## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Via Video Conference – Google Meet October 8, 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) Emel Cambel (BC) Giuliano Cecchinelli (BC) Alice Farrell (BT) Guy Isabelle (At-Large)

## **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

# **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

David Wells, Superintendent
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Hayden Coon, BCEMS Principal
Jason Derner, Alternative Education Administrator
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Chris Hennessey, BCEMS Principal
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Lauren May, Director of Early Education
Jennifer Nye, BTMES Principal
Erica Pearson, BTMES Principal
Annette Rhoades Assistant Director of Special Services
Brenda Waterhouse, SHS Principal

## **GUESTS PRESENT:**

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Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Lauren Ball	Mel Battah	Heather Battistoni	Paula Beaudet
Tori Berry	Martha Blaisdell	Meghan Breen	Jude Brister	Ainsley Burroughs
Sandra Cameron	Amber Cheney	Ken Christman	Stephanie Collins	Tamara Cooley
Tara Day	Venus Dean	Erika Dolan	Brendon Eaton	Molly Emerson
Kirsten Evans	Jessica Foster	Betsy Francis	Jamie Frey	Karen Gadapee
Nicole Gallup	Sarah Goodrich	Jaime Guilmette	Chelsea Haberek	Allyson Healey
Holly Hoyt	Mariah Jacobs	Colleen Kresco	Nicole Ladd	Laura Lagerstedt
Alissa Lamell	Amber Larrabee	Jake Larrabee	Samantha Lawrence	Mikayla LeBlanc
Anne Leeds	Ben Littlefield	Jennifer Luck-Hill	Ben Matthews	Kathleen Matthews
Jessica Maurais	Kendall McMahon	Veronica McMorrow	Kellie Mead	Margaret Mehuron
Ted Mills	Mary Newton	Melissa Parker	Emilye Pelow Corbett	Tyler Rancourt
Sandy Rousse	Tim Sanborn	Jean Savoy	Rachael Shatney	Heather Slayton
Diane Solomon	Daniel Spaulding	Megan Spaulding	Ally Tarwater	Elysha Thurston
Jess Van Orman	Rachael Van Vliet	Kristin Ziter		

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.

# 1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, October 8, 2020, Regular meeting to order at 5:36 p.m., which was held via video conference – Google Meet.

## 2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Delete 7.5 Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals – will be kept as a placeholder Add 7.6 Parent Communication

Add 10.2 Contract Negotiations/Labor Relations Agreements (under Executive Session)

Add 10.3 Memorandum of Understanding Relating to COVID-19 (under Executive Session)

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

# 3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

#### 3.1 Public Comment

A request was made that the BUUSD provide a summary of HVAC inspections and information relating to any testing for PCBs Public comment pertaining to Agenda Item 7.1 Re-opening of Schools Update is documented under that Agenda Item. Agenda Item 7.1 will be discussed out of order.

#### 3.2 Student Voice

No discussion.

## 4. Approval of Minutes

# 4.1 Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2020 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Brief discussion was held regarding 'standing' Agenda Item 3.1 Student Voice. It was agreed that the district school administrators will inform/promote this agenda item to students in hopes that students will attend meetings and provide feedback to the Board.

## 5. Reports to the Board

## 5.1 Central Office

The Superintendent's Report (dated 10/08/20) was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; the Superintendent's Office, Communications, the Business Office, Special Education, Technology, Early Education, Human Resources, and Facilities. Mr. Wells had nothing to add to the report. There were no questions from the Board.

#### 5.2 Building Reports

# 5.2.1 Spaulding High School

The Principal's Report for October 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; Athletics, David Poulin's selection as a semifinalist in the 2021 National Scholarship Program, Work Based learning changes, and updates to the web site to include more communication to parents/students regarding school re-opening. Copies of SHS Newsletters for 09/21/20, 09/25/20, and 10/05/20 were also distributed. Mrs. Waterhouse congratulated David Poulin for his achievement. There were no questions from the Board.

#### 5.2.2 Central Vermont Career Center

The CVCC Director's Report for October 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; activities of the Director and Assistant Director, the Administrative Team, Student Matters, Virtual Learning Information, and Program, Student, & Staff highlights. The Student Support Team Board Report (for 10/01/20) was distributed. Ms. Chamberlin had nothing to add to the report. There were no questions from the Board.

## 5.2.3 Barre City Elementary and Middle School

The Co-Principals' Report dated October 8, 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; the re-opening of the school, the return of some virtual learners, and celebrations and other updates (Chromebook distribution, mobile library book carts, fall sports, and BCEMS being 'adopted' by the New England Patriots. Mr. Hennessey highlighted BCEMS's selection by the New England Patriots, as the sole Vermont school to be 'adopted'. Much appreciation goes out to Dawn Poitras who helped orchestrate this. Mr. Hennessey advised that David Andrews met yesterday with a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and will be reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders next Tuesday. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding participation of students who do not attend school on Tuesdays. Mr. Hennessey advised that administrators will look into ways to involve those students who are not in attendance on Tuesdays.

#### 5.2.4 Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

The BTMES Building Report dated October 8, 2020 was distributed. The Report included information pertaining to; Crops by Kids, Enrollment, Facial Coverings & Social Distancing, Traffic Patterns, the Virtual Academy, Infinite Campus, and Student Teachers. Mrs. Nye advised that the long term substitute Kindergarten position has been filled, but the PE position remains open. Ms. Pearson advised that there is still an opening for a Literacy Interventionist.

## **5.3 Committee Reports**

## **5.3.1 Communications Committee**

Due to a conflict in meetings, the Communications Committee meeting for October has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020.

#### **5.3.2** Finance Committee

The Committee met on 10/06/2020. Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of the meeting which included discussion of the FY22 budget deadline (approval should occur on 01/07/2021 – a Special Board Meeting will be held). Due to holidays, December Board meetings will need to be moved around. The Board meetings will most likely be held on 12/03/20, and 12/17/20. Discussion also included coordinated supply purchases, SPED charges and revenue, solar management, the SEA bid, FEMA funding, and FY21 year-end projections.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

#### **5.3.3 Facilities & Transportation Committee**

The next meeting is Monday, October 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

## **5.3.4 Policy Committee**

The next meeting is Monday, October 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

## 5.3.5 Curriculum Committee

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

#### **5.3.6 Negotiations Committee**

This item will be discussed in Executive Session under Agenda Item 10.2.

The next meeting date is to be determined.

#### 5.3.7 Regional Advisory Board

Draft Minutes from the 10/05/20 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Farrell advised that that the Board had a very productive discussion on the Re-envisioning initiative and that the Board agreed it was time to begin exploring options (renovating the existing building or building a new Career Center). Mr. Isabelle advised that the minutes should reflect that he was attending as a guest, not as a RAB Board Member. Mr. Isabelle advised that Steve McKinstry, Automotive Technology Instructor, gave an excellent presentation on the Automotive Program. Architect Lance Whitehead from Lavallee/Brensinger will give a full presentation to the Board on October 22, 2020.

The next meeting is Monday, December 7, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

#### 5.4 Financials

The BUUSD and CVCC Year-end Projection Reports were distributed. There were no questions from the Board.

## 6. Current Business

## 6.1 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

There are no resignations, retirements, or new hires being presented. The interviews for the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction will be held in Executive Session.

## 6.2 Breakage Report

A report titled 'FE20 Breakage' was distributed. Mr. Wells advised of savings in the amount of \$457,233.76. The Board queried regarding some of the savings listed; a new grant funded position, the SEA Instructor position, and 6 vacant positions that are not slated to be filled. Mr. Wells will obtain additional information and report back to the Board.

# **6.3 Home Study Report**

A copy of the Home Study Report (dated 10/01/20) was distributed. Mr. Wells advised that Tina Gilbert updates this report, and was recently advised (after the report was printed) that there were three more students reported as being home-schooled (1 for each of the schools).

# 6.4 First Reading - Delegation of Authority During State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Policy (A25) A copy of the policy was distributed.

Brief discussion was held by the Board and it was agreed that the policy should be amended as follows: Under Implementation and Communications, Section B – amend the last part of the sentence to read that the "Superintendent shall provide via e-mail and within 24 hours, notice to the Board of that action.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the First Reading of the Delegation of Authority During State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Policy (A25).

# 6.5 First Reading - District Equity Policy (C29)

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Mrs. Spaulding moved to approve the policy. Mrs. Pompei seconded the motion.

Mrs. Spaulding referenced the bullet points under the Implementation section on page 2, and voiced much concern regarding implementation of the specified tasks. It was noted that procedures may need to be developed by administration. The Board agreed that the last line of the policy should be amended to reflect monthly reports.

The motion to approve the policy was withdrawn.

The Board agreed that Board discussion of policy C29 be tabled for an undetermined amount of time and that the policy be sent back to the Policy Committee for review/discussion prior to being presented to the Board.

6.6 First Reading - Modes of Instruction During State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Policy (D22)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Discussion was held relating to completion of some of the bullets under the Implementation section. It was noted that most of the work has been completed or is being worked on. The Board agreed that the second page of the policy shall be amended to reflect that status reports from the Superintendent will be provided on a monthly basis.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to approve as amended, the First Reading of the Modes of Instruction During State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Policy (D22).

## 6.7 VSBA – Elect Voting Delegate and Alternate

Mrs. Spaulding attended the VSBA regional meeting and was advised regarding resolutions that will be put forth for approval at the Annual Meeting. The Board needs to designate a voting delegate and alternate voting delegate to vote at the meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Farrell as the primary voting delegate, and Mrs. Spaulding as the alternate voting delegate for voting purposes at the VSBA Annual Meeting.

## 7. Old Business

#### 7.1 School Re-opening Update

The presentation slide show was displayed while the Superintendent provided the re-opening update. Mr. Wells thanked this evening's participants and expressed his appreciation to all staff and the Re-opening Committee for all of their efforts to open schools safely. Mr. Wells advised that it is strongly recommended that the BUUSD remain instructing under the hybrid model and understands that this does pose difficulties for some families and students. Mr. Wells advised regarding guidance for the Agency of Education, including safety measures which include social distancing, health screenings, limitations in use of cafeterias and gymnasiums, and minimizing the 'mixing' of students. Mr. Wells provided an overview of the options that were considered for increasing in-person instruction which included considerations for younger students, social distancing, intervention services, transportation, use of the virtual academy (VTVLC) which is currently at student capacity, and concern that moving a grade or grades to all in-person instruction, would force all students in that grade(s) to attend full time as there would no longer be a hybrid model and the virtual academy is at capacity. Mr. Wells advised regarding community feedback which included 3 preferences (stay the same, move to all in-person learning - 5 days per week, and increasing in-person learning incrementally. Mr. Wells advised that staff were also surveyed and the results showed only 32% of K-4 staff feel comfortable adding more students to their classrooms (while maintaining safety protocols). Concerns from K-4 staff include; concern regarding maintaining social distancing within their current classrooms, the need for additional staff (para-educators) in the classrooms, the need for additional time to prepare for more in-person learning, the belief that frequent schedule changes are detrimental to students and that planning should be for a long term change. Concerns from the Reopening Committee include; increased cleaning needs (while there is a shortage of staff), increased mixing leads to increased health risks, lack of openings at VTVLC, lack of open seats on BTMES buses, open staff positions (teachers, para-educators and substitutes), lack of staff for arrival and dismissal times, an ample timeframe for families to re-arrange their schedules, risks while entering the cold/ flu season and holiday season, diminished contact for students who must work remotely, and food service capacity. Though parameters are changing, the BUUSD hybrid structure is in-line with the structure of other school that are similar in size. Long term planning includes the hiring of additional staff, soliciting input from families, and developing long term plans for separate grade ranges (5-8)and 9-12). The target date for a possible shift in learning model is the semester break in January (start of  $2^{nd}$  semester). It was noted that Mr. Wells meets weekly with other superintendents, and with the Secretary of Education. Principals are meeting with members of the VPA.

Public input was received both prior to and after the Superintendent's presentation, but is consolidated in one section of the minutes.

Public comments included; concerns that high school students have too little instruction, 'Monday' students have missing 2 days (because of holidays), not enough student connection with teachers, no instruction and very little 'homework' is assigned on the 3 days (per week) of remote learning, assigned work is not challenging to students, concern that students aren't back in school full time, lack of understanding on why students aren't back full time, the need for more transparency, the need for parents to re-teach students, concern over teacher workload, concern that students who don't master reading by the end of third grade will experience difficulties throughout the rest of their education, academic needs not being met, the belief that remote learning has not improved at all since the

emergency remote learning in the spring, loss of the WIN (What I Need) block, loss of the PSTL (Problem Solving Through Literacy) Program, concern that parents are hearing excuses not solutions, perceived lack of planning over the summer, parents not receiving the tools they need to assist their children, lack of availability of Chromebooks, lack of evaluations for students on IEPs, difficulty to families in assisting their children for 5 hours each day (to meet State requirements), lack of busing for pre-school students, and concern that 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be unprepared for high school.

Public suggestions include; having synchronous instruction, implementing defined 'office hours' for student assistance, conferring with other districts regarding their plans for increased in-person learning, increasing the number of school entry points at BTMES (by utilizing classroom doors that lead directly to outside), holding classes in other buildings within the community, and looking for volunteers for cleaning etc.

Public requests included; a request that the Board make a commitment for more transparency, and that detailed information be provided regarding transportation, community spaces, classroom spaces, specific plans for all other like size districts' hybrid models, detailed lesson plans for each remote day for each class, and details of the VTVLC program.

Input was requested from administrators and Board Members;

Mrs. Nye advised that following social distancing guidelines, not all students in a class can fit in the classroom at the same time. There have been difficulties hiring enough staff. The school is making efforts to work with individual families to resolve specific issues related to remote learning days. Some staff members are uncomfortable with returning to full in-person learning, citing safety concerns which include individuals with mask exemptions.

Ms. Pearson advised that the middle school still has openings for licensed educators, including an opening for a Literacy Interventionist. Clarification was provided regarding transportation issues; BTMES buses are running at capacity under COVID guidelines and there is a shortage of one bus driver (there are 7 drivers, 8 are needed). The bus identified as having 7 students is a BCEMS bus.

Mr. Coon agrees with all sides and advised that very difficult decisions are having to be made. Educators want all students back full time, but there are many logistical and safety concerns to consider. Administrators understand the frustrations and they are also concerned for the welfare of students. Mr. Coon believes the re-opening of schools was successful for many students. Administrators want to move forward with increased in-person learning, but this must be done slowly and thoughtfully to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Mr. Hennessey thanked parents for their input, and advised that he shares the concerns of all involved. There is much empathy from faculty and staff, including great concern for the most vulnerable students. Administrators are putting much thought in to how to return to more in-person learning while maintaining the safest environment possible.

Mrs. Waterhouse advised that challenges at the high school are different than those at the elementary and middle schools. At the high school, remote learning is approached differently, and has caused great strain on staff, as they try to serve a high number of fully remote students and hybrid students. If the high school were to reopen for fulltime in-person learning, staff would not be able to fully support those students who have chosen the fully remote model. The high school is focusing on improvement and services for those with higher needs. Work involves reviewing how services can be provided differently and how to serve individual students' needs. It was noted that students at the high school 'mix' when changing blocks (because they take different classes). High school students don't remain with the same cohort of students all day. More in-person classes will result in more 'mixing' of students in classes and in the cafeteria. The goal is to continue working towards more in-person learning, but to do so in safe spaces.

Ms. Chamberlin advised that CVCC serves 8 different high schools (170 students). Because CVCC has a smaller student population, and larger classrooms, they are able to provide in-person learning 4 days a week. There are a few students who have chosen a fully remote option. Ms. Chamberlin thanked staff and administrators who have been working extremely hard since the closure in March.

Mrs. Anderson advised that parent volunteers aren't allowed because everyone in the buildings needs to have a background check performed. Mrs. Anderson encouraged members of the public to apply for open positions. The Special Education Department has faced many different challenges, including the inability to 'pull' students from various classrooms, and re-writing learning plans. When schools re-opened in the hybrid model, every student plan had to be re-written to reflect the new learning model. This very time consuming process has been completed, but will need to be repeated to move to all in-person learning. Additionally, there are unbalanced caseloads resulting from the switch for some teachers to teach at the virtual academy and the decision by some students to switch from the virtual academy back to the hybrid model.

Board Members were asked to provide input. The Board thanked parents for their input and thanked administrators and staff for their efforts during these very challenging times. Board input included; The importance of moving forward, but working slowly and thoughtfully to more in-person learning, a request for clarification regarding transportation issues (there seems to be conflicting perceptions of issues), an inquiry regarding the feasibility/possibility of lengthening in-person days during hybrid learning, a request to

identify what can be done differently (in incremental steps) to assist students academically and socially, frustration that the Board was assured remote learning under the school re-opening would be vastly improved from remote learning during the emergency closing, but this far seems to be very inadequate, a request to add 'all' answers to the FAQs page so that parents/community members might better understand why/how some decisions have been made (can't use the BOR space for classes because it's being used as an ice rink), concern that there will not be additional in-person learning until the second semester, a request for synchronous learning to be implemented, the need for parents to understand that some schools with similar populations have more buildings/space (thus allowing them to offer more in-person learning), concern/frustration that parents don't have more information to assist them in understanding why certain decisions have been made, a request for information regarding how many classrooms are large enough to accommodate the full class population, a request that members of the community consider applying for substitute jobs (finger printing and background checks are mandatory), disappointment that the BUUSD is still in the planning process, and hasn't started thinking 'outside the box' for more creative solutions, and equity concerns (some students may have been enrolled in private school this year, and will return next year at an academic level far exceeding the level of students who participated in hybrid learning.

# 7.2 Enrollment Update: Hybrid/Virtual Academy

A report titled 'District Enrollment/Staffing' (dated October 2020) was distributed. It was clarified that the average student count per teacher/class represents the total per teacher. Each class is divided into two groups for the purpose of in-person learning days (e.g., a class total of 14 means that 7 students are in attendance on in-person learning days). In response to a query, Mrs. Waterhouse clarified that students who are signed up for hybrid learning don't always attend school on their scheduled in-person days. The students who don't attend in person are expected to perform the work that would have been assigned if they were a fully remote learner. It was noted during non-COVID times there is never 100% attendance at the school. Some students face challenges with attendance and those challenges have been exacerbated by COVID. There are a variety of reasons why students are absent, and administrators and staff are trying to be flexible with students. Mr. Coon advised that attendance issues are also tied to protocols put in place due to COVID. In non-COVID times, a student with a sore throat could attend school. During the pandemic, those students are not allowed to be in attendance. Mr. Coon believes parents are doing a good job of screening their children at home, as BCEMS has had to turn away very few students during the screening process. Mr. Coon thanked parents for keeping their children home when warranted, and for their diligence in assuring that students adhere to facial covering guidelines. In response to a query regarding protocols for snow days, Mr. Wells advised that protocols for snow days are being discussed (including at the State level), and that those protocols are next on the list of items to be addressed. In response to a query related to concerns for transportation during winter, Mrs. Waterhouse advised that administrators are also concerned, and that ride sharing is being discouraged. In response to a query regarding the number of students without Wi-Fi, it was noted that the student counts are low at each of the three schools. Accommodations are being made for students who don't have access to Wi-Fi.

## 7.3 SEA Update

A document titled 'Spaulding Educational Alternatives – Timeline 10/6/20' was distributed.

Mr. Derner met with the architect recently regarding possible modifications to the plans. Possible reductions include; deleting the back-up generator and ATS switch (\$19,000 savings), changing electrical conductors from the transformer to the main switch gear room - from copper to aluminum (a reduction of \$6,000), and deleting the concrete coloring - but keeping the concrete sealer (a reduction of \$19,000). Mr. Wells advised that he has received confirmation from Mr. Evans that all of the involved paperwork is in hand. Mr. Wells has signed all of the appropriate paperwork. A ground breaking date is being scheduled.

## 7.4 FY22 Budget Development Update

Four documents were distributed;

The BUUSD FY22 Budget Development Schedule (dated 10/06/20)

A document titled 'FY22 BUUSD Budget Development Considerations' (dated 10/06/20) was distributed.

A document (from the Vermont Superintendents Association) titled 'Six Philosophical Budget Touchstones' was distributed.

A document titled 'Some Words of (Potential) Wisdom'

Mr. Wells reported that the attached timetable is being followed, Mrs. Perreault is working on the initial first draft of the budget, and that everything is proceeding as planned.

7.5 Vision, Mission, & Strategic Goals This item is deleted from the Agenda, but will be kept as a placeholder.

#### 7.6 Parent Communication

Mrs. Spaulding advised that she received an e-mail from a parent (a copy was shared with the Board). Mrs. Spaulding is concerned that parents are not receiving responses to their inquiries. Mrs. Spaulding stressed the need to reply to parents in a timely manner and believes improvements need to be made to communication practices. Mr. Wells agrees that replies need to be timely, and that perhaps expectations for timing of responses should be discussed. When the Board is copied on e-mails from parents/community members, the Board should be copied on the replies, so that they know the 'loop has been closed'. If matters in e-mails are considered confidential, the Board will be advised that responses were made, but without divulging confidential information.

#### 8. Other Business/Round Table

It was requested that surveys be sent out to parents and students requesting their input regarding the re-opening of school.

Mr. Wells advised that the Re-Opening Committee will send out surveys in the near future, as well as taking into consideration concerns that were raised at this evening's meeting.

In response to a query regarding adding parents to the Re-Opening Committee, Mr. Wells advised that he can implement the addition of parental voice on the Committee.

# 9. Future Agenda Items

- Feedback on How IEP Students are Doing (Stacy Anderson)
- Student Presentations (future meeting)

#### 10. Executive Session as Needed

- 10.1 Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Interview
- 10.2 Contract Negotiations / Labor Relations Agreements
- 10.3 Memorandum of Understanding Relating to Labor Negotiations

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Interview, Contract Negotiations/Labor Relations Agreements, and a Memorandum of Understanding relating to Labor Negotiations.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion, specifically Contract Negotiations/Labor Relations Agreements, and the Memorandum of Understanding relating to Labor Negotiations 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. Wells, Mrs. Marold, and the candidate for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Instruction in attendance, at 8:30 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. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 10:44 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Cambel, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding COVID-19.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Mary Ellen Simmons for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

#### 11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Andrea Poulin*