

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
Spaulding High School – Library
January 4, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carlotta Simonds-Perantoni - Chair
David LaCroix - Vice Chair
Joe Blakely – Clerk – arrived at 6:15 p.m., departed at 7:13 p.m., re-joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.
Dotty Ricks
Mark Tatro

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Veronica Foiadelli-McCormick
Ed Rousse

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal
Luke Aither, Assistant Principal
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Lisa Perrault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore – Times Argus Julia Arguin Family “A”

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Perantoni, called the Monday, January 4, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 5:58 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Ricks requested an update regarding the Act 46 Public Hearing. This information is provided in the Superintendent’s report. Ms. Ricks requested discussion regarding upcoming School Board vacancies. Mrs. Perantoni advised that there will be two open positions; a 3 year term Barre Town Representative (the position currently held by Ms. Ricks), and Mrs. Foiadelli-McCormick’s (Barre City Representative) position. Ms. Ricks advised she will not be running for re-election. Mrs. Foiadelli-McCormick’s intentions are not known at this time. Mrs. Perantoni encouraged the public to run for Board positions, advising that work on the Board presents amazing opportunities for involvement in the educational system. Mrs. Perantoni advised regarding the procedures for running for election. Ms. Ricks advised she would like to see greater public outreach for these positions and requested that the SU office advertise the positions in newspapers, web sites, and various forums.

3. Executive Session – Student Matter

The item proposed for discussion in Executive Session is a Student Matter.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item proposed for discussion would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

Mr. Pandolfo, Mrs. Waterhouse, and Mr. Aither were invited to join Executive Session. Family “A” was also invited to join Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 6:28 p.m.

4. Visitors and Communication

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting.

6. Old Business

6.1 FY '17 Budget

Copies of draft budgets, and highlights were distributed. Mr. LaCroix thanked Mrs. Waterhouse and Ms. Chamberlain for their efforts on the proposed budgets (the SHS increase was less than 1% and the CVCC budget decreased by approximately 1%). Mr. Pandolfo (Superintendent) and Lisa Perreault (Business Manager) were thanked for their efforts in working with the Committee to draft fiscally responsible budgets that allow the district to continue providing a quality education to students. Mr. LaCroix advised regarding the Cost Per-Pupil thresholds imposed by the State, noting that the proposed cost per pupil (\$12,872) is below the threshold limit of \$12,874. Remaining within the threshold allowed taxpayers to avoid penalty payments. Additionally, Mr. LaCroix advised that the cost per pupil at SHS is consistently \$2000 - \$2500 less than the average cost of other schools in the state, while providing a quality education to students. Mr. LaCroix advised regarding expenses that impacted the budget (increases driven mainly by fixed costs - salary and benefit increases) and additionally, advised regarding new and eliminated positions. It was noted that Spaulding had a significant drop in enrollment, which resulted in a negative impact to the calculation of the cost per pupil. Due to student needs, Special Education costs have increased. Ms. Perreault addressed the Board and gave a Power Point presentation which provided an overview of the budget components, budget history, calculation of tax rates, and calculation of equalized pupil costs. It was noted that the tax rate is lower with the draft budget. Ms. Perreault also provided an example of the newly required ballot wording. Ms. Perreault provided an overview of budget development considerations, including the new requirements regarding payments into the teacher retirement system (for teachers new to the Vermont teachers' retirement system). Budget changes were necessary due to Act 153 (Special Education / Transportation at the SU level). Mr. Pandolfo distributed a document that identifies the cost per pupil at schools throughout the state. SHS has one of the lowest cost per pupil amounts. Ms. Perreault advised regarding the budget committee's goals, including the proposed change to re-name and re-assign funds in the current 'roof fund'. This change, if approved, will allow for use of Capital Funds to be utilized for other Capital improvements and repairs. Mr. Pandolfo has had the proposed language reviewed by counsel. It was clarified that the Board (not the general public) will determine how funds are spent. Mrs. Perantoni asked for confirmation that monies from the Capital Improvement fund would be utilized for emergency type repairs and not be used for general improvements or repairs. **On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Ms. Ricks, the Board unanimously voted to approve the budgets (SHS and CVCC) as presented.** Mrs. Perantoni thanked Ms. Perreault, Mr. Pandolfo, Administrators, and the Budget Committee for creating a very fiscally responsible budget that included thorough discussion to assure student needs are met and that SHS and CVCC continue to provide a quality education. Mrs. Perantoni encouraged members of the public to contact Board members with any questions.

7. New Business

7.1 FY '17 Tuition Rate

A document titled 'FY17 Announced Tuition' was distributed. Mrs. Perantoni and Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the tuition rates and the requirement to file the rates with the Agency of Education by January 15, 2016. **On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board unanimously voted to approve FY 2017 tuition rates for students who enter SHS and/or CVCC on a tuition basis as follows: \$14,424 for Spaulding High School, and \$12,350 for Central Vermont Career Center.**

7.2 Warning for March 1, 2016

A draft of the Spaulding Union High School District #41, Warning for March 1, 2016 was distributed. Brief discussion was held, including a recommendation to change wording to clarify that authorization to use "Roof Funds/Capital Funds" "**for unforeseen facility repairs, other than roof repairs**". It was noted that CVCC should be spelled out.

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended (verbiage and amounts), the Warning for the Spaulding Union High School District #41, March 1, 2016 vote. (Article I, expenses: \$13,010,466, education spending \$12,872, and spending per equalized pupil 3% higher).

7.3 Warning for February 29, 2016

A draft of the Spaulding Union High School District #41 Annual Meeting Warning for February 29, 2016 was distributed. Mrs. Perantoni read the document and provided a brief overview. It was noted that the document needed to be amended to reflect the correct meeting date (February 29, 2016).

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Spaulding Union High School District #41 Annual Meeting Warning for February 29, 2016

7.4 School Choice

A document titled 'Agreement to Join the Winooski Valley & Statewide Choice of Public High School Collaborative for the 2016-2017 School Year Under Act 129 (Sec. 34 § 822d 2A)' was distributed. Mrs. Perantoni and Mr. Pandolfo provided information regarding

the purpose of this Agreement. It was noted that information for the current year's Agreement was also presented for review. **On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2016-2017 School Choice Agreement as presented.**

7.5 Board Stipend Payment Schedule

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the stipend payment schedule, advising that currently all three Boards have different payment schemes. To provide more efficiency, it is the goal to change board stipend payments to one system. The proposed payment schedule is for bi-annual payments approximately every six months.

On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to approve bi-annual Board Stipend payments (once every six months), with the first payment date to be determined by the Business Office.

7.6 First Reading Curriculum Development & Coordination Policy (G1)

Copies of all policies referenced in 7.6 through 7.16 were distributed. Ms. Ricks advised that policy G1 should not be on the Agenda. No discussion or voting (of G1) will occur at this time.

7.7 First Reading Field Trips Policy (G3)

Ms. Ricks provided a brief overview. Mr. Aither requested that #2, under implementation, be removed from the policy.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board voted 3 to 1 to approve, as amended, the First Reading of the Field Trips Policy (G3). Ms. Ricks voted against the motion. Mrs. Perantoni, Mr. Tatro and Mr. LaCroix voted for the motion. It was noted that Mrs. Perantoni cast a vote in the absence of Mr. Blakely. Mr. Blakely re-joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m., as discussion of Agenda item 7.8 was about to begin.

7.8 First Reading Selecting Library Material Policy (G4)

On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Selecting Library Material Policy (G4).

7.9 First Reading Selection of Instructional Materials and Sensitive Issues Policy (G5)

Brief discussion was held. Mr. Aither advised that #6 under "Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues", is in line with the handbook and current procedures. **On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Selection of Instructional Materials and Sensitive Issues Policy (G5).**

7.10 First Reading Educational Support System Policy (G7)

On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Educational Support System Policy (G7).

7.11 First Reading Local Action Plan Policy (G8)

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he believes this policy is outdated and requires revisions. Mr. Pandolfo recommends postponing discussion, revisions, and approval until VSBA updates the model policy. The Board agreed to accept the Superintendent's recommendation.

7.12 First Reading Grade Advancement: Retention, Promotion & Acceleration of Students Policy (G9)

Ms. Ricks advised that this is a required policy. Mr. Aither believes this policy appears to be written for lower grade levels and queried whether or not it was required at the high school level. The Board agreed to set this policy aside for discussion at the SU level.

7.13 First Reading Responsible Computer Network & Internet Use Policy (G11)

Ms. Ricks advised that this policy is required. Brief discussion was held. The Board agreed to also set this policy aside, for discussion at the SU level.

7.14 First Reading Title I Comparability Policy (G12)

Mr. Pandolfo advised that this policy was adopted by the SU Board in November. No action will be taken tonight. Mr. Pandolfo and Ms. Ricks will discuss this policy at the next SU Committee meeting.

7.15 First Reading Animal Dissection Policy (G13)

On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Animal Dissection Policy (G13).

7.16 First Reading Class Size Policy (G14)

Brief discussion was held. It was noted that this policy does not conflict with teacher contracts. Minor changes were recommended to #s 4 and 5 in the 'Implementation' section. **On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the First Reading of the Class Size Policy (G14).**

8. Other Business

None.

9. Reports to the Board

9.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 28, 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to: the Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee (public forum will be held on January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Spaulding High School), the upcoming Legislative Breakfast (January 25, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Lunchbox at SHS/CVCC), the upcoming Administrative Winter Retreat (January 27, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.), a copy of the VSBIT memorandum pertaining to documents which fall under the Public Records Act, and the PATH grant (the grant was not received, as grants were awarded to those with a higher need). A copy of the Act 46 Public Forum Agenda was also distributed. There were no questions for Mr. Pandolfo. Mrs. Perantoni advised she is pleased to see the upcoming scheduled Act 46 Public Forum. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the public is invited to attend this forum to gain knowledge, ask questions, and provide feedback regarding transition to the next phase. In response to Ms. Ricks concern regarding public notification of the meeting (Ms. Ricks would like to see a 'robo-call' go out to all parents), it was noted that flyers had been/will be mailed to all students' parents (SHS, BTMES, and BCEMS), the forum is being advertised 3 times in the Times Argus, as well as the Washington World, and the meeting has also been announced on the SU and school web sites, Facebook, and Front Porch Forum.

9.2 Principal

Mrs. Waterhouse advised that finals will be held the week of January 11, 2016. The exam schedule is on the school web site, as well as being posted in the school. Responding to a concern regarding parental knowledge of school changes, Mrs. Waterhouse advised that updates are being made to the school web site, and asked that the public notify the school if they notice incorrect or out of date information. Mrs. Perantoni advised that she very much enjoys the daily announcements on the web site, as well as the calendar.

9.3 CVCC Director

Ms. Chamberlin noted that during SHS final exams, CVCC will be running its regular schedule. Ms. Chamberlin advised that CVCC is looking into moving the office downstairs. This move has been discussed at both the Facility and Finance Committee levels. This proposed change which could be partially funded by surplus monies, would provide for added security. The Agency of Education has advised that Ms. Chamberlin should seek Board approval for use of surplus funds to assist with the project. Brief discussion ensued, including discussion of an anticipated surplus due to a Pre-Tech Program that was not run (resulting in \$75,000 savings). Ms. Chamberlin is requesting approval based on an unaudited surplus. Ms. Chamberlin anticipates that the renovations would cost approximately \$70,000. **On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Ms. Ricks, the Board unanimously voted to authorize CVCC Administration to access FY15 surplus funds to be used to relocate (at a cost not to exceed \$90,000) the Administrative Office, for the purpose of improving overall safety and security on campus.**

9.4 Committee Reports

Policy Committee –

A copy of the minutes from the December 18, 2015 meeting was distributed. The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Curriculum Committee –

Mrs. Waterhouse advised that the Committee has been reviewing Trauma Informed Learning and has been working with an outside organization for training (North Eastern Family Institute). The Curriculum Committee has discussed the shift to Proficiency Based Learning. Five year plans are in place for the two initiatives noted above. The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2016.

Finance Committee –

The next meeting will be held on February 1, 2016 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Facilities Committee –

Mr. Blakely advised that the solar project is slated to go on-line in late spring or early summer. The snow removal contract will be up for negotiation soon. LED lights have been installed in the cafeteria. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

9.5 Financials

Copies of the Expense Budget Status Reports (dated 12/29/15) for SHS and CVCC were distributed. No discussion was held.

9.6 Student Representatives

Julia Arguin reported that the sports teams have been busy with many games, Drama Club members will be heading to Boston for a field trip on Friday, January 8, 2016, and that the Student Council is holding breakfasts on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, to feed homeless individuals.

10. Future Agenda Items

Board members were advised to contact Mrs. Perantoni or Mr. Pandolfo regarding future agenda items.

11. Executive Session

11.1 Legal Matter

11.2 Student Matter

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Legal Matter and a Student Matter.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

Mr. Pandolfo was invited to join Executive Session for the Legal Matter.

Mr. Pandolfo, Mrs. Waterhouse, and Mr. Aither were invited to join Executive Session for the Student Matter.

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:23 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to deny a parent request on a student matter.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Ricks, seconded by Mr. LaCroix, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin