

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School - Library
February 15, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair – arrived at 6:35 p.m.
Alice Farrell (BT) - Clerk
Chad Allen (BT)
Anthony Folland (SHS) – departed at 8:20 p.m.
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT) – departed at 7:00 p.m.
Paul Malone (SHS)
Tyler Smith (BC)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager – departed at 6:37 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Tyler Kimberly

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Isabelle, called the Thursday, February 15, 2018, meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 5.3 Discussion of Transportation for Out of District Students
Add 5.4 New Unfunded Mandate

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Audit Presentation

A copy of a letter from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC (dated 01/05/18) was distributed. A document for the Barre Supervisory Union titled 'Financial Statements June 30, 2017 And Independent Auditor's Report' was distributed.

Mr. Kimberly addressed the Board and encouraged Board Members to offer comments and ask questions as he provided an overview of the Audit Report. Mr. Kimberly advised that the required governance letter includes dates relating to the audit, highlights audit adjustments (page 2) and advises of significant difficulties (page 3). Significant difficulties included significant time to reconcile late adjustments (to the original trial balance) and significant time to reconcile inter-district accounts receivable and payable balances. It was noted that there were no material weaknesses in internal controls. Mr. Kimberly proceeded to provide an overview of the Financial Statements and Auditor Reports. It was noted that the 'Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates' section was written by the Business Manager not the auditors. Mr. Kimberly answered questions from the Board, including questions relating to the elementary school audits, restricted funds, nonspendable funds, new governmental reporting requirements, Special Education expenditures, clarification that there were no significant issues relating to Federal Awards (rather there was significant discussion on the topic), and confirmation that the BSU still owns vehicles (Special Education and Drivers Education). Mr. Kimberly encouraged Board Members to contact him or Mr. Mudgett should any other questions arise. Mrs. Perreault was thanked for her efforts assisting with the audit.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Allen, the Board unanimously voted to approve the FY17 Audit as presented.

5.2 District Management Group & UVM Reports to VT Legislature on Special Education

A copy of the Education Legislative Report, dated February 5, 2018 was distributed. A document titled Vermont Agency of Education 'Expanding and Strengthening Best-Practice Supports for Students who Struggle' (dated November 2017) was distributed. The Executive Summary of the Study of Vermont State Funding for Special Education Report was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the Legislative Report (Excerpt), advising that discussion is centering on overall education funding, Act 166 changes, and Special Education Funding. There are many outstanding questions relating to these issues. Mr. Pandolfo proceeded to provide an overview of the UVM Report regarding how to implement a new Special Education system, including how to transition to a new system and the tremendous amount of time and effort that will need to be expended to change the system. Lengthy discussion ensued including; the different population of students in Vermont, the identification of many students with extensive emotional disturbances, unknown details regarding thresholds and flexibility of funds, data relating to the success of outplaced students and control over their academics, concern over the possible change in the threshold (from \$50,000 to \$77,000), possible legislative changes that could be harmful financially, and the importance of changes being cross reference with the Office of Special Education in Washington, DC, as well as the importance of providing Special Education in the least restrictive way possible.

5.3 Discussion of Transportation for Out of District Students

A document titled 'Transportation Proposal for Consideration' was distributed. Mr. Malone provided a brief overview of the reason for a proposed change to the Transportation Policy. Chelsea High School is being closed. Providing transportation of students from Chelsea to Spaulding provides an opportunity to increase enrollment. To break even on the cost of transportation would require that approximately 5 students from Chelsea enroll at Spaulding. It is anticipated that the number of students that would enroll would be significant higher, providing additional revenue for the school. It has been confirmed that it is legally allowable to provide transportation to out of district students, while not providing transportation to in-district students. This would need to be conveyed to the local community and there may be some pushback from in-district parents. To provide transportation to out of district students requires a policy change. Mr. Cecchinelli believes a regional policy would be beneficial (rather than one that deals specifically with Chelsea students). If the policy is changed, the proposed change would take effect for the 2018 – 2019 academic year. The Board agreed by consensus to move forward with proposing a policy change. This item will be placed on the Agenda for the next BSU Policy Committee Meeting.

5.4 New Unfunded Mandate

Mr. Malone advised that he recently learned of a new unfunded mandate relating to 'Fitnessgram'. Though some funding may be available, not all costs may be covered. It was noted that the new fitness testing is part of State required assessments of students and ties in to ESSA. The Agency of Education will pay for software licensing, though schools may have to purchase some equipment. Mr. Pandolfo advised that this State financial support is new and advised that the cost of the licensing is minimal compared to what the cost will be for integrated field reviews (substitutes will need to be hired). There are also anticipated 'lost time' expenses associated with newly required Science assessments.

6. Old Business

6.1 Board Communications

Copies of the Barre Town/Spaulding and Barre City/Spaulding School Districts FY19 Budget Highlights documents were distributed. Copies of the BCEMS and BTMES Comparative Tax Rate Calculations documents (for budget years 2018-2019) were also distributed. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo distributed a copy of the new promotional flyer. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the two budget highlights documents that were recently presented to the Barre City Council and the Barre Town Select Board. These documents will also be posted on the web site and on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. There are 3000 color copies of the flyer being printed. Board members were asked to assist with distribution of the flyers. It was noted that much more promotional work needs to be done. Mr. Isabelle advised that the new CVCC Program of Studies is available and encouraged Board Members to review a copy.

6.2 Second and Final Reading Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and Pregnancy Prevention Policy (F31)

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.2 and 6.3 were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the last line of policy F31 was changed as requested.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Folland, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and Pregnancy Prevention Policy (F31), and agreed to adopt the policy.

6.3 Second and Final Reading HIV Policy (F32)

It was noted that formatting changes have been made.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the HIV Policy (F32), and agreed to adopt the policy.

6.4 Act 46

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the first meeting (an organizational meeting) of the Act 46, 706 Study Committee, will be held on February 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library. A copy of the proposed agenda has been sent to Committee Members. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Secretary of Education has a deadline of June 1, 2018 to submit a Statewide Plan to the State Board of Education. The Secretary of Education is holding meetings with involved districts (regarding Section 9 Proposals), but because of the

formation of the new 706 Study Committee, does not feel that BSU representatives need to meet with her at this time. Mr. Pandolfo will share this, and other information at the organizational Study Committee Meeting. It was noted that Orleans Central has also formed a Study Committee and plan to hold a vote in November. The BSU has been advised that should it decide to hold a merger vote, the vote should occur earlier than November.

7. Other Business as Needed

It was noted that this meeting is Chad Allen's last official BSU Board Meeting. Mr. Allen was thanked for his service and it was noted that Board Members have learned much from Mr. Allen and very much appreciate his approach to leadership.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated February 15, 2018 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office, Curriculum, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. Three additional documents were distributed; 'BSU SHAC Meeting Minutes (from 02/09/18), the SAP's (Student Assistance Professional) MAC Report for August 2016 – June 2017, and the Special Education Director's Report. Mr. Pandolfo advised that ALICE Training went well, and noted that Officer Amaral, Mr. Aither, and Mr. Derner led the training. A communication plan is currently being worked on. Some students, parents and staff were interviewed by FOX44 regarding ALICE Training. Mr. Malone requested that, based on recent comments from the FBI and Homeland Security, (regarding a recent non-SHS related incident) he would like to see the Evacuation Plan/Protocol reviewed/updated. Mr. Malone would also like to see more ALICE procedures implemented sooner. Mr. Pandolfo agrees that there needs to be well thought out and planned training. It was noted that more individuals will be trained as trainers this summer. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding training for WCMH staff. Mrs. Poulin advised that she felt it would be beneficial to train substitutes. Mr. Isabelle assured community members that there are many policies and procedures currently in place and that SHS staff are prepared for many different situations. Mr. Pandolfo commended the trainers for their involvement with ALICE Training. Regarding the SPED Director's Report, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the child count and staff splits have been reviewed. Both Special Education Directors will remain in the same buildings that they are currently working in, and may begin reviewing work performed at the BSU level. Additional review regarding a possible model change may be conducted. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the SAP Report as well as the SHAC Minutes. Funding of the SAPs positions was briefly discussed.

8.2 BSU Committee Reports

8.2.1 BSU Policy Committee

The January 22, 2018 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Spaulding High School. The meeting room is to be announced.

8.2.2 BSU Curriculum Committee

The January 29, 2018 and February 26, 2018 meetings were cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. It was noted that the meeting date may change.

8.2.3 BSU Finance Committee

The January 25, 2018 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting date is to be determined.

8.2.4 BSU Negotiations Committee

Minutes from the January 22, 2018 Negotiations Committee Meeting were distributed. A meeting date needs to be set for negotiations with para-educators and custodians. The meeting agenda will need to include approval of Minutes from prior meetings.

8.3 Financials

The BSU Expenditures – FY18 Report (dated 01/26/18) was distributed. At present time, an anticipated surplus/deficit amount is unknown.

9. Executive Session as Needed

9.1 Superintendent's Evaluation

The Superintendent's Evaluation was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:37 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 Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:27 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin