

BTMES does not. It is hoped that in the future, both schools will offer the same classes. Lengthy discussion on new positions continued, including the addition of an Assistant Director of SPED. It was noted that two individuals have been performing the work previously performed by three individuals. Given the extensive SPED needs, it is felt that the Assistant Director of SPED is vital. Brief discussion was held regarding the definition of the overall assignment of responsibilities for this position. Discussion of new positions also included prioritization by building and by the district overall. Concern was raised regarding the duties for individuals working the clerical extended hours. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she believes the tax increase is too high and she prefers to cut the budget rather than use a large portion of the fund balance (to reduce the impact to taxes). Mr. Malone stressed that the budget reduction discussion is only necessary because of the loss of tax incentives that would have been received under a voluntary merger. Additional discussion included possible reductions to maintenance line items including reducing the 'industry standard' of \$1 per square foot to 80¢ per square foot. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins recommended eliminating the BTMES Ed Technology Specialist (Technology Integrationist) position for a savings of \$65,000. Mrs. Spaulding asked for assurance that the elimination of this position at BTMES is not conditional on BCEMS needing to 'split' their Technology Integrationist's time (with BTMES). Mrs. Spaulding stressed that the Technology Integrationist at BCEMS is needed full time. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins advised that her recommendation did not involve BTMES utilizing the BCEMS Technology Integrationist, but rather she felt the new position for BTMES should be added at some time in the future. After lengthy discussion, the Transitional Board agreed to eliminate five positions from the draft budget; the BTMES Ed Tech Specialist, two BTMES Para-educator positions, the BTMES Office-Clerical extended hours, and the SHS Office-Clerical extended hours. The Transitional Board agreed to reduce the facilities budget in two areas; the first being a reduction of \$44,000 (Line 490 Repair and Maintenance), the second being a reduction of \$96,800 (80¢ per square foot – Line 451 Construction Services). The Transitional Board agreed to use \$200,000 from the Tax Stabilization Fund. It was noted that the ballot Article lists the percentage of the budget increase (per pupil spending), and does not list the tax increase. The agreed upon reductions result in an education expenditure budget of \$32,675,458 (\$13,556 projected education spending per equalized pupil, a 4.32% increase), with a tax increase of approximately 5 cents in both Barre City and Barre Town. The final tax increase will be dependent on the yield amount set by the State.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the BUUSD Transitional Board unanimously voted to recommend to the Initial BUUSD Board, a First Draft Expenditure Budget totaling \$32,675,458 in education spending.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Other Business

Mr. Pandolfo circulated a copy of a 'thank you' flyer that will be used to assist with promotion of the budget.

Mr. Pandolfo has contacted the VSBA for guidance relating to 'student voice' on the merged board. More information will need to be obtained prior to the BUUSD Board making a decision on how to proceed.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that she attended the Senate Education Committee Hearing to testify on H39. Though there are a lot of districts that would like to delay the implementation of merged districts, there are those who do not want a delay. The Committee is considering letting Initial Boards make the decision regarding whether or not their merged districts will be effective on 07/01/19, or delay implementation until 07/01/20. The VSBA has not taken a position on the issue. Mrs. Spaulding testified that a delay would have a negative impact on the BUUSD.

It is believed that the Transitional Board has completed the items it was charged with performing. No additional meetings will be scheduled at this time.

8. Executive Session

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session,

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin