delays. Mr. Pandolfo highlighted the Administrator Surveys, advising that they are due by Monday, December 17, 2018. Administrator Survey review and discussion will occur in Executive Session at the January 14, 2019 meeting. Given the two snow days, the last day of school is currently June 19, 2019, though this may change. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the BTMES Board is contemplating utilizing some of their General Fund Balance to make facility improvements (prior to the merger/consolidation). The BCEMS Board may also wish to consider spending down some of its fund balance. Mrs. Pregent advised that she believes the current balance (for FY19) is between \$150,000 and \$200,000. More discussion will be held at the January Board Meeting.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated December 10, 2018 was distributed. The report included updates on the Tier 2 behavior system and Professional Development, including; Math Menu, Transformative Teaching, Developmental Designs, and Up for Learning. Mr. Hennessey would like to receive as much feedback as possible (from the Administrator Survey) and looks forward to receiving feedback. Mr. Hennessey noted that the number of younger students is rising. Mr. Hennessey will obtain historical enrollment information to be used as part of a future discussion. Mr. Coon advised that the Lego Robotics event held during STEM Week was very successful, with students demonstrating much skill in math and science.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

The Committee did not meet in December.

The next meeting is Monday, January 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

7.3.2 Finance

Minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting were distributed. The Committee received a letter from the Agency of Education advising that BCEMS has been re-certified (for 4 years) to continue offering free meals to all students in the school. A review of FY19 finances indicates a small surplus at this time.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

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 November 26, 2018. Discussion included; CVCC Programs and Standards alignment, the Professional Development Survey and upcoming Professional Development, and an update on the Homework Committee. Mrs. Chioldi advised that the presentation was very informative and encourages Board Members to reach out to Penny Chamberlin for additional information on all that CVCC has to offer.

The next meeting is Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library

BSU Policy Committee -

The Committee met on November 19, 2018. Discussion included review of 7 policies, one of which is newly required. A number of policies will be presented to the BSU Board for approval.

The next meeting is December 17, 2018 in the BSU Central Office 2nd Floor Conference Area.

BSU Finance Committee -

The Committee last met in September. The next meeting date is to be announced.

BSU Facilities Committee -

The November 20, 2018 meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS (The meeting location is rotational).

BSU Communications Committee -

The Communications Committee will be meeting this week.

7.4 Financial Report

Three reports were distributed; BCEMS FY19 Expenditures/Year-end Projection (dated 11/27/18), the BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary Report and the BSU Expenditures-FY19 Report (both dated 11/19/18). BCEMS has an unaudited projected surplus of \$96,805. No discussion was held.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Agenda Items:

Student Presentation
SBAC Assessment Results Review
Education Quality Review
Act 46
FY20 Budget
Facility Improvements
Annual Tuition Rate Announcement
Executive Session for Administrator Evaluations

Round Table:

Mr. Riddell wished everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Mr. Coon advised that snowbanks are encroaching on the parking lot and that work will be done to help remedy the problem.

Mr. Coon advised that BCEMS hosted a very successful 'Everybody Wins' mentoring night with approximately 60 participants.

Mrs. Chioldi advised that the mentoring program is a fun and rewarding experience, and encourages people to sign up.

Mrs. Spaulding reported that progress is being made with the effort to improve parental contact via e-mail. This initiative will be discussed at the BSU Board Meeting.

Mrs. Spaulding advised of the Hedding United Methodist Holiday Dinner on December 25, 2018, from noon until 2:00 p.m. Set up for the event begins at 9:00 a.m., with clean-up lasting until about 4:00 p.m. All community members are welcome to attend the dinner. Mrs. Spaulding advised that donations of food are welcome and volunteers are also needed. Interested individuals can contact Mrs. Spaulding to obtain additional information or sign up.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Employment of Employees

9.2 Student Matters

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Employment of Employees and Student Matters.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Coon, and Mr. Hennessey in attendance, at 6:52 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. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin