

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School - Library
August 16, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
Paul Malone (SHS)
Tyler Smith (BC)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk
Alice Farrell (BT)
Anthony Folland (SHS)
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Isabelle, called the Thursday, August 16, 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

8.2.1 – There is a correction to the meeting date. The next BSU Policy Meeting is Monday, September 17, 2018 rather than August 20, 2018. The meeting was rescheduled so that an Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee Meeting could be held.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – July 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the July 19, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

The resume and BSU Notification of Employment Status Form for Christine Grzebien (BCEMS Special Educator) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Christine Grzebien's education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Christine Grzebien.

There are 2 Special Educator openings to be filled (1 at BCEMS and 1 at BTMES). An interview is scheduled for Friday, August 17, 2018 (for the BTMES Special Educator). The School Psychologist position at Spaulding High School remains unfilled. School psychologists from other district schools may be able to assist with providing services to SHS students. The position may need to be 'outsourced', by hiring a contracted service. The previous SHS psychologist's time was divided 80% Special Education, 20% local funding. Lengthy discussion was held regarding student evaluations, and the need to fill the psychologist position. It was noted that there is a statewide struggle to fill para-educator and BI positions. This difficulty in filling positions may be due to the low unemployment rate.

5.2 Budget Development

A memorandum from Business Manager Lisa Perreault (dated 08/13/18), and budget development schedule with flow chart were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview and advised regarding changes in the Business Office, including the new Financial Management System and new Unified Chart of Accounts. It was noted that ‘on-site’ training is actually occurring in Middlebury. There is much involved in the process of switching financial systems and budget development. The Business Manager (in anticipation of consolidation), plans to start the budget as one budget, but will separate district budgets if necessary. Mrs. Perreault will work with each individual Board regarding their individual budgets, and will then create a single budget which incorporates the “individual” budgets. If it is determined that a merger will not occur, separate budgets will be created.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the FY20 Budget Schedule as presented.

5.3 Ratification of Para-Educator Master Contractual Agreement

A document titled ‘Para-Educator Settlement Highlights – August 2018’ was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the document, which outlines changes to the proposed one-year Agreement. It is anticipated that the Union will hold a vote in the near future. The Agreement will be presented to each of the Boards for approval, with hope that everything will be finalized prior to the start of the school year. The SHS Board is slated to ratify the Agreement next week. If all goes according to schedule, the first para-educator paychecks of the school year should include the new wages. Negotiations for a future contract will begin almost immediately. Act 11, a new Statute requires state-wide bargaining for health insurance (effective 07/01/2020). This change will require one year Agreements.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the Para-Educator Master Contractual Agreement.

6. Old Business

6.1 A.L.I.C.E. & School Safety

A document from the State of Vermont, Department of Public Safety (Advance Notice to Proceed Form (ANP)) was distributed. The document provides an overview of projects approved for grant funding at BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, and CVCC. Each school received almost \$25,000, and will need to come up with a 25% match (\$6,250). The BCEMS and BTMES projects will probably come in below the \$15,000 threshold and will not require use of the RFP process. The SHS and CVCC projects will most likely need RFPs and Board approval. The district schools continue to improve facility security, including updated practices to limit access to the building. Officer Tony Amaral (SHS Resource Officer) plans on retiring or going into partial retirement. Efforts for securing his replacement are under way. It was noted that BCEMS has an SRO, but BTMES does not.

A.L.I.C.E. Training for teaching staff will occur next Wednesday and Thursday, and will include discussion of age appropriate training for students. Training for other personnel, e.g., bus drivers, food service personnel, and substitutes is being planned.

6.2 Act 46 Update

Mr. Smith advised that the Act 46 Study Committee Co-Chairs and Mr. Pandolfo met with the State Board of Education to answer questions relating to the Final Report. At the meeting, it was strongly suggested, and asked, that the Committee move the vote date to sometime earlier in the year. The November 6th vote date causes much concern, including the impact of any potential revote, which would need to occur after the November 30th deadline (for the State to issue their Final Plan). It was noted that the Study Committee is **compelled** to reconsider the vote date. It was suggested that a forced merger would most likely involve the addition of another district (either as a separate district within the SU, or as part of the local district). The State Board of Education must make a final decision by 11/30/18, and has no authority to merge districts after that date. Mr. Smith noted that 6 of the Study Committee Members were missing from the meeting that included the vote on the vote date. The Act 46 Study Committee will meet on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding Library, and will discuss a possible change to the vote date during that meeting. Mr. Smith hopes attendance at the meeting will include all or most of the Committee’s Members.

6.3 BSU Facilities Committee

Mr. Cecchinelli will represent BCEMS on this Committee. Mr. Hull will represent BTMES. The SHS representative will be determined in the near future. The Board agreed to tentatively schedule the first meeting of this Committee on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Central Office. The dates, times, location(s), and frequency of meetings will be determined by the new Committee. Mrs. Poulin will take Minutes for this Committee.

6.4 BSU Communications Committee

A document titled ‘Public Agenda Phone Conference 8/2/2018’ was distributed. This document will also be referenced under Agenda Item 6.5 (Site-Based Councils). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Public Agenda document. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he spoke with Public Agenda to receive clarification on this Committee. Public Agenda recommends that the Committee remain small for now, and that it consist of three Board Members, the Superintendent, the Communications Specialist, and perhaps three building administrators. Committee Members identified thus far include; Mrs. Farrell (BTMES), Mrs. Spaulding (BCMES), and Mr. Folland (SHS). The new Communications Specialist Ben Merrill will also be on this Committee. Assignments for the Committee include; following the new web site development and reporting back to district boards, considering communication methods for the upcoming

budget, and oversight/or involvement with the Coalition that will assist with the creation of Site-Based Councils. It was noted that in addition to Mrs. Spaulding, BCEMS Board Members Mrs. Chioldi, and Mr. Deering are also willing to serve. Their participation will be determined by the Committee. Participation/Committee structure should be determined by the Committee at their first meeting. The Committee should try to have the Coalition set up by late September. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:00p.m. in the Central Office.

6.5 Site-Based Councils

A document titled 'How to Organize Successful Parent Advisory Committees' was distributed. Brief discussion was held regarding the need to decide on how to recruit members for the Coalition (whose membership make-up should not be 'school system heavy'). Mrs. Spaulding asked that Committee Members come to the first meeting prepared with recruiting ideas.

7. Other Business as Needed

Mrs. Spaulding pointed out that this meeting's Agenda contains the same items as the BCEMS Board Meeting Agenda. It was noted that the Agendas for the BSU, BCEMS, BTMES, and SHS Board Meetings are almost identical.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated August 16, 2018 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to the Superintendent's Office, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Communications, the Business Office, Special Education, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. A letter from DataPath (dated 07/25/18) was also distributed. In response to a query regarding consolidation of multiple transportation contracts into a single contract, it was noted that the consolidation eases management of the contract. Some Special Education students are transported to various activities. The transportation of these students by STA has proved to be very expensive. To help reduce that expense, some of students will be transported using the existing BSU owned bus. Mr. Malone queried regarding the loss of substitutes. It was noted that some have been hired for other jobs, and that turnover is a consistent issue every year. Mr. Isabelle queried regarding whether or not salaries were consistent with other area schools. Mr. Pandolfo does not believe that salary is the issue.

8.2 Committee Reports

8.2.1 Policy Committee

The next meeting is Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BUS Central Office 2nd Floor Conference Area

8.2.2 Curriculum Committee

The next meeting is Monday, August 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. The Agenda will include discussion of homework policies and professional development opportunities. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Education Quality Reviews which involve teams from neighboring supervisory unions and schools. This new type of review is being implemented this year.

8.2.3 Finance Committee

The next meeting is Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. Discussion will include funding for BSU parking expansion.

8.2.4 Negotiations Committee

Mr. Pandolfo is in the process of getting dates for Negotiation Sessions.

8.3 Financials

The BSU FY18 Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report (dated 08/16/18) was distributed. There is an unaudited projected surplus of \$5,744. The BSU Expenditures FY18 Report (dated 08/09/18) was also distributed. It was noted that there is a much better revenue picture in all districts. Mr. Malone noted that the SHS deficit has been dramatically reduced.

9. Executive Session as Needed

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin