

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
Barre Supervisory Union – 1st Floor Conference Room
December 21, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

David LaCroix - Chair
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Paul Malone
John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Lisa Perrault, Business Manager
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dotty Ricks

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jason Derner – arrived at 2:37 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. LaCroix, called the Wednesday, December 21, 2016, Finance Committee meeting to order at 2:20 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union in the First Floor Conference Room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Waterhouse, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2016 Finance Committee meeting.

4. FY18 Budget Development

Six documents were distributed; 'SHS / CVCC Proposed FY18 BUDGET Considerations 12/21/16' document, a draft of the SHS / CVCC Proposed FY18 Budgets Power Point presentation slides (dated 12/07/16), the SHS and CVCC FY18 Budget drafts (dated 12/21/16), the 'FY18 Proposed BSU School District Budgets Unified – 12/21/16' report, and the 'FY18 Central Vermont Career Center Projected Tuition' document. Mrs. Perreault began the discussion by providing an overview of the Power Point Presentation draft. Mr. LaCroix advised that a limited number of items are responsible for the majority of the budget increase, including State mandates (work based learning), salary and benefit increases, and a drop in student population. The drop in student population would result in a rise in the cost per equalized pupil even if there were no increases in the budget. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated that declining enrollment is the largest contributing factor to the 4% increase. There is concern that the ballot will show an increase even though the tax rate will remain about the same as it currently is. Mr. Pandolfo advised that if Act 46 passes, the incentives and implementation grant will help lower the impact, but the budget numbers and expenses would remain the same. Thus the savings attributed to consolidation would not be as obvious. Mrs. Waterhouse and Ms. Chamberlin will send any necessary Power Point Presentation changes to Mrs. Perreault. Mrs. Perreault was thanked for her efforts developing the budget and creating the Power Point Presentation. It was noted that Mr. McMahon was able to make some reductions to the Special Education budget. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that she is trying to reconfigure staff to help lower expenses. Mr. Malone voiced concern regarding field trip and conference expenses being added to the budget. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that there is very little that can be cut from the budget other than athletics. Extensive discussion has been held regarding the expansion of the Flexible Pathways program, and it was noted that utilizing Flexible Pathways is a good investment as it is much less expensive than placing students in alternative programs. The \$75,000 expense to expand the program has been removed from the budget, but the end result may be much higher expenses for out placement. There are currently 28 applicants for 8 available slots. The program, as it exists, does not have the capacity to serve the number of students who are eligible. Brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of reducing the maintenance budget. Ms. Chamberlin provided a brief overview of the CVCC documents and advised that there is an overall budgetary decrease, but the budget looks higher due to the loss of students (a loss of 7 FTEs over the past few years). Ms. Chamberlin noted that CVCC remains one of the lowest 'priced' technical centers in the state. Ms. Chamberlin cautioned that storage space will need to be added at some point in the future because there is not enough storage space per student.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is to be determined.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Chamberlin, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin