

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School - Library
September 20, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk
Anthony Folland (SHS)
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)
Paul Malone (SHS)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
Alice Farrell (BT)
Tyler Smith (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

1. Call to Order

The Clerk, Mrs. Pompei, called the Thursday, September 20, 2018, meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

8.2.2 Change next meeting date to 10/01/18 and add a second October meeting; 10/29/18
8.2.4 Change ‘First’ Meeting to ‘Next’ Meeting
8.2.5 Change ‘First’ Meeting to ‘Next’ Meeting

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Kirstin Reilly (SHS Social Worker) and Rachael Wisdom (BTMES Special Educator) were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Kirstin Reilly’s education and experience and answered questions from the Board regarding employees who fall under the ‘Teacher Contract’ and advised regarding the implementation of practices to assure that there is consistency across the system, whereby if the AOE offers an endorsement for the ‘specialty’ someone is hired for, the BSU wants the individual to get the endorsement. The BSU Notification of Employment Status Form will be amended (for the next hiring season), to read “AOE Endorsement”.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Kirstin Reilly.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Rachael Wisdom’s education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Rachael Wisdom.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he will be interviewing a candidate for the position of Full Time SHS Psychologist. There remains one unfilled Math Interventionist position at SHS. This unfilled position is a new, grant funded position.

5.2FY20 Budget Development

A copy of the VEHI Files FY 20 Health Plan Rates for Active School Employees was distributed. It is anticipated that the rate increase will be 11.8%, though rates will not be finalized until January 2019. Mr. Malone advised that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening and advised of the unaudited projected surplus, and that the Business Manager provided an overview of proposed changes to the BSU Budget. Salaries and Benefits are yet to be negotiated. The Finance Committee will meet in November. It was noted that the cost comparison between WCMH and Green Mountain Behavior Consulting is under way, but has not been completed. There remain many outstanding questions regarding possible advantages of signing up to use WCMH pods. Currently, WCMH has not been able to fully staff their pods. There will be a meeting with leaders from Data Path tomorrow regarding the ability to make payments to providers. A meeting will also be held with Healthy Dollars (a smaller Vermont based vendor). A decision will need to be made in the near future regarding which vendor will be chosen. Additionally, it was noted that there were issues with the Medicaid claims processing firm resulting in many claims not being filed. The BSU will most likely need to proceed with litigation to recover monies from claims not being filed. Mr. Malone advised that the auditors are continuing their work on the FY18 audit. There is a question regarding using a new auditor for FY19 (in the interest of 'best practices'). Should a 'new set of eyes' be performing the next audit. Given the number of changes going into effect, it may be advantageous to continue using the same firm.

5.3Heating Contract Recommendation

A document titled 'RFP Results for FUEL OIL, PROPANE, and WOOD CHIPS' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the document, advising that it is his recommendation to contract with Irving for fuel oil and propane, and Catamount for wood chips.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to contract with Irving for fuel oil and propane, and Catamount for wood chips.

5.4VEHI Annual Meeting

A Memo from VEHI, dated 09/04/18, regarding the VEHI Annual Meeting was distributed. The Annual Meeting is on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. at Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the upcoming meeting, noting that nothing critical is planned for discussion. Mr. Pandolfo advised the Board regarding the options for voting.

On a motion by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, seconded by Mr. Folland, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Superintendent John Pandolfo to appear and vote on behalf of the BSU for Health and Dental Programs and Multi-Line and/or Unemployment Programs. The VEHI and VSBIT 'PROXY OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY' forms were circulated for signature.

5.5 VSBIT Annual Meeting

A Memo from VSBIT, dated September 4, 2018, regarding the VSBIT Annual Meeting was distributed. The VSBIT Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. at Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the VEHI Annual Meeting. **See action taken under Agenda Item 5.4.**

6. Old Business

6.1Act 46

A document titled 'Draft Default Articles of Agreement – Concerns Raised and Responsive Draft Articles' was distributed. A document titled 'Draft Default Articles of Agreement for initial consideration by the State Board of Education' was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Draft Default Articles of Agreement have been discussed at length with each district Board and he has nothing further to add at this time. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins advised that a sub-committee of the Study Committee has been working to develop an educational pamphlet. Various Members of the Study Committee will attend local events and meetings to assist with educating the public, answer questions, and distribute the informational pamphlet. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the information contained in the pamphlet, advising that in addition to distribution at various public gatherings, the pamphlet will also be available in a variety of locations throughout the City and Town. A copy of the informational pamphlet was distributed.

7. Other Business as Needed

None.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated September 20, 2018 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Communications, Special Education, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. A letter from VSBA, dated 09/01/18 was distributed. The letter pertains to membership dues which for FY19 is \$8,733 for the BSU. A copy of an e-mail from VSBA, dated 09/14/18, responding to the BSU's request for legal assistance, was distributed. Three additional documents were also distributed; 'Para-educator Survey Intro.', 'Winooski Valley Substitute Rates', and a copy of the questions from the 'Para-educator Survey'.

Mr. Pandolfo reported that VSBA has advised that they will not initiate or coordinate legal action against Future Planning Associates. In the future, the BSU may need to revisit the possibility of filing for damages. It was noted that Data Path has not finished 'cleaning up' the outstanding claims, and advised in late August that a complete reconciliation will require that they 'go back' and reprocess every claim. Data Path hoped to have the work completed by mid to late September, but given the volume of work, may not be able to meet that goal.

8.2 Committee Reports

8.2.1 Policy Committee

The Committee met on 09/17/18 to discuss and review a number of policies. The Committee will hold additional discussion prior to any policies being presented for approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Upstairs Conference Room.

8.2.2 BSU Curriculum Committee

Minutes from the August 27, 2018 meeting were distributed. The Committee discussed a universal homework policy and Staff Development.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 1, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

An additional meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

8.2.3 BSU Finance Committee

The Committee met this evening prior to the Board Meeting. A report was given under Agenda Item 5.2 (FY20 Budget Development).

The next meeting is Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

8.2.4 BSU Facilities Committee

Minutes from the September 11, 2018 meeting were distributed. Mr. LaCroix was appointed the Committee Chair. Discussion included the role of the Committee, use of a common format for the purpose of long term planning, district budgeting based on the industry standard of \$1 per square foot, and holding tours of each of the district buildings and the Central Office.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. This meeting may be rescheduled or relocated due to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

8.2.5 BSU Communications Committee

Mrs. Spaulding advised that the Committee discussed organization, purpose, monitoring progress on creation and implementation of the new web site, reviewed other web sites built by the chosen vendor, discussed future engagement of the community including informing and encouraging support from voters and tax payers, and held lengthy discussion about the Coalition that will be formed to work with Public Agenda to state the mission of the BSU and to assist with creation of Site-Based Councils. The next meeting is Thursday, October 11, 2018. The first meeting of the Coalition is tentatively set for Wednesday, October 24, 2018. A full day workshop will be held on a Saturday (10/03/18 or 10/10/18). The first meeting of the Communications Committee was very productive.

8.2.6 BSU Negotiations Committee

The Negotiations Committee hasn't met recently, but has sent formal invitation letters to the Association. The Association has sent a formal reply that they will be back in contact with potential 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 \$14,745.

9. Executive Session as Needed

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

10. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin