



unified budget audit for FY20. Mr. Kimberly reiterated that under a merged district, only one entity will be included in the audit thus reconciliation between multiple entities will no longer occur. It was noted that Mrs. Perreault was very involved in the 'Management's Discussion and Analysis' portion of the audit. Brief discussion was held regarding the impact of the transition to the Unified Chart of Accounts, with Mr. Kimberly advising that there may be some analytical challenges involved. In response to a query, it was noted that much grant management is involved at the SU level. Mr. Mudgett provided a brief overview of the 'Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions' (Page 27 – 28, #10). There has been an accounting change beginning with FY18, as the District adopted GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) Statement No. 75. The Board expressed its gratitude to Mrs. Perreault and the auditors from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Hull, the Board unanimously voted to accept the FY18 Audit as presented, acknowledging that some finalization of dates will be performed within a few days of this meeting.**

## **5.2 Announced Tuition**

Two documents were distributed; 'FY20 Announced Tuition' and 'LEAID: U097 Barre UUSD'. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the change in information being presented as tuition is being announced under the Unified District. In response to a query regarding State input regarding the Announced Tuition, Mrs. Perreault advised that at the end of FY20, revenues and expenditures will be provided to the State. If it is determined that the Announced Tuition is +/- 3% of the actual cost, additional funds can be recovered from, or will be refunded to sending districts. The Announced Tuition is the amount that non-resident parents (or towns, at the high school level) will pay (per child) to send their children to schools within the district. The increase in the announced tuition is in part due to consolidation. Due to the proposed budget increases, it is not known if BTMES Tuition would be lower in an unmerged district. It was noted that the difference in cost per pupil between BCEMS and BTMES is currently about \$400. The difference when compared to the high school is larger because the cost to education high school students is greater. Consolidation helps to lower the high school tuition. Most tuitioned students are at the high school. Very few students are tuitioned to the elementary and middle schools. There are currently no students tuitioned to BTMES.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the annual tuition rates as proposed (K-6 \$14,000 and 7-12 \$14,500).**

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 Act 46**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that moving forward, 'Act 46' will no longer be an Agenda Item. 'Act 46' will be replaced with 'Merger Update'. Mr. Pandolfo advised that two current Board Members' seats are expiring; Mr. Paterson (3 year term ends in March 2019) and Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins (2 year term ends in March 2019). Mr. Pandolfo asked the current Board Members to consider running for their respective current seats. Mr. Pandolfo has received the appropriate petitions from the Town Clerk. Each Board Member who is running should enter in the correct 'term' on their petition to avoid having two candidates run for the same seat. It has been confirmed that the terms of 2 and 3 years should be on the petition even though the Board will be dissolved after completion of FY19 business.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Committee formed to amend Articles of Agreement has met. The Amendment Committee reviewed Default Articles of Agreement and recommend replacing Default Articles of Agreement 10 and 11 with Articles of Agreement 9 and 10 drafted by the previous 706 Study Committee. Approval to replace these Articles of Agreement requires approval by a majority of voters 'overall' (combination of both communities). The Committee also recommends replacing Default Articles of Agreement 3 and 4 with Articles of Agreement 13 and 14 drafted by the previous 706 Study Committee. Approval to replace these Articles of Agreement requires approval by a majority of voters in both the City and the Town. If the result of the revote on 01/08/19 is 'no', the proposed recommendations will be brought before the Transitional Board. A public hearing will need to be held (01/10/19) and a vote will need to be held (02/19/19, or no later than 02/28/19). Two meetings will be held on 01/10/19; a public hearing followed by a meeting of the BUUSD Board or the Transitional Board. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated that Public Informational Hearings must be held prior to any Australian ballot vote. If the result of the revote is 'yes', no action will be necessary as the Articles of Agreement crafted by the Study Committee will stand as written. Minutes from the Amendment Committee's first meeting will be posted on-line within 5 business days. The next meeting of the Amendment Committee is slated for January 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. In response to a query, it was noted that Statute requires that students in grade 3 and below are housed on the first floor of a school.

### **6.1.1 Exit Poll for January 8, 2019**

A document titled 'Suggested Exit Survey Questions for January 8' was distributed. Brief discussion was held. An on-line survey will be posted (in addition to the paper Exit Poll). Mr. Pandolfo advised that Board Members will need to be at the polls to distribute the paper version. Mr. Paterson suggested that a comments/concerns area be added to the Exit Poll/Survey. Other minor changes were requested by the Board. Mr. Pandolfo will make the requested changes. The Board agreed to have 500 paper copies printed. Mrs. Farrell will contact the Town Clerk regarding table set-up for the Exit Poll.

Mrs. Pompei advised that she has received feedback from community members who want to use the Articles of Agreement created by the 706 Study Committee, and are looking for the Board to issue a statement regarding their support of the upcoming vote.

**Mrs. Pompei moved that the Board support a 'yes' vote on January 8, 2019. The motion was not seconded.**

Mr. Paterson believes that community members have already made up their minds and he does not believe a statement from the Board will change any minds. Mr. Paterson reiterated that he fully supports a yes vote, but is concerned that a statement from the Board might result in some negative feedback. Mrs. Farrell advised that she fully supports a 'yes' vote, but she has mixed emotions regarding issuing a statement, because she is concerned regarding what the result will be. Mrs. Farrell feels that it is of the utmost importance that community members vote 'yes' on January 8, 2019.

## **6.2 Budget FY20**

Four documents were distributed; 'FY20 Barre Unified Union School District Budget Highlights – December 20, 2018 – Draft #3', BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations Budget Years 2019 – 2020' (For Barre City and Barre Town), and a document titled 'Barre Unified Union School District FY20 Proposed Budget, Draft – 12/20/18'. Mr. Pandolfo advised that if the vote on 01/08/19 passes; the new Board will need to quickly finalize an approved budget so that it can be placed on the ballot for a March Town Meeting vote. Mrs. Perreault and Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of Budget Draft #3. The CLA is now known, but is not yet included in the numbers being presented. Equalized Pupil counts remain outstanding and could have a significant impact on the budget. The budget, as drafted, will result in a tax rate increase of 5 cents (without tax incentives/a 'no' vote), and will result in a decrease of 3 cents (with tax incentives/a 'yes' vote).

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.1. Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 27, 2018 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Act 46, Negotiations, and Health Insurance. Mr. Pandolfo advised that CVCC will be hosting a series of public forums in various towns regarding the possible relocation and future of CVCC. The first public forum will be held on 01/10/19 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Old Schoolhouse Common Meeting Room in Marshfield, VT

### **7.2 Principals Report**

The BTMES Administrative Report for January 2, 2019 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the District Management Group, Enrollment (a copy of the report was distributed), the Geo Bee, Great Schools Partnership, the Holiday Gift Drive, Middle School Winter Concerts, Professional Development Goals, Custodial/Maintenance Projects performed over the December break, and Upcoming Events (End of Q2 on 01/11/19 and Report Cards 01/18/19). A copy of the January Newsletter was distributed. An article in The Herald titled 'Tunbridge Artist Utilizes Landscapes, Litter' was also distributed. Mrs. Nye highlighted the article from The Herald which highlights work by BTMES Art teacher Anne Leeds. It was noted that enrollment decreased by 5, but may be increasing by 5 in the near future. Mr. Pandolfo advised he would like to start using Infinite Campus Messenger to send letters to school families.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

#### **7.3.1 Verbal Report of BSU Committees -**

Minutes from all BSU Committee meetings were previously sent to all Board Members.

#### **BSU Curriculum Committee -**

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

#### **BSU Policy Committee –**

The next meeting is Monday, February 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU in the Second Floor Conference Area.

#### **BSU Finance Committee -**

The Committee did not meet in December.

The next meeting is January 17, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

#### **BSU Facilities Committee -**

The Facilities Committee did not meet in December. No meetings are scheduled for January or February.

#### **BSU Communications Committee -**

The next meeting date for the Communications Committee is to be determined.

#### **BSU Negotiations Committee –**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he received an e-mail regarding scheduling a meeting with teachers and para-educators. The teachers and para-educators would like to negotiate together. Possible dates to meet are; 01/15/19 and 01/31/19.

The next meeting date of the Negotiations Committee is to be announced.

### **7.4 Financials**

The BTMES General Fund Expenditure Report and BSU Expenditure Report (both dated 12/26/18) were distributed. Mrs. Pompei advised that there is only \$439.50 remaining in the toner budget. Mrs. Pompei would like to receive additional information regarding toner purchase/use.

## **8. Other Business**

Mr. Evans is moving forward with RFPs for some of the projects previously discussed. The purchase or lease of a truck with plow and sander is on hold for now. Mr. Evans is seeking additional estimates for the front canopy work.

## **9. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Committee Meetings**

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library Facility Items will be included on the next Agenda.

## **10. Executive Session**

### **10.1 Administrator Evaluations**

### **10.2 Superintendent Evaluation**

### **10.3 Bus Stop Issue**

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Evaluations for the Superintendent and Administrators and a Bus Stop Issue.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Paterson, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place Barre Town Middle and Elementary School at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.**

**On a motion by Mr. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:44 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.**

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

**On a motion by Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mr. Hull, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.**

## **11. Adjournment**

The information provided by the Board Clerk indicates that there was no motion to adjourn.

See next page for a copy of the e-mail from Senator Ann Cummings.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ann Cummings** <[ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us)>  
Date: [Wed, Dec 19, 2018](#) at 2:52 PM  
Subject: Re: Act 46 legislation and tonight's meeting  
To: Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins <[rkerinhutchins@bsu61.org](mailto:rkerinhutchins@bsu61.org)>

Rebecca

Thank you for writing. Unfortunately, I have a prior commitment this evening. I know there will be some proposals to adjust Act 46 but I don't know any details. I am working with Rep. Ancell trying to find a way help towns deal with uneven debt. So many districts have merged that I doubt Act 46 will be repealed. We will probably try to find ways to help districts work out their individual obstacles. If there is anything I can do to help Barre Town please let me know.

Ann  
[nhutchins@bsu61.org](mailto:nhutchins@bsu61.org)>  
Sent: [Wednesday, December 19, 2018 10:55:43 AM](#)  
To: Ann Cummings  
Subject: Act 46 legislation and tonight's meeting

Dear Senator Cummings,

I read the VT Digger article that mentions some people are drafting new Act 46 legislation. As you may know, Act 46 and forced merger is a very contentious issue in the Barre Supervisory Union. Barre Town residents have voted against merging multiple times, and we currently have a split Board with regards to joining the pending lawsuit or not.

What we need at this point is someone to help inform us about the new legislation, the lawsuit, and/or anything else we need to know about possibly putting a pause on merging.

Might you be willing to join our Board meeting this evening for public comment? I realize it is very short notice and a very busy time of year. If you are unable to join might you consider replying to my email with some information I could share?

Our meeting is at Barre Town Middle & Elementary School in the library at 6pm.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Rebecca

--  
-- Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins  
Board Member, BTMES and BSU

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*