

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TRANSITIONAL BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School – Library  
February 18, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Malone, Chair  
Sonya Spaulding, Vice Chair – arrived at 5:46 p.m.  
Alice Farrell, Clerk  
Tim Boltin  
Sarah Pregent

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech      Dave Delcore – Times Argus      Guy Isabelle      Armand Dion

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Monday, February 18, 2019, meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Public Comment**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has received a variety of e-mails, mostly with questions, and one from a community member who expressed that they felt a lot of good could happen by 'joining the schools'.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2019 - BUUSD Organizational (Special) Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2019 - BUUSD Organizational (Special) Meeting.**

**4.2 Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2019 Transitional Board Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Transitional Meeting.**

**4.3 Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2019 Special Transitional Board Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2019 Special Transitional Board Meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 April 9, 2019 Barre Unified Union School District Warning**

Two Draft Warnings titled 'WARNING for the SPECIAL MEETING of the BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT April 9, 2019' were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that though he is asking the Board to approve two Warnings, only one will be published. The outcome of the February 19, 2019 vote will determine which Warning will be published. Four additional documents were distributed; BUUSD Board Seat Petitions for both Barre City and Barre Town, and Consent of Candidate Forms for both Barre City and Barre Town.

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warnings titled 'WARNING for the SPECIAL MEETING of the BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT April 9, 2019'.**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that hard copies of board seat petitions were included in the Board packet, and provided an overview of the seats and their terms based on both board configurations (4 members or 9 members). Mr. Pandolfo advised that if the vote results in a 4 member board, board members will be elected by members of both communities. If the vote results in a 9 member board, Barre City residents will elect the 4 'Barre City' seats, Barre Town residents will elect the 4 'Barre Town' seats, and the At-large seat will be

elected by residents from both communities. Petitions for non-At-large seats require 30 signatures and the At-large seat requires the signatures of 60 residents. Signatures for the 'At-large' seat may come from residents from either community. City/Town Clerks will validate that those signing the petitions are registered voters. The upcoming vote has been publicized on the web-site, Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and was also in the Times Argus.

### **5.2 First Draft of FY20 BUUSD Budget**

The 'FY20 Barre Unified Union School District Budget Highlights – January 10, 2019 – DRAFT 3' was distributed. The BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations for both Barre City and Barre Town were also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo distributed an amended budget packet, advising that the expenditure budget has not changed, but the equalized pupil count (from the State) has been frozen. The equalized pupil count is set at 2410. Mr. Pandolfo advised that nothing else in the budget has changed, and that the current draft budget results in a 6 cent increase for Barre City and a 7 cent increase in Barre Town. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the amended Tax Rate page, and suggested that the Board consider using some of the Tax Stabilization Fund to lower the tax increase. If \$500,000 was used, the tax increases would be lowered to 4 cents for Barre City and 5 cents for Barre Town. The budget, as amended with the new equalized pupil count results in per pupil spending of \$13,615, a 4.77% increase. Mr. Pandolfo advised that it is the Transitional Board's responsibility to present a budget to the Initial Board. If the Initial Board approves the budget draft at their initial meeting, a budget vote could be held in May. If the Initial Board does not approve the budget draft at their initial meeting, the budget vote will need to be delayed. Mr. Pandolfo queried the Transitional Board regarding their interest in working with the BSU Finance Committee to review the budget. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding possible changes to the fund balances, advising that she believes they will diminish some due to work scheduled for the summer. In response to a query from Mr. Boltin regarding the value of lowering the tax rate using the Tax Stabilization Fund, Mr. Pandolfo advised that 6 and 7 cent increases are considered to be fairly high/steep. In response to a query from Mrs. Farrell regarding the impact of contract negotiations, Mr. Pandolfo advised that some increase (for contract negotiations) has been built into the budget, but there are many factors involved and the full impact is not known at this time. Mrs. Spaulding would like to defer budget discussions until after the March Board meetings, when the Boards will have a better sense of year-end projections. Mr. Pandolfo would like to hold the Initial Meeting of the Initial Board on 04/11/19. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the proposed budget includes new positions. The new positions have not been posted yet. Late postings do have drawbacks. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the positions could be posted as 'anticipated positions', though that is sometimes a drawback in attracting candidates.

### **6. Old Business**

None.

### **7. Other Business**

None.

### **8. Executive Session**

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

### **9. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:06 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*