

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING**

Spaulding High School Cafeteria

January 10, 2019

6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Tim Boltin

Dave Delcore

Alice Farrell, arrived at 6:18p.m.

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins

Tom Koch

Donna Kelty, Barre Town Clerk

Paul Malone

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

Jay Paterson

Sarah Pregent

Jacquelyn Ramsay-Tolman

Dotty Ricks

Sonya Spaulding

Tom Koch, designee for Daniel French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education, called the Organizational Meeting of the Barre Unified Union School District to order at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Koch presented a letter from Secretary of Education, Daniel M. French, Ed.D. , dated December 14, 2018. The letter, which will be placed on file and entered into the record, appoints Mr. Koch as Mr. French's designee to convene the Organizational Meeting of the Barre UUSD.

Mr. Pandolfo announced the results of the 01/08/19 Article 1 Reconsideration vote in Barre Town; 952 'Yes' votes, 534 'No' votes, and 15 blank/spoiled ballots. The vote failed as it did not meet the 1404 'yes' vote threshold required by Statute. The vote was certified on 01/09/19.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that this evening's meeting would use the Warning posted to be used in the event that the Article 1 Reconsideration Vote did not pass.

Mr. Koch, hearing no objection, waived the reading of the list of Articles and agreed to read each Article individually, prior to it being acted upon.

- *Article I*

To elect a temporary presiding officer and clerk of the District from among the qualified voters of the district.

Mr. Koch read Article I and advised that a temporary presiding officer and clerk needed to be elected.

Mr. Koch asked for nominations for the position of Temporary Presiding Officer.

Mr. Boltin nominated Tom Koch for the position of Temporary Presiding Officer. Mr. Malone seconded the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed.

Mr. Koch was unanimously elected as Temporary Presiding Officer.

Mr. Koch requested nominations for the position of Temporary Clerk.

Mr. Malone nominated Donna Kelty for the position of Temporary Clerk. Ms. Ricks seconded the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed. Mrs. Kelty was unanimously elected as Temporary Clerk.

- *Article II*

To swear in the members of the Transitional Board created in 9Article of the District's Articles of Agreement, who shall immediately assume office and serve until the voters of the District elect the initial members of the Board of Directors and those members are sworn in and assume their duties.

Mr. Koch read Article II.

Mr. Koch asked the Members of the BUUSD Transitional Board to stand and be sworn in. BUUSD Transitional Board Members; **Tim Boltin, Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins, Paul Malone, Sarah Pregent, and Sonya Spaulding** stood and were sworn in by Mr. Koch. All Members present took the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office.

It was noted that Mrs. Farrell, who is not present, will need to be sworn in at a later time.

- *Article III*

To adopt Robert's or other rules of order, which shall govern the parliamentary procedures of the organizational meeting and all subsequent annual and special meetings of the District.

Mr. Koch read Article III.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins, the assembly unanimously voted to adopt Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition).

- *Article IV*

To elect the following officers of the District from among the qualified voters of the district, which officers shall assume office upon election and serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified;

- *Moderator*
- *Clerk*
- *Treasurer*

Mr. Koch read Article IV.

Mr. Koch requested nominations for the position of Moderator.

Mr. Boltin nominated Paul Malone for the position of Moderator. Mr. Malone declined the nomination. Ms. Ricks nominated Tom Koch for the position of Moderator. Mr. Malone seconded the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed. Mr. Koch was unanimously elected as Moderator.

Mr. Koch asked for nominations for the position of Clerk.

Mr. Malone nominated Donna Kelty (Barre Town Clerk) for the position of Clerk. Ms. Ricks seconded the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed.

Mrs. Kelty was unanimously elected as Clerk.

Mr. Koch asked for nominations for the position of Treasurer.

Mr. Malone nominated Carol Dawes (Barre City Clerk) for the position of Treasurer. Mrs. Spaulding seconded the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed.

Ms. Dawes was unanimously elected as Treasurer.

Mrs. Farrell arrived at 6:18 p.m.

Mrs. Farrell was sworn in by Mr. Koch, taking the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office.

- *Article V*

To determine a date and location for the first annual meeting of the District and all subsequent annual meetings, which shall be not earlier than February 1 and not later than June 1 in each year.

Mr. Koch read Article V.

Mr. Boltin moved that the first Annual Meeting/Public Informational Meeting of the Barre Unified Union School District (beginning in 2020), and all subsequent Annual Meetings/Public Informational Meetings of the Barre Unified Union School District, be held the evening before Town Meeting Day (first Tuesday in March), with all Town Meeting Day Articles being voted on by Australian ballot.

Mrs. Spaulding seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Mrs. Pregent moved that the Annual Open Meeting (open floor voting meeting) of the Barre Unified Union School District, be held at Spaulding High School, and that Australian ballot voting for Barre City voters be held at the Barre Municipal Auditorium, and that Australian ballot voting for Barre Town voters, be held at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School.

Mr. Malone seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- *Article VI*

To determine whether to vote on the District's budget and all other public questions by Australian ballot.

Mr. Koch read Article VI.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the 706 Committee had drafted Articles that required Australian ballots with no comingled counting of votes. Brief discussion was held, including information from Mrs. Kelty regarding the some negative aspects of comingled counting, including storage and transportation of ballots, and the costs associated with transportation of ballots and payment of individuals who work to 'count' ballots.

Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins moved that the District's budget and all other public questions be voted on by Australian ballot with no comingling of votes.

Mr. Malone seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- ***Article VII***

To determine whether to elect members of the District Board by Australian ballot.

Mr. Koch read Article VII.

Mr. Malone moved to elect members of the BUUSD Board by Australian ballot with no comingling of votes.

Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- ***Article VIII***

To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to officers of the District.

Mr. Koch read Article VIII.

Mrs. Farrell moved to compensate officers of the District (per year) as follows; Moderator \$100, Clerk \$100, Treasurer \$750.

Mrs. Pregent seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- ***Article IX***

To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to members of the District Board.

Mr. Koch read Article IX.

Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the current compensation rates for the various Board Members and Chairs. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding his suggestion for compensation rates for the BUUSD Chair (\$4,000) and BUUSD Board Members (\$2,500). In response to a query regarding why Mr. Pandolfo feels the compensation amounts should be greater than the current compensation, it was noted that the single BUUSD Board will have more work to perform as it will be responsible for three schools. Though it is possible that the Board will be comprised of 9 Members, it may be comprised of 4 Members, as defined in the Default Articles of Agreement. Regardless of whether the Board has 4 or 9 Members, the overall cost will be lower than what is currently paid to 19 Members. It was noted that for BCEMS, Board compensation is currently decided by Australian ballot. In response to a query regarding the possibility of having this issue decided by Australian ballot, it was noted that Statute differs between Union Districts and other structures of 'make-up'.

Ms. Ricks moved to compensate Board Members \$2,000, and the Board Chair \$3,000. There was no second. The motion died.

Mr. Malone moved to compensate BUUSD Board Members \$2,500 (per year), and the BUUSD Chair \$4,000 (per year).

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins.

The assembly voted to approve the motion. Ms. Ricks voted against the motion.

- *Article X*

To establish provisions for the payment of any expense incurred by the District before it becomes fully operational on July 1, 2019 under a voter-approved budget for the fiscal year beginning on that date.

Mr. Koch read Article X.

Mr. Koch read to the assembly, the information he received from the State relating to payment of expenses incurred by the BUUSD.

Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins moved that the Barre Unified Union School District comply with the provisions of 16 V.S.A. Section 563, subdivisions (8) and (9), regarding the payment of expenses and the maintenance of financial accounts, and comply with the policies and procedures of the Barre Supervisory Union regarding such matters.

Mr. Boltin seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- *Article XI*

To authorize the District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Mr. Koch read Article XI.

Mrs. Pregent moved that the Barre Unified Union School District have the power to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by issuance of its notes or orders payable no later than one year from date; provided, however, that the newly formed District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Mrs. Spaulding seconded the motion.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- **Article XII**

To determine whether to authorize the Board of School Directors, pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 563(10) & (11) (C), to provide mailed notice to residents of the availability of the Annual Report and proposed school budget in lieu of distributing the Annual Report and proposed budget.

Mr. Koch read Article XII.

Ms. Ricks requested that Annual Reports and proposed school budgets be mailed each year. Discussion was held regarding the current practices, brochures and budgets are provided and all information is available, but is not mailed to taxpayers unless requested. It was noted that the Article does not preclude mailing of the Annual Report and proposed budget.

Mrs. Pregent moved that to authorize the Board of School Directors, pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 563(10) & (11) (C), to provide mailed notice to residents of the availability of the Annual Report and proposed school budget in lieu of distributing the Annual Report and proposed budget.

Mr. Malone seconded the motion.

The assembly voted to approve the motion. Ms. Ricks voted against the motion.

Mr. Koch announced that at this time, the assembly would act upon any other business proper to come before said meeting. No other business was presented.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the assembly unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

See next page for a copy of the letter from Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin