

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
May 23, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone (BT) - Chair
Sonya Spaulding (BC) – Vice-Chair
Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk
Gina Akley (BT)
Tim Boltin (BC)
Giuliano Cecchinelli (BC)
Guy Isabelle (At-Large)
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)
Chris Riddell (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, May 23, 2019, Regular meeting to order at 6:26 p.m., which was held at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

5.3 – Change from Approval of Canopy to Canopy Update

Add 5.6 Board Development

Add 6.4 Approval of Revised VMERS Language

Add 6.5 Recognition of Business Manager’s SFO Certification

Add 6.6 Budget Update

Add 7.1 Personnel Matter (under Executive Session)

Add 7.2 Negotiations Update (under Executive Session)

Delete 6.1 Second Reading of 58 Policies Previously Adopted by the Barre Supervisory Union - Keep as a placeholder.

Delete 6.2 Second and Final Reading Role and Adoption of School Board Policies - Keep as a placeholder.

Modify 6.3 from Second and Final Reading Intra District School Transfer Policy – to Intra District School Transfer Policy Procedures Update

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2019 Regular BUUSD Board Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2019 Public Informational Hearing

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Riddell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2019 Public Informational Hearing.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

A document titled ‘FY20 – Staff Leaving/Replacements (BUUSD Board)’ was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that modifications will be made to the report.

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Annette Rhoades (Assistant Director of Special Services), John C. “Chris” Cunningham (Special Educator), Heather Foley (1st grade teacher), Rhonda Forlow (Special Educator), Emma Lamson (BCEMS Kindergarten teacher), Hannah Bedell (School Counselor), and Ethan Cody (BTMES 7th grade ELA) were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the candidates’ education and experience and requested that the Board approve the slate of individuals being presented for hire this evening.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of the slate of candidates presented; Annette Rhoades, John C. “Chris” Cunningham, Heather Foley, Rhonda Forlow, Emma Lamson, Hannah Bedell, and Ethan Cody.

Letters of resignation from Patrick Merriam, Karen Heath, Brandy Kolling, and Gillian Fuqua were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the letters of resignation are included in the packet for informational purposes and that the Board does not need to take any action.

5.2 Approval of Continuous Improvement Plan

Two documents were distributed; the BUUSD Continuous Improvement Plan for School Year 2019 – 2020, and the Barre Supervisory Union Continuous Improvement Plan / Summary (a more user friendly version). Mrs. Pompei advised that all of her questions were resolved to her satisfaction at the Curriculum Committee Meeting on Monday. Brief discussion was held regarding gifted/talented students, and it was requested that the 2020/2021 CIP include plans to serve those students. Mrs. Spaulding and Mrs. Pompei believe the presentation at the Curriculum Committee Meeting was very informative. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the CIP is continually evolving. Modifications can be made now, but would not be approved until next year.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the BUUSD Continuous Improvement Plan for School Year 2019 – 2020.

5.3 ~~Approval of Canopy~~ Canopy Update

A copy of the RFP for the ‘BTMES Concrete Canopy Repair – Summer 2019’ was distributed. It was reported that a test dig under the sidewalk shows that the ‘base’ is not what was hoped for. The sidewalk work is now anticipated to cost much more than originally anticipated. The additional work involved in resolving the ‘base’ issue will extend the bidding time. Given the cost of replacing the sidewalk, it may be worth considering removal of the canopy. Mr. Malone hopes that the Facilities Committee meeting can be moved to Monday, June 11, 2019, and that additional research can be performed. In response to a query, it was noted that this project is probably not something that the CVCC Building Trades Program could work on.

5.4 Annual Designation of Truant Officers

A document titled ‘Title 16 Education, Chapter 25 ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE §1125 Truant officers’ was distributed. A document titled ‘BUUSD Truant Officers 7/1/19 – 6/30/20 was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the requirement that the Board appoint Truant Officers for each school. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding his recommendation for each school. Designation of Truant Officers is required by statute for grades 7 and above.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Pierre Laflamme, as Truant Officer for Barre City Elementary and Middle School, Erica Pearson as Truant Officer for Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, Jim Ferland and Luke Aither as Truant Officers for Spaulding High School, and Scott Griggs as Truant Officer for the Central Vermont Career Center, with all Appointments being for the 2019 / 2020 school year.

5.5 Annual Designation of HHB Report Recipients

A copy of Appendix A (listing designated employees for the reporting of bullying and/or harassment) was distributed. It is not known if the Board is required to take action. It was noted that the format of the document will be changing. The document lists HHB Report Recipients for the BSU, the BUUSD, SHS, BCEMS, BTMES, and CVCC.

On a motion by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the designees as listed, as HHB designated employees (BSU/BUUSD and all district schools - John Pandolfo, SHS – Luke Aither and Pam Smith, CVCC – Scott Griggs and Stefanie Seng, BCEMS – Pierre Laflamme and Kristin Morrison, and BTMES – Erica Pearson, Bill Waller, and Alice Harding).

5.6 Board Development

Mr. Malone advised regarding the VSBA Training scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Steakhouse Restaurant. Mr. Malone encouraged all Board Members to attend this training. There are currently three Board Members confirmed to attend (Mrs. Akley, Mr. Isabelle, and Mr. Malone). Mr. Riddell has tentatively agreed to attend. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mr. Pandolfo’s Executive Assistant, Tina Gilbert at the Central Office.

Mr. Malone believes the Board should hold a Retreat sometime in July. Mr. Malone requested that Board Members advise regarding availability, goals, and ideas for discussion. Mr. Pandolfo will send out a poll for dates. Mr. Malone advised that there is a possibility that the retreat will be a daylong event. Mr. Isabelle believes it would be beneficial to hire an individual to facilitate the event. Mr. Pandolfo advised of three possible candidates for facilitation. Mr. Pandolfo will check on availability of the individuals. Board Members agreed that it would be beneficial to have the Superintendent in attendance at the retreat.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Lake Morey conference. Mr. Malone advised that the conference provided much information relating to the future of education, demographics, student populations, and included discussion of the lead testing issue. At the conference, Mr. Pandolfo was named Superintendent of the Year. The Board offered a round of applause for Mr. Pandolfo, noting that he was very deserving of this award. Mr. Pandolfo advised that his success is the result of teamwork, Board support, and staff support, and that he is honored, humbled, and privileged to accept the award.

6. Old Business

~~6.1 Second Reading of 58 Policies Previously Adopted by the Barre Supervisory Union~~ Deleted. Kept as a placeholder.

~~6.2 Second and Final Reading Role and Adoption of School Board Policies (A30)~~ Deleted. Kept as a placeholder.

6.3 ~~Second and Final Reading~~ Intra District School Transfer Policy/Procedures Update

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that a non-substantive change was made to the policy. The policy will be warned for approval at the June meeting. The Policy Committee has spent much time developing procedures. Mr. Pandolfo will continue to work on procedures, and reiterated that the policy meets the legal requirements of the Articles of Agreement approved by the voters. Mr. Pandolfo has distributed a copy of the procedures to administrators for their review and input, and requested that the Board also review and comment on the document. Mr. Pandolfo answered questions from the Board and advised that he will be revising the procedures.

6.4 Approve Revised VMERS Language

Mr. Pandolfo advised that although the Board approved the revised VMERS language at the April 11, 2019 meeting, there has been a request to approve the revised language in a different way. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he would read the letter in its entirety, and requested that the Board vote to approve the letter as read, including the language contained in said letter. Mr. Pandolfo proceeded to read the following letter in its entirety:

“May 21, 2019

*Office of the State Treasurer
Retirement Operations Division
c/o Jennifer Burdick
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602*

Dear Ms. Burdick:

As of July 1, 2019 the districts within the Barre Supervisory Union, as well as the supervisory union itself, will no longer be in operation. These districts include the Barre City Elementary and Middle School, Barre Town Middle and Elementary and Spaulding High School. On July 1, 2019 these districts and the BSU will be operational as the Barre Unified Union School District. Several of our employee groups currently participate in Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System and we request that, under the new District, those employees be allowed to continue participation with no change in groups or requirements.

Below is a description of the groups currently participating in VMERS:

Group A: Support staff (Paraeducators) that are members of the Barre Education Association and the Barre Town Paraeducator Association currently participate in Group A. Both of these groups are under a joint collective bargaining agreement. This participation will continue to be a condition of employment for all new hires.

Group B: Support Staff (4) who were previously members of the Local 1369, Council 93 AFSCME, AFL-CIO. These four non-contracted employees had been, and will continue to be, grandfathered into this group. The district will not offer participation in VMERS to any other support staff not covered by the Paraeducator or AFSCME Local 1369 collective bargaining agreement.

Group C: Staff that are members of Local 1369, Council 93 AFSCME, AFL-CIO. This group includes 2 clerical staff. This participation will continue to be a condition of employment for all new hires.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

*Sincerely,
John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Paul Malone, BUUSD Board Chair*

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the May 21, 2019 letter as read, including the language contained therein.

6.5 Recognition of Business Manager's SFO Certification

A document titled SFO Certification (School Finance and Operations) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Business Manager Lisa Perreault has completed very involved training and has received her SFO (Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations) credential. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he wanted to officially and formally recognize Mrs. Perreault for this accomplishment. The Board extended their congratulations to Mrs. Perreault.

6.6 Budget Update

A document titled BUUSD Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations (for Barre City and Barre Town) for Budget years 2019 – 2020 was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo commended the Board for their work on the FY20 budget that was recently passed by voters. Mr. Pandolfo noted that the BUUSD is the first forced merger district to have a budget in place. The House and Senate have announced the final Yield number (\$10,648) which results in a tax rate increase of 4 cents for both Barre City and Barre Town. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there is very little new legislation relating to schools.

7. Executive Session as Needed

7.1 Personnel Matter

7.2 Negotiations Update

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Matter and a Negotiations Update.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item (Negotiations Update) proposed for discussion would clearly place the BUUSD at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:42 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:48 p.m.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin