

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD RETREAT MEETING**

Via Video Conference
June 11, 2020 - 2:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone (BT) - Chair
Sonya Spaulding (BC) – Vice-Chair
Victoria Pompei (BT) – Clerk
Gina Akley (BT) – departed meeting at 4:50 p.m., rejoined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
Emel Cambel (BC)
Giuliano Cecchinelli (BC) – arrived at 2:38 p.m.
Alice Farrell (BT) – arrived at 2:38 p.m.
Guy Isabelle (At-Large)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Boltin (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

David Wells, Incoming Superintendent

As the meeting was held via video conferencing, a roll-call vote was taken for each action item. Each Board Member was individually polled and voted to approve all motions that are listed as unanimously approved.

NOTE: Minutes are written utilizing numbering from the legally warned Agenda. Numbering on the internal meeting agenda differs.

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, June 11, 2020, Board Retreat meeting to order at 2:36 p.m., which was held via Video Conference (Zoom).

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 9.1 Approval of RFP for BCEMS Bus Loop Project
Add 9.2 Approval of Recommendation for Revenue Anticipation Note
Agenda Items 9.1 and 9.2 will be discussed immediately after Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

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

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Board Concerns and Issues

The Board discussed various Board Concerns and Issues, including the following:

- A. Anticipated needs to open and meet any requirements for COVID-19, i.e. long-range digital thermometers, PPE supplies, door attendants, criteria for requests by individual students for continued online instruction, staff requests for LOA or alternative schedules due to high risk factors, public information about COVID activities, etc.
- B. Short and long-term plans to follow-up on needs addressed in AOE report.
- C. Methods of sharing best practices between buildings.
- D. Growth in employee tuition letters.

5. Finance Concerns

The Board discussed various Finance Concerns including the following:

- A. Anticipated budget reforms for FY2022 and beyond: personnel, programs, facilities, SPED, contracted services, and student to staff ratios.
- B. Initial guidance for FY2022
- C. Initial Board thoughts going into the Mission and Vision work.

The Board agreed to add Agenda Item 8D – Discussion of a Black Lives Matter Statement (Agenda Item 5D on the internal meeting agenda).

6. Dinner Break

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 5:32 p.m.

7. Administrative, Staffing, Equity Among Buildings and Programs

The Board discussed Administrative, Staffing, Equity Among Buildings, and Programs including the following:

- A. Taking a serious look at switching to highly qualified staff and few para-educators.
- B. Substitute teacher overages. A spreadsheet of substitute usage was displayed for discussion purposes.
- C. Employee suggestion program.
- D. Board/Administration relations and the most effective way to conduct our work, including representation a Board meetings.

8. Student Issues

The Board discussed Student Issues, including the following:

- A. Student Representation on the Board. **The Board agreed that designated Student Representatives are not needed at this time. The Board agreed that Student Voice should be added as a standing agenda item.**
- B. The Board's role in implementation of the VSBA plan for Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals.
- C. Initial Board thoughts going into the Mission and Vision work.
- D. Black Lives Matter Statement Discussion. Policy D32 - Selection of Instructional Materials and Sensitive Issues was displayed. Policy C10 – Policy On The Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students was also displayed. A portion of a statement from Secretary French was read. A document titled ‘What does it mean to “Be A Light?”’ was displayed. This document refers to a middle school assignment. **The Board agreed that Mrs. Akley, Ms. Cambel, and Mrs. Pompei will collaborate on writing a Statement from the Board, and send it out for review by all Board Members. The Board Statement will begin with an opening statement, and will contain information pertaining to policies D32 and C10. Curriculum relating to this issue will be added to the next Curriculum Committee Agenda.**

9. Superintendents – Current and Future

Board Members individually expressed their gratitude to Mr. Pandolfo for his years of service, which began under A46 and is ending during a pandemic. Mr. Pandolfo has accomplished much in his tenure as superintendent, and has provided great leadership, which has been recognized not only within the District, but statewide. Mr. Pandolfo was presented with an envelope containing a letter from the Board. Mr. Malone read a copy of the letter being presented: “Please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation for your dedicated service to the school district and our community. Your wisdom, knowledge, and energy has been a great benefit to us all and your presence will be missed by faculty, staff, and Board Members alike. We wish you continued success and much happiness in your next venture. With heartfelt thanks from a grateful Board”. Mr. Pandolfo thanked the Board for their continued support over the years. Mr. Wells thanked Mr. Pandolfo for his supportive role in assisting him in the transition to Superintendent of the BUUSD. Board Members welcomed Mr. Wells and advised of their confidence in his abilities, and of their support of him in the role of Superintendent of the BUUSD.

9.1 Approval of RFP for BCEMS Bus Loop Project

A document titled ‘BCEMS’ Bus Loop Project was distributed. Brief discussion was held including budgetary concerns vs safety concerns. It was noted that this RFP is for Phase 1. Phase 2 may need to be delayed.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board voted 6 to 2 to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation and agreed to contract with K. Bellavance Landworks and Hauling.

Mrs. Akley, Ms. Cambel, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Isabelle, and Mr. Malone voted for the motion Mrs. Pompei and Mrs. Spaulding voted against the motion.

9.2 Approval of Recommendation for Revenue Anticipation Note

A document titled ‘FY21 Revenue Anticipation Note Comparison 6/11/20’ was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation and agreed to contract with Community Bank for the Revenue Anticipation Note.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin