## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSITIONAL BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School – Library March 14, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

# **MINUTES**

# **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Malone, Chair Sonya Spaulding, Vice Chair Alice Farrell, Clerk Tim Boltin – departed at 7:58 p.m. Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins – arrived at 6:06 p.m. Sarah Pregent

# **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent Lisa Perrault, Business Manager

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Dave Delcore – Times Argus

Victoria Pompei

#### 1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, March 14, 2019, Regular meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

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

None

## 3. Visitors and Communication

None.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2019 Transitional Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2019 Transitional Board Meeting.

# 4.2 Approval of Minutes - February 18, 2019 Public Informational Hearing

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2019 Public Informational Hearing.

#### 5. New Business

### 5.1 FY20 BUUSD Budget

Ten documents were distributed; FY20 BUUSD Budget Highlights – March 8, 2019 DRAFT 3A, the BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations for Barre City and Barre Town (2 reports; one with the budget as presented, and one with the budget utilizing \$500,000 from the Tax Stabilization Fund), the FY2019 Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil Report (from the AOE), an e-mail from Brad James regarding the Updated Yield Numbers from HWM, a document titled 'Education Fund Outlook for FY2020 as of March 1st, (prepared by the Joint Fiscal Committee), a document titled 'Preliminary FY2020 Education Property Tax Rates on Homesteads' (dated 03/01/19), a document titled 'Facilities Repairs/Maint. And Construction Services Budget Lines Comparison 3/14/19', a document titled 'FY20 BUUSD Budget Priorities for Positions 3/14/19', and a BSU Position Description for the position of Assistant Director of Special Services. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of budget draft 3A advising that the cover page reflects projected end-of-year balances for each district, with the assumption that some of the fund balances will be spent in the spring of 2019. The projected (unofficial) 'yield' from the State, has been reduced, resulting in a 1 to 2 cent increase in the tax rate. Tax increases in draft 3A of the budget result in a tax increase of 6 cents for both Barre City and Barre Town. Reductions highlighted in the document total \$147,500. The draft proposes using \$352,500 of the projected fund balance. To reduce the tax increase to 5 cents requires an additional \$100,000 in reductions, or use of more of the fund balance. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Facilities Repairs/Maintenance document, which was broken down by school. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the new positions document, including possible reductions. It was confirmed that none of the new positions are for BCEMS. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he believes the Ed Technology Specialist position is important and assists with meeting the goal of equity between schools. It was noted that BTMES currently has 'Health' for grades K - 4 and BCEMS does not. BCEMS has computer classes for grades K - 4 and

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 positons, 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*