

Addendum
Board Meeting
10-08-2020

October 5, 2020

Message from the Principal

As we usher October in, we know that students should be settling into a bit of a routine. We have heard from some students and families trying to better understand the academic expectations of students during hybrid or remote learning. As outlined by Vermont Agency of Education's [A Strong and Healthy Start](#), we are required to have 27.5 hours per week on their academics - this includes in-person instruction, Google Meets, learning tasks and assessments. That equates to nearly six hours per day, or one and a half hours per course per day.

We know that students need our support more than ever. But, we can't do it alone. We need students and parents to reach out to let teachers and counselors know when they are struggling and what they are struggling with. We are finding that students are not consistently signing in to Google Classroom or submitting work in a timely manner. The year is just beginning and it is early enough to turn things around, but it will become more and more difficult for students to catch up and meet the proficiencies for their courses, if they are not keeping up with the learning tasks and activities as outlined by their weekly outlines. Each teacher posts weekly outlines in Google Classroom.

While maintaining safety for our students and school community, we are continuously planning on ways we can move forward. One such step forward will be scheduling of individual students for support services with case managers and counselors after their in-person instruction. To keep our students from being exposed to more groupings and to also maintain our contact tracing, the services will be limited to individual or small group, be pre-arranged/by appointment and will be prioritized by case managers and counselors.

We are committed to doing our best to provide support and learning for all of our students, whether in-person, hybrid or fully remote, while doing so within the health guidelines as outlined by the Agency of Education (AoE) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We appreciate our students and families doing their part to stay healthy and to collaborate with us. Be safe!

Community Connections Corner

Due to COVID-19, we will not be holding our traditional monthly Community Forums. However, we have created an alternative for community members to provide us with feedback, ask questions and/or seek information. Our [Community Connections Corner](#) is found on our website. We do encourage community members to send any questions, comments and/or concerns to us. We will respond to inquiries and use this information to improve our overall system around communications.

Keeping Our School Healthy

We continue to work to prevent the spread of COVID in our school, in order to do so we need your help. If your child is exhibiting any of the COVID symptoms (Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea or new loss of taste or smell), please keep them home from school for the day. We are all trying to keep students in the classroom as much as possible, but with the CDC guidelines, we are required to send students home if they are exhibiting any of these symptoms, AND they don't have documentation clearing them for school from a physician. Even with the shortened days, we can't ask students to "stick it out." We appreciate everyone's diligence with this matter. There is also helpful information distributed by the Vermont Department of Health that relates to knowing when to keep students home, when they may need a COVID test and when they can return to school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of our school nurses: Kathy Gardner at kgardshs@buusd.org or Jen Lyon at jlyonshs@buusd.org.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for Spaulding High School will be held on Tuesday, October 20th. The conferences will NOT be in person, but rather by Google Meet or by telephone. The conferences will be held from 12:30 PM - 7 PM in fifteen minute increments. We are in the process of preparing Pick-A-Time, our system that we usually use to schedule Parent Teacher Conferences, and hope that a recent update to the system will allow the system to set up the Google Meet appointment automatically. Parents/guardians will receive a letter with personalized information to set up their conferences. We anticipate the letters will be sent by the end of the week.

If you have any questions about Parent Teacher Conferences, please contact Brenda Waterhouse at bwateshs@buusd.org.

Important Dates

October 12 - No School

October 14 - SATs for just seniors

Questions? Please contact Ry Hoffman, Head of School Counseling, at rhoffshs@buusd.org

October 20 - Parent Teacher Conferences (remote)

October 23 - Senior Picture deadline

Questions? Please contact yearbook advisors Jesse Carpenter at jcarps@buusd.org or Michelle LaFrancis at mlafrshs@buusd.org

For athletic events, please see Team Pages on our website.

Questions? Please contact Natalie Soffen, Athletic Director, at nsoffshs@buusd.org

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Penny Chamberlin
Director (ext. 1138)

Scott Griggs
Assistant Director (ext. 1045)

Stefanie Seng
School Counseling Coordinator (ext. 1156)

Kathi Fuller
Student Support Coordinator (ext. 1258)

Wayne Tozzi
Co-op Education Coordinator (ext. 1137)

DRAFT

Regional Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

4:00 pm

October 5, 2020

Location: Remote via GoogleMeet

Board Members Present: David Wells (Barre UUSD Supt), Alice Farrell (Barre Board), Guy Isabelle (Barre Board), Mark Tucker (CCSU Supt), Bryan Olkowski (Washington Central UUSD Supt.), Jeff Norway (Barre Community Rep), Michael Woods (Harwood Union High School Rep), Matt McLane (Montpelier Rep/Flexible Pathways), Janna Osman (Twinfield School Board), Flor Diaz-Smith (U32 Board), Libby Bonesteel (Montpelier Supt.), Judy Borbeau (VT Dept of Labor), Steven Dellinger-Pate (U-32 Principal), Sharon O'Connor (Cabot Board), Penny Chamberlin (CVCC Director), Scott Griggs (CVCC Asst. Director), (phone #19, phone #73)

Guests Present: Steve McKinstry (Automotive Technology Instructor), Clifton Long (Plumbing & Heating Instructor, Re-Envisioning Team Chair), Carl Matteson (Emergency Services Instructor), Lance Whitehead and Julie Spence (Lavallee Brensinger Architects)

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm

1. **Welcome** - Penny Chamberlin

2. **2020-2021-Officers-**

Chair- Michael Woods (motion Penny, 2nd Alice)

Vice Chair- David Wells (motion Flora Diaz- 2nd Jeff Norway)

Secretary- Penny Chamberlin (motion Michael, 2nd Flora)

3. **2020-2021 Meeting Schedule- 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

- Monday, October 5, 2020 (Automotive Presentation)
- Monday, December 7, 2020 (DMA 1 Presentation)
- Monday, February 8, 2021 (Medical Professions Presentation)
- Monday, May 3, 2021 (Cosmetology II Presentation)

(motion Alice, 2nd Flora - all remote)

4. **Re-envisioning Phase II Presentation** - Lance Whitehead and Julie Spence (Lavallee Brensinger)

Lance and Julie provided a summary of a 112 slide presentation bringing all levels of the studies over the past 3 years. Each program was reviewed and the following areas were addressed:

- Special needs? ADA compliance
- Program Clusters
- Public/business access
- Full diagrams of potential footprints for the new building or renovation
- Property size for new site? 20-25 acres recommended, unless we are looking at a comprehensive high school model which will require more property for athletic fields, etc.
- What about programs not currently existing? Factored in within industry, may in part replace existing programs. The Career Center administration is constantly looking at state board rule, standards in other states, upcoming labor market data, school enrollment data, etc...
- The estimates for a renovation project are \$22-\$30 million
- The estimate for a new build project is estimated at \$26-\$34

Next Steps: If going to a new site then need a site selection process including a site selection loan to go on the March ballot, approximate cost of \$90,000-\$125,000. Why not use surplus funds? Intent for surplus funds is to offset tuition costs which are realized over the long term. If we go with a loan, it would be rolled into the larger bond if this leads to a decision to purchase and build or renovate. Site selection is a several month process and the site selection committee would have representatives from every sending school region. Question asked if building has to be located in Barre. Answer is "no." Goal is to be in a more central location for the region, likely in Berlin or Montpelier, in the middle of our region as assigned by the Agency of Education which allows for easier access by our sending districts (such as Harwood, Cabot and Twinfield).

A motion was made to recommend to the Barre board to move forward with the formation of a Site Selection: (Alice Farrell; 2nd by Flor Diaz). Discussion included:

- representation on the committee, financial viability in short to mid-term state realities,
- if delayed too long then need to go back to data-gathering stage,
- any major projects or improvements planned for current building for the future if we remain on site? No large renovations on the table at this time.

- the Board expressed that we needed to know the impact of a loan on individual districts.
- A mention was made to consider middle schoolers and impact on Barre community as well as the greater region that CVCC serves grades 7-12 and through adults.

With no further discussion, **the motion passed: 10 - 0**

5. **Automotive Technology Program** Presentation by Steve McKinstry, Instructor and followed by question and answer.

Steve provided visuals that showed a typical day in the life of a student, a description of labs, his daily agenda and how the Automotive Google classroom assignments(classwork) page looks and works for students.

6. **Other Agenda items:** Penny Chamberlin noted that the remainder of the agenda items will be tabled for approval to the December 7 meeting.

7. **FY22 Budget Process:** David Wells, BUUSD Supt.

David has met with school administrators. Next steps will be preparation of a budget draft by Lisa Perrault, BUUSD Business Manager and David Wells for review at the November 12th BUUSD board meeting.

Penny will work with David Wells and Lisa Perreault to draft a CVCC FY22 budget for the RAB review by mid-November.

With no further discussion, Penny thanked the board for their participation and willingness to stay longer in order to bring the Re-Envisioning presentation and recommendation to a close.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Chamberlin and
Scott Griggs

Reopening Barre Schools

Step III and Beyond







Overview

The Barre Unified Union School District's Reopening Team has been working on compiling and analyzing information from our stakeholders in the school community to examine next steps as we enter Step III.

The feedback we've received from our families and staff has played a critical role in our work.



**BUUSD will continue with
our current model of
hybrid and remote
instruction.**





Guidance from the Agency of Education

- Requiring distancing of 3-6 feet for younger children and 6 feet for grades 7-12.
- All students must be screened
- Use of cafeterias and gymnasium is limited by group size and time between groups.
- Minimizing mixing of groups is strongly recommended.



Considerations for increasing in-person instruction

- Grades 1-4 would be considered first.
- Students would come 4 days per week.
- Students would be spaced 4 feet apart to the greatest extent possible. Spacing may be less in some situations.
- Students receiving intervention would be in mixed groups.
- Combined bus runs & school schedules stay the same.
- Continue to use VTVLC for our 100% remote instruction (currently full).
- Moving a grade (or grades) to in-person instruction would become the only option for those students.



Feedback from Community Suggestion Box

1

Let's stay where we are. We have families that are highly concerned about the approaching cold/flu season. They believe opening our doors even further with this season on the horizon is a mistake. This group of families have adjusted their schedules (work/child care/home) to meet the needs of this current school year, and changing again would cause additional hardships.

2

Let's move to 5 days a week in-person. We have families that believe we should be back in school in-person for 5 days a week and remove the hybrid model entirely. They suggest we increase staffing through community volunteers. They believe if it's safe to eat at a restaurant maskless then children can learn safely while wearing a mask, distanced at least three feet apart.

3

Let's open our doors a little more, but not all the way. We have families whose opinion sits somewhere in the middle. They believe we need to be increasing in-person learning as soon as possible, but we should not increase it to 5 days a week yet. They believe staying closed on Wednesdays for deep cleaning and allowing teachers to regroup mid-week is still necessary.

32%

of K-4 staff feel safe adding more students into their classroom and feel prepared to maintain safety protocols with an increase of in-person student days.



Feedback from K-4 Staff

1

Physical spacing and the size of classrooms. If all students returned, we do not have the physical space to guarantee all children and adults in the room can stay the minimum distance of 3 feet apart.

2

Staffing levels and capacity are extremely low across the board. We currently do not have the adequate number of staff to properly educate all our children while keeping them safe.

3

Time. Our staff needs more time to prepare for the increase of in-person learning while following COVID-19 precautions as well as more time in the day to fully meet the needs of our students.

4

Consistency. The need for consistency is huge for both students and staff. Frequent schedule changes should be discouraged and we should be planning for the long-term.

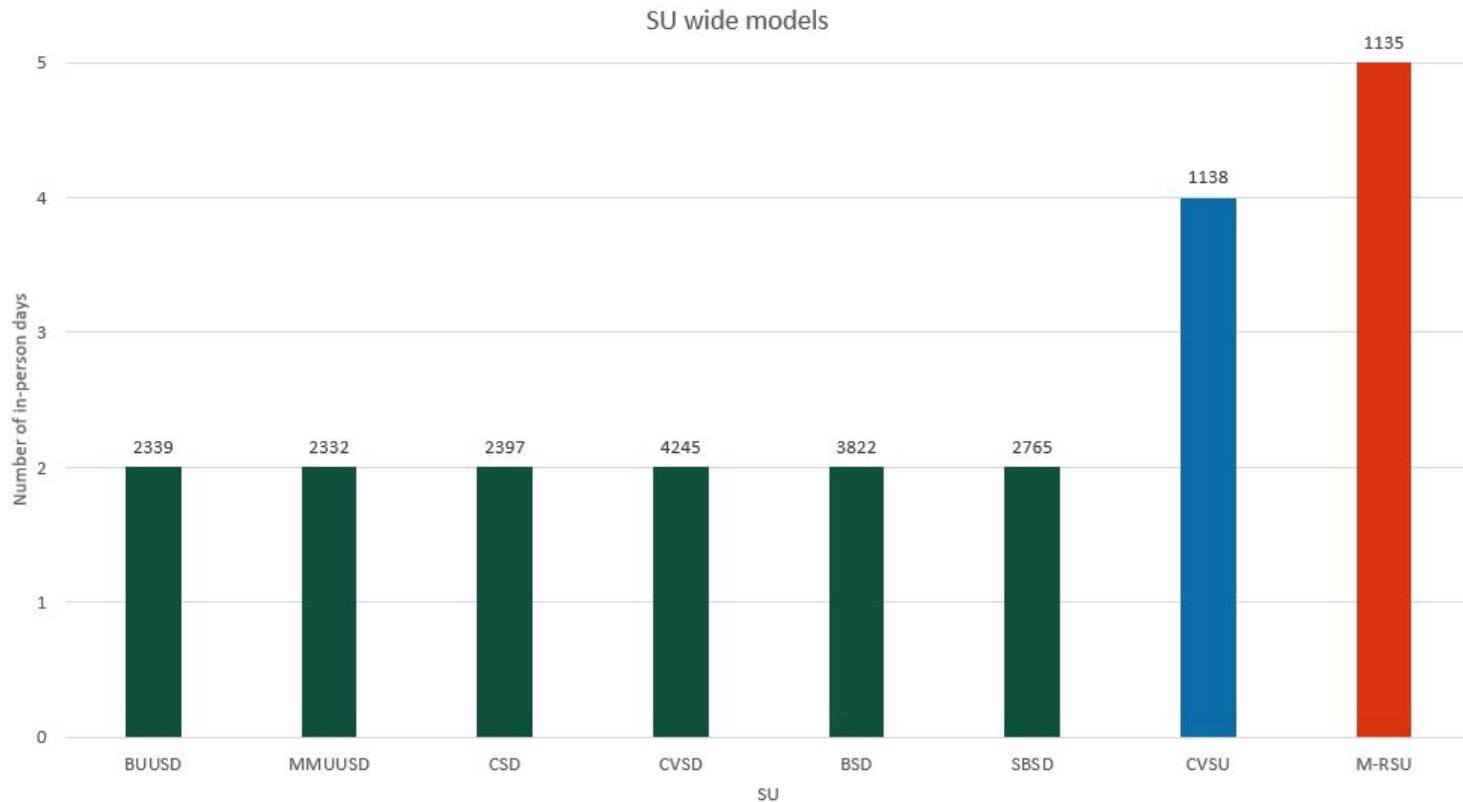


Concerns from the Committee

- Increased need for cleaning while being short on staff.
- Increasing mixing of pods increases risks.
- VTVLC remains full.
- Transportation at Barre Town is already at maximum capacity.
- Not enough staffing for staggered arrival and dismissal times.
- Families would need ample time to re-arrange home/work schedules.
- Staffing concerns
 - Three vacant teaching positions in K, 4, and Middle School science at Barre Town
 - Need for 4-5 additional paraprofessionals to meet Special Education needs in the elementary grades. Very few applicants for long standing postings.
 - Increased impact for staff who are in the at-risk categories.
- Impacts of entering cold and flu season and the holidays
- Extremely small pool of substitutes for staff who might be ill.
- Less contact for students who may need to be remote.
- Capacity to serve more meals at school while serving meals to remote students.



What are other districts doing?





Planning for the Long Term

- Hire additional teachers, maintenance and support staff
- Survey families for additional feedback
- Develop long-term plan for grades 5-8
- Develop long-term plan for grades 9-12
- Target January semester break for possible model shift.