

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Barre Supervisory Union – 2nd Floor Conference Area
November 19, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Chair
Jennifer Chioldi (BC) – Vice Chair
Andrew McMichael (BC)
Sarah Pregent (BC)
Jon Valsangiacomo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Isabelle, called the Monday, November 19, 2018, meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the 2nd Floor Conference Area.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no changes to the Agenda.

Brief discussion was held regarding roles of participants. It was agreed that Committee Members vote. It was agreed that Mr. Valsangiacomo is an official Committee Member. Mr. Valsangiacomo will be listed as such (rather than ‘Guest’) and will be a voting Committee Member. Those attending meetings in the capacity of ‘Guest’ do not have voting privileges. It was agreed that the various committees make recommendations to the various Boards, but only Boards can take official action on matters. New rules and guidelines will need to be established under the consolidated board. Committees should be comprised of Board and community members.

3. Approval of Minutes

March 19, 2018 BSU Policy Committee Meeting

May 21, 2018 BSU Policy Committee Meeting

September 17, 2018 BSU Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2018, May 21, 2018, and September 17, 2018 Policy Committee Meetings.

4. Review of BSU Policy Manual Index

Copies of the BSU Policy Manual Index (dated 11/12/18) were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Committee originally worked on 29 required policies. F34 is the only outstanding required policy. F34 is a newly required policy. Upon completion of the required policies, the Committee is working on policies that administrators feel are necessary. Districts have been identifying and reviewing their policies, identifying redundant policies and those that may be procedural in nature. District policies will need to be reviewed again. With the new unified district, all district level policies will become non-existent. The new board will need to adopt all policies for use in the new unified district. With the exception of D14 (Social/Digital/Online Communications for Staff Policy), Mr. Pandolfo would like to have the Committee approve all of the policies on tonight’s Agenda so that they are ready to be presented to the BSU Board. Policy D14 should go back to VSBA and possibly be reviewed by the Communications Committee.

5. Discussion of Policies – Copies of all policies for Agenda Items 5.1 through 5.7 were distributed.

5.1 F34 – BSU Student Freedom of Expression in School-Sponsored Media Policy

This is a new policy required by VSBA (due to a recently passed law). Mr. Pandolfo would like this policy presented to the BSU Board as written. VSBA researched, drafted, and vetted the policy. Mr. Pandolfo advised that first and second readings are not required if a ten day notice is given to the public. Brief discussion was held regarding SHS administrators providing guidance to students (on speeches, usually graduation speeches).

The Committee agreed by consensus to present Policy F34 to the BSU Board for approval.

5.2 F14 – BSU Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students Policy

All district policies were distributed at the last meeting. The SHS policy is most like the model policy. Brief discussion was held.

The Committee agreed by consensus to present Policy F14 to the BSU Board for approval.

5.3 F13 – BSU Admission of Resident Students Policy

The district policies were distributed at the last meeting. The SHS policy and the model policy did allow auto registration and postal address to be utilized when proving residency. Brief discussion was held regarding the implications of removing auto registration and postal address from the policy. The Committee held additional discussion on how residency is defined. Conditions of residency are defined in 16 V.S.A. §1075. It was noted that, as written in the draft policy, the Superintendent, not the Boards, is making decisions relating to the admission of resident students. Appeals of the Superintendent's decisions go to the district boards, then to the State Board of Education. There are approximately 12 requests per year (across all three schools). Brief discussion was held regarding adding a 'cut off' date to the policy. The Superintendent believes it should be left out, as each case is different and needs to be decided based on its unique situation. Mrs. Pregent agrees that the date should be left out and decisions should continue to be made by the Superintendent.

The Committee agreed by consensus to present Policy F13 to the BSU Board for approval.

5.4 G7 – BSU Educational Support System Policy

The BTMES and SHS policies were distributed at the last meeting. BCEMS does not have a policy on Education Support Systems. G7 reflects the existing policies.

The Committee agreed by consensus to present Policy G7 to the BSU Board for approval.

5.5 F12 – BSU Interscholastic Sports Policy

At the September meeting, Mr. Pandolfo was assigned some research work. Mr. Pandolfo advised that SHS and BTMES had policies that reflect the VSBA policy. BCEMS does not have a policy. It is believed that links to handbooks should not be included in policy, as it would be cumbersome to change policy every time a link changed. There are similarities between the district policies and the model policy. One significant difference to note is that the VSBA policy has 4 eligibility requirements that refer to "D"s and "E"s. These specific eligibility requirements won't work under Proficiency Based Grading. The policy being presented advises that the Principal of each school may set procedures and standards for academic eligibility.

The Committee agreed by consensus to present Policy F12 to the BSU Board for approval.

5.6 G3 – BSU Field Trips Policy

The policy presented this evening is a blended policy (from those presented in September). As requested, Mr. Pandolfo has contacted administrators regarding receipt of post-field trip reports. Mr. Pandolfo advised that in the future, he plans to present staff hires as a 'slate' of staff (rather than discuss individual candidates), and believes that the same procedure should be used when seeking Board approval for out of state field trips.

The Committee agreed by consensus to present Policy G3 to the BSU Board for approval.

5.7 D14 – BSU Social/Digital/Online Media Communications Policy for Staff Policy

A Draft copy of Procedures was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo requested that the Committee review/digest the draft policy, and hold discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting. There is no model policy for this subject matter. Mr. Pandolfo has attempted to separate policy and procedures. After the Committee has held discussion on the draft policy, Mr. Pandolfo would like to have VSBA re-review the policy. There is some concern that parts of the policy conflict with the right to free speech. It was noted that this draft policy does not pertain to cell phones.

6. Other Business

Mr. Pandolfo recommends that given the impending merger, after policies are approved by the BSU Board, they should not be sent to the district Boards for approval. The district Board approval process is time consuming and the district policies will be non-existent after June 30, 2019.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the implications of the recent decision by the State Board of Education (to merge Barre school districts under Act 46). The overview included discussion of the Barre Town re-vote and work to be completed under both merger scenarios (voluntary or forced), including; Boards (transitional and initial), current Boards (including seats that expire in March 2019), budgeting, Articles of Agreement (including amendments to Default Articles of Agreement), and the possible formation of a new 706 Study Committee to work on changes to Default Articles of Agreement (in the event the 'no' vote stands). Mr. Pandolfo will document the necessary steps and critical deadlines, and forward the information to all Board Members.

The next BSU Policy Committee meeting is December 17, 2018 in the BSU Central Office 2nd Floor Conference Area.

Agenda Items:

Revisit D14 – BSU Social/Digital/Online Media Communications Policy for Staff Policy
Introduction of additional policies for review

7. Adjournment

The Committee agreed by consensus, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin