

BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION TRI-BOARD MEETING

BARRE CITY SCHOOL BOARD
BARRE TOWN SCHOOL BOARD
SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Spaulding High School Library
155 Ayers St., Barre, VT

November 15, 2018
5:30 p.m. - Tour of CVCC Open House
6:00 p.m. - Regular Meetings Begin

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 Regular BSU Board Meeting Minutes - October 18, 2018
5. New Business
 - 5.1 Approval Financial Management Questionnaire
 - 5.2 Administrative Evaluations
6. Old Business
 - 6.1 Act 46
 - 6.2 FY20 Budget Development
 - 6.3 Communication
7. Other Business as Needed
8. Reports to the Board
 - 8.1 Superintendent
 - 8.2 Committee Reports
 - 8.2.1 Policy Committee: No October Meeting
Next Meeting: November 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Area
 - 8.2.2 Curriculum Committee: Meeting Minutes October 29, 2018
Next Meeting: November 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library
 - 8.2.3 Finance Committee: Meeting Minutes September 20, 2018 (No October Meeting)
Next Meeting: November 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library
 - 8.2.4 Facilities Committee:
Next Meeting: November 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS Conference Room
 - 8.2.5 Communications Committee: Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018.
Next Meeting: December 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Office
 - 8.2.6 Negotiations
Next Meeting:
 - 8.3 Financials
9. Executive Session (if needed)
10. Adjournment

Reminders:

Next Barre Supervisory Union Board Meeting:
Next Barre City School Board Meeting:
Next Spaulding High School Board Meeting:
Next Barre Town School Board Meeting:

December 20, 2018
December 10, 2018
December 6, 2018
December 5, 2018

BOARD MEETING NORMS

- Keep the best interest of the school and children in mind, while balancing the needs of the taxpayers
- Make decisions based on clear information
- Honor the board's decisions
- Keep meetings short and on time
- Stick to the agenda
- Keep remarks short and to the point
- Everyone gets a chance to talk before people take a second turn
- Respect others and their ideas

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**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School - Library
October 18, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) – Chair
Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk
Alice Farrell (BT)
Anthony Folland (SHS)
Paul Malone (SHS)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)
Vacant Position (BC)

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, October 18, 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

Add 9.1 Employment of Employees (under Executive Session)

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2018 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2018 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

The resume and BSU Notification of Employment Status Form for Dorothy Unkles was distributed.
Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the candidate's education and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Dorothy Unkles.

5.2 November 15, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he would like to hold a Tri-Board Meeting on November 15, 2018. This meeting will be in addition to the BSU Board Meeting. The meetings may be combined. A BSU Finance Committee Meeting precedes the Tri-Board Meeting (at 4:30 p.m.). The BSU portion of the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Tri-Board Meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. The BCEMS Board meets on 11/12/18, at which time, an SU Board Representative will be appointed. The potential Agenda, which will be solidified after the Act 46 vote includes; SU Board; Superintendent's Report, Approval of the Financial Management Questionnaire, and Other Reports to the Board (if necessary), Tri-Board; Act 46, FY20 Budget Development, New Accountability (Annual Snapshot and Integrated Field Reviews), and possibly SBAC Reporting (if information is released).

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6. Old Business

6.1 Act 46

A document titled 'Decision Points – Sec. 9 Proposals and Secretary's Proposed Statewide Plan Overview' was distributed. A document providing tax rate changes (present and estimated under merger situations) was distributed. It was noted that the 'current' amount is based on FY2018 data, and that the estimated rate under merger situations does not include potential operational efficiencies or tax incentive savings.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Act 46 Study Committee last met on 10/02/18. The Committee has lost 2 members (BC Representatives) due to members moving out of the district. There have been issues having a quorum at the meetings (There was not a quorum at the last 2 meetings). Two more meetings are scheduled; 10/25/18 and 11/13/18 (before and after the merger vote on 11/06/18). The ongoing work and meetings will use up the allocated budget.

Two State Board of Education Meetings were held in October. Two more are scheduled for November. The State Board of Education has hired their own legal counsel to assist with guidelines and criteria. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the Decision Points document noting that on page 2, districts labeled Decision Points 1 through 5, all have a common structure (Traditional Union High School Districts). On 4 of those 5 decision points (1, 2, 3, and 5), the SBOE made the decision to merge the districts. The decisions are considered 'provisional decisions' and will be finalized in the Final Plan. Due to the impending vote, the SBOE took no action on the Barre district (Decision Point #4). Mr. Pandolfo advised that after brief discussion, the SBOE decided against asking the Legislature to grant an extension on the deadline for final decisions on the remaining districts. Twinfield was listed on the Agenda, but was not discussed. Other discussion included whether or not community input should be considered. It was noted that financial incentives are not available for those districts that are forced to merge. If Barre voters vote to merge, they will receive tax incentives and will use the Articles of Agreement that were voted on. If Barre is forced to merge, they will not receive tax incentives and will have to operate under the Default Articles of Agreement defined by the SBOE. It was noted that much Act 46 information is available on the BSU web site, including a FAQs page that has been recently updated.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the tax rate changes document, advising that the information provided is an estimate only and that the totals do not include operational savings or tax incentives. It was noted that the Barre City debt goes down every year, as they are in year 3 of a 10 year loan. Comparing the data, all other towns (except Mt. Mansfield and Huntington) have a much bigger change in tax rate. The estimated tax rate changes are as follows: Barre City will go down 1.01%, and Barre Town will go up 1.12%. It was reiterated that these are estimates only and do not include operational efficiencies or tax incentives. Mr. Pandolfo has asked Mrs. Perreault to look at the budget data and fund balances to ascertain how they might impact the tax rates. Mr. Malone is concerned that a no vote will leave tax incentives 'on the table' and that a forced merger would create a very unbalanced board. Under a forced merger, the board will be made up of 2 representatives from each district. If Twinfield were merged with Barre, the Barre population (18,000) would be represented by 4 individuals. The Twinfield population (with a population of only 3,000 to 4,000) would also have 4 representatives. If Barre were forced to merge with only Barre City and Barre Town, the Board will be comprised of only 4 individuals (to run all 3 schools). Under a voluntary merger, the board will be comprised of 9 individuals. Mr. Isabelle reiterated the finding that there is much duplication in the Agendas for the district board meetings.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that community members have expressed that they are confused by some of the information on the informational pamphlet, specifically, the 'bubble' that advises on what results from a 'YES' vote. It was clarified that a 'yes' vote approves the consolidation of governance only and does not merge or close the schools. Merging and closing of schools would require voter approval. Mr. Pandolfo will pass Mrs. Spaulding's concerns on to Gina Akley. Mr. Isabelle cited his concern that some community members plan to vote against the merger because they don't believe the State will force a merger.

6.2 Budget Development

Mr. Pandolfo advised that Budget Draft #1 will be reviewed at the BSU Finance Committee Meeting and the BSU Board Meeting (both are being held on 11/15/18). Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding fund balances, SPED Assessments, Child Counts and Equalized Pupil Counts, as well as the cost per Equalized Pupil at each school. It was noted that the combined/averaged cost per pupil is approximately \$13,000, which is lower than the state average of approximately \$14,500. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Budget highlights (no documentation was distributed). Highlights included; the impact of a consolidated budget/board under Act 46, salary and benefit increases (health insurance is expected to increase by 11.8%), moving all para-educators (regular and special education) to the BSU budget, moving technology (excluding equipment) to the BSU budget, and adding Technology Integrationists to the BSU budget. Other items being moved to the BSU budget include; copier leases, Curriculum Instruction/Assessment, In-Service Professional Development, Curriculum Specialists, and Human Resources. The lease or purchase of vehicles (for SPED and WBL transportation) will also be added to the BSU budget. The lease or purchase of vehicles for SPED and WBL transportation is much more financially effective than utilizing STA for these transports. It was noted that Federal laws for homeless students obligate the BSU to provide transportation. The leased or purchased vehicles would also be used for transportation of homeless students. Additional budget considerations include the VSTRS assessment, the Early Childhood Pre-school Collaboration (being increased by a half day), a decrease in reliance on outside vendors for behavioral support, adjustments to Special Education staffing (including equitable child counts for case managers), and the sharing of an occupational therapist (by BCEMS and BTMES). Budget considerations relating to

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each district will be discussed by the district Boards. Mrs. Perreault is working on developing five separate budgets, but dependent on the outcome of Act 46, may need to merge the budgets. It was also noted that the cost per pupil could change under a merged structure. Mrs. Spaulding expressed concern that many items are being added to the BSU budget which is not voted on by citizens.

7. Other Business as Needed

A document titled 'Financial Management Questionnaire – Barre Supervisory Union 10/11/18' was distributed. This document requires the BSU Board Chair's signature. Board Members were asked to review the document and send any questions to both Mr. Pandolfo and Mrs. Perreault. Approval of this form and the Chair's signature will be added to the November Agenda. Brief discussion was held regarding the Health Department's requirement that water be tested for lead. The State paid for last year's testing at BCEMS, though the school had to pay the associated labor costs (for employees who were gathering the water samples). BTMES water has not been tested yet. Discussion was held regarding cell phone usage by students, including conflicts between what is in a teacher's syllabus and what actually occurs in the classroom, disciplinary issues related to cell phones, use of cell phones for educational purposes, possible issues of equity as not all students own cell phones, an earlier Board's decision that teachers cannot physically take cell phones away from students, and teaching students responsible usage of cell phones.

8. Reports to the Board

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated October 18, 2018 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to the Superintendent's Office, Curriculum, Professional Development and Assessment, Communications, the Business Office, Special Services, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. Two additional documents were distributed; 'Substitute Committee Report October 9, 2018' and 'BSU Substitute Committee Final List of Recommendations 9/26/2018'. Mr. Pandolfo highlighted the Substitute Committee document and advised that the Communications Specialist's office is in the process of being corrected. Mr. Pandolfo responded to queries regarding the Superintendent's Report, providing additional information on the Unified Chart of Accounts, the Statewide Longitudinal Data Reporting System, and Grant Management System. It appears that the State is mandating the implementation of too many systems at once, which is causing issues for both the State and for school districts around the state. Special Education meetings are being held with SPED staff at both schools. It was noted that only teachers (not para-educators) attend these meetings. There were 64 responses to the para-educator survey (approximately half of the para-educator staff). Mrs. Spaulding raised concern that the request to send mass e-mails to parents has been a topic of discussion for years, and still has not been accomplished. This item will be added to the December BSU Board Meeting Agenda. It was noted that there remain some para-educator openings. It is the intent to continue to work to fill these positions. Discussion was held regarding labor laws relating to providing benefits for individuals who work over a certain number of hours. Discussion was also held regarding the pay scale for para-educators and substitutes. Brief discussion was held regarding the need to hire individuals with higher education to teach students with greater needs (licensed special educators vs para-educators). Discussion was held regarding the new 'Tide Pod' model implemented at SHS. There are currently 2 permanent substitutes, though 4 or 5 are wanted. Parental concerns were raised regarding student safety (many students/classes under the supervision of 2 individuals), and academic impact to students (due to delayed access to sub plans and distractions in the Pod setting).

8.2 Committee Reports

All BSU Committee Meeting Minutes were previously sent to all of the Districts' Board Members.

8.2.1 BSU Policy Committee

Minutes from the September 17, 2018 meeting were distributed. The October 15, 2018 meeting was cancelled. No discussion was held.

- The next meeting is Monday, November 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Upstairs Conference Room.

8.2.2 BSU Curriculum Committee

Minutes from the October 1, 2018 meeting were distributed. Discussion included Technology (current/future) and a review of the draft of the Elementary and Middle School Report Card Guide.

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

8.2.3 BSU Finance Committee

Minutes from the September 20, 2018 meeting were distributed. There is an unaudited anticipated surplus of approximately \$28,000. Budget development work will be performed in November.

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

8.2.4 BSU Facilities Committee

Minutes from the October 10, 2018 meeting were distributed. The meeting included a tour of the BSU Central Office and SHS.

- The next meeting is Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at Barre City Elementary and Middle School.

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8.2.5 BSU Communications Committee

Minutes from the October 11, 2018 meeting were distributed. Discussion included progress of the web site development project, ways to educate the community on budgets, and membership on the Barre Education Coalition. The first meeting of the Coalition is Thursday, October 25, 2018 at the Central Vermont Career Center, Room #136. There are 15 to 20 confirmed participants including students, staff, administrators and community members.

- The next meeting is Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Office

8.2.6 BSU Negotiations Committee

There has been no response from the Association regarding dates to meet for discussion of ground rules and negotiation sessions.

8.3 Financials

The BSU Expenditures –FY19 Report (dated 10/10/18) was distributed. No discussion was held.

9. Executive Session as Needed

9.1 Employment of Employees

Employment of Employees 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, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 8:32 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 Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:54 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin

Financial Management Questionnaire - Barre Supervisory Union 10/11/18

	Yes	No	Don't know	By whom
Do you know by whom the following is maintained?				
School District Checkbook	X			BSU Business Office
School District receipts	X			BSU Business Office
Student Activity Cash/Check receipts	X			School Bookkeepers with Business Manager oversight
School District payments:	X			BSU Staff Accountants
Payroll	X			BSU Staff Accountants
Accounts Payable	X			BSU Staff Accountants
Bank Deposit slips	X			BSU Senior Accountant
Bank reconciliations	X			BSU Senior Accountant
Are all bank statement and ledger balances reconciled monthly, by whom?	X			BSU Senior Accountant
Does someone other than the treasurer review bank reconciliations?	X			Business Manager
Are checks always written to specified payees and not to cash?	X			
Are financial records maintained in a computerized system?	X			ADS
Are all payees registered in accounting software?	X			
Are all invoices, original, on vendor letterhead or format, with individual invoice number?	X			
Are all payments recorded and mailed with notation to the associated invoice number?	X			
Does the School District hold current W9 forms for all vendors?	X			
Does the same individual open the mail and deposit checks?		X		
Are pre-numbered checks used for all bank accounts?		X		Accounting system (ADS) assigns numbers
Are unopened bank statements delivered directly to the treasurer as received?		X		The bank sends a copy
Have you borrowed money from the School District?		X		
Do you know of anyone who has borrowed money from the School District?		X		
Have School Board members attended financial trainings?				Not all have attended training
Do the financial accounting personnel take regular vacations?	X			
Have you deposited School District monies anywhere other than a School District account?		X		
Have you deposited any non-School District monies into a School District account?		X		
Is it common practice for staff members to rotate responsibilities or cross train periodically?	X			
Are student activity receipts deposited within 48 hours of the event?		X		At least weekly
Have you experienced a theft or embezzlement during the last five years?				SHS Para was terminated for theft from a student-SHS Coach took money, parent reimb.
Does the School District have written policies and procedures for financial operations?	X			Business Office Procedures Manual

	Yes	No	Don't know	By whom
Does each Town and School District official have copies of these policies and procedures?				Copies of Policies - Procedures are in Business Office
Is there a standard procedure to ensure that gate receipts reflect the event's attendance?	X			Impelemented a ticket accountability procedure
Is interest in School District accounts apportioned to each account?	X			
Have there been any changes in authorized signatures during the fiscal year?	X			Principals on Assoc. Fund Accts.
Has a signature stamp ever been used for any School District account?	X			Treasurers use stamps
Do you have pre-numbered receipt books for cash payments?	X			At SHS yes, paper forms elsewhere
Have you attended trainings on recordkeeping?	X			
Are any School District financial records maintained in manual form?		X		
Do you maintain separate pages, columns or running balances for each fund?	X			ADS
Are checks written by the same individual who approves payments?		X		Staff Accountant/Board Finance
Do you participate in any business which does business with the School District?		X		
Does any employee that you know of participate in any organization as a vendor?		X		
Have you questioned if the lifestyle of any associate reflects their normal income?		X		
Are bank accounts and fund balances reconciled on a monthly basis?	X			
Does the School District loan money to town employees?		X		

As a signer below, I certify to the best of my knowledge that the answers provided in this self-assessment questionnaire are an accurate representation of the operation of the supervisory union, supervisory district, or school district of

Gane, Vermont

Preparer: Lisa Perreault Printed Name: Lisa Perreault

Title: Business Manager Date submitted: 10/11/18

As an official of the supervisory union board, I certify that the board has reviewed this questionnaire within two months of receiving it from the superintendent.

Name: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Required by Title 16 VSA 242a & 32 VSA 163(11)

Lisa Perreault
Business Manager

Jacquelyn Ramsay-Tolman M.Ed., CAGS
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and
Assessment

Carol Marold
Human Resource Coordinator

Emmanuel Ajanma
Director of Technology

Benjamin Merrill
Communication Specialist

John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools

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***Doing whatever it takes to ensure
success for every child.***

Donald E. McMahon, M.Ed.
Stacy Anderson, M.Ed.
Co-Directors of Special Services

Sandra Cameron, M.Ed., MOT
Director of Early Education/Act 166
Coordinator

Lauren May
Interim Early Education Coordinator

Jamie Evans
Director of Facilities

November 15, 2018

TO: The Members of the Barre Supervisory Union Board

RE: Superintendent's Report

Please accept the following report to the Supervisory Union Board:

1. Superintendent's Office:

- a. We are making some minor revisions to the evaluation process we used for administrators last year, and plan to have the feedback survey window open from November 30 to December 17. Your participation makes the process meaningful!
- b. We have updated all school closing procedures and are now ready for the winter season.
- c. The next Vermont State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, November 15 at the Barre Elks Club. The SBOE is plans to discuss and likely make a decision about Barre under Act 46 at that meeting, as well as to further discuss and possibly finalize the Default Articles of Agreement for forced mergers. The agenda for the meeting can be found at this link:
https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-state-board-final-agenda-11_15_18.pdf
- d. I met with Steve Pappas of the Times-Argus today, along with other area Superintendents, to discuss ways we can better publicize the good work students do in our schools. We will meet again next month to refine a plan which could result in a rotating full page spread for each district/SU displaying student work or student news; we might then have a dedicated page once every two months, for example.
- e. Dan French, Vermont Secretary of Education, recently published a commentary through media outlets that is worth reading. The link to the Vermont Digger publication is:
<https://vtdigger.org/2018/11/07/daniel-m-french-moving-past-education-politics-past/>

2. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- a. On November 12 we will have our fourth professional development day of the year. Our elementary teachers will continue their workshops with Kathleen Kryza from Infinite Horizons . Our middle school teaching staff will participate in Developmental Designs and M3 training. At the high school, the faculty will continue A.L.I.C.E. training and curriculum and grading work. CVCC staff will Career and Technical Education program instructors will work to align their course curricula to Vermont's English Language Arts and Literacy Graduation Proficiencies as well as work on recruitment and presentation skills.
- b. We have completed the first quarter of instruction and proficiency based grading. Report cards have been delivered to families. All families at the elementary and middle level received a report card guide with their child's report card. The report card guide was part of the work that the report card committee identified as important to complete as part of the transition to a proficiency based grading system. Feedback about the guide has been very positive.
- c. On October 23 a Barre Supervisory Union team attended the State Assessment Regional Trainings sponsored by the Agency of Education. The training this year covered upgrades to the Smarter Balanced Assessment as well as our new Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) which was field tested last year and

the new Vermont school climate survey. Some information about the Vermont general and alternate Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA/alt-VTPEA) was also presented. A BSU team will be learning more about the PE Assessment next week at an additional training.

- d. The BSU Curriculum committee will meet on November 26 and will be discussing proficiency alignment and the CVCC programs. Over the past few months we have hosted area curriculum directors, flexible pathways coordinators and principals so that we all have a common understanding of the scope and importance of this work.
- e. The homework committee will have their initial meeting in December and look at our alignment of practice across the elementary grades. This committee will meet regularly and report to the BSU curriculum committee in April. This report will guide our practices for the next school year. The homework committee is comprised of teachers, parents, students, administrators and curriculum coaches.
- f. Our Great Schools Partnership consultants continue to work with our teaching staff at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The elementary and middle school work is primarily supporting our professional learning group facilitators in their practice. At the high school, support is focused around teaching strategies and learning walks. All of this work is aligned with our continuous improvement plan goals and proficiency based learning and grading.

3. Communications:

- a. The new BSU web site is beginning to come together. A great deal of time has been spent not only migrating existing files and photos over from the existing site, but making sure they are ADA compliant. Many of the pages and links on the existing site are broken or out of date, and this is requiring the writing and editing of new copy and pages. Once the site is mostly populated, we will begin testing for ADA compliance and usability on a range of browsers and devices. The goal is to make the new website as intuitive and easy to navigate as possible, while retaining some of the navigation that users have gotten used to and/or indicated they would like to see stay as is. We are still on target at this point to go live with the new site on or about January 1.
- b. The Communications Committee will begin working on creating budget-related communications over the coming month to help parents, taxpayers and community members get a better understanding of all that goes on in the Barre Schools. School budgets are a significant portion of everyone's property tax bill, and it's easy to forget that the money being spent is preparing Barre students for life after high school - many of whom will become the next generation of Barre business people, tradesmen, shop owners, etc. The goal is to help ensure that budgets pass and the programs that are in place
- c. The Committee is also discussing the ongoing creation and focus of the Barre Education Coalition. How the Coalition moves forward; how it is structured; and what it's goals will be will be addressed at an all day workshop, currently being scheduled for early December or January.
- d. Work with Jackie Tolman on the writing/editing/design and printing of the Elementary and Middle School Report Card Guide has been completed.
- e. Work on the upcoming Annual Report has begun.
- f. There is still no movement on a Communications Policy, but a draft of a potential policy (or set of procedures) has been submitted to the Policy Committee for review.

4. Business Office:

- a. Draft 1 budget presentations to the boards are taking place this month. We will continue to develop the budgets individually pending direction from the state board by November 30, 2018.
- b. We have made final audit entries, wrapped up loose ends, and confirmed fund balances which we will share with boards at each meeting. I expect draft audit reports will be sent for my review by the end of the month. I'll be preparing the MD&As for each audit and will plan to schedule presentations to the boards in January.
- c. The staff accountants are completing the annual Teacher Staff and Salary Surveys due to the AOE on December 3, 2018. In addition they have also gathered and uploaded ACA information which will be submitted to all employees and reported to the IRS in January.

- d. We expect to start getting reimbursement for grant expenses soon. This year we were informed that Vermont was not in compliance with federal grant requirements. Federal grants are supposed to be reimbursable only, where in past years, the AOE provided cash advances. This along with the AOE's implementation of a new and cumbersome grant management system has caused delays in grant payments to the BSU. We have had to watch the cash flow very carefully given that the BSU does not have the ability to receive a revenue anticipation note like the districts.
- e. The AOE has invited members of VASBO and VSHRP to convene an eFinancePlus Governance Group. I am assuming this invite is in response to a letter from the VASBO executive committee to the AOE expressing concerns about the lack of support. It has also become clear that this implementation does not meet the industry standard for an accounting system conversion. I will keep you updated on this collaboration with the AOE.
- f. The AOE has scheduled a training on the UCOA crosswalk to current chart of accounts. I plan to attend, December 4th and 5th in Killington.

5. Special Education:

- a. As we have previously shared, we have made the transition from utilizing Goalview for special education data management to the Docusped system. Docusped also has the capability to support 504 evaluations and 504 plans. We are in the very initial stages of exploring the possibility of utilizing this capability in the future across the district and will continue to share information as we move forward.
- b. The BSU FY 20 Service Plan submission has been completed and was submitted to the Agency of Education on October 15th. Working with the Business Office, we have just completed revisions to answer AOE questions after the initial submission.
- c. Our staff completed the first of two annually required Time Schedule documentation periods during the week of October 22nd. Many thanks to our staff for all of their hard work on complying with these annual AOE requirements!
- d. Our department has also completed the Triennial and Annual Compliance Review for the AOE which is based on our 2017 Child Count data submission and submitting data regarding Indicator 13 (Transition Plans for high school students) and Indicator 11 (Initial evaluations completed within the 60 day rule).
- e. Jen Patenaude returned to our district on October 23rd for the second of three professional development opportunities for Pre-K - 12 special education staff. Thank you to the Town of Barre for allowing us to use the conference room and the Municipal Offices.
- f. We held our first combined Barre City/Barre Town Special Education Staff Meetings in the month of October. PreK-4 special education staff met on October 16th at Barre Town School and grades 5-8 staff met on October 23rd at Barre City School. Special Educators, SLPs, OTs, COTAs and School Psychologists from both buildings were present. Our goal is to utilize these meetings as opportunities for getting to know each other better, to engage in discussion and alignment of practices across our buildings and to allow for sharing of expertise between special education staff who serve our Pre-K through 8th students.

6. Technology:

- a. The tech team is looking into increasing/improving the network speed within our school buildings from 1 gigabyte to 10 gigabyte backbone. This project would involve replacing our current HP switches, and we are looking to do so with Ubiquity switches. Ubiquity provides more features than HP and comes with significant cost benefits. It also has a robust network monitoring that could help us with network security.
- b. We are investigating the possibility of deploying server backups at BTMES and BCEMS school buildings. These servers will enable the timely backup of data files, applications, and databases on our network. There is a cost implication, but these dedicated backup servers will provide enough resources to cope with our backup demands and disaster recovery plans.
- c. We are finalizing plans to pilot the use of teacher Chromebooks and Chromecasts in the classroom. The Chromebooks would allow teachers to cast a presentation and control what students see on the "board" from wherever they are in the room. The device can also flip into a tablet mode, providing access to the camera for pictures and video. Nine teachers from Spaulding High School are participating, and the data collected from this pilot program will help us determine what would be best for our classroom technology moving forward.
- d. The Agency of Education is continuing to support the State level SketchUp licensing grant program. SketchUp

is a 3D modeling computer program for a wide range of drawing, landscape architecture, civil and mechanical engineering, film and video game design. It is available as a web-based application and integrates with G Suite for Education so students can use the software on their Chromebooks. Teachers are being encouraged to try out this application with their students in STEM classes.

- e. We are working with our E-rate consultant on preparing our FY20 E-rate application. We have completed the paperwork and submitted to the consultant for review. Our goal is to have this preparation process finished by November 30th so that the USAC 470 form can be filed in December.
- f. Recently we have started receiving rounds of spoofed emails that pretend to be our school Principals and administrators. The email address usually begins with "headofschool" followed by random numbers. We have sent emails to different school's staff members advising that they not engage with these spoofed emails. Schools around Vermont and beyond are all experiencing the same trend.
- g. BSU has completed the submission and certification of all the VT SLDS data collections that are due at this time. They are the following:
 - ❖ Data Collection #4 Year End
 - ❖ Data Collection #5 Tuition
 - ❖ Data Collection #6 Fall

Many thanks to Lauren Demers for working hard to make sure that we complete these state requirements.

7. Early Education:

- a. The Child Development Division is beginning a two phase process to implement changes to the Vermont STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). STARS is Vermont's quality recognition system for child care, preschool, and afterschool programs. The Division surveyed stakeholders to learn about what is and is not working with this system. Using this information, the Division is proposing changes to STARS both in content and in structure. Lauren May will attend regional meetings as the CDD undertakes this process to provide input and ensure our early education programs are well informed of the implications of the proposed changes. For more information see <https://dcf.vermont.gov/childcare/providers/stars/evolution>.
- b. On Wednesday, November 7th, Sandra Cameron attended the third of six regional Public School Preschool Community Meetings to provide input for potential licensing regulation exemptions for prekindergarten programs housed within public schools.
- c. Assessment data for all BSU preschool students who entered kindergarten this year has been uploaded to Infinite Campus. Kindergarten teachers now have easy access to this important information which was previously stored in each child's permanent record outside of the classroom. Assessment data for this fall was due on October 31st and a data export to Infinite Campus will take place in the coming weeks.

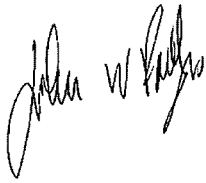
8. Human Resources:

- a. Recruiting - One long term sub position (BCEMS) remains open. All other professional positions (including two replacement teachers - CVCC & SHS) are filled. Recent resignations have left three para-educator positions open at BTMES.
- b. The Open Enrollment process (employee portion) is now closed. Now begins the administrative work behind the scenes. Out of 550 employees, less than half have submitted the mandatory paperwork requested by HR.
- c. Data Path continues to work through open issues. Approximately 30 open issues remain for the HRA accounts. Data Path will hopefully finish adjustments on the FSA accounts (employee pre tax savings accounts) so that we may prepare for end of year rollovers, etc.
- d. HR will be spending time with the school nurses on the 11/12 PD day. Concentra and VSBIT will be in for our quarterly update. HR will also be participating on a VSBIT committee that will examine return to work issues/procedures in VT schools.

9. Facilities:

The Facilities Director's report will be provided prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pandolfo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Pandolfo" clearly distinguishable.

John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools
on behalf of the Barre SU Central Office Administrative Team

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BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
 Spaulding High School Library
 October 29, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Chioldi (BC) - Chair
 Chris Riddell (BC)
 Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair
 Victoria Pompei (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joe Blakely (SHS)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Luke Aither, Assistant Principal
 Jason Derner, CVCC Assistant Director
 Pierre Laflamme, Assistant Principal
 Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)
 Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal
 Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
 Bill Waller, Behavior Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ben Matthews Sonya Spaulding

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Chioldi called the Monday, October 29, 2018, meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

It was announced that Chris Riddell was recently appointed to fill the BCEMS Committee seat vacated by Tyler Smith.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Review / Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2018 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Rousse, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Committee unanimously agreed to approve as amended, the Minutes of the October 1, 2018 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting.

4. Visitors and Communications

None.

5. New Business

5.1 A.L.I.C.E. Updates and next steps

BTMES:

Two documents were distributed; 'Barre Town School ALICE Teaching Matrix' and a letter to BTMES families (dated 09/28/18). Ms. Pearson and Mr. Waller addressed the Committee advising that the 'trainers', trained with Officer Hook. Ms. Pearson and Mr. Waller, worked to train staff, including; teachers, para-educators, behavioral interventionists, and permanent substitutes. All September staff meetings included discussion of A.L.I.C.E. training for students, and agreement on common language that would be teachable to students. Student training has started. The September drill practiced silence and scatter techniques. The October drill practiced the technique of 'quickest way out' (it was noted that the entire building was evacuated in less than 2 minutes). A.L.I.C.E. has been discussed at Safety Committee meetings which includes participants from the Barre Town Police and Fire/EMT Departments. Police and Fire/EMT personnel participate in drills and provide valuable feedback. The November drill will practice barricading techniques. A full drill which includes loading students onto buses is planned for Spring 2019. Only 8th graders will participate in 'swarm' techniques. The biggest concern is training for the youngest students (3 year olds in pre-school). Administrators are currently working with the Chief of Police and the Select Board to identify rally points. Rally points need to be accessible year round, including the winter months (which does present some challenges). Mrs. Nye advised that 'walking field trips' will be conducted to assure that all staff members are familiar with the entire building. It was noted during training that not all staff

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members are familiar with the building layout (e.g., those who work on the first floor, do not know where the 8th grade science room is located).

BCEMS:

Mr. Laflamme advised that he has been working with Ms. Pearson in an effort to align training. Summer training also included involvement of the school's SRO. All internal staff (over 200 individuals) and outside vendors (WCMH) were trained before the start of school. Curriculum is being adapted to be age appropriate for students in pre-k through 8. Discussions were held in faculty meetings prior to the September lock-down drill. Staff and students are beginning the mindset shift to 'options based response'. The September lock down drill went very well and students appear to be taking these drills more seriously. Students are being trained on using different exit points (closest exit points), reporting possible issues (see something/say something), practicing barricading techniques, and situational training. Administrators are contemplating practicing the 'swarm' component. Administrators continue to work on logistics (announcements cannot be heard in all areas of the building). Future plans include intentionally adding 'layers' of the different techniques to drills, with the next drill to include barricading and door security enhancers. Staff are being trained on how to open various windows throughout the building (the next lock down drill will include the use of door security enhancement). Administrators continue to work on rally points and an evacuation plan (snow is an issue). There are many logistical challenges to overcome.

SHS/ CVCC:

Mr. Aither and Mr. Derner advised regarding training for the unified campus. The same training has been given to all staff. It was noted that more in-depth conversations may be held with older students. A training video has been created to assure that consistent information is presented to all students. Additional videos will be made to educate students on the various components and techniques used under the A.L.I.C.E. protocol. Different concepts will be addressed each month throughout the school year. Drills are being used as mini-lessons to instruct students on what action to take in different scenarios. It was stressed that what is being taught are life skills that can be used in many places (home and public). A.L.I.C.E. is relevant 'across settings'. Two videos were shown; an internally created video (with Mr. Aither and Mr. Derner introducing the A.L.I.C.E. program) and a video from another school. It was reiterated that throughout the year, internally created training videos will be made and used for training of SHS/CVCC students. SHS/CVCC students will use the Barre Auditorium as a rally point.

6. New Business

6.1 Report on 10/05/18 Staff Development Day

Two feedback documents were distributed; 'October 5th, 2018 Middle and High School PD Feedback' and 'October 5th, 2018 Pre-K – 4 Feedback'. Mrs. Tolman began the presentation with a short video of the October 5th Professional Development Day, advising that there was an upbeat spirit throughout the day and that feedback was overwhelmingly positive. There were 86 responses to the Middle/High School survey, and 49 responses to the Pre-K - 4 survey (approximately half of the staff).

Mrs. Tolman first provided an overview of the M/HS survey results, advising that there were 18 different EDCamp (participant driven) offerings. Though EDCamps are not typically pre-planned, faculty was asked (in advance) what they were interested in learning. The list of topics was then distributed to all staff members so they could advise regarding their interest in facilitating discussions and/or topic discussions they wished to participate in. Mrs. Tolman advised of the topics that were offered. Mrs. Tolman advised that vertical alignment training will be held 3 times this year.

Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the Pre-K through 4 Professional Development Feedback document and advised that in addition to the Kathleen Kryza training, staff also participated in EDCamps. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the 'titles' offered and advised that all topics were teacher driven. Mrs. Tolman will be performing research to provide clarity regarding the 12.2% of staff that responded that the material was not applicable to their work (teachers chose the discussion they wanted to participate in).

It was suggested that tying a raffle to the survey may increase the percentage of those who respond to the survey. It will be challenging to offer a raffle and keep the survey anonymous.

The next Professional Development day is 11/01/18 and will include; Developmental Design, Metacognition & Mindset (Up for Learning), Kathleen Kryza, Curriculum Planning, Proficiency Based Learning & Assessment (SHS), and Tying Literacy Standards to All Programs (CVCC).

7. Other Business

7.1 Sharing of CIA Office Communications

Mrs. Tolman was not able to access Facebook from SHS, but advised that she is in the process of developing a Facebook account for BSU Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. This new Facebook account is tied to Mrs. Tolman's Twitter account. Mrs. Tolman advised that she does 'Friday Reflections' each week.

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A copy of the finalized Report Card Guide for Elementary and Middle School was distributed. The document was vetted by the Report Card Committee. It was noted that the grade coding structure used for elementary and middle school does not align with the grade coding structure used at the high school. It was the intent to have consistency across the BSU.

8. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

The next meeting is Monday, November 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

November Agenda:

Aligning CVCC Programs and Outcomes with Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements

Update on Homework Alignment/Homework Policy

Report on 11/12/18 Staff Development and the Remaining Professional Development (for FY19)

In response to a query, Mrs. Tolman advised that she is not aware of any Curriculum items that would impact the budget. The BSU Budget does include the Curriculum Coaches and Training and Professional Development supplies.

A December meeting was not scheduled.

The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

January Agenda Items:

“Annual Snapshots” (the new system of accountability)

Brief discussion was held regarding SBAC results. The SBAC results should be added to December or January Board Meeting Agendas. There has been a delay this year due to 8th grade math scores that needed adjustments. Scores will include the inclusion of all students, including those students who are alternatively placed.

AP Exam results should also be added to the SHS Agenda.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Rousse, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin

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BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
 Spaulding High School Library
 September 20, 2018 - 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone (SHS) – Chair
 Sonya Spaulding (BCEMS) – Vice Chair
 David LaCroix (SHS)
 Jay Paterson (BTMES) – arrived at 4:42 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Boltin (SHS)
 Alice Farrell – (BTMES)
 Sarah Pregent (BCEMS)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
 Lisa Perrault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, September 20, 2018, BSU Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:37 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2018 BSU Finance Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2018 BSU Finance Committee meeting.

In response to a query regarding the location of the SPED Director's Office, it was noted that Co-Director Don McMahon has an office at BTMES and no longer has office space at the Central Office.

4. FY18 Audit Update

Three reports were distributed; the BSU FY18 Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report (dated 09/20/18), The BSU Expenditures-FY18 Report (dated 09/19/18), and the BSU Expenditures-FY19 Report (dated 09/20/18). Mrs. Perreault advised that the auditors were in the office for two weeks preparing for and working on the FY18 audit. Much work has been done to reconcile SPED expenses. The reconciliation process is coming along well. There is currently an unaudited projected surplus of \$14,745 for the BSU Office. The FY19 expenditures 'to date' are included in this evening's packet. It is too early in the year to make projections. The Business Office has been spending their time on the FY18 Audit and FY20 Budget Development. All para-educators are now in the BSU Budget, and will be billed back to the districts on a quarterly basis. Though most para-educators are SPED, some are in Regular Education. The new process allows for cutting one check rather than two for para-educators who work in both Regular and Special Education.

Going into FY19, it was not known where the \$20,000 budgeted for construction and renovations would be spent. Two projects that are currently being considered or are in progress are; construction of an office for the Communications Specialist and expansion of the BSU parking lot. The parking lot expansion should not be a significant expense and is expected to be completed by the end of fall. It is estimated that the parking lot expansion will create approximately 12 new parking spots.

5. FY20 Budget Development Update

Six documents were distributed; 'BSU FY20 Budget Considerations – September 20, 2018', 'Barre Supervisory Union SU061 Grant Award Dollar Amounts', 'Overview of Special Education Funding Changes', 'Transportation Contract 8/14/18', the VSBA Multi-line Inter-municipal School Program – Barre Member Contribution report, and the VSBIT Annual Insurance Breakdown – FY19 report.

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Mrs. Perreault advised that 1st drafts of budgets will be provided to the Boards in November. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the Budget Considerations document, advising of the unaudited General and Capital Fund Balances, the percentages by district - when calculating by Equalized Pupils and by Child Counts (Child Count confirmation will occur in Spring 2019), the possibility that the 11/06/18 Act 46 vote may impact the budget, that contract negotiation increases are currently an 'unknown', there is a known 11.8% increase in health insurance premiums, the budget moves all para-educators to the BSU Budget, Technology (staff and budget lines) are also being moved to the BSU budget (equipment will not be moved to the BSU budget), the BSU copier lease will be included in the BSU budget, curriculum/instructional improvement and in-service budget lines are in the BSU Budget, the budget will include the purchase of 2 Suburbans (to supplement transportation), and inclusion of the VSTRS Health Assessment.

Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the methodology for calculating assessments to the districts. Special Education will be assessed based on Child Count. All other BSU expenses will be assessed based on Equalized Pupils. Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the new assessment methodology for State reimbursement for Extraordinary SPED expenses (the threshold has increased to \$60,000, the reimbursement will increase from 90% to 95%. As both the threshold and reimbursement percentage have risen, the change in methodology will probably not have much of an impact. Mrs. Spaulding voiced concern that with so much of the district budgets moving to the BSU, community members might be concerned regarding transparency. Mr. Paterson believes that given the number of items being budgeted at the BSU level, the BSU Board will need to be much more involved and accountable. Additionally, Mr. Paterson advised that as more items become budgeted at the BSU level, community members might start trying to compare the number of employees at each school. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the BSU Finance Committee will review the first draft of the budget in October and district Boards will review the first drafts of their respective budgets in November. In the unlikely event that a merge vote doesn't pass and the State opts not to merge Barre City and Barre Town, the BSU Board may wish to consider moving some budget items out of the BSU budget and back to the district budgets. Finance Committee members were asked to give this option some consideration.

Copies of the consolidated Transportation contract were included in this evening's packet. Committee Members were advised to review the contracts. It was noted that STA could not accommodate transportation of homeless students, so the BSU had to contract with First Student (a cost of \$10,000). It is anticipated that the BSU's purchase of 2 Suburbans will allow for transportation of homeless students, some SPED students and Work Based Learning students at cost that is lower than if STA provided the transportation.

The Committee was advised that the Medicaid Billing Provider, MSB didn't do the work they were hired to perform, which required the BSU to hire a Medicaid Clerk. The BSU is hoping to file suit to recoup \$315,395.44. Details are listed on the BSU Grant Award document included in the packet (page 34).

Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the Special Education Funding Changes document.

6. Other Business

A letter from the State of Vermont (Child Nutrition Consultant Jamie Curley), dated 08/14/18 was distributed. Mrs. Perreault advised that the letter from Jamie Curley, confirms that all food service concerns raised in the review performed on 02/12/18 and 02/13/18, have been addressed.

An e-mail from the SSDDMS Project Team (dated 08/31/18) was distributed. Mrs. Perreault advised regarding the implementation of a new Unified Chart of Accounts. A manual has still not been received, there are too many unresolved issues and not enough resources to deal with them. Mrs. Perreault advised that the State needs to slow down the implementation process. Mrs. Perreault is hoping that something can be put before the legislature to persuade them to have the implantation proceed at a slower pace and assure that the system is implemented correctly.

7. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

Possible Change in Auditing Firm

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m., in the Spaulding High School Library.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Pandolfo, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin

8.2.5

BSU Communications Committee

Barre Supervisory Union
2nd Floor Conference Room
November 8, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding
Anthony Folland

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alice Farrell

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Ben Merrill Communications

GUESTS PRESENT:

none

1. Call to Order

Chair Sonya Spaulding called the Thursday, November 8 2018 meeting of the BSU Communications Committee to order at 6:03, which was held in the 2nd Floor Conference area of the Technology Dept.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 11 meeting were reviewed and approved.

4. Committee Business

4.1 Ben Merrill gave the Committee a progress report on the creation of the new website, and gave board members a demonstration of what's been done to date. We are well into the construction phase, and meetings are being held with the various schools to identify what content they want to see on the site, as well as the navigation. Members expressed concern about being able to easily find links to important subjects (e.g. Work Based Learning, Calendars, etc.) and how to organize the navigation to make the site intuitive to visitors. To help them understand the ease with which the new site is updated, Merrill showed them how quickly a page can be edited to provide helpful links. Sonya Spaulding suggested that each page could have a "Contact the Webmaster" navigation button for people who have questions about where information is stored on the site; or should they encounter broken links or pages. There was also discussion around links to Facebook and Twitter; and who will or won't be keeping those social media platforms updated. We are still working towards a January 1 launch date, but the committee agreed it would be better to launch a complete site a couple weeks late than an unfinished site on time.

4.2 [4.2 was taken out order and discussed last, but is reported here, in order] Picking up from last month's discussion of ways the committee might communicate with a wide range of audiences prior to the budget vote, the committee agreed that putting together an informational piece highlighting the many opportunities offered to Barre students, including but not limited to: Academic programs, work based learning pathways, athletic teams, extra-curricular clubs, mentoring, updated facilities, state of the art technology...the list is fairly long. The theme of the communication would be; "Thank You." The message is, essentially, an expression of the appreciation students have for what the taxpayers of Barre are providing them. It's no secret that there are disagreements between taxpayers in both municipalities over how to best manage the schools; but the end result is a great deal of work by a lot of committed people, all undertaken on behalf of the students of both towns. The hope is that despite their political differences, taxpayers will pass the budgets, knowing they are preparing the next generation of Barre business and trades people. The information piece would be created and then distributed in a number of ways prior to the budget vote(s).

4.3 [4.3 was taken out of order and discussed after 4.1] The balance of the meeting was spent discussing the Barre Education Coalition; the timing of its work; and whether it's best to wait until after the State Board makes its decision on whether or not to merge the districts before scheduling another meeting. It was agreed that tensions might be running a little high this close to the recent vote and that it might be better to wait until January to meet, when it is more likely we'll have more direction from the state. As well, the state-imposed articles of agreement (should they be imposed on us) do not call for the creation of Site Councils by July 1, which was one of the original goals of the Coalition. While Site Councils may still be the preferable way to go, especially given the 4-member size of the state-imposed board, the committee felt it made better sense to wait until January before moving forward. This will also give the committee time to determine who is and is not committed to serving on the Coalition. Sonya Spaulding noted that recent work similar to this was recently undertaken in Essex, VT with good results – the two sides discovering they shared some common ground despite their historical and political differences. She expressed hope that Barre taxpayers might find similar common ground and be able to move forward. Supt Pandolfo will be in contact with VSBA and Public Agenda to discuss next steps.

6. Other Business

There was no other business

7. Items to be placed on future agenda

An agenda item for the next meeting, currently scheduled for December 13, will be to discuss issues and topics raised under 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 above.

8. Next meeting date

The next meeting of the Committee was set for Thursday, December 13, at 6 pm

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Folland, the Committee voted to adjourn at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Merrill