

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Barre Unified Union School District Central Office – First Floor Conference Area
September 16, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins, Chair - (BT)
J. Guy Isabelle, Vice Chair - (At-Large)
Giuliano Cecchinelli - (BC)
Andrew McMichael (BC Community Member) arrived at 5:40 p.m.
Jon Valsangiacomo – (BT Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, Assistant Director (CVCC)
Pierre LaFlamme, Assistant Principal (BCEMS)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, called the Monday, September 16, 2019, meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the First Floor Conference Area.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

A ‘Buy Local’ policy and an overview of policy discussion at the BUUSD Board meeting will be discussed under Agenda Item 6 – Other Business.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting.

5. Committee Business

5.1 Rotation Priority and Review Schedule

A document titled ‘Model Policy Manual Update Coming This Fall’ (by Sue Ceglowski, VSBA Director of Legal and Policy Services), was distributed. This document will also be referenced under Agenda Item 5.4. A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 09/16/19) was also distributed.

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Index document, advising that policies highlighted in green are policies that had First Readings approved by the BUUSD Board on 09/12/19.

Policies highlighted in blue are policies that the VSBA plans to revise in the near future. These policies should be given priority on the rotation schedule, so that they can be revised to match the updated VSBA Model Policy versions. It is unlikely that the VSBA will have revisions completed for the October meeting.

Policies highlighted in pink are policies that the VSBA has recommended be deleted. Discussion on possible policy deletions will most likely not occur at the October meeting. It was noted that the BUUSD has adopted policies B6, D2, and D30. Policy C28 relates to transgender and gender nonconforming students. The BUUSD does not currently have a policy on this matter. BUUSD legal counsel has advised that no policy relating to transgender and gender nonconforming students should be adopted.

Mr. Isabelle requested that Mr. Pandolfo check to see if the Inter-district policy is working well or if Mr. Pandolfo, based on his experiences thus far, believes revisions need to be made.

There is no legal requirement that BUUSD policy names/titles match VSBA policy names/titles.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the VSBA recommends removing legal references from policies. Mr. Pandolfo will contact the VSBA to confirm whether or not they plan to leave legal references in their Model Policies, and will also query VSBA regarding why they are making the recommendation to remove legal references.

As required by Act 5 of 2018, the AOE (in collaboration with the VSBA and the Council of Independent Schools), is writing a Model Policy on ‘electronic communications between school employees and students’. This policy will need to be adopted by the BUUSD in the 2019 – 2020 school-year. VSBA will provide additional information in the future.

Additionally, the VSBA has advised that 2 school safety policies are close to being finalized, and will be published in the near future.

5.2 List of Model Policies

Two documents were distributed; a document listing Model Policies, sorted by category, and a document titled ‘Policy – Self Assessment’. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Model Policies listing, advising that he will contact VSBA to inquire about why policies A23 and A24 are not on the list. The Committee should discuss whether or not to adopt all of the ‘recommended’ policies. The Committee and administrators may wish to review the list to see if all of the policies are necessary, or if some of them are covered by documented procedures. It was noted that the BUUSD does not have policies that are equivalent to VSBA policies B20, B22, B30, B31, B32, and B33 (all of which related to personnel matters). The BUUSD has not adopted all of the ‘recommended’ or ‘to be considered’ Community Relations and Non-Instructional Operations’ policies. Discussion of these policies should be added to a future agenda. Brief discussion was held regarding the Policy Self-Assessment document, which has been deemed a useful tool for policy creation, adoption, and review.

In preparation for the next meeting, Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins will cross-reference the BUUSD Policy list to the VSBA Policy list.

5.3 Discussion Regarding Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources & Internet Policy (D3)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that this is the policy that staff and students need to adhere to. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins wants assurance that there is ‘balance’ on what can be posted on-line. Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins would also like assurance that student pictures that are posted on-line do not include pictures of students whose parents have opted out of having pictures posted. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of procedures being utilized to assure that ‘opt out’ students’ pictures are not published. It was noted that the Technology Director advises of changes that require policy revision.

5.4 Discussion Regarding School/Digital/Online Communications for Staff (B40)

A document titled ‘Model Policy Manual Update Coming This Fall’ (by Sue Ceglowski, VSBA Director of Legal and Policy Services), was distributed under Agenda Item 5.1. This Committee will discuss the new VSBA Model Policy once it is written. The Committee may wish to include the Technology Director in the discussion.

6. Other Business

Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins provided a brief overview of the policies that were presented to the BUUSD Board for approval of first readings, including minor amendments that were recommended and agreed upon at the Board meeting.

Mr. Isabelle queried whether or not the BUUSD should consider a ‘buy local’ policy. This question is being raised in response to discussion held at the last BUUSD Board meeting. It was noted that there is no policy that requires the BUUSD to always accept bids from local businesses. For budgetary reasons, the lowest bid is usually the bid that is accepted, although other factors also play a role in the decision making process. There will be an update at a future Board meeting, and then it will be decided if a policy needs to be considered. There is no Model Policy relating to ‘buying local’.

7. Items for Future Agendas

- VSBA Recommended Policies
- VSBA To Be Considered Policies
- Policies for Deletion
- School/Digital/Online Communications for Staff (B40)

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, October 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the BUUSD Central Office, First Floor Conference Room.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin