

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Via Video Conference – Google Meet
December 17, 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
Mary Ellen Simmons, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Emmanuel Ajanma, Director of Technology
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Hayden Coon, BCEMS Principal
Scott Griggs, CVCC Assistant Director
Chris Hennessey, BCEMS Principal
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Jennifer Nye, BTMES Principal
Erica Pearson, BTMES Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager
Jon Strazza, Assistant Director of Special Services
Brenda Waterhouse, SHS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Glenda Allen	Charlotte Baribault	Heather Battistoni	Heather Bellavance
Nancy Benoit	Jude Brister	Ainsley Burroughs	Jodi Bushway	David Cameron
Amber Cheney	Tamara Cooley	Sandra Cormier	Natessa Cournoyer	Allison Courtemanche
Christina Carrier	Michael Deweese	Emerson Family	Jamie Frey	Karen Gadapee
Nicole Gallup	Sarah Goodrich	Katrina Guinan	Chelsea Haberek	Brady Hoyt
Holly Hoyt	Shannon Huda	Neil Kelly	Tyler Kimberly	Stefanie Kingzett
Brandy Kolling	Prudence Krasofski	Kelsey LaPerle	Jake Larrabee	Mikayla LeBlanc
Patrick Leene	Chas Legge	Clifton Long	Louis LoRe	Penny Martin
Carl Matteson	Kathleen Matthews	Jessica Maurais	Kellie Mead	Ted Mills
Rebekah Mortensen	Christine Parker	Alicia Partridge	Tim Sanborn	Jean Savoy
Malinda Sayers	Amy Scalabrini	Heather Slayton	Natalie Soffen	Diane Solomon
Megan Spaulding	Ally Tarwater	Rachael Van Vliet	Jesse Willard	201-***-***02
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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, December 17, 2020, Regular meeting to order at 5:33 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

The Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item 6.3.1 after Agenda Item 5.2

Mr. Coon advised regarding a possible issue relating to the online link to this meeting. There was a second link that was posted and there are currently individuals trying to access the meeting using that incorrect link. Mr. Coon has posted a comment under the incorrect link, advising the public of the correct link.

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

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

3.1 Public Comment

A parent addressed the Board advising of their concern regarding tracking of active COVID cases / quarantine cases within the BUUSD. There is concern that due to remote learning, not all cases are being tracked. A parent is of the opinion that the decision to change to fully remote learning was detrimental to the entire school community. Mr. Wells reiterated that the decision to switch to remote was made collaboratively with the administrative and re-opening teams. The Superintendent and Administrators look forward to students returning to school.

3.2 Student Voice

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2020 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the December 3, 2020 Regular Meeting.

5. Current Business

5.1 Audit Presentation

Three documents were distributed;

A document titled 'BUUSD Draft FY20 Audit – December 8, 2020

An undated draft of a letter from Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC (to The Board of Education)

A draft of the BUUSD Financial Statements – June 30, 2020 and Independent Auditor's Reports

Tyler Kimberley from Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC addressed the Board, providing an overview of the Governance letter (which provides a highlight of the audit), as well as a high level overview of the Audit itself. Mr. Kimberly noted the audit began in October and is now being finalized. This is the first audit as a consolidated district and additional time was spent to confirm that fund balances were correct at the start of the fiscal year. There were a few adjustments relating to long term liability and pension disclosure. There were no material weaknesses identified, and there were no findings. Mr. Kimberly provided some additional detail from the audit. Mr. Kimberly and Mrs. Perreault answered questions from the Board. It was noted that the consolidation of 5 budgets was a very large undertaking, but the end result of working under one budget has been amazing. The audit will be finalized and be presented to the Board for approval in January 2021.

5.2 CVCC Governance Presentation – Mike Deweese

A document titled 'Re-envisioning Central Vermont Career Center: The Governance Variable' was distributed. Ms. Chamberlin introduced Mike Deweese, advising that he has been working on the Governance White Paper, as well as creating this evening's presentation. Mr. Deweese provided an overview of the Power Point presentation titled 'Re-envisioning Central Vermont Career Center: The Governance Variable' which included historical information on the creation of CVCC, the programs, State policy regarding technical centers, considerations of the two governance structures, the role of Boards in technical center oversight, the CVCC re-envisioning initiative, formation of regional career technical centers, governance formats utilized by other technical centers in Vermont, the Regional Advisory Board, considerations, caveats, options, and the work of a Planning Committee (including reports, and subsequent actions required should a report be completed). Mr. Deweese and Ms. Chamberlin answered questions from the Board, and it was noted that the RAB Board supports moving forward with the study. If approved by this Board, presentations will also need to be made to the other 5 Boards. There was no discussion relative to any cost associated with conducting a study.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to support the request to move forward with a Governance Structure Study. Mrs. Akley was not present for this vote.

Discussion moved to Agenda Item 6.3.1

5.3 SEA Bond – CEN Approval

Seven documents were distributed;

BUUSD Spaulding Educational Alternatives (SEA) Financing/Timeline Updated (dated 12/15/2020)

A copy of a letter from Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer, PC to Hope G. Crifo (Community National Bank) dated (12/18/2020)

A copy of the BUUSD Current Expense Note

A copy of the BUUSD Resolution Current Expense Borrowing

A copy of the Tax Certificate

A copy of Schedule A – Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Procedures For Tax-Exempt Obligations
A copy of IRS for 8038-G, Information Return for Tax-Exempt Governmental Bonds

Mrs. Perreault advised that she has nothing additional to report. The documentation has been provided to assure that the Board has a good understanding of the process. Mrs. Perreault is presenting the documentation for approval by the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Ms. Cambel, the Board unanimously voted to approve the documents presented and authorized the Board Chair to sign the Barre Unified Union School District Current Expense Note document, and the Tax Certificate document, and approves the signing of additional documents by the appropriate individuals.

5.4 Resignations/Retires/New Hires

The resumes and BUUSD Notification of Employment Status Forms for Destanie Decius (BTMES 4th grade ELA to fill a one year position for Emily Thomas – virtual academy), and Marcus Holmes (BTMES middle school PE) were distributed. Mr. Wells clarified that these candidates are presented for hire for the remainder of the academic year, and that the PE position will be re-posted in the spring. Mr. Holmes may apply for the PE position when it re-opens. Mr. Wells advised that AOE Endorsements will be secured for both candidates, prior to when they begin instructing.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Destanie Decius and Marcus Holmes for the remainder of the academic year.

5.5 First Reading Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy (A22)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the First Reading of the Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy (A22).

5.6 First Reading Employee Unlawful Harassment Policy (B5)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the First Reading of the Employee Unlawful Harassment Policy (B5).

5.7 First Reading Electronic Communication Between Employees & Students Policy (B8)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

The Board agreed to table discussion of the First Reading of the Electronic Communication Between Employees & Students Policy (B8) until January 2021.

5.8 First Reading Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX Policy (C12)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

The Board agreed to table discussion of the First Reading of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX Policy (C12) until January 2021.

5.9 First Reading Homeless Students Policy (C13)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the First Reading of the Homeless Students Policy (C13).

5.10 Winooski Valley School Choice

Four documents were distributed;

A document titled ‘Agreement to Join the Winooski Valley & Statewide Choice of Public High School Collaborative for the 2021 – 2022 School Year Under Act 129 (SEC. 34§ 822d 2A)’

A copy of ‘The Vermont Statutes Online – Title 16: Education - (SEC. 34§ 822d 2A)’

A document titled ‘Winooski Valley Region & Statewide Choice of Public High School – Under Act 129 (SEC. 34§ 822d 2A) – Timeline – 2021 – 2022 School Year’

A document titled ‘Public School Choice – Winooski Valley Collaborative LOTTERY’

This form is presented to the Board (for approval) on an annual basis. Mr. Isabelle reiterated his concern that the ‘money’ does not follow the students and that SHS allows 40 students to leave, but only 20 students to transfer in. Mr. Isabelle believes SHS should be a magnet school and should allow more students to transfer in.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 8 to 1 to approve signing the Agreement to Join the Winooski Valley & Statewide Choice of Public High School Collaborative for the 2021 – 2022 School Year, and authorized the Board Chair to sign the document.

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

5.11SHS Parent/Student Survey Results

A document titled ‘SHS Feedback – 345 responses’ was distributed. A copy of the results was also displayed on screen. Mrs. Waterhouse addressed the Board advising that the first survey (for parents and students) occurred in October and contained questions pertaining to how things were going, the amount of time being spent on academics, comfort levels for increasing in-person instruction, and availability/awareness of academic supports. A second survey was sent in December, and ended on Monday 12/14/20. The presentation shows survey results for both surveys. The December survey included some of the same questions as the first survey, and also asked questions pertaining to what parts of remote learning were valued the most. Mrs. Waterhouse provided an overview of the survey results and noted that approximately the same amount of parents and students responded to the two surveys, but it is not known if they are the same parents/students (in both surveys), and it is not known if the parent responders are parents to the students who responded. It was noted that responders feel that remote learning is more structured and focused and the survey indicates that students are spending more time on academics. Parents rated the importance of a structured school day with regular class/advisory meetings much higher than students. It was noted that the importance of direct instruction via Google Meet and/or videos was not rated as highly as anticipated. It was noted that the presentation is only a portion of the survey. The remainder of the survey information will be shared via e-mail. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that she was able to work with those responders who submitted questions/comments and all of those questions/issues have been specifically addressed. Mrs. Waterhouse felt these discussions were very valuable.

6. Old Business

6.1 FY22 Budget Development Update

Six documents were distributed;

FY22 BUUSD Budget Development Considerations (12/15/20)

BUUSD FY22 Proposed Budget, Expense Summary – Draft 2 (12/15/20)

BUUSD FY22 Proposed Budget, Revenue Summary – Draft 2 (12/15/20)

CVCC FY2019 – FY2022 Budget Expense Summary – Draft 2 (12/15/20)

CVCC FY2022 Budget Revenue Summary Draft 2 (12/15/20)

BUUSD Budget 2021 – 2022 – Draft 2 – Projected Comparative Tax Rate Calculations (for Barre City and Barre Town)

Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the Considerations document, advising that budget draft 2 reflects a reduction of approximately \$400,000, bringing the increase down to 5.92%. The Finance Committee’s questions and concerns have been shared with administrators. Mrs. Spaulding advised that the Finance Committee recommends an increase no larger than 5%. The Committee did not reach a consensus on further reductions, but thought it may be beneficial to have administrators identify additional cuts that would be proposed should the budget not pass. Mrs. Spaulding has sent a recap of the meeting to all Board Members. Mrs. Nye had asked, on behalf of administrators, that the Board identify priorities related to possible reductions. Mrs. Spaulding believes it will be beneficial to have Vision, Mission, and Strategic goals in place to assist with identifying priorities. It is hoped that this initiative will be completed prior to next year’s budget development. Mrs. Perreault advised that a 1% reduction requires cuts totaling \$500,000, and reiterated that to reduce the budget to a 5% increase will require a reduction of approximately \$400,000. Mrs. Spaulding advised that the Committee discussed staffing cuts, and level funding of line items that were not spent in full last year. Mr. Isabelle stressed that Social Security increases are less than increases to Medicare premiums, and believes the elderly population will be hurt by budget increases. Mr. Isabelle advised that those on Medicare have to shoulder the increase in their premiums, but recent negotiations with teachers resulted in the BUUSD picking up increases for health care. Mr. Isabelle is disappointed with the outcome of negotiations. Mr. Isabelle stressed that many people are food insecure, and that many have lost jobs. Mr. Isabelle stressed that the Board must be very mindful of what community members and students are experiencing. Mr. Isabelle advised that not providing transportation for high school students contributes to the BUUSD having the lowest per pupil spending. The Board was asked to provide a budget target and priorities. Mr. Malone polled the Board. Percentage preferences ranged from 0% to 5%.

Priorities include; academics, use of disposable income to increase student improvement, prioritization of general education over everything else. Possible reductions include; facilities, athletics, special education, and possible suspension of payment for college courses for staff (stronger negotiations in the future, resulting in a reduction of benefits or cuts to staff). It was noted that suspension of payment for college courses cannot be accomplished this year because it has already been negotiated.

Mr. Malone stressed that State mandated changes to health care negotiations and changes to special education funding, coupled with a large increase in health insurance premiums have greatly hurt the district.

The majority of the Board believes the budget should increase by no more than 5% and that a second budget, (reflecting cuts that will need to be made if the budget does not pass), reflect a budget of 2%. A budget with a 2% increase will require \$2,000,000 in cuts and

will require cutting teaching staff. Mr. Wells advised that a budget with a 2% increase will increase class sizes, and greatly harm academics and students. Mrs. Akley believes it's very important for the community to know and understand what cuts will be made should the budget need to be reduced.

Mrs. Perreault confirmed that at the January 5, 2021 Finance Committee meeting, the Committee will be presented with 2 budgets; one with an increase of 5% and one reflecting an increase of 2% which includes a prioritized list of cuts.

6.2 Remote Learning Update

Discussion held under Agenda Item 6.3.1.

6.3 School Reopening Update

Discussion held under Agenda Item 6.3.1.

6.3.1 Plan for Returning to School

A document titled 'BUUSD In-Person Learning Plan – December 2020' was distributed. Mr. Wells thanked the Re-Opening Team for their work on creating the Plan. Mr. Wells advised that the Plan, formulated under policy A25 was included in the meeting packet and provided an overview of the document. Mr. Wells provided details for when the different grades (K – 12) and CVCC will return to hybrid learning or increased in-person instruction. Mr. Wells advised regarding modifications to social distancing guidelines, changes to transportation (including the sharing of buses), changes to schedules, and health screenings. It was noted that the Barre Virtual Academy will continue to operate throughout the school year, and remains at capacity, thus no additional students may join at this time. Spaulding will continue to provide virtual learning to students who chose that option. The district does not have capacity to offer fully remote options to any additional students. It was stressed that the plan for a return to in-person/increased in-person learning is contingent on favorable COVID conditions. It was clarified that to the greatest extent possible, individual schools will remain open. If the impact of positive COVID cases and quarantine cases results in the inability to staff a school, that school/schools will need to revert to remote learning. Concerns raised by the Board include students' loss of socialization/interaction, provision of intervention services (for those who require assistance), high school seniors' readiness for college, communication with parents/students/community members regarding changes, lack of increased in-person instruction for middle school students, continuation of food services, the costs associated with increased bus runs, concerns that many students are not learning well under the hybrid system, and parental concerns/frustrations expressed to Board Members. Requests included; a request that more specific details be published regarding why restrictions are in place, and a request that more synchronous learning be implemented.

Middle school administrators advised regarding the work involved with trying to get students back to in-person learning, the desire to have full in-person instruction, the impact of social distancing guidelines (which limits the number of students allowed in each classroom), specialization of teachers at the middle school level, the importance of preventing the mixing of pods, and use of larger spaces within the buildings.

Mrs. Waterhouse provided clarification regarding the number of high school students who have chosen remote learning (176), and the impact that has on the ability for staff to provide more in-person instruction as well as the physical capacity of the high school which limits the number of students that can attend at one time. It was clarified that students at the high school level have a choice of classes (e.g. not all students in a given grade take the same English class or math class etc.). Mrs. Waterhouse also clarified that SHS is not part of the virtual academy, and SHS teachers are providing remote instruction to students who have chosen virtual learning. Additionally, Mrs. Waterhouse advised that the high school has greatly increased the amount of synchronous learning.

Community members provided feedback/concerns/questions including; schools tracking/identifying physical and sexual abuse, poor communication from teaching staff, concern over the screening process, teachers not 'showing up' for class, lack of consistent standards being shared by teachers (students are confused by the different standards), frustration that students aren't back in school full time, creative use of non-classroom spaces for classes, the possibility of changes to schedules for middle school students, communicating with parents regarding how/why specific decisions are being made, the possibility of creating a new re-opening team with different individuals, differences between models utilized at other schools in the state, concerns over transparency, reasons for phasing in of various grades, the possibility of students (on remote days) to 'Zoom' into the in-person classes, the ability to provide more instruction to students who are participating in the hybrid model, lack of academic work for middle school students, lack of planning to increase in-person learning for middle school students, acknowledgement that many teachers are also parents and are experiencing some of the same frustrations, acknowledgement that the BUUSD has one of the lowest cost per-pupil rates in the state and that perhaps to provide more to our students, higher budgets need to be supported, and requests that the Board put demands forward (with a specified timeframe). It was noted that there has been increased learning for middle school students under fully remote learning (due to classes being streamed and students being expected to participate).

This Agenda Item was revisited under 'Agenda Item 7' (Other Business/Round Table). Mrs. Spaulding queried the Board regarding directives they would like to make relating to school re-opening plans. Ideas shared include: asking administrators to reduce the phase-in timeline, provide additional options for more synchronous and in-person learning for middle and high school students, for an amended plan to be presented at the Special Board Meeting on 01/07/2021, concerns regarding ramifications if the BUUSD operates in violation of the State's COVID Guidelines, identification of any possible rules that are proposed to be broken, review of ongoing

health statistics (without being overly cautious), and having the Re-Opening Team (using the re-opening plan and tonight's discussion), write an expanded, comprehensive, detailed report that can be published and shared with community members.

Mrs. Pompei commended Mr. Wells on the re-opening plan. Mrs. Pompei is pleased with the phase in plan for students. Mrs. Pompei has conducted some research relative to another local high school, and advised that due to the large high school population within the BUUSD, it is confirmed that space requirements do curtail the return of high school students. The high school has the lowest cost per-pupil, but has the lowest amount of space per pupil. Harwood Union has 347 square feet per student, SHS has 183 square feet per pupil. Mrs. Pompei is pleased with the increase in synchronous learning, but would like to see things improve a bit faster. Mr. Boltin wants the students back in school as soon as possible. Mrs. Akley echoed Mrs. Pompei's statements, and believes it is wise to bring students back slowly and safely. Mrs. Akley does not have any big issues with the plan as presented. Mr. Malone believes the BUUSD needs to continue with efforts to bring students back to in-person learning as quickly as possible. Mrs. Poulin queried regarding clarification of any consensus for specific directives being made by the Board and whether or not specific directives would be in conflict with policy A25 which grants the Superintendent full authority under the COVID emergency. Mr. Malone confirmed Board approval of that policy, and advised that the Board feels they have a duty to the public to do something as a Board to exercise a bit of pressure to do something a little differently with the plan. Mr. Wells advised that he appreciates the useful feedback, noting that under the policy, the Superintendent is responsible for bringing forth a plan and presenting it to the Board, which provides feedback. Mr. Wells will proceed with the requirement to increase in-person learning and will report back to the Board. Mrs. Poulin confirmed that the record shall reflect that feedback (rather than directives) was provided to the Superintendent. The Superintendent has heard the concerns of the Board.

6.4 Vision, Mission & Strategic Goals

6.4.1 Finalize Design Team

A document titled 'Here is a refresher on what we need for the Design Team:' was distributed.

A document titled 'Design Team Suggestions' was distributed.

An untitled document, listing interested candidates was distributed.

Letters of interest from the following candidates were distributed: Alan Kessler, Aaron Pacetti, Brandon Vest, Danielle Tucker, Fianna Verret, Jaimes Fewer, Jaime Guilmette, Jan Trepanier, Lee Ann Monroe, Lauren Tessier, Martha Blaisdell, Marcy Kreitz, Michael Pope, Mary Ellen Simmons (interest in curriculum and equity work groups), Neil Kelly, Stacie Jacques, Sara Young, Trina Villa, and Megan Spaulding. Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview, advising that for the project to move forward, it is critical that the Board appoint Design Team Members at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Spaulding has responded to all interested parties and advised that if they are not chosen for the Design Team, they will still have an opportunity to assist with this initiative, as individuals will need to be chosen for the Focus Groups. The Board discussed the candidates for various positions and made Design Team appointments as follows:

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Sonya Spaulding as the BUUSD Board Representative.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Lauren Tessier as the Community Member/ Non-profit Leader Representative.

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Sara Young (middle school) and Marcy Kreitz (elementary school) as the Middle and Elementary Schools' Parent Representatives.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Jaimes Fewer as the High School Parent Representative.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Michael Pope as the Barre Town Teacher Representative, Jaime Guilmette as the Barre City Teacher Representative, Booby Booth as the SHS Teacher Representative, Grace Isham as the SHS Student Representative, Jennifer Luck-Hill as the CVCC Teacher Representative, and Scott Griggs as the CVCC Administrator Representative.

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Brandon Vest as the Business Leader Representative.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Cambel, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Jennifer Nye as the Elementary School Administrator Representative, Brenda Waterhouse as the Spaulding High School Administrator Representative, and Chris Hennessey as the Middle School Administrator Representative.

7. Other Business/Round Table

Mrs. Akley commented that she understands that community members are frustrated regarding decisions made relative to remote and hybrid learning, and she herself is frustrated that there are individuals who are 'breaking the rules' and congregating with individuals outside of their immediate household. Mrs. Akley believes that there is no level of risk that is acceptable, and that although most of us

have not personally been impacted by the loss of a family member/friend(due to COVID), decisions are being made to see that our students and staff are as safe as possible.

Mr. Boltin believes that parents have conveyed that getting kids back into schools as soon as possible is their highest priority, and he is lacking confidence that it will occur.

Mrs. Farrell advised that she has experienced distance learning, a far back as the 1980's and she believes that prior distance learning should be explored and perhaps modifications made to the existing models.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that the Board is comprised of all elected officials, and though they may not be speaking publicly, they are listening and absorbing everyone's concerns and trying to find a balance. In order to maintain the balance, Board Members need to put their personal feelings aside and do what is best for everyone. Mr. Cecchinelli wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mr. Isabelle appreciates Mrs. Akley's input. Though the start of basketball is still unknown, Mr. Isabelle would like students to be able to participate in some sort of activity. Mr. Isabelle appreciates all the input received this evening.

At Mrs. Spaulding's request, the Board re-opened discussion under Agenda Item 6.3.1 to discuss the request that Board Members provide directives relating to school re-opening.

Mrs. Pompei commended BCEMS for continuing their holiday gift drive. Mrs. Pompei believes this gift drive is very much needed during the current economic situation and feels that it is most depressing that the David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food and Gift Drive at BTMES has been cancelled. The BTMES Food/Gift drive has been in existence for almost 30 years. Mrs. Pompei believes 34 families were served last year and that she believes many families would have benefited from it this year. Mrs. Pompei believes folks should be cognizant that there are families in Barre Town who are struggling with how to provide food, gifts, and winter clothing. Mr. Coon wanted the Board to know that BCEMS received \$10,000 - \$11,000 in donations to assist with their holiday gift drive, approximately \$7,000 that was donated from local businesses. BCEMS was able to assist over 100 families. Mr. Hennessey echoed Mr. Coon's statement, and is very pleased that the Barre community stepped in to assist during these difficult times. Mr. Hennessey recognized two individuals; Corporal Jason Fleury, Barre City Police Department (who has spearheaded this effort for years) and BCEMS/SHS SLP, Dawn Poitras for all of her outreach efforts, to identify those who may need assistance. Mr. Hennessey thanked Mrs. Pompei for recognizing the importance of this endeavor

8. Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting of the Board on Thursday, January 7, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

- 2021 / 2022 Budget Approval
- School Re-opening Update
- First Reading Electronic Communication Between Employees & Students Policy (B8)
- First Reading Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX Policy (C12)

9. Executive Session as Needed

9.1 Personnel Matter

A Disciplinary Matter was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Wells, Mrs. Waterhouse, and Ms. Soffen in attendance, at 10:23 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Ms. Cambel, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 10:55 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin