

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION #61 SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Spaulding High School - Library  
March 21, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) – Chair  
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair  
Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk  
Jennifer Chioldi (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Anthony Folland (SHS)  
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT) – departed at 8:00 p.m.  
Paul Malone (SHS)  
Sonya Spaulding (BC) – arrived at 6:03 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech            Dave Delcore-Times Argus

**1. Call to Order**

**The Superintendent, Mr. Pandolfo, called the Thursday, March 21, 2019, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

**2. Board Re-organization**

The Annual Reorganizational Check List was distributed. VSBA Board Re-organization documentation was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that as this is the first meeting of the Board in the new yearly cycle (since the March election), Board Re-organization is necessary. Mr. Pandolfo suggested that the Board may wish to consider keeping 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 document titled ‘Open Meeting Law 1.V.S.A. §§ 310 – 314’ was distributed.

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to elect/appoint as elected/appointed in 2018, (Board Chair: Guy Isabelle, Vice-Chair: Giuliano Cecchinelli, II, Clerk: Victoria Pompei ) and;**

**To authorize the Board Chair to sign employment contracts,**

**To authorize the Board Chair to sign other contracts,**

**To designate Mr. Malone as the primary Board Member to sign warrants,**

**To designate Mr. Isabelle as the secondary Board Member to sign warrants,**

**To hold Regular Board Meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Library,**

**Not to schedule a Board Retreat or Tri-Board Meeting at this time,**

**To post Agendas and Minutes at the City Clerk’s Office, the Town Clerk’s Office, the BSU Office, and on the BSU website,**

**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.

Board Members previously signed a Code of Ethics document at their respective Board Meetings. Those who were not present to sign the document will sign the Code of Ethics document at the BSU Central Office.

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

### **3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Agenda Item 6.2 First Reading Social/Digital/Online Communication for Staff (D14) is not needed and will only be kept in place as a placeholder.

### **4. Public Comment**

Mr. Isabelle noted that sadly, UVM did not beat Florida State in the basketball game held today.

### **5. Approval of Minutes**

#### **5.1 Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2019 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2019 Regular Meeting.**

### **6. New Business**

#### **6.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires**

There were no letters of resignation, retirements, or new hires presented for approval.

#### **6.2 First Reading Social/Digital/Online Communication for Staff (D14)** 6.2 kept in as a placeholder.

#### **6.3 First Reading Video Surveillance Policy (E32)**

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.2 through 6.5 were distributed. A revised copy of policy E32 was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the discussion held at Monday night's Policy Committee Meeting and advised regarding changes that are reflected on the revised copy. The policy being presented tonight is very similar to the policy used by SHS. At the present time, there is no VSBA model policy regarding video surveillance. Two additional minor changes were recommended. This policy may be revisited if/when the VSBA creates a model policy.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Folland, the Board unanimously voted to approve as modified, the First Reading of the Video Surveillance Policy (E32).**

#### **6.4 First Reading Entrance Age for Admission to Kindergarten Policy (F35)**

Brief discussion was held. The word 'Admittance', as listed on the Agenda, should be changed to read 'Admission'.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Entrance Age for Admission to Kindergarten Policy (F35).**

#### **6.5 First Reading School-Community Relations (H30)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the School-Community Relations (H30).**

#### **6.6 2019 – 2020 School Calendar**

The 'Regional Calendar - Barre Supervisory Union - 2019 – 20 Calendar' (dated 03/11/19) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo also distributed a copy of Vermont Statute Title 16, Chapter 025 subchapter 001 §1071 (from The Vermont Statutes Online). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the calendar is being presented for informational purposes only and that no Board action is necessary. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the calendar and highlighted section 'e' from the Statute. Mr. Pandolfo advised that in trying to maintain the last day of school on a Monday, there will be no Martin Luther King holiday in the 2019-2020 calendar. A vacation day was added to October a few years ago, as there was a large stretch of time without a break. Mr. Pandolfo advised that much work was involved as he strived to coordinate the calendar with other districts that have technical centers. Mr. Pandolfo answered questions from the Board and advised that he would make minor adjustments to the 'August' portion of the calendar (for consistency, dates will be added).

### **7. Old Business**

#### **7.1 Second and Final Reading Student Medication Policy (F6)**

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.6 were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she finds the policy very confusing as it does not clearly state which part of the policy applies to prescription medications vs non-prescription medications. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he is hesitant to change this policy because it is a VSBA Model Policy that has been thoroughly legally vetted. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding Mrs. Spaulding's concerns over how the policy is worded.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Student Medication Policy (F6), and agreed to adopt said policy with the recommendation that this policy be at the top of the list of policies reviewed by the new BUUSD Board.**

#### **7.2 Second and Final Reading Eighteen Year-old Students Policy (F18)**

Brief discussion was held. Mrs. Spaulding asked for clarification of the Permission section of the policy.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Eighteen Year-old Students Policy (F18), and agreed to adopt said policy.**

### **7.3 Second and Final Reading Student Assessment Policy (F22)**

Mrs. Spaulding has objections regarding what is listed as the ‘goal of student assessment’ in paragraph two of the policy. Lengthy discussion was held, with Mr. Pandolfo providing an overview of the various types of, and definition of ‘assessment’. The word ‘assessment’ covers a very broad spectrum of measurement of student achievement. The policy does not define what ‘local’ standards are (standards of the school, standards of surrounding schools, or both).

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Student Assessment Policy (F22), and agreed to adopt said policy with the recommendation that this policy be at the top of the list of policies reviewed by the new BUUSD Board.**

### **7.4 Second and Final Reading Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature Policy (F29)**

Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding who defines ‘obscene, vulgar, or profane, or harms the reputation of others’.

**On a motion by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature Policy (F29), and agreed to adopt said policy.**

### **7.5 Second and Final Reading Selecting Library Materials Policy (G4)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Selecting Library Materials Policy (G4), and agreed to adopt said policy.**

### **7.6 Second and Final Reading Selection of Instructional Materials and Sensitive Issues Policy (G5)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Instructional Materials and Sensitive Issues Policy (G5), and agreed to adopt said policy.**

### **7.7 Merger Update**

A document titled ‘BUUSD BOARD – FIRST MEETING’ was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the timeline (04/09/19 vote for school board members, 04/11/19 First Meeting of the Initial Board, and 05/14/19 budget vote). Mr. Pandolfo will ask the Clerk new of the School District, Donna Kely to attend the initial meeting of the Board to swear in Board Members. Mr. Pandolfo will propose that Regular Board Meetings be held on the second Thursday of each month (05/09/19 and 06/13/19...). The Transitional Board met last Thursday and finalized the draft budget that they will present to the Initial Board at their first meeting. The first meeting of the BUUSD Board will also include Board Organization, Approval of New Hires, Approval of VMERS Language, and Approval to Apply for Grants. It is anticipated that the May meeting will include First Readings of 61 policies, so that they can be approved prior to the implementation date of 07/01/19. Mr. Pandolfo provided an update on legislation (H39), advising that he provided testimony that a delay in implementation (of merging the district) would cause extreme duress to the BSU. Mr. Isabelle commended Mr. Pandolfo for all of the hours and effort he has worked on behalf of the BSU, and for positioning the BSU so well for the start of a merged district. Mr. Pandolfo recognized the district Boards and the Transitional Board for their work on behalf of the merger (Act 46). Mr. Isabelle queried regarding the ‘location’ of ‘unspent’ incentive monies.

### **7.8 Annual Report**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that copies of the Annual report will be available very soon, most likely on March 22, 2019.

## **8. Other Business as Needed**

Mr. Malone queried regarding whether or not the last Transitional Board Meeting Minutes could be approved this evening. They cannot, but it may be possible to have the Initial Board approve the Minutes. Mr. Isabelle welcomed Mr. Cecchinelli back to the Board.

## **9. Reports to the Board**

### **9.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent’s report dated March 21, 2019 was distributed for review and discussion. The report included information pertaining to the Superintendent’s Office, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Communications, the Business Office, Special Education, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. Three additional documents were also distributed; ‘Security Trends’, a letter from the Agency of Education (dated 03/04/19) regarding the 2017 Triennial Evaluation and Annual IEP Compliance Review, and a copy of the draft budget. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Homework Survey Results would be available in the near future. The BSU is working with the new third party administrator to resolve any outstanding claims issues (approximately

15 employees have outstanding claims). In response to a query from Mrs. Pompei, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Act 173 work day was helpful as many questions were posed and clarification given on a number of items and those attending learned that an advisory group has been formed and is actively working. Feedback can be sent to the advisory group. Upon passing the law, the State contracted with UVM for a weighting study regarding the 5 year implementation. There may be some benefit to the BUUSD because of the high poverty level. Mr. Pandolfo believes we need advocacy on this matter. There are budgetary concerns. It is important to understand that Act 173 does not involve just special education and it will be important to keep administrators and staff aware of this. The implementation of 173 is a huge endeavor. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the implementation timeline for Act 173. It is not known if the Federal Government has been involved/informed of Act 173. Three vendors are bidding on the food service contract and attended the mandatory site visit. Bids are due 04/04/19 and selection of a food service vendor will most likely be on the agenda for the 04/11/19 first meeting of the Initial BUUSD Board. In response to a query from Mr. Malone, it was noted that the budgeted amount for the BTMES SRO is \$50,000. Mr. Malone wants assurance that the schools are receiving the coverage we are contracting and paying for. Mr. Malone also wants assurance that the Barre Town Select Board and Barre Town Police Department are actively working to secure some grant funding and personnel for the BTMES SRO position.

## **9.2 Committee Reports**

### **9.2.1BSU Policy Committee**

Minutes from the February 18, 2019 meeting were distributed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the BSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Area.

### **9.2.2BSU Curriculum Committee**

The Committee did not meet in January or February.

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

### **9.2.3 BSU Finance Committee**

Minutes from the February 21, 2019 meeting were distributed.

### **9.2.4 BSU Facilities Committee**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

### **9.2.5 BSU Communications Committee**

The Committee met on March 20, 2019 and reviewed the 'thank you' flyer, reviewed a communications timeline, and discussed how to engage with different groups in the community, targeting different groups in the community, and the Communications Committee's role moving forward under the BUUSD.

### **9.2.6 BSU Negotiations Committee**

Minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting were distributed. The Committee met again on 03/19/19. A planning meeting is planned for Friday, March 22, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the BSU Central Office. Negotiation sessions planned for 03/27/19, 04/02/19, and 04/23/19.

## **9.3 Financials**

The Transitional Board received a copy of the financial reports. The BSU has a projected end-of- year deficit of approximately \$10,000. The BSU deficit gets assessed back to the district schools.

## **10. Executive Session as Needed**

### **9.1 Administrative Contracts**

Administrative Contracts were proposed for discussion in Executive Session include.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 8:11 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. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to support the Superintendent's recommendation for increases for non-contracted employees.**

## **11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*