

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Barre Supervisory Union – 2nd Floor Conference Area
September 17, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Chioldi (BC) – Vice Chair
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT) – departed at 7:08 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Chair
Michael Deering (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Luke Aither, Assistant Principal (SHS)
Jason Derner, Assistant Director (CVCC) – arrived at 6:26 p.m.
Pierre LaFlamme, Assistant Principal (BCEMS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Paul Malone Jon Valsangiacomo

1. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair, Mrs. Chioldi, called the Monday, September 17, 2018, meeting to order at 6:10 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

Under Agenda Item 6 – Other, discusses possible rescinding of the Class Size Policy, receive an update on Policy F31, and discuss a possible policy relating to Adult Students.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting
Agenda Item postponed due to lack of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting
Agenda Item postponed due to lack of a quorum.

4. Review of BSU Policy Manual Index

A copy of the Barre Supervisory Union Policy Manual Index (dated 09/11/18) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the revised format and advised that all of the VSBA required policies listed have been ratified by each of the district Boards. Policies that have frequently come up for discussion have been added to the Index. Policy F12 – Social/Digital/Online Communication for Staff has been added. This is not a required policy, but is being reviewed by VSBA. It is suggested that perhaps the BSU should have a broad policy statement on Social/Digital/Online Communications for Staff.

5. Discussion of Policies

5.1 Admission of Non-Resident Students

Four documents were distributed;
C25 – Recommended Policy – Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
F14 – SHS Policy – Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
JECB – BC Policy – Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
JECB – BT Policy – Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students

Mr. Pandolfo advised of his belief that tuition rates are set in compliance with Statute. The SHS and BC policies are very similar to the VSBA policy. The BT policy is substantially different. Mr. Valsangiacomo believes the BT policy predates changes to the law and may not be in compliance with the law. The Committee agreed that CVCC tuition rate procedures should be reviewed. Committee Members will review and hold additional discussion at the next meeting. **Mr. Pandolfo will draft a policy using the model policy as a starting point. The draft policy will be presented for review at the next meeting.**

5.2 Admission of Resident Students

Three documents were distributed;

C31 – Policy to Consider – Admission of Resident Students

F13 – SHS Policy – Admission of Resident Students

JC – BC Policy - Admission of Resident Students

There is no BT policy for Admission of Resident Students. The SHS policy differs from the model policy. The BC policy is very similar to the model policy. This policy is frequently raised, especially when longtime residents (students) move to another city/town. Discussion was held regarding the criteria for proving permanent residency. It was suggested that ‘postal address’ be changed to ‘E911 address’ (for the purpose of determining residency). 16 V.S.A. § 1075(a) should be reviewed to confirm criteria for proving permanent residency. It was noted that admission of State Placed students should be included in Statute and should not have to be added to policy. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of State Placed students and placement of students under ESSA (the Every Student Succeeds Act). It was noted that ‘Homeless Students’ residence needs to be reviewed annually. It was reiterated that most of the intricacies pertaining to student placement are covered under Statute and should not need to be written into policy. In response to a query regarding the Superintendent making placement decisions (rather than the principals), Mr. Pandolfo advised that the issue is most likely covered in Statute and there has never been a difference of opinion with principals regarding these decisions. Things to consider for discussion at the next meeting include 1. Should the Superintendent present recommendations to Boards for approval or should the Superintendent make the decisions (as is the current practice), and 2. Should Automobile Registration and Postal Addresses be included or removed from the policy. **Mr. Pandolfo will draft a policy using the model policy as a starting point. The draft policy will be presented for review at the next meeting.**

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Winooski Valley & Statewide Choice of Public High School Collaborative. Tuition does not follow the student under this collaborative. High School choice is not included in the above policies.

5.3 Educational Support System

Three documents were distributed;

D21 – Recommended Policy – Educational Support System

G7 – SHS Policy – Educational Support System

IHB – BT Policy – Educational Support System

Vermont Statute requires an Educational Support System. MTSS (Multiple Tiered Systems of Support) is required. VSBA may need to update the Recommended Policy based on changes to Statute. There is no known BC policy on this topic. It was noted that if there is a BSU wide policy, wording under the implementation section should be updated from ‘superintendent (or principal)’ to ‘superintendent (or principals/directors)’. This change would be necessary for CVCC, which has a director not a principal. This policy is fairly straight forward and should only require converting the recommended policy into the BSU Policy format.

Mr. Pandolfo will draft a policy using the model policy as a starting point. The draft policy will be presented for review at the next meeting.

5.4 Interscholastic Sports

Three documents were distributed;

C24 – Recommended Policy – Interscholastic Sports

F12 – SHS Policy – Interscholastic Athletics

IGDJ – BT Policy – Interscholastic Sports

Mr. Aither believes the recommended policy should be amended from ‘boys/girls’ to ‘students’. It was agreed that the gender language used in Title 9 should be reviewed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Recommended Model Policy, including the section pertaining eligibility. It was noted that eligibility requirements have been changed due to Proficiency Based Grading. It was noted that the reference to conforming to rules and regulations of the Vermont Principals’ Association is a key point in the policy. Reference to the Vermont Principals’ Association is in the implementation (#5) and eligibility (#4) sections of the Recommended Model Policy. In response to a query regarding a common policy for eligibility, it was suggested that consideration be given to advise in the policy, that eligibility will be defined in the Procedures for each school. In response to a query, it was noted that this policy refers to athletics only. Other ‘clubs’ are included in a separate Student Clubs and Activities Policy. Additional discussion was held regarding eligibility requirements at each school. **Mr. Pandolfo will draft a policy using the model policy as a starting point, amending the policy using the current eligibility verbiage. The draft policy will be presented for review at the next meeting.** Brief discussion was held regarding a recent parental request to allow 8th grade girls to join/play on the SHS hockey team. Mr. Valsangiacomo advised regarding recent student safety studies, which tie student size differences with an increased rate of concussions.

5.5 Field Trips

D30 – Policy to Consider – Field Trips

G3 – SHS Policy – Field Trips

IHOA – BT Policy – Field Trips and Excursions

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the teacher 'reporting' component listed in the Model Policy is not in the current SHS Policy. It was noted that there are field trips which may 'fall outside' of the Model Policy, but are considered to be important for various reasons (e.g. music program field trips, the historically held 'rite of passage' 8th grade field trips, ROTC field trips and out of country trips). It was noted that the BT policy is much different than the Model and SHS policies. The Committee may wish to consider incorporating some of the existing BT policy into a BSU policy. It was noted that the VSBA policy does not have a revision date. Mr. Derner requested that some of the procedures listed in the BT policy be incorporated into a BSU policy. Mr. Derner would like to see that the policy includes section 3 of the Model Policy. Section 3 defines the components that teachers are responsible for coordinating.

Mr. Pandolfo will draft a blended policy using the model policy as a starting point. The draft policy will be presented for review at the next meeting.

In response to a query, Mr. Pandolfo advised that he believes Work Based Learning / Flexible Pathways trips/visits would most likely be addressed under a separate policy. Mr. Aither queried regarding fund raising. Fund raising may be defined in a separate policy.

5.6 Communications

A draft policy titled 'Barre Supervisory Union – Social / Digital / Online Media Communications Policy for Staff' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the policy portion runs to the top of page 3, followed by procedures. Communications Specialist Ben Merrill drafted the document. Mr. Pandolfo advised that VSBA has been asked to review the document but has not yet responded. Mr. Pandolfo would like Committee Members to review the document and be prepared for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Pandolfo will follow up with Mr. Merrill regarding prompting VSBA for a response. It was noted that the policy and procedures should be split out into two separate documents.

6. Other Business

Mr. Pandolfo advised that there is no legal requirement to have two readings for each policy. The legal requirement is that there be a minimum ten day warning for public review.

Mr. Aither queried regarding the possibility of reviewing or rescinding the Class Size Policy. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the policy and advised that it does not reference Flexible Pathways. There may be a section under 'implementation' that covers Flexible Pathways. It is not known if VSBA has a recommended policy that addresses Flexible Pathways Programs.

Mr. Aither requested guidance on how adult students access their education/diploma (e.g. a 26 year old individual wanting to attend classes to obtain a G.E.D.). There is currently no known policy on this issue or the endorsement of any specific program (e.g. Adult Basic Education). The Statute is not clear regarding the high school's obligation to fund the education of adult students. SHS has received and paid invoices for adult students who took courses to allow them to achieve their diploma/GED. The students seeking their diploma/GED have not sought out any approval prior to taking courses. **Mr. Aither will contact VSBA regarding a possible policy which addresses adult students.**

Mr. Aither provided an update regarding policy F31 (STI and Pregnancy Prevention Policy), noting that all schools sent out a mailing before the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Thus far 46 SHS parents have submitted the document denying their children access to the program. Most of the forms were received from the parents of freshmen or IEP students. There has not been follow-up with those parents. Mr. Aither feels that the program outlined in the policy is successful. It is unknown if any BCEMS or BTMES parents have submitted opt out forms.

It was reiterated that Mr. Pandolfo will draft up policies (using the VSBA Model Policies to start) for policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Central Office Second Floor Conference Area.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin