

IF YOU SELDOM OR NEVER VOTE ON SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS OR BUDGETS, WHY DON'T YOU VOTE?

Most people feel you're going to do what you want anyway!

Schedule conflicts (2)

Answered Question N/A or "I vote" (57)

Didn't have kids in school (3)

I have only recently moved to Barre. (5)

Our votes don't matter because the school consolidated, even though the town voted no multiple times. The constitution doesn't matter in Barre.

Because we can't meet everyone's needs.

I work in Montpelier and have a hard time getting to Barre for the vote. This is of course a terrible excuse.

Not old enough (4)

Having the ability to get away from my job and children to do so

Either don't know about them or meetings are during times I work so I can't attend

Board elections don't matter. Budget votes are too basic with limited information

Not understanding impact of vote

I travel for a living and am not always in town for election

I live in Orange and choose to send my child to Spaulding

I work 12 hour shifts from 6:30 am to 7:00pm. I try to vote absentee but sometimes unable to get the ballot.

I don't always know when they take place

I do not have enough info to make an educated vote (9)

Because I never seem to make it to a town meeting.

I don't vote because I don't support democracy. Allow educated and moral individuals to make decisions.

Not always sure when the elections are taking place

How to access absentee ballots?

Tired of wasting my time.

I forget to go

I choose not to

Would be better if voting was grouped with other issues or candidates

I usually can't leave work and forget to get an absentee ballot. I wish absentee ballots were automatically sent out.

No one in my family has voted before me.

I voted no for the merger but it didn't matter so why bother

I registered to vote and then was told I was not on the list and was given a hard time about getting it fixed

Don't really think it matters school is going to do what they want no matter what

Because I feel they will do what they want to do. If things don't pass they will hold another vote until it does pass.

Not political more religious

Because your school allow to many kids to graduate with out reading or knowing math and your teacher don't take the time to teach the kids that are having a hard time or slipping..... and this child none left behind well you all don't follow there 5o4 or any others problems the kids need to be on....if they hey can do the easy way out your teachers do so.....

Hardly know the people running. Seems most of the time the budget passed is fine with me.

Not having the time to read the issues more closely

The school system locally is not doing the right thing by MOST students in the city. There is ALOT of negligent and unethical behavior by the staff and administration. The motto more closely reflects lying , cheating and covering ones back side.

Normally votes go the opposite way I vote

I am unsure how to get involved.

Too many votes recently

I'm not a US citizen

I believe the ones in charge of the spending doesn't take our opinions into account

You do what you are going to do anyways why waster my time

HOW COULD WE IMPROVE HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU?

I'm disappointed about how little information is distributed regarding elections and budgets in the local newspapers

Send quarterly report out with water bills

Use Front porch forum more

More newsletters (9)

A page in the town's quarterly report they send out, with current, and upcoming things going on in the school.

Transparency. No "fluffed up" information.

Add to the Barre Town Newsletter, front porch forum and have a facebook page.

I think the district does a decent job with communication. I like the new automatic email system. I think school wide communications could be a bit more friendly and welcoming. Many times district communication feels very systematic and policy driven, which is needs to be sometimes. But once in a while it would be helpful to receive positive and student centered district wide updates so the community sees our schools in a positive light. Also, I believe many of our community members are not strong readers, if communication was kept brief and short, perhaps we would get more feedback and support.

All Events on website, upcoming events listed on home page. Teachers need to upload assignments or syllabus to website. Middle level teachers should have syllabus.

An opt in email distribution list.

A dedicated site or monthly newsletter

Email parents of student matters. Also make parents aware of all the wonderful things going on with the schools and advise how to find the website for the Barre Supervisory Union

It's pretty good, now, but I think the unified district could be assessing current and upcoming things (building needs, staff shortfalls, attendance issues, events, etc.) on a quarterly/trimesterly basis and sending email and/or print newsletters. I feel like what I see is usually reporting on stuff that has happened, not what is still to come or what I should be considering in my capacity as a voter. Maybe they do already but all I have seen to date is what comes home with the kids.

I feel communication is going fine. (19)

I wouldn't. If people want the information they will find it.

Answered N/A (17)

More positive and asset based information sent home with children. We often receive more information about negative things (school lunch account depleted) than positive (amazing things happening at school)

Please don't rely on social media to convey information. While I'm sure that quite a lot of parents use social media, I do not. I would think that email or snail mail would work better--or send the information home with my child.

Make the school board website easier to navigate.

By letting every parent know where to find this info relating to their school's district. Via info packet on introductory day.

Give more information in the mailing you send out or more info. In the World

The more insight into the actual student learning that's happening in the building would be helpful and lend more support for an increase in the school budget.

Put info on town Facebook page

You are doing good with the communications

The new email (bsutech) has been a great step in the right direction. Keeping the school websites and Facebook up to date are helpful too.

If people want communication, it is readily available. People who don't know what is going on choose that.

I like the digital newsletter, that has helped a lot.

By specifically using the same platforms, right now there are so many being utilized we are constantly missing communications with multiple students in different grades/classes.

Have physical copies of district news.

Provide a liaison that emails parents important information and board issues while also making sure the board acts legally and in best interest of parents

More Emails (or a variation of "via email") (26)

Not Sure (8)

Via Regular Mail (5)

WHAT ARE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES WE NOW HAVE AS A UNIFIED BOARD?

I am not happy with the fact that we're now a 'unified' district. But the powers that be, will always win out.

Save money and let 2 communities grow closer

Save money

To produce the savings you promised. So far...not so much!

Not sure - communication always an issue, lack of funding always an issue.

Efficiencies of scale in consolidated management to free up \$\$ for students/teachers.

Share resources and cut cost - don't double up on things - be smarter.

I would like to live in a community where we are proud of our schools. We often pride ourselves in our low spending cost per pupil, but I want our community to value a strong education - lets change our perception - lets be proud that we are spending money on our schools so that the next generation is prepared to succeed. We have the opportunity to come together as Barre City and Barre Town to build a strong foundation for Barre Schools.

School fluidity, increased opportunities. Creating advanced and alternative opportunities for those that meet the need, eg; advanced enrichment opportunities or flexible pathways for those that struggle.

If Barre City school has free lunch, so should Barre Town School. The lack of bussing of Spaulding students is a great inconvenience for working parents. A lot of these students cannot drive themselves until their Junior year and even then, the cost of buying them a car and car insurance alone is a great cost, especially to a single parent or one income household.

To return to the basics of education.

No opinion or N/A or Not Sure (10)

Coming together can save costs involved with being separate

More open doors; more ways to keep spending low

The diversity of mixing kids from both the town and city

Economies of scale - but you'd never know it from the first BUUSD budget.

Combine resources with all of Barre in order to give our students better education and activities with more efficiency

Simplification and increased efficiency of operations; increased equity across school buildings; the erosion of the artificial division between "Barre City" and "Barre Town"

Probably cost efficiencies across the facility needs. The economy of scale basically just grew by about a third so I hope that translates in better buying power.

Difficult to say because I was not in favor of merging. Hopefully, savings and keeping taxes reasonable.

I don't see any. We moved to this area because of the school and I voted against having the unified school board. This has diminished the power of our voice as we don't have as much representation in decision making any longer.

The question is not clear. What is meant by "we now have?"

Consolidate expenses, use the synergy of one board to streamline effective education

To maximize strengths and equalize student experiences.

I see no opportunities. I voted no every time.

Consolidate services to save money. Better opportunities for students to mix

Combine resources to offer world-class educational opportunities to our students. This includes technology education, outdoor education, and life skills (finance, budgeting, voting / civic duties)

Getting bussing for sports. It's ridiculous that we do not offer this. Most parents would be willing to spend extra money, why is this not looked into?

I think that we should combine our resources for some of the sports teams that have lower participation or that we rely on BYSA for. Field Hockey is a good example of a sport that would do better if it was combined, rather than farming out the BTMES students to BYSA/BCMES for the younger grades and then having them return to BTMES in 7th grade. maybe all the 5th and 6th graders are through BYSA and then all the 7th and 8th are a combined BSU team? Softball/baseball might also benefit from combination, or LAX. It also seems that we could have afterschool programs at either school with busing that could help parents that work later in the afternoon. There might be other opportunities, like the Lego master program that BCMES had, that BTMES kids could get in on if they wanted to. Maybe more district wide art shows or a district wide concert, for the public or maybe somehow for senior citizens during the holidays. I appreciate the difficulties that might come up with combining things, but there are some things that really could be better with combined resources.

None that I am aware of.

Begin with unifying the faculty and staff in the two school....

Depends on the plan. Are we staying status quo or putting all elementary at one location, middle school at another and ha where it is? For me, if we are unified, students should be able to be picked up anywhere in our district and delivered to school or their day care facility.

What has changed?

Potential savings, more equity in programs, coordinated and expanded transportation

To share what works best

The ability to share resources and provide opportunities that separately could not be provided

Offer more classes for students especially those that need more challenging classes.

Should consider having one middle school and one elementary school

Ensuring that students and families of Barre City are valued. Diminishing the devaluation of Barre City schools and residents that occurs in Barre Town and their school.

To integrate and present students with alternative and creative means to engage in ideas/learning

A bigger voice and more opportunity to encourage a diverse learning environment.

To learn from one another

Lower cost

We need to see how things pan out this year

It is an opportunity to share resources and provide quality, consistent education to the students in the community. With any luck, some community members will have a growth mindset, and alter their "us" vs. "them" attitudes, and see the community as a unified "we".

To finally start spending more so we can get the opportunities and materials for our students at least to average.

In theory, economies of scale and the ability to share resources. Better compensation for teachers is a priority. Having one of the lowest per pupil costs in the state is not a triumph. It makes me nervous that talented teachers will leave, have left.

There are opportunities to reduce redundancies and think of Barre City and Barre Town as one community with access to the best education regardless of which community people live in.

Raising the bar academically, there are many students that are meeting/exceeding the standards and have nothing left to learn so they are bored.

Maybe to eliminate duplicate positions

Creating a better Career Center

Streamlined decision making where the City and Town are forced to reconcile the fact the inequalities within each building affect students when they reach high school. Now we're all in same room and hopefully it will put people on the same page.

Standardization of educational pathways for both barre city & barre town schools - continue to hear that BC or BT students don't have consistent knowledge coming into SHS; Busing contracts - how to align BC & BT school start times; Formulary amongst all schools for supplies purchased & from what supplier, district wide contracts for photocopiers, computers etc purchasing; consolidated & priority driven facilities & sports field renovations & upgrade district wide

Better athletic fields

Wide range for classes to choose from in high school.

Leverage the unification to offer our kids more. more opportunities. more flexibility. more quality. more voice. more connections. more safety.

Being able to focus on issues and not have board pulling administration in separate directions.

Expand educational offerings for students who are exceeding expectations and would like to continue beyond the current lessons. Athletics for all middle schoolers.

To increase opportunities for better learning for all children. Also to increase extra curricular activities

Unifying parent knowledge by eliminating the information gap via technology

Lower property taxes would be nice

Sharing resources (4)

Leveraging staff to offer better programs to the kids.

Ensuring that Barre City and Spaulding receive the financial support they need to meet the needs of a very high needs community.

The elimination of redundant administrative positions should allow redirection of funds previously used for such positions. Those funds should be used to expand the foreign language programs.

To keep school costs down. To ready and equip students for everyday life.

To provide our students with the best opportunities we can. Also to respect and work with the staff to make sure they have what they need.

Reaching a large majority of local students with a unified mission and curriculum.

Saving money hopefully from only paying one board.

Push for more taxes and more money! I can't understand why people resist this fundamental civic duty. We need to make it uncool and embarrassing, if not culturally offensive, to gripe about school taxes. :)

Build a school district with an excellent reputation for educating all students.

Find the efficiencies and refine the administration that has been promised and with the extra time and effort gained from that process focus on the students and their education.

To provide students with better opportunities, especially with special ed.

Collaboration. Better Communication.

Faster and more efficient sweeping decision making and change. Change doesn't need to be discussed for 5 years, then voted on for a year. Someone needs to make the decision to change something, then you collect data on public responses. Change that takes 5 years to happen is change that was needed 5 years ago, not the change that is needed today.

I feel there are great educators at BCEMS but it is crowded and not many resources for advanced learners such as my child.

I don't know. It's unclear how the unified board will make things better. It seems like a lot to manage for a small amount of members.

Hopefully there will be better collaboration and sharing of resources. I am sure it's not there yet, but it will continue to get better as time goes on!

Maybe to get better life skills classes and more mental health

Increased resource and knowledge sharing between the two schools.

I hope to see the same standards that my daughter received at barre town would transfer over to standards at barre city. I was extremely frustrated yesterday when my daughter could not do a simple math problem of addition that when she was in first grade at Berry town she could easily accomplish but now she is in fifth grade and could not do the simple equation but could tell me a bunch of other things about sexual orientation of people or about vaping and many other life things but could not do some basic arithmetic. Just recently I received her state standardized testing score and was very disappointed to see that our district did not even meet the standard set by the state. I feel we should spend more time working on the basic skills that are going to be needed to be successful in society. If my fifth grader can't count change back but can tell me about all of the different genders and how we get to choose what gender we want to be I feel that our values in the school system are not where they should be. I don't see you The school district teaching about the Bible or about Jesus. I understand it is a public school and in that same thought process is why I don't understand many of the things the school is teaching our children. I feel the things that the schools teaching our family values and principles that should be taught at home and respected at school not taught there. These children need

to focus on arithmetic and furthering their education to become productive members of society when they become of age. It is unacceptable I feel the things that the schools teaching our family values and principles that should be taught at home and respected at school not taught there. These children need to focus on arithmetic and furthering their education to become productive members of society when they become of age. It is unacceptable That this type of behavior is allowed and also accepted practice by the school district. I do apologize for any grammatical errors as I am doing this out of convenience on my smart phone.

Want to see a better outcome in the standards we once received

WHAT FINAL REMARKS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

We need to invest in and educate our children if humanity is going to survive

I challenge each of you to remember you are working for the residents of these towns, NOT the state, not the teachers union, not the teachers, not your political affiliations and parties, the residents!

Make our youngsters well rounded, smart people who care about their neighbors, neighborhoods and each other. Zero tolerance for bullying, drugs, and delinquent behavior. I have lost 10's of 1,000's in property damage by young delinquent kids in Barre City. No recourse against minors. Get them off the streets doing something useful like sports and art. Supplement if you have to, to teach teamwork and beauty.

Being proud of costing tax payers the least shouldn't be a driving force in your yearly clashes with teachers/community. students and people employed by the school become casualties

We have had great teachers throughout our child's school experiences. Our district teachers deserve to earn a liveable wage. We are one of the lowest paying districts in the state of Vermont and serve some of the most challenging students. If we value education we need to pay our teachers well so that they stay in our schools. It is vital that our budget keeps the line item for the unified arts programs in all schools, for up to date technology and after school programming. I think we could save money in our budget by spending less money on outside consultants for teacher in-service training and use the talents our staff and teachers already have within our schools.

Project based learning, flexible pathways, Act 77.. meet students where they are and expand beyond curriculum.

Stop the madness of liberal/progressive "education". It is truly nothing more than indoctrination. Return to the basics of real education!

Keep up the good work I'm proud of the school board and all you are doing

Get more police into the schools to stop the drug problem

I am really frustrated with how the renovation/layout work at BCEMS was not wrapped before the school year began. It seems the student services and special education departments were adversely affected, which causes problems for the students. As a parent of one of those kids, I have watched them struggle more this year than any other previous year. I can't help but think that if the space, staff, and services they needed had been readily available, as we were told they would be, then maybe most of what we have dealt with in the last month would not have happened. As it is, now, it's a sting which has compromised our trust in the school's ability to help our child have any positive experience in school, let alone reach their potential as a student. Bad form.

Please keep the per pupil spending reasonable. Taxpayers are moving out of Vermont in alarming rates. Education spending factors in greatly. Teachers get paid more than enough, especially considering their benefit package.

The teaching faculty is the back bone of any school community and they should be treated with both adequate enumeration and respect.

I would like to see bus routes combined. The current structure is very rigid and does not allow flexibility for families that have homes in both barre town and barre city. If we are one district, my kids should be able to get off the bus at their other home, as it is passing directly by the street. It would require no deviation, just a stop for them to get off.

I would prefer my BT tax dollars go to BT school, and SHS, where kids from my town attend school. Paying for BC school with my taxes is a joke.

Lower cost the better, especially if enrollment is declining

Listen to the voters

Not sure / N/A / None (20)

Good luck (or a variation of that) (12)

Having the lowest cost-per-pupil spending in the State should not be our goal. Having the best education, no matter the cost, should be. Educating the next generation of leaders, who are going to have to fix this broken world, is expensive and is going to cost a lot. Spend that money. While some people live in Barre for the low taxes, my family is considering moving somewhere with higher taxes that also has better schools with more opportunities. For what it is worth, we also pay significant state and local taxes, have great paying jobs, and dump lots of money and

volunteer time into the community and schools. If you want families like mine to live in Barre, it is going to mean the schools are expensive, but we will have the best schools. "Cheap" schools are going to get us low-value education that will be delivered by low commitment teachers. The percentage of Barre City and Town teachers looking to leave to go to higher paying districts is high. Anyone not born in Barre who works at the schools is looking to leave, and they do when they can.

Promoting digital citizenship should be embedded in all grade levels and increase significantly in middle school. Use concrete examples and practice frequently!!

Thank you all for all the hard work that you do. It must be really challenging to work as hard as you do with such vocal negativity. Please know that there are a lot of us out here who appreciate the hours that you put in for the betterment of our community.

I would love to see more diverse field trip offerings. My son enjoyed his field trips to the Opera House and to the movies last year, but what about the Vermont History Museum, or the Granite Museum, or area farms or artists?

Keep funding level.

Look into the bussing. It's time consuming and expensive to transport children from city day care to / from the town school.

More transparency. Math didn't work from before the merger to after. Seems as though there was a lot skid in there when it was supposed to be about efficiency and savings. Same old lies from the education community.

While I value education and think we absolutely must invest in our children's education, I find it increasingly difficult to handle the financial burden of our tax rate. I appreciate the time and commitment that faculty, administration and board members put in and thank them for their service. Not about the budget but when you asked people to complete a survey about meeting your mission - you might consider telling them what your mission is. The only mission statement that I could find was one for Spaulding high school.

Special ed and children with behaviors take up a lot of resources so try to support those children but not at the expense of others education. If the classroom can't meet everyone's needs then maybe look at different placements for some of the most aggressive kids

The salary schedule for the teachers needs to be increased. When compared to other districts close in the area it is not a salary schedule that would draw good teachers in.

Should work to move teacher pay up to match other Vermont districts.

Barre City should not be asked to pay greater taxes to support enhancements in the Barre Town school that Barre Town deemed unnecessary until united with Barre City such that the City could help pay.

I encourage you all to keep the children and teachers at the forefront of all your decisions. I know that finances are a dividing force for nearly everyone in our hardworking middle class community and we should strive to invest in what matters most. The children and those with the most face to face time with them. A teacher can be so much more than just an educator if give the opportunity

We need to offer classes that are relevant like how to be a good tenant, financial literacy, parenting class, how to problem solve

How do we reduce administrative costs without affecting students?

Too many liberal teachers and curriculum. Do not like block scheduling at SHS.

I would like to see the security improved at Barre Town school , when you buzz in anyone can walk in behind you . Or a police officer on site would be great.

Students really don't have the same access to materials and supplies that students at other schools have.

Better compensation for educators (teachers, paras, etc). If monetary compensation is not possible, initiate appreciation/employee satisfaction initiatives. Make it hard for great educators to leave our school district by making employment convenient (work schedule, expansion of bus route for teachers with children in the district, etc). Meet with the educators to figure out their concepts of workplace satisfaction and create a plan to implement the reasonable suggestions. Follow up with the PTO for support, Parents would be more than happy to participate in the implementation plan.

We need sports teams beginning at 5th grade instead of 7th.

Let CVCC fund a new building

Your job is so important. Without the resources our students need, they will have poorer lives. What you do goes so far beyond tax rates. If you're not focused on making Barre schools the best they can be and student needs than you should seriously reconsider your priorities. I think you need to focus less on what you think will pass as a budget and focus on setting higher goals for our schools. How can we do better? How can we, as a district, move the community forward in what schools can and should be. How do we make people realize the multiplier effect of a well funded and well run school? Good schools attract people to an area. They make their graduates richer and not just in terms of wealth but in terms of experience and world view. We

can do so much more if we focus less on the bottom line and set a real direction of what we want our students and community to be in the future.

Sports is extremely important to individuals later in life. Having the right coaches hired To coach our kids and investing in the programs that bring kids & community together is critical. Make the investment!

I believe more money time and efforts need to be spent in proactive programs. Program that teach conflict resolution, instead of focusing on bullying, focus on coping skills, meditation, life emotional skills. There are too many out of school suspensions.

Money is important. but the pennies are as important as our kids or our community. Preparing students to be productive citizens is more than just reading and math. Don't let internal politics cloud your decisions.

We need money spent on subs and paras, to get better population of well educated people that want to be with kids

It would be nice to have more opportunities for those students who are exceeding standards and need to be challenged.

Keeping the community aware of after school programs.

Make sure you understand the budget documents to a point where you can explain in detail to constituents that don't understand or have access to the budget documents

I believe teacher salaries are the best predictor of quality schools, but none of your survey questions focused on paying teachers more to create greater competition for teaching positions.

BCEMS cafeteria needs a major overhaul to improve serving efficiency. Children are funneled through a tiny doorway to get their food each day and barely have time to eat. Please consider allocating funding to reconfigure the layout to improve flow.

Thanks for listening. I'm praying for each of the board members through this process. Thanks for your hard work.

Looking at sharing again with the kids saying the pledge of allegiance. It gives the kids a sense of belonging

We are new to the area and have found it hard knowing what is available and going on at the school

I support spending money, even my own scarce funds, on our kids. I hope other people are too.

That we do what is best for ALL students in ALL schools in the Barre area.

Make sure that you keep effective teachers in your classrooms. Make sure that you fund your school library programs. For some students these programs may be the best, if not the only, source of books and information for reading practice and to do school projects. If you haven't already done so, consider setting up a union catalog that will connect learners to all the resources in your schools and help you partner with the public library. This is a good way to share books and resources among the schools.

Stop the infighting, ask yourselves at every decision point 'does this directly benefit the students', and then determine the most economical way to get the desired outcome. Don't nickel and dime the student's education away.

Why is there not bussing for 7-8th grade sporting events? What needs to be done to make this happen? It isn't necessarily always easy to afford time or money to travel and students shouldn't have to miss out due to those reasons. What needs to be done to get bussing from BTMES to Spaulding for students attending Spaulding, seems ludicrous that we pay all this money and the funding isn't here

Consider supporting the abolition of currency. Without money, you wouldn't need/have funding, teachers wouldn't need pay. You'd only be able to hire teachers who really wanted to do the work, and you'd only be able to start/fund programs that the student body was actually willing to participate in, instead of dumping money into stuff they don't care about. Look into Universal Basic Income and the abolition of currency. Could really help BUUSD/Barre/Vermont/The World.

I can see it is frustrating that much of the community does not support increased taxes for the schools, but there are many bright kids not getting the opportunities and resources they need. There are minimal, if any cultural events and field trips to broaden their thinking. Encouraging parent volunteers may be an option to help coordinate these.

I find it embarrassing that as one of the larger districts in the state, we are proud that we spend the LEAST on students. If we truly value education, why is it that we try our hardest to be cheap? It shouldn't be up to the school board to reduce our towns taxes, there are places we can make other cuts (municipalities etc). School should come first, we should want to spend money on our future. We can't be a successful school, that offers children what they need for the future, if we are unwilling to spend money.

I think it is important to break it down as simply as possible to people, especially those who do not have children. Things like per pupil spending is always nice to see and comparing our per pupil spending to surround schools, as well. Also, if taxes are going up, break it down to show how much of the increase is actually going towards our schools. Sometimes it's only cents, but

people hear taxes being raised and they instantly get defensive without realizing how much money is really allotted in the increase.

Make our school more family friendly. It's like walking in a jail

Friendly staff would be better. To feel more welcome when I walk into the school building. More smiles and friendlier attitudes.

Stop lowballing our teachers. They are an essential part of the District and the success of our students. It benefits no one when our District continues to spend money to train and mentor new teachers, only to have them leave the District for a higher paid teaching position elsewhere. It seems to me that School Board members should, AT LEAST, like and respect teachers and their profession! They should value them and make it known that they do.

Honestly, I am not fan of this change and don't really see many positives to it. I am actually quite worried that we will see some serious negative impacts from this change. Having less people making the decisions after combining our large elementary and middle schools' budgets was a very poor decision. I understand we needed to do it or the State was going to force it anyway, but I don't agree with it and I see little if any positive outcomes coming from this change. I would honestly love to be proven wrong here and I sincerely hope you do prove me wrong.

Please have BTMES apply for any and all grants they can. Grant writing is tedious but possible, perhaps there are parents in the community adept and willing to assist in this capacity? I've paid over \$600 to the Burlington YMCA for 2 weeks of care, this can't be a solution for parents!!

I'm sorry for the State of Vt Dept of Education forcing the mergers. Larger hinders learning. And in today's society, larger presents greater opportunity for violence in the schools.

Why do city kids who can afford it get free lunch while town parents still get charged?

Please teach respect for all forms of education, including skilled trades. We all learn differently.

It seems that other school districts outside of Vermont can provide a robust environment for students on smaller budgets. What are schools - outside of Vermont doing ? Look for successful programs and best practices outside of Vermont.

Somehow you (we) must get rid of pass/fail grading system in high school. Not beneficial to students going on to college or into the work force. Until colleges and universities go to a pass/fail, competency grading system, our schools will be unable to prepare. If this means taking the state to task, it is something that needs to be addressed

Put some focus on bullying.....including teachers bullying students not just students bullying students

Improve Health and Food availability in the cafeteria

As a tax payer I am uninterested in sharing funds between the two municipalities beyond the shared responsibility of SHS.

PAY TEACHERS WHAT THEY DESERVE ... THEY DESERVE MORE!

Thank you for your service.

Why do barre city kids do more field trips then barre town kids?

As a Barre Town resident for 30 years I have felt that the Board listened to the teachers and administrators in the decision-making process and I trust this will continue.

TEACHERS teach. Not facility's or programs. Go to merit based pay and everything will be fixed. And fire John P.

Focus on Special Education, after school programs because Barre has a child care provider problem, summer programs and school. Adult education would a big bonus!

Please reconsider proficiency based grading

Keep up the good work! And that high achievers deserve just as much spent on them as the alternative programs. More reward systems for good behavior versus someone NOT exhibiting bad behavior. Some of our kids never or rarely misbehave - acknowledge that. Put the focus there/refocus the attention there; more motivation for kids to do well and for those well behaved to feel appreciated for who they are.

You have a huge responsibility to continue on the tradition of excellence in Barre schools. Never settle for second best... always fight for our students. The opportunities we provide our students in the arts/music/sports etc. are just as important as those that we provide academically.

Need to provide more education for adults, I drive to hinesburg for the adult programs that are offered. the are very busy and raise a lot of money for their school. Look at cvu access.

Be creative. Be bold. Improve our buildings through bond votes. Push your schools' strengths vigorously to your voters. WE have the potential to be a great school system--don't allow your vision to stray from that.

Provide a better standard of education.

My kids love our school (Barre Town). We would like to keep it open.

Try to get along for the good of the students.

Show us where our money goes.

Get rid of proficiency based grading. It is a tool to make everyone average.

Can we rollover the salaries for all the open positions that currently aren't filled at Barre Town.

Update the textbooks! I KNOW there has to be books with my name in them from when I went to high school.

Aim for best value and fairness without bankrupting taxpayers. A lot to ask for, but that's what we need.

I would really like to see Barre City offer an after school program available for 1st & 2nd graders. Make academics a high priority (math & reading) and focus budget and funds to ensure students are excelling (extra adults in the classroom, mentoring, extra guidance counselors, etc). get students engaged and fully seeing the potential they have to go further in life than their parents.

I am thrilled that the high school students now have Chromebooks. It would be thrilling to know all students within district have the same opportunity. Also, our music program needs attention. So few middle school students sticking with band should be offering up questions as to why and then how do we beef it up again. Finally, in regard to bussing-offering athletics to 7/8 graders is wonderful, but the lack of transportation provided for kids to get to away games is not okay.

Don't forget enriching activities and academics for the gifted as well as those struggling.

Think of all the kids not just the popular, rich kids

They should have a class that teaches the children the real world. Budget, finances, every day living. Most children don't go to collage and some don't know how to live on there own when they have to.

Look closely at current expenses and necessities and the amount being spent on curriculum specialists and coaches in the district. And can some money be spent more on bridging home and school with Home school coordinator positions as the behavior system is lacking the connection with families and needs to be proactive versus reactive. There is also a lot of money being lost with the transition of teachers as there needs to be better close out procedures with materials stored and labeled when a teacher leaves so the new staff does not need to buy all new materials, because the materials are lost or misplaced.

Invest in the educational opportunities needed to get students ready for a job or more education. Be flexible and resourceful.

Barre town school parking lot is way too small and far away from the building. The fact there is no public transportation for school kids at Barre City High School makes it hard for parents in Barre town who have kids attending both schools

Please no merging students between the city and the town. No merging bus routes. Keep us operating as independently as possible.

Increase morale at schools!

Not all students need to go to college, the state and the country need more people in the trades. These are good programs and people can make good money working in them. You need to sell the point better.

The Board needs to think about what is best for our children and not what makes adults happy.

Please focus on quality and opportunity, not trying to shave nickels and dimes here and there.

I would love the school to offer life skills classes as part of the curriculum plan. Also technology needs to be integrated into the daily curriculum.

Selecting a principal for the elementary school should be essentially important about how he/she views what the job/ relationship should be with the students and their parents

Stop wasting money on more administration. Go in and visit the classrooms.

Work to keep teachers' political views out of our classrooms and maintain focus on education.

The arts have shown to improve students' performances in math and science and overall mental health. We have to support them. Also, inclusiveness is key. Being more open and offering option classes/lectures on gender and sexuality.

More education in civics.

Based on questions asked I would hope there is no consideration in removing sports, clubs, arts or band to fit a budget. These are needed to make it possible for all kids to fit into a group somewhere and build a resume for future college and jobs. I don't think it was necessary to make all rooms electronic boards or send home a Chromebook for each student. There were computers in school already (were they returned or sold for budget money? what's the use for them- hopefully not sitting in storage or thrown).

I would like to see students brought back to basics, respecting their peers, recognizing authoritative/educational figures, importance of nature and the balance of our environments, social problem solving, trade skills, along with learning fundamentals and lots of extra curricular opportunities. LESS time with screens and importance on who has the latest gadgets technology. While I believe that has it's place it is much father down the priority ladder when trying to creative respectful, successful, and contributing members of society.

I will support our staff in the school and programs for the students. Barre has a bad image and the board has chance to change that bad view (from other Barre and other state residents). Money that goes into supporting our children is important to helping with that image. Having a school board willing to stand up for the needs of the students and the staff will show in Barre pride. The school boards needs to bring Barre pride back. Support the students and support the ones that are already trying to support the students. Lets make Barre a place people want to stay AND move to. There are so many life events that are driven by the local schools. A good education from a caring school district will create a society with working, contributors with less crime/health concerns and so so much more. Having an involved school board, staff and students create a great community. We have a social obligation to our students. Where is your social obligation? How are you helping to make Barre better now and years to come?

Don't merge or alter elementary/middle schools

Spend wisely, and draw from experience from both schools

I think more energy and thought must go into addressing the behavior system at Barre City.

Please do not pride yourself in having the lowest per pupil spending. Spend wisely, but make sure you are investing in programs and our students. Please prioritize academics and experiences over athletics when it comes down to penny pinching.

So far from what I've seen the district is great!

Our teachers are highly educated and motivated to improve the lives of our children. Stop treating them like they are supposed to be doing their jobs for purely altruistic reasons.

We must do better meeting the needs of our students, both low and high. I fear that we spend so much on meeting the needs of low students and never challenge the middle of the pack students, let alone the high flyers.

I think giving a computer for all Shs students was a wonderful idea and has allowed low income families the same advantage as other students

No homework other than reading for kids from K-5!

Make sure that the kids that have IEP's are actually having them followed... not impressed with BTMES and my sons IEP

Please keep trying to do the right things for our kids even though uninformed or willfully ignorant members of the public try to get in the way. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our community. Giving our children the education they deserve is far more important than people trying to overturn a law that was already passed or joining with a doomed lawsuit. We need to figure out how to obtain and retain top flight special educators, and other support staff.

The Barre Town school building is aging- I would love to see some funds allocated to updating its front entryway, office area and gymnasiums. The open classrooms are also not conducive to learning.

Spend only what you need. Our taxes are too high. We do our best to support the district as much as possible. Have you considered sending PreK-3 to one location and Grades 4-8 to another? Why not blend Barre City and Barre Town from the start? Isn't the busing shared? Then each location/building would be able to handle the needs specific to those ages and grade levels. Seems simple to me.

Transportation needs to be addressed. There are a number of students that live far enough from Spaulding that they cannot walk but parents either don't have transportation or are working in the hours kids need to be dropped off. Additionally, not providing transportation for middle school sports puts children at risk of losing what could be their only positive outlet. Riding a bus with your sports team also builds community. All the Barre schools should look into having Ryan Esbjerg from Flex Your Face come talk. He grew up in Vermont and provides these talks for free. His story is incredible and a must have for Spaulding! He has a particular soft spot for Barre. I have had the pleasure of meeting him twice and he is very excited to come to Barre! <https://www.facebook.com/FlexYourFace/>

Make the tough decisions and hold students, teachers, and administrators to a higher standard.

Work on eliminating duplicative jobs. Save \$\$ that way instead of taking from the kids. Put money into the sports fields and the drama technology. If you are going to have community plays they need the technology.

More french language! After all being french, I'm insulted my kids are learning more spanish.

Stop proficiency based grading!

Plan better so that children can experience better field trips. Other schools have wonderfully enriching trips for their students and I think that we should be able to offer them as well. I also attended Barre Town School as a student and I enjoy the memories that I have of the great trips I took.

Stay out of my taxes when it comes to such a broken system that does not delegate funds as they should be.

Take the budget and make the schools safer. Barre town school it's too easy for people to walk in and most classrooms do not have walls. Just partitions

You have to do something about the hygiene of some of your students. My daughter was back at school for 3 days this year and she had LICE, you have to do something, this is abuse to my children, no different than if she was being bullied. My daughter is traumatized every time she gets LICE.

Is there a way to vote on specific parts of the budget? Such as busing vs. athletics vs. curriculum? I would rather vote by line item than by a whole budget. Then I would always vote if I felt I had a say in how the money is spent.

Keep money aimed at students and not at hiring more central office employees.

Transportation for sports in btmes 7-8 grades. I am fortunate to be able to take time and drive my student to games however I feel this poses an equity issue for many students and with the amount of money I see it's discouraging.

Keep it low

I am really unhappy with the busing system at barre city. The two different times are very inconvenient for working parents. This could easily be fixed with a before and after school program. I'd like to see that happen, I know I can't be the only parent with a child in elementary and a child in middle school.

Facilities And focus on the kids that are in the middle - Not the lowest 10% or the highest 10% the middle 80%

Ask the voters for what you need

Improve special education greatly! -offer more clubs after school for 7 and 8th graders that are not just sports (art, graphics, specialized interests, intramurals)

I believe in a good education for our students at a fair price for our taxpayers.

Figure out your excessive spending

Cut down on wasteful spending

I thankfully have flexibility in my job and can take time off work to transport my child to sports games. It has been a strain on families who have to lose money from their job to transport their children. I wonder how many students don't participate because there is no transportation to and from games. I also wonder about equity and the importance of providing after school activities to all of our students.

I really wish we could revamp the transportation by bus for games... its a real hardship for lots of parents that work.

It is stupid to provide differently based on where in this small geographical area you live. Neither school is perfect, actually have the courage improve them together

My appreciation for the hard work they have done and continue to do for our students.