

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School – First Floor Conference Room
February 19, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Chair
Jennifer Chioldi (BC) – Vice Chair
Michael Deering (BC)
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Luke Aither, Assistant Principal (SHS)
Jason Derner, CVCC Assistant Director
Pierre LaFlamme, Assistant Principal (BCEMS)
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal (BTMES)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Paul Malone Jon Valsangiacomo

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Isabelle, called the Monday, February 19, 2018, meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., which was held at Spaulding High School in the First Floor Conference Room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting.

3.1 Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting.

3.1 Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting.

4. Review of BSU Policy Manual Index

A copy of the Policy Manual Index (dated 02/19/18) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that approximately 30 policies have been ratified by all the districts. Mr. Pandolfo advised that policies F31 and F32 are in the process of being presented to district boards for approval. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the next step is to begin to review policies at each district level. District level policies are not included in the Policy Manual Index at this time. It was noted that First Readings, scheduled for presentation to the BTMES Board on 02/21/18, may be postponed until the March meeting of the BTMES Board.

5. Discussion of Policies

5.1 Policies for Rescind or Consideration

Lists of district specific policies were distributed to each of the appropriate district representatives. It was noted that the majority of rescinds happen at the district level. There are many different reasons that policies need to be rescinded. Each district school team should work to review their list of policies including VSBA required policies. The Committee agreed that rather than work on the policies during the meeting, it would be more efficient to work with their policy teams at their respective schools, using their computers to aid with research. Committee Members agreed to set a goal of 03/19/18 for completion of their reviews and that rescinds would be put before each respective Board at their April and May board meetings. Each group should plan logistics regarding the best possible way to proceed with policy reviews.

5.2 Transportation Policy (F9) Possible Revisions

Two copies of Policy F9 (current and proposed) were distributed. It was announced that Spaulding High School would like to begin transportation for students who reside outside of the district. This decision was made due to the recent announcement that Chelsea High School will close. SHS representatives have been marketing the school to Chelsea High School students and parents and have been well received. U32 sends a bus to Washington and Orange, and it is believed that this provision of transportation resulted in SHS losing students. To 'break even' on transportation costs, 4 to 6 students would need to choose SHS. It is anticipated that a much larger population of students will choose SHS. It was noted that a route to Chelsea could easily make stops in Washington and Orange and may result in more students from those towns choosing SHS. It was noted that the amended policy has been reviewed by counsel. Mr. Aither advised that SHS representatives have also attended 'high school fairs' at Waits River and have met with students who are interested in SHS.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the amended policy and advised of minor changes recommended by counsel. After brief discussion, the Committee agreed to alter the amended draft by replacing the word 'Superintendent' in paragraph D, to the word 'Board'. It is unknown exactly how long U32 has been sending a bus to Washington/Orange, but it has been at least 10 years. Mr. Malone advised that it has been confirmed that there is nothing in the law to prevent transportation of out of district students. If a good number of students from out of district choose SHS, the result could be revenue in the amount of \$350,000 - \$700,000. Additional students would also result in a lower cost per pupil amount. Mr. Malone believes that offering transportation is a win/win situation that will also help with student/staff ratios and help make Spaulding a magnet school. It is believed that Spaulding has the capacity to serve additional students without adding to staff. It was noted that transportation of out of district students is allowed but that if transportation is offered to some in-district students; it must be offered to all in-district students. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins queried regarding an assessment of transportation needs for in-district students. Mr. Malone believes in-district transportation was looked at in the past and was deemed to be cost prohibitive and would have a very negative impact on the cost per pupil amount. Mr. Isabelle believes there is much to consider before making changes to transportation of in-district students. Mr. Malone stressed that transportation for out of district students involves more than just students from Chelsea. If adding transportation lures back students from other districts it could become very beneficial. If tuition in-flows increase greatly, it may be possible to consider in-district busing. It was noted that 6 to 8 BTMES students will most likely go to a high school other than SHS. It was noted that the proposed change to the policy would make it allowable to transport out of district students, but does mandate that transportation be provided. It was noted that the proposed policy change is time sensitive as students are currently making high school choices and for some, transportation may be a large factor in the decision making process. The Committee agreed that they support the amended policy change. The Committee agreed by consensus to present the amended Transportation Policy (F9) to the BSU Board.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin