

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library

February 11, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Sarah Pregent - Clerk
Jennifer Chioldi
Andrew McMichael
Chris Riddell – arrived at 5:45 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair
Michael Deering

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Hayden Coon, Principal
Chris Hennessey, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Gabby Cota	Emily Dion	Sage Frost
Cinder Greig	Dodge Hopper	Claire Isabelle	Raymond McCuen	Samantha Plemons
Reanna Rey	Gretchen Singer			

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, February 11, 2019, Regular meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School James Taffel Library. The flag salute followed.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2019 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the January 14, 2019 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

There were no resignations, retirements, or new hires presented.

5.2 Student Presentation

Mr. Hennessey introduced Gretchen Singer, BCEMS Spanish teacher. Ms. Singer addressed the Board advising that students were involved in The Pulsera Bracelets Project, which was initiated in 2009. This project raises money for students in Nicaragua educational programs and helps support fair wages. Students are selling handmade bracelets and have raised over \$1,200 so far. Each bracelet has a tag containing the artists' information. The bracelets and an informational board were on display at the meeting. Ms. Singer introduced the students, who provided additional information, including historical information relating to how the Pulsera Bracelets Project began and how it benefits students in Nicaragua. There are currently over 2,500 schools participating in the project. BCEMS students are selling the bracelets at school, and have sold over half of the 500 bracelets they started with.

6. Old Business

6.1 Merger Update

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a document titled 'Merger Update' that was printed from the BSU web site. Mr. Pandolfo proceeded to provide an overview of the document. A public informational hearing will be held on 02/18/19, the evening before the 02/19/19 vote. The vote relates to changing the Default Articles of Agreement that relate to changes to school structure and Board configuration. The Transitional Board met on 01/10/19 and will meet again on 02/18/19 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. The 02/18/19 meeting will include approval of the draft Warnings for the Board Member Election vote which is slated for 04/09/19. The Warnings (for 4 and 9 member boards) have been drafted and petitions are available from the Barre City and Barre Town Clerks. Petitions are due to the City/Town Clerks by 03/04/19. Mrs. Spaulding has concerns regarding the limited timeframe in which to gather signatures and submit petitions. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated the need to fill existing Board Seats and stressed that it would be beneficial to have experienced board members on the district boards. The District Boards will remain operational until 06/30/19 and will then only perform work necessary to conclude FY19 business. The Initial BUUSD Board is expected to meet shortly after the 04/09/19 election to receive a budget from the Transitional Board, and to approve a Warning for a budget vote.

Mr. Pandolfo provided clarification regarding the two Articles to be voted on on 02/19/19. The two Articles relate to changing the Default Articles of Agreement.

Article 1 pertains to requiring voter approval to close or restructure the schools. A 'yes' vote requires a public vote for changes to school structure/closure. A 'no' vote grants voter protection for 2 years. After 2 years, the BUUSD Board can make changes without voter approval. For Article 1 to pass, it must be passed by a majority of voters in both Barre City and in Barre Town.

Article 2 pertains to board structure. A 'yes' vote will result in a 9 member board (4 BC / 4 BT / 1 At-large). A 'no' vote will result in a 4 member board (2 BC / 2 BT). For Article 2 to pass requires a majority of votes from both communities (votes in totality, but not comingled).

Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of Act 46 activity 'outside' of the BSU, advising that there are no less than 6 new bills that were introduced to the House and no less than 3 that were introduced to the Senate. Mr. Pandolfo has provided testimony regarding the impact a merger delay would have on the Barre Supervisory Union. Bill H39 passed in the House and still needs to be passed by the Senate and the Governor. More information relating to lawsuits may be available in the near future. The BSU will continue to operate under the premise that the merged district needs to be operational by 07/01/19. There is some concern that the budget may not be approved by 07/01/19. The current draft results in a 7 cent increase for both Barre City and Barre Town taxpayers. If the budget is not approved by 07/01/19, the BUUSD may borrow money to cover operating expenses (up to 87%) of the FY19 budget. Mr. Riddell advised that he believes it would be very unfair and very difficult for the BSU, if it was ordered to operate as an unmerged district. Much planning, including budget work, has been performed with the understanding that all BSU schools would operate in a single merged district.

6.2 Budget FY20 Update

Two documents were distributed; a letter to Secretary Daniel French (dated 01/25/19, and a letter from Secretary French to Business Managers, Human Resource Officers and Superintendents (dated 01/31/19). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the letter to Secretary French, and his reply. The correspondence relates to concerns with the implementation of the Statewide School District Data Management System and the Unified Chart of Accounts. Given the number of issues to date, VASBO has requested a revision to the implementation deadline, a successful pilot program prior to implementation, and filling the vacant e-Finance liaison position at the AOE. Secretary French has replied acknowledging that issues exist. Mrs. Perreault has responded to Secretary French's reply. A change to the implementation date requires legislative action. It was noted that Mrs. Perreault has built a module in the existing system, to handle the merged budget. It was noted that the Uniform Chart of Accounts needs to be clearly defined prior to implementation. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Mrs. Perreault is the President Elect of VASBO (Vermont Association of School Business Officials), which speaks well of her abilities and support of her colleagues.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated January 30, 2019 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the new web site, the School Calendar, a Merger Update, and Negotiations. A document titled 'Certificate of Environmental Stewardship' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that BCEMS diverted 51,600 pounds of food scraps in 2018, and received a certificate from Grow Compost of Vermont.

Mr. Pandolfo advised of H.C.R. 2, whereby the Legislature passed the House Concurrent Resolution designating January 2019 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there have been 4 school cancellation days, which puts the last day of school on 06/21/19, though that date may change. The BSU has 180 student days in the schedule, but only 175 are required. Given the changing weather patterns, Mr. Pandolfo believes that more thought will need to go into the planning of future schedules and the creation of a 'common' calendar. Mrs. Spaulding advised that there are many ways to continue to be a voice for 'our schools', and encouraged school board members to start having conversations with legislators. Mrs. Spaulding stressed the

importance of educating our legislators regarding education related matters. Mrs. Spaulding encouraged all the boards to hold discussions with legislators.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated February 11, 2019 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; recognition of Pierre LaFlamme and Kristin Morrison for their efforts in developing and implementing enhancements to the Behavior Support Program, the Math Carnival, improved community connections, and Professional Development. Mr. Coon advised that the new After-School Program has been named the Twin City BullCats. The first session will run from 03/11/19 – 04/12/19 at BCEMS. To-date, ten BCEMS employees have signed up to offer programming. Mr. Coon advised that they hope to have 50 to 60 students enrolled in the program. The second session will begin after April break and will run until Memorial weekend. There is no cost to families for this program. Program Coordinators are Tamara Cooley (BTMES) and Jennifer Bisson (BCEMS).

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Facility/Security

The next meeting is Monday, April 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

7.3.2 Finance

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

7.3.3 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 Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Central Office 2nd Floor Conference Area

BSU Policy Committee -

The next meeting is Monday, February 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2nd Floor Conference Area

BSU Finance Committee -

The next meeting is to be announced. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019.

BSU Facilities Committee -

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Location is to be determined.

BSU Communications Committee -

The Committee met on 01/31/19. The new web site is up and looks great. Please communicate feedback to the webmasters. Mr. Pandolfo advised that a pop up window for the 02/19/19 vote has been added to the site.

The next meeting of the Communications Committee is Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Central Office.

BSU Negotiations Committee -

The Committee last met on 01/31/19.

The next Negotiations Committee meeting is to be announced.

7.4 Financial Report

The BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary Report and the BSU Expenditures-FY19 Report (both dated 01/25/19) were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding would like to see an FY19 year-end projection. Year-end information will be provided at the March 2019 meeting. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding page 3 of the BSU report which shows a deficit of \$360,773.56 under account number 100-211-1200-5320-11 BC SPED INSTR – CONTRC ED SRVC. This amount may be offset by something else. Research will be performed.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

The next meeting is Monday, March 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the James Taffel Library.

Agenda Items:

Board Reorganization

Resigns/Retires/New Hires

Merger Update

FY19 Year-end Projections

Mr. Pandolfo advised that a meeting of the BSU Directors will be held on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Evans has advised that he feels working with the new principals has been going very well, and extends his thanks to them for all of their efforts.

It was noted that administrators are looking into holding summer school at BTMES this year. Research needs to be performed to see if free meals can continue to be served during summer school.

9. Executive Session

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin