

# **BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library  
March 11, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonya Spaulding – Chair  
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair  
Sarah Pregent - Clerk  
Jennifer Chioldi  
Andrew McMichael

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michael Deering  
Chris Riddell

#### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

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

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech                  Dave Delcore-Times Argus

#### **1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Superintendent, Mr. Pandolfo, called the Monday, March 11, 2019, Regular meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., which was held at Barre City Elementary and Middle School in the James Taffel Library. The flag salute followed.**

#### **2. Executive Session**

##### **2.1 Student Matter**

A Student Matter was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

**On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Hennessey, Mr. Pandolfo, and Mr. Cecchinelli in attendance, at 5:34 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 5:56 p.m.**

A second Executive Session took place after Agenda Item 11 – Round Table and Future Agenda items, when the Board agreed to revisit the Student Matter in Executive Session.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Hennessey, Mr. Pandolfo, and Mr. Cecchinelli in attendance, at 7:46 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.**

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

**On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.**

#### **3. New Board Member Interviews**

##### **3.1 Barre City**

A letter of interest from Mr. Giuliano Cecchinelli, II was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the open Board seat was advertised in the Times Argus and on Front Porch Forum. Mr. Cecchinelli submitted a letter of interest. No other letters of interest have been received. It was noted that if the BCEMS Board appoints an individual to the vacant seat, that individual will not be eligible to vote on Board matters until after he/she has taken the oath of office.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Cecchinelli for one year of the three-year seat.**

### **3.2 Spaulding High School**

A letter of interest from Mr. Anthony Folland was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the open Board seat was advertised in the Times Argus and on Front Porch Forum. The BCEMS Board is responsible for appointing members to the SHS Board. Mr. Folland submitted a letter of interest. No other letters of interest have been received. The Spaulding High School Board supports the appointment of Mr. Folland. It was noted that if the BCEMS Board appoints an individual to the vacant SHS seat, the appointee will not be eligible to vote on Board matters until after he/she has taken the oath of office.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Folland for one year of the three-year seat.**

### **4. Board Re-organization**

The Annual Reorganizational Check List was distributed. VSBA Board Re-organization documentation was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Board re-organization, advising that the Board may wish to keep all assignments 'as is' given the short timeframe the Board will be in existence. Regular operational duties of the Board will cease on 06/30/19. After that date, the Board will only conduct business necessary to close out FY19. A copy of an e-mail from Kerri Lamb (VSBA) was also distributed. Copies of the Code of Ethics document were distributed to each Board Member for signature.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to elect/appoint as elected/appointed in 2018:**

**Board Chair: Sonya Spaulding  
Vice-Chair: Giuliano Cecchinelli, II  
Clerk: Sarah Pregent**

**Barre Supervisory Union Board Representatives: Sonya Spaulding, Jennifer Chioldi, and Sarah Pregent.**

### **Committee Assignments:**

**Finance Committee: Sarah Pregent (Chair), Chris Riddell, and Michael Deering  
Facilities Committee: Giuliano Cecchinelli (Chair), Andrew McMichael, and Michael Deering  
BSU Curriculum Committee: Jennifer Chioldi, and Chris Riddell  
BSU Policy Committee: Jennifer Chioldi, Sarah Pregent, and Andrew McMichael  
BSU Finance Committee: Sonya Spaulding and Sarah Pregent  
BSU Negotiations Committee: Sonya Spaulding  
BSU Facilities Committee: Giuliano Cecchinelli  
BSU Communications Committee: Sonya Spaulding**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted:**

**To authorize the Board Chair to sign teacher contracts,  
To authorize the Board Chair to sign other contracts,  
To designate Mrs. Spaulding as the primary Board Member to sign warrants,  
To designate Mrs. Pregent as the secondary Board Member to sign warrants,  
Not to schedule a Board Retreat or Tri-Board Meeting at this time,  
To hold Regular Board Meetings on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS in the James Taffel Library,  
To post Agendas and Minutes at the City Clerk's Office, the BSU Office, and BCEMS  
To post Warnings in the Times Argus and on Front Porch Forum,  
To use Robert's Rules of Order,  
To adopt the Code of Ethics,  
To name the Times Argus as the designated newspaper for publications, and  
To continue the current practices relating to confidentiality of Executive Session and Open Meeting Laws.**

It was noted that notices are sometimes also posted in The World.  
All Board Members present, signed a Code of Ethics document.

Brief discussion was held regarding communication practices, Board development opportunities, and Board advocacy. Board Members were encouraged to attend an all day workshop that will be held on 06/01/19.

## **5. Additions and/or Deletions to Agenda**

Add 9.2 FY20 BUUSD Budget Input

## **6. Visitors and Communications**

None.

## **7. Approval of Minutes**

### **7.1 Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2019 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2019 Regular Meeting.**

### **7.2 Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2019 Special Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2019 Special Meeting.**

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Resignations/Retirements/New Hires**

A letter of resignation from Frances Naramore (associate school nurse) was distributed. Ms. Naramore will be retiring effective 06/30/19. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the letter of resignation submitted by Ms. Naramore, a long term employee at BCEMS. Mr. Hennessey expressed his gratitude to the nursing team of BCEMS for the remarkable job they perform.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to accept with appreciation and gratitude, the resignation of Frances Naramore.**

## **9. Old Business**

### **9.1 Merger Update**

Six documents were distributed; 'BUUSD Moving Forward, Looking Back: A Timeline for School Governance', FY20 BUUSD Budget Highlights (dated 02/21/19), the BUUSD Proposed Budget - Expense Summary Report, the BUUSD Proposed Budget - Revenue Summary Report, and the BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations Reports (for both Barre City and Barre Town, for the budget as proposed and for the proposed budget using \$500,000 from the Tax Stabilization Reserve). Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the timeline and next steps, including upcoming votes. The new BUUSD Board will oversee operations effective 07/01/19, at which point the district Boards will only be responsible for 'close-out' business (relating to FY19).

Mr. Pandolfo provided a lawsuit update, advising that the preliminary injunction request has been denied. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has reviewed the 25 page Judgement, and proceeded to provide a summary of his analysis of the document. Portions of the Judgement were read to the Board. A copy of the Judgement is available to those who would like to review it in its entirety. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief update on current legislation. Board Members were encouraged to contact legislators to convey that a delay to the start date of the BUUSD merged district will be problematic. The Transitional Board is close to finalizing their responsibilities. One item remains; preparation of Draft 1 of the FY20 budget. A meeting of the Transitional Board (for budget review) is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library. If an additional meeting is necessary, it will most likely be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019. Mr. Pandolfo advised that policies are being reviewed and presented to the BSU Board for approval. Much policy work is being done in preparation for the merged district. Mr. Pandolfo has spoken with VSBA, who believe the BSU is in good shape, policy wise, for the transition to a merged district. Most policies will be ready for adoption by the BUUSD Board. A few policies, which pertain only to the BUUSD, will not be presented to the BSU Board for approval.

### **9.2 FY20 BUUSD Budget Input**

Four documents were distributed; the FY BUUSD Budget Highlights document (Draft 3 - dated 02/21/19), the FY19 Education Spending Per Equalized Student Report and the BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculation sheets (for Barre City and Barre Town), presented with the budget as drafted, and presented utilizing \$500,000 from the Tax Stabilization Fund. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Spending Per Equalized pupil report, noting that Barre is one of the lowest spending school districts in the state. Budget Draft 3, without the use of Tax Stabilization Funds results in a cost of \$13,822 per equalized pupil. Though the Yield has not been finalized, it has gone down some, which results in an increase in taxes (1 to 2 cents). It was noted that the budget was drafted not knowing whether or not tax incentives would be received by Barre. Budget decisions have been made with an effort to balance student need and tax payer impact. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the projected deficits for BCEMS, BTMES, and SHS, and advised that there is an option to utilize \$500,000 of Tax Stabilization funds to help offset the tax increase. Administrators are prioritizing the 13 new positions (in the draft budget). Mrs. Spaulding noted that none of the new positions is for BCEMS. It was also noted that BCEMS has written a very responsible budget that has very little, if anything, that can be cut. In response to a query regarding Act 173, Mr. Pandolfo advised that Act 173, which allows for more flexibility on use of funds, will be phased in over several years.

## **10. Board Reports**

### **10.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated February 28, 2019 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Act 173/Special Education/Roles and Responsibilities, BSU Building Renovation, Integrated Field Review, School Calendar Update, Merger Update, and Negotiations. A letter from Josh Souliere, Assistant Director Education Quality Reviews, Agency of Education (dated 02/19/19) was distributed. The 2019 – 20 Integrated Field Review (IFR) Timeline was distributed. A letter from VEHI (dated 02/21/19) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided additional information relating to; the Food Service RFP (a much more involved process) Integrated Field Reviews (will begin in the Fall of 2019 and are part of the new accountability process), and the memo from VEHI regarding changes to Health and Dental Program Member Agreements and composition of the VEHI Board. Mr. Hennessey advised that he fully supports the Integrated Field Reviews and believes they are very beneficial. Mr. Pandolfo anticipates presenting Food Service RFP information at the 04/11/19 First Meeting of the Initial BUUSD Board.

### **10.2 Principals Report**

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated March 11, 2019 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Active Shooter Training, the Scripps Spelling Bee, Cabin Fever Day, the 2018 – 2019 Basketball Season, and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Mr. Coon advised that the After-school Program kicked-off was today, and was very successful. About 70 children were in attendance today and there are 130 students enrolled in the program. The integration of BCEMS and BTMES students went very well, with students forming fast friendships. Master Freddy LaPan has started a martial arts program on Monday mornings. The focus of the sessions is self-regulation. Mr. Hennessey advised that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team went undefeated this year (16 – 0), with coaches promoting sportsmanship and team play. SROs Jason Fleury and Tony Amaral were recognized for planning the active shooter training. Officers Fleury and Amaral put much thought and care into planning this training which was held at BCEMS over February break.

### **10.3 Committee Reports**

#### **10.3.1 Facility/Security**

The next meeting is Monday, April 1, 2019 in the BCEMS Conference Room.

#### **10.3.2 Finance**

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the BCEMS Conference Room.

#### **10.3.3 Verbal Report of BSU Committees**

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

### **BSU Policy Committee**

The Committee met on February 18, 2019. A number of policies were presented to the BSU Board for approval (of First Readings). The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU Upstairs Conference Room. Approximately six policies are slated for review by the Committee. Work still needs to be performed to prepare policies for the BUUSD. Once established, the BUUSD Board will need to set up a schedule for the ongoing review of policies.

### **BSU Curriculum Committee**

The January and February meetings were cancelled.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

### **BSU Finance Committee**

The Committee met on February 21, 2019 and held extensive discussion regarding the BUUSD draft budget. It is not known if this Committee will need to meet again.

### **BSU Facilities Committee**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019, but may be postponed until May.

### **BSU Communications Committee**

The Committee met on February 14, 2019 for a wrap-up discussion on the new web site, the budget presentation booklet, and discussion on the Barre Education Coalition. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Central Office.

### **BSU Negotiations Committee**

Meetings are planned for 03/13/19 and 03/19/19 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

### **10.4 Financial Report**

Four reports were distributed; BCEMS FY19 Expenditures/Year-end Projection Report (03/11/19), BCEMS General Fund Expense Summary (02/27/19), the BCEMS General Fund Revenue Summary Report (02/27/19), and the BSU Expenditures FY19 Report (02/27/19). Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding items 6, 9, 29, and 35 on the Projection Report. It was noted that SPED expenses may

be over budget due to numerous things (new students who qualify for special education and students that need to be outplaced). The Board is pleased that the projected deficit is only \$10,000. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the 'extra votes' expense will be well over \$9,000.

#### **11. Round Table/Future Agenda Items**

The next Regular Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at BCEMS in the James Taffel Library. The meeting day (first Monday of the month) and time (6:00 p.m.) are a change from the regular schedule.

##### Agenda Items:

Resignations/Retirements/New Hires

Merger Update

FY20 Budget Status Update

Student Presentation

The Board agreed to revisit Agenda Item 2.1 (Executive Session for a Student Matter).

#### **12. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:11p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*