

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School – Library
July 25, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone (BT) - Chair
Sonya Spaulding (BC) – Vice-Chair
Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk
Gina Akley (BT)
Giuliano Cecchinelli (BC) – departed at 9:38 p.m. (recused from discussion)
Guy Isabelle (At-Large)
Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Boltin (BC)
Vacant Position (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director – departed at 7:38 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore – Times Argus Anthony Folland Lucas Herring William Toborg
Tyler Watkins

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, July 25, 2019, Regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Library.

2. Board Member Resignations

A letter of resignation from Chris Riddell (BUUSD Board Member - BC) was distributed.
A letter of resignation from Jay Paterson (BTMES Board Member) was distributed.
Letters of Interest (to serve on the BUUSD Board) from Anthony Folland and William Toborg were distributed.
It was announced that Mr. Riddell is in the process of moving to Montpelier, and has therefore tendered his resignation from the BUUSD and BCEMS Boards. No action is necessary on the resignation from the BCEMS Board.
Mr. Paterson has moved to Florida and has therefore tendered his resignation from the BTMES Board. No action is necessary on the resignation submitted by Mr. Paterson.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Chris Riddell from the BUUSD Board.

3. New Board Member Interviews

Mr. Pandolfo advised that two individuals, Anthony Folland and William Toborg have submitted letters of interest for the open BUUSD Board seat. The candidates were interviewed by the Board, and advised regarding their interest in serving and their qualifications for the position. The candidates were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and were advised that the Board would make a decision after meeting in Executive Session.

4. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

There are two matters for Executive Session. The Board agreed to hold an Executive Session at the beginning of the meeting to discuss Agenda Item 11.2 (Student Matter). Agenda Item 11.1 (Personnel – Board Member Appointment) will be discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting. The Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item 8.4 (VT Youth Project – Icelandic Model) out of order (after Agenda Item 7.1).

A Student Matter was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo and the student’s parents in attendance, at 5:49 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 6:14 p.m.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Watkins distributed packets of information to the Board. The documents pertain to his concern of an excessively noisy bus (BC7), and documentation relating to noise levels and noise level exposure limits. Mr. Watkins addressed the Board advising that he is seeking Board assistance after following the proper chain of command and not having received adequate resolution to an issue with excessive noise from bus 'BC7'. Mr. Watkins advised that bus BC7 has brakes that operate at an egregious noise level. Mr. Watkins advised that the level of noise is causing issues with his disabled daughter, as well as other students. The braking noise is so loud that some parents have opted to transport their children to school, rather than have them exposed to the noise. Mr. Watkins provided information relating to noise levels and exposure to noise levels and advised that he believes the braking noise sound level is above OSHA and State levels. Mr. Watkins advised that BC7 was taken out of service for a period of time, but has been put back in service without the noise level being corrected. Mr. Watkins is requesting that the Superintendent and Board assist with resolving this matter. Mr. Watkins thanked the Board for hearing his concerns. Mr. Watkins thanked the Board for supporting the SPED Program at BCEMS, advising that he believes the program is great and has assisted his daughter greatly. Mr. Watkins recognized Stephanie Collins and Allyson Healey for their work as part of the SPED Team. Additionally, Mr. Watkins reported that the Director of Parks advised him that due to lack of staff, the City has not been able to hold summer sports programs for children with disabilities. Mr. Watkins requested that the schools coordinate with the Recreation Department to implement a summer sports program for students with disabilities.

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1 Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2019 BUUSD Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 BUUSD Regular Meeting.

6.2 Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2019 BSU Regular Meeting

The Board unanimously agreed to accept, as written, the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 BSU Regular Meeting.

7. Reports to the Board

7.1 Central Office

The Superintendent's Report (dated 07/25/19) was distributed. 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. Six additional documents were distributed; the BUUSD Enrollment Summary Report for July 2019, a copy of a letter from Elizabeth Fitzgerald, VSBA (Act 11 Employer Commissioners Chairperson), a document titled 'Federal Mediation & Conciliation Services – Alternative Bargaining Processes', a copy of an e-mail from Michelle Thompson, MPH, – Public Health Industrial Hygienist, Vermont Department of Health (dated 06/11/19), two documents titled 'Lead in School and Child Care Drinking Water – Results' (for Spaulding UHS #41 and Barre Town Middle and Elementary School), and a document titled 'FY20 Recruiting Snapshot as of 7/8/19'. Mr. Pandolfo answered questions from the Board and advised that no agreement was made at negotiations held on 07/17/19, (relating to the relative shares of health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses to be paid by school districts and their employees – mandated under Act 11). With no agreement made, there will be mandatory fact finding and mediation. Mr. Pandolfo will continue to provide updates regarding this issue. Mr. Pandolfo and Tina Gilbert will be working to create more detailed enrollment reports. In response to a query, it was noted that there is no plan to add another 5th grade teacher at BCEMS.

7.2 Building Reports

7.2.1 Spaulding High School

The Principal's Report for July 2019 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; Athletics, and Students & Community. There were no questions from the Board.

7.2.2 Barre City Elementary and Middle School

The Co-Principals' Report dated July 25, 2019 was distributed. The Report contained information regarding summer maintenance, hiring updates, and Professional Development. There were no questions from the Board.

7.2.3 Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

The BTMES Building Report dated July 25, 2019 was distributed. The Report contained information relating to summer activities, a Facilities update, and upcoming events. It was noted that Tim Sanborn is the UVM Teacher of the Year for BTMES.

7.2.4 Central Vermont Career Center

The CVCC Director's Report for July and August 2019 was distributed. The Report contained information on; Outstanding Staff Members of the Year, various programs (Baking Arts, Building Trades, Plumbing and Heating, Electrical Technology, Natural Resources and Sustainability, Exploratory Technology, Cosmetology, Human Services, Digital Media Arts 2, Medical Professions, Culinary Arts, and Automotive), Student Leadership, the Flexible Pathways Collaborative, the National Technical Honor Society, current vacancies, Professional Development, the Regional Advisory Board, the Skills USA competition, Professional Learning

Communities, and compliance reviews. Three additional documents were distributed; '2019 – 2020 CVCC Student Count', 'CVCC 2018 – 2019 Industry Related Certificates (IRC)', and a report titled 'CVCC 2018 – 2019 Post-Secondary Credits earned'.

Mrs. Pompei queried regarding the Building Trades section of the Report, advising that she would like to see Building Trades students participate locally in community service building projects. Mr. Pandolfo advised that students have benefited greatly from working in a different culture and environment. The community service work in Louisiana began after Hurricane Katrina and has become an annual event. Mrs. Spaulding requested that there be consistency amongst the 'building reports'. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there are ongoing discussions regarding reporting and he anticipates it may take a few months to assess and implement changes in reporting.

7.3 Committee Reports

7.3.1 Policy Committee

There were no meetings in June or July. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office. Mr. Pandolfo will bring Board Operations policies to this meeting. The goal in August is to start creating a policy review cycle.

7.3.2 Curriculum Committee

There were no meetings in June or July. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library. A new Committee Chair will be elected/appointed.

7.3.3 Finance Committee

The Committee met on July 9, 2019. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office. Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding items discussed at the 07/09/19 meeting, including; a BUUSD budget update (it is very early in the year to assess the overall picture), a summer projects update, discussion of Administrator Team Meetings (with the Business Manager), FY19 year-end projections, procedures (3 are usually discussed at each meeting), schoolboard member payments, and the impact of the storm water run-off project.

7.3.4 Facilities Committee

The Committee met on July 8, 2019. The next meeting is Monday, August 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office.

7.3.5 Communications Committee

The Committee did not meet in July. The next meeting is Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office.

7.3.6 Negotiations Committee

The next meeting date is to be determined. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Committee will need to wrap up what was left from the last meeting, and begin preparing for the next round of negotiations.

7.4 Financials

Two documents were distributed; 'BUUSD Finance Committee Meeting Highlights – July 9, 2019' and the BUUSD Expense Report (dated 07/16/19). There were no questions from the Board.

8. Current Business

8.1 Storm Water Retention Project

A letter dated 07/25/19, to Friends of the Winooski, from Board Chair Paul Malone, was distributed. Brief discussion was held. Submission of the letter will allow the project to move forward.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the letter as written and authorized the Board Chair to sign the letter.

8.2 Resign/Retire/New Hire(s)

Letters of resignation from Earl Schrader, Cindy Gregoire, and Ben Merrill (from his Central Office Report) were distributed. The 'FY20 Staff Leaving/Replacements (BUUSD Board)' report, dated 07/25/19 was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the submitted resignations.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignations of Earl Schrader, Cindy Gregoire, and Ben Merrill.

The resumes and BSU Notification of Employment Status Forms for Saul Gresser, Jennifer Clark Lyon, Roberta Jackes, Margo Austin, Eric Newman, Shannon Huda, Katie Naylor, Emily Burgess, Jamie Blondin, Alicia Garamy, Amanda Rigatti, and Mariah Jacobs were distributed.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the candidates' education and experience, and answered questions from the Board. It was noted that Margo Austin will oversee students who take on-line courses, students who participate in dual enrollment, and students'

community service requirements. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has met with each of the candidates. It was announced that there is an ongoing regional search to find a candidate to replace Sandra Cameron as the Regional Coordinator for Early Education.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring the slate of candidates presented; Saul Gresser, Jennifer Clark Lyon, Roberta Jackes, Margo Austin, Eric Newman, Shannon Huda, Katie Naylor, Emily Burgess, Jamie Blondin, Alicia Garamy, Amanda Rigatti, and Mariah Jacobs.

8.3 BTMES Technology Integrationist Position

Three documents were distributed; 'SURVEY RESULTS – BTMES Technology Integration Position', the BUUSD Notification of Employment Status Form for Jessica Van Orman, and the BUUSD Position Description for the position of Technology Integrationist. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the survey results document and advised regarding the job description. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding how the position is being filled (by 6th grade teacher Jessica Van Orman). Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins expressed concerns, as it was her belief that this position was being slated for discussion in the FY21 budget. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins does not recall Board approval for hiring this position in FY20. Lengthy discussion ensued, with the majority of Board Members supporting creating this position for FY20. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the reasons this position was filled in FY20 and advised that at this time, no Board action is necessary.

8.4 VT Youth Project – Icelandic Model

A copy of an e-mail from Robin Katrick to Mr. Pandolfo (dated 07/12/19) was distributed. The e-mail relates to 'next steps' for the Vermont Youth Project. Barre City Mayor, Lucas Herring addressed the Board advising that the City Council supports this project, but as of this point, does not want to commit any personnel (to organize and/or run the survey) or, make a financial commitment. Mr. Herring provided an overview of what the project entails and success of the project in other communities (lower alcohol use, lower drug usage...), and advised that results from the survey will be released in a very timely fashion, unlike the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Mr. Herring advised that this project is a community initiative, but requires school involvement. Barre has the opportunity to be one of 6 communities to participate. Mr. Herring reiterated that the City Council supports the initiative, but stressed that it needs school board approval. Mr. Herring advised that he is present to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he supports involvement with the project with the understanding that; students will complete the survey in the fall, the BUUSD has no financial obligation, and the BUUSD will not act as lead on the project. It was noted that the project should also receive approval by the Barre Town Select Board. Mr. Herring agreed to contact the Select Board Chair and present this topic at their next meeting. The BUUSD Board supports the project, but does not feel that they can provide finances. There are some concerns regarding how the project will be funded, who will take the lead on administering the survey, and what the survey questions entail. There is a grant that covers the first year of the project. There is a \$50,000 budget, with the communities expected to pay \$5000.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to support the initiative (VT Youth Project – Icelandic Model), as indicated in the e-mail from Mr. Pandolfo dated July 12, 2019 (included in the Board packet).

9. Old Business

9.1 Board Retreat

Two documents were distributed; the Agenda for the 08/08/19 BUUSD Board Retreat and a 3 page Pre-Retreat Worksheet packet. The Retreat is scheduled for 08/08/19 from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Community National Bank in the Community Room. Brief discussion was held regarding the agenda. Mr. Pandolfo queried regarding presenting draft Board Operations policies as part of the retreat. It was stressed that Board Members fill out the Pre-Retreat Worksheets prior to the meeting. No scribe will be necessary for this meeting. The Retreat is a public meeting and therefore, members of the public and/or the press may be in attendance.

9.2 Board Organization

9.2.1 Executive Committee

Mr. Pandolfo recommends that an Executive Committee be formed. Mr. Pandolfo proposes that the Executive Committee be comprised of the officers of the BUUSD Board, and that they meet once per month, prior to the BUUSD Board Meeting. The main purpose of the meetings will be to plan the Agenda for the next (upcoming) BUUSD Board Meeting. Board Members were agreeable to accepting the Superintendent's recommendation to form an Executive Committee. No action is necessary.

9.2.2 Student Involvement

No discussion.

9.2.3 Board Meeting Norms

Board Members will review the currently listed 'Norms' (found at the end of the Agenda), and discuss any additions/changes/concerns at the Board Retreat.

9.2.4 Security Clearances

Mr. Pandolfo has confirmed that Linda Papineau can quickly obtain, from Board Members, the information needed to run their individual background checks. Board Members need to meet with Mrs. Papineau to provide the information, and must bring 2 forms of identification to this meeting. Mrs. Papineau also has vouchers for finger printing. Board Members were requested to complete the

process (background check paperwork and finger printing) by November 1, 2019. Board Members were reminded to bring two forms of identification for their meeting with Linda Papineau, and also when they go to be finger printed.

10. Other Business

It was announced that the Administrators' Retreat will be held on August 5th and August 6th. The Board Retreat will be held on August 8, 2019.

In response to a query regarding Administrative representation at Board meetings, Mr. Pandolfo advised that one option would be to have the 'host' principal in attendance at Board meetings that take place in their respective building. Mr. Malone advised that depending on the specific topics being addressed at Committee meetings, Administrators must participate at the Committee level. Administrative attendance/participation at Board Meetings will be necessary when pertinent topics are on the Agenda for discussion. Mr. Malone asked Board Members to give some thought to the topic of Administrators at Board/Committee meetings, and share their thoughts with him. In response to a query, Mrs. Pompei advised that the Warrants for this week have been signed, but noted concern that the Warrant process is not currently working as planned/discussed/agreed upon.

Mrs. Spaulding suggested adding 'Round Table' to the Agenda.

Mr. Isabelle suggested that long-term employees be highlighted more.

Mrs. Pompei queried regarding the lack of a directory on the CVCC web-site.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that this meeting was momentous, as it is the first month when the individual district boards did not meet.

11. Executive Session

11.1 Personnel Matter – Board Member Appointment

11.2 Student Matter

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Matter (Appointment of Board Member) and a Student Matter.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 8:37 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 Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:19 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to support the appointment of Anthony Folland to the BUUSD Board, to serve until the March 2020 election, and to consult with the Barre City Council regarding this matter.

Continued discussion of a Student Matter was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 9:20 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

Mr. Cecchinelli recused himself from the discussion and departed the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin