

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School – Library
February 20, 2020 - 5:30 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) – arrived at 6:42 p.m.
Anthony Folland (BC)
Guy Isabelle (At-Large)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Josh Allen, Communications Specialist
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Brenda Waterhouse, SHS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore – Times Argus Kerri Lamb

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, February 20, 2020, Regular meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Agenda Item 5.3.4 Facilities & Transportation Committee - Change meeting location to BTMES
Agenda Item 5.3.5 Communications Committee – Change meeting date to March 19, 2020
Agenda Item 6.1 JROTC Presentation – Discuss out of order, after Agenda Item 3.0 Public Comment
Agenda Item 6.3 Field Trip Approval – Delete this Agenda Item
Add Agenda Item 10.2 Student Issues (under Executive Session)
Add Agenda Item 10.3 Personnel (under Executive Session)

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Agenda as amended.

3. Public Comment

None.

The Board moved to the Cafeteria for a presentation by staff and students of the JROTC Program. (Agenda Item 6.1).
The Board returned to the SHS Library and continued the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Regular Meeting.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2020 Special Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2020 Special Meeting.

4.3 Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2020 Special Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Special Meeting.

5. Reports to the Board

5.1 Central Office

The Superintendent's Report (dated 02/20/20) 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. Three additional documents were distributed; a letter from the Vermont Superintendents Association (dated 02/11/20), A letter from the Vermont Principals' Association (dated 11/08/19), and a copy of a Certificate of Environmental Stewardship from Grow Compost of Vermont. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he received an e-mail from legal counsel relating to the lawsuit with MSB relating to contracted Medicaid billing issues. The suit has been resolved. There is a \$250,000 settlement which should be paid to the District within thirty days. Mr. Pandolfo read the e-mail from legal counsel, and commended Business Manager Lisa Perreault for pursuing this matter for the District. Mrs. Spaulding noted that she is pleased to see that there is some statewide coordination being performed relating to Proficiency Based Learning, though she believes it should have started earlier. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding some general myths relating to Proficiency Based Learning, and advised that he believes the State Board of Education took testimony from a variety of stakeholders, and he believes more discussions will be held in the future. Mrs. Spaulding also advised that she believes the letters from VSA and VPA are too "jargony". Mrs. Spaulding expressed frustration relating to comments from Michael Carr (4a in the report) and advised that she would like the Agency of Education to do their jobs better, and not tell the BUUSD how to do 'our jobs better'. Mr. Pandolfo provided clarification regarding cross grade team meetings (relating to pre-k to kindergarten transition coordination).

5.2 Building Reports

5.2.1 Spaulding High School

The Principal's Report for January 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; Athletics, Student's and Community, Students, Athletes, and Staff Persons of the Week. Two additional documents were distributed; the SHS Newsletter for February 2020 and a document titled 'Generator – 2019 – 2020 Programs'. Mrs. Waterhouse distributed JROTC flyers, noting that these flyers are sent to families and community members. Mrs. Waterhouse also distributed a copy of an article from VEHI titled 'Thriving Rockstars'. Lieutenant Colonel Donald Singer, United States Army, Retired is highlighted as a VEHI PATH Thriving Rockstar. Mrs. Waterhouse updated her report, advising that in addition to Jacob Washburn, Jackson Pierson has been accepted into the G.W. Plastics Apprenticeship Program. Mrs. Waterhouse read a letter of gratitude from Jackson Pierson's mother for the school's part is assisting him with applying for this apprenticeship program. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that Spaulding is making many student / community member/business partner connections. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that with Lieutenant Colonel Singer's retirement as Teacher and Senior Army Instructor of JROTC, she and Don Singer are actively working with the military regarding his replacement. The process is quite complicated. They are currently coordinating a visit from a service member living in Germany. The January report was inadvertently distributed with the Board packet. The February Report will be distributed via e-mail.

5.2.2 Barre City Elementary and Middle School

The Co-Principals' Report dated February 20, 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; Professional Development, the district wide Art Show, resignations and the hiring process, the Dental Mobile unit, and Winter Sports. In response to a query, it was noted that the BCEMS Newsletter is distributed via e-mail, when e-mail addresses are known. Paper copies continue to be distributed. Mrs. Spaulding would like to see all of the schools' newsletters distributed via e-mail.

5.2.3 Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

The BTMES Building Report dated February 20, 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; 100th Day of School, the Band Concert, a large donation from Staples, February vacation, receipt of a School Zero Waste Grant, Professional Development, the Scholastic Book Fair, and Upcoming Events. A copy of the BTMES Newsletter for February 2020 was also distributed. There were no questions from the Board.

5.2.4 Central Vermont Career Center

A copy of the CVCC Newsletter for February 2020 was distributed. A copy of the CVCC 2020 Annual Report was also distributed. Ms. Chamberlin advised of the March 13, 2020 Open House, which starts at 5:30 p.m. at CVCC. Additionally, Ms. Chamberlin advised that the NTHS (National Technical Honor Society) Ceremony will take place on March 26, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thirty-four students are being inducted into the NTHS. Ms. Chamberlin advised that the CVCC main web page will have a link to regular updates on the Feasibility Study.

5.3 Committee Reports

5.3.1 Policy Committee

The Committee did not meet in January or February. Mr. Pandolfo anticipates that the next meeting will occur after re-organization of the Board. Mr. Pandolfo has reviewed some updated information from VSBA, and noted that there will be a few additional things to put in place before the end of the academic year.

The next meeting is Monday, March 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office.

5.3.2 Curriculum Committee

Minutes from the January 28, 2020 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Pompei advised that the Committee received a good overview of

Literacy Curriculum and Programs, as well as information relating to concurrent enrollment. Mrs. Waterhouse provided additional information relating to concurrent enrollment which involves SHS instructors teaching CCV courses at Spaulding High School. Concurrent enrollment is cost effective and allows SHS students to access college courses in-house, and helps assure that student progress can be monitored.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS in the James Taffel Library.

5.3.3 Finance Committee

Minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that discussion included; year-end projections, the FY21 Budget, budget reduction considerations, and the Budget Communication Plan.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office.

5.3.4 Facilities & Transportation Committee

Minutes from the February 10, 2020 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Pompei advised that the Committee discussed Amber Box (a system that monitors and reports gunfire), noting that there is currently no funding available to purchase this product. There was no update on transportation of high school students or sports teams (the vendor has not provided the requested information). The Committee reviewed the first draft of the Transportation Survey. The Committee received an update on the acquisition of a Tier II generator for BTMES. The Town (of Barre) will cover the cost of purchase and installation, as well as half of the annual expenses. It was noted that when/if BTMES receives a request to use the school as a shelter, BTMES representatives have the right to decline the request. Mrs. Pompei advised that she does not believe BCEMS receives any cost offset from Green Mountain Power (relating to the Tier IV generator). Mr. Pandolfo will look into this matter. In response to a query regarding funding of summer 2020 projects, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the anticipated projects are built into the proposed FY21 budget. Projects may have to be reviewed if the budget is not passed by voters. Mr. Isabelle commended Mr. Evans and Mr. Mitchell for their efforts on obtaining a generator and working with the Barre Town Select Board.

The next meeting is Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

5.3.5 Communications Committee

Minutes from the February 11, 2020 meeting were distributed. An e-mail containing the draft Exit Survey was also distributed. Mr. Folland advised that the Committee reviewed the Annual Report draft, reviewed the mailing plan, and discussed Portrait of a Graduate (services and related costs). Use of Portrait of a Graduate appears to be cost prohibitive at this time. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the publications have been picked up and will be mailed shortly.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the BUUSD Central Office.

5.3.6 Negotiations Committee

Mrs. Spaulding advised that a Negotiations Session was held on 02/19/2020 and that a joint statement will be issued soon. The Committee met with AFSCME representatives and traded proposals. The next meeting with AFSCME representatives is 03/11/2020. The next Committee meeting date is to be determined.

5.3.7 Regional Advisory Board

Minutes from the February 10, 2020 meeting were distributed. There were no questions from the Board.

The next meeting date is May 4, 2020 at 4: p.m. at CVCC.

5.4 Financials

A document titled 'BUUSD FY20 Expense Report Summary' (dated 02/13/20) was distributed.

There were no questions from the Board.

6. Current Business

6.1 Presentation

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Singer, United States Army, Retired, and Sgt. 1st Class Danny Boone, addressed the Board and introduced JROTC students; Eusebio Aja, Natalie Allen, Caleb Carrien, and Megan Hammarstrom. The presentation included a brief overview of the JROTC Program, and included discussion of teams (Rifle, Drill, Exhibition, and Raider), personal goal setting, planning for achievement of goals, character building, community service opportunities, and each students' plans for the future. It was noted that students cannot be taught war play skills as part of JROTC. Approximately 11 % - 14% of JROTC students choose to do something related to the military. JROTC is not a recruitment tool. The Drill team recently won the Northern New England Regional Drill Competition. A formal Military Ball was recently held. JROTC students will be traveling to New York City (04/25/20 – 04/29/20). Students presented a rifle shooting exhibition for the Board, each student firing from one of the approved stances. JROTC staff and students were thanked for their attendance and presentation to the Board.

6.2 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

Letters of resignation from Susan Chickering (27 years), Mary Alice Osborn (1 year), and Don McMahon (12 years) were distributed.

Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the individuals who have submitted letters of resignation.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with well wishes, the resignations of Susan Chickering, Mary Alice Osborn, and Don McMahan.

No candidates were presented for hire.

6.3 Field Trip Approvals

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to add Agenda Item 6.3 back to the Agenda.

Brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming trip for the Indoor Track Team to travel to Massachusetts to participate in the New England Regional Indoor Track Competition at Reggie Lewis State Track Athletic Center.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Indoor Track Team out of state field trip.

6.4 Bid Recommendation Approval – SHS Water Storage Project

A document titled 'Bid Comparison for SHS Water Storage Project' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the bids and advised that he recommends contracting with Cooper Mechanical (\$62,619). Mr. Cecchinelli advised that this project was discussed at the December Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Pandolfo advised that funding for the project is within this year's budget. The project will most likely be completed during the April break.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and agreed to contract with Cooper Mechanical for the SHS Water Storage Project.

7. Old Business

7.1 Budget Communication

A document titled 'Important links to FY21 Budget Information' was distributed. A copy of the 2020 Annual Report to the Community was also distributed. Mrs. Spaulding distributed a copy of an e-mail containing the Exit Survey draft. Mr. Allen advised that over 9000 Annual Reports were printed and will be mailed to every house in Barre City, Barre Town, East Barre, Graniteville, Websterville, and South Barre. The cost for mailing is 9¢ per document. It is hoped that this mailing will have a positive impact on the vote. The Annual Report does contain links to budget information on the BUUSD web site. FAQs have been added to the BUUSD web site. The budget video will be completed soon. High School students will be distributing the Exit Survey at the polls. Mrs. Pompei would like the Exit Survey to include a text area where members of the public can write in what is important to them. Concern was raised regarding the amount of time it will take to complete the Exit Survey, and possible animosity from voters. The Board agreed to amend the Exit Survey by adding a specified list of categories for community members to use to identify what they value in Barre education. Mr. Isabelle feels the survey is premature and wants to put the Board's energy into promoting the budget. Mr. Isabelle congratulated Mr. Allen for his efforts on publications, most notably, the Annual Report. Mr. Pandolfo would like to focus on what the district spends on students. Mr. Pandolfo received a letter from the Association's leadership, who advised that they will be sending out post cards, and they are 'on board' with assisting to promote a positive budget vote. Mass messages have been sent via Infinite Campus, and the budget continues to be promoted on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Mrs. Spaulding has the event spreadsheet, and advised that she has updated it with additional venues/events. Mrs. Spaulding will circulate the spreadsheet so that Board Members can sign up for some promotional shifts. Mr. Isabelle suggested that Board Members be present at the polls to answer questions from community members. Additionally, Mrs. Spaulding advised that she has brought lawn signs for Board Members to post around the City and the Town, and asked that those who install signs, be vigilant in keeping them installed, and retrieve them after the vote.

7.2 Superintendent Search Update

A document titled 'BUUSD Superintendent Search Committee Update – March 2020' was distributed. Mr. Malone advised that the Search Committee will be evaluating candidates soon, and will present final candidates to the Board by 04/07/2020.

7.3 Vision, Mission & Strategic Goals

7.3.1 Portrait of a Graduate

A copy of a proposal from Portrait of a Graduate (dated 02/10/2020) was distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she and Mr. Pandolfo spoke with representatives from Portrait of a Graduate, and have determined that use of POA is cost prohibitive. This was discussed at the Communications Committee meeting. The Committee and/or Board will need to discuss other options. Ms. Chamberlin advised that the process for CVCC took ten to twelve months and that the process was very beneficial. Those in CVCC who participated enjoyed the process. Ms. Chamberlin believes a similar process may be beneficial for the merged district. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there are other options available and that research will need to be performed. Mr. Isabelle queried regarding grant monies. Mr. Isabelle will look into possible grant funding from the Tarrant Foundation.

8. Other Business/Round Table

Mr. Folland expressed his thanks to all (Board Members and administrators) the amazing folks he's had the pleasure to work with during his four years on the Board. Mr. Folland reminded community members to get out and vote !

Mr. Isabelle expressed this thanks to Mr. Folland and Mr. Boltin for being instrumental in creation of the SHS Food Pantry.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that she attended today's student voter registration at SHS. Mrs. Spaulding reported that students were excited by the chance to become registered voters, the event was fun, and 27 students registered.

Mrs. Pompei and Mr. Malone also thanked Mr. Folland for his service.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Administrative Team would hold a Winter Retreat on 03/06/2020 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Mr. Pandolfo advised that SHS is having a good winter athletic season, and credited the Athletic Director for her work.

The Superintendent and Board thanked Mr. Folland and Mrs. Kerin-Hutchins for their time on the Board, sharing their perspectives and contributing much to Board discussions.

Mrs. Waterhouse thanked Natalie Soffen, Athletic Director, for her support of the athletes and athletic programs. Mrs. Waterhouse also thanked Mr. Boltin, the BNI (Business Network International) Group, Rotarians, and Kiwanis Club Members for their assistance with the Food Pantry.

Ms. Chamberlin thanked Mr. Folland for his service on the Board and support of the Central Vermont Career Center.

9. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board that beginning in March 2020, the Board will meet twice per month. Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Thursdays each month. Administrator Reports to the Board will be presented at the first meeting of each month.

The next Board Meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS in the James Taffel Library.

The second Board Meeting for the month will be on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at BCEMS in the James Taffel Library.

- Board Reorganization (03/12/2020)
- Resignations, Retirements, and New Hires
- Budget Debrief
- Superintendent Search
- Increases for Non-Contracted Personnel (03/26/2020)
- Board Reports
- Approval of Field Trips
- Vision, Mission & Strategic Goals

10. Executive Session as Needed

10.1 Negotiations

10.2 Student Matters

10.3 Personnel Matter

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Negotiations, Student Matters, and a Personnel Matter.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item (Negotiations) proposed for discussion would clearly place the Barre Unified Union School District at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:37 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. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mr. Folland, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin