

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Via Video Conference – Google Meet
January 19, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding (BC) – Chair
Alice Farrell (BT) – Vice Chair
Guy Isabelle (At-Large) - Clerk
Gina Akley (BT)
Renee Badeau (BT)
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC)
Chris Parker (BT)
Sarah Pregent (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Boltin (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Jody Emerson, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Michael Deering, II	Josh Howard	Nancy Leclerc	Bob Phillips
Terry Reil	Amy Richard	Patricia Shane		

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, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Thursday, January 19, 2021, Special meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Mrs. Spaulding advised that the Governor signed legislation that allows cities/towns to use Australian Ballots rather than holding in-person meetings.

Delete Agenda Item 4.3 - This item is part of discussion under Agenda Item 4.2

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board voted 6 to 0 to approve the Agenda as amended. Mrs. Akley, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Isabelle, Ms. Parker, and Mrs. Pregent voted for the motion. Ms. Badeau abstained.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

3.1 Public Comment

A community member queried regarding why the SHS SRO has been deleted from the budget. Mrs. Spaulding advised she will discuss this with Mr. Howard off-line.

3.2 Student Voice

None.

4. Current Business

4.1 FY23 Budget Information

Five documents were distributed;

A document titled BUUSD Proposed FY23 Budget – 01/19/22

A document titled BUUSD FY23 Budget Information – 01/19/22

A document titled BUUSD Budget 2022 – 23 Draft 2, 01/19/22 – Comparative Tax Rate Calculations Using \$700,000 TOWARD REVENUE

A document titled BUUSD FY23 Proposed Budget, Expense Summary – Draft 2 – 12/14/21

A document titled CVCC School District Budget Expenses – 12/14/21

Mrs. Spaulding advised that the District received an adjusted equalized pupil count from the State. The increase in the equalized pupil count results in a lower cost per equalized pupil amount, which in turn, lowers the percentage of the increase (which is calculated based on cost per equalized pupil). The new cost per equalize pupil is \$16,252, an increase of 5.99%. Mrs. Pregent provided a brief overview of the ‘Proposed FY23 Budget’ document, which she believes helps to clarify how the numbers are arrived at. The Warnings, which indicate the cost per equalized pupil, and the increase percentage, must be approved. Mrs. Akley commented that this change in equalized pupil count is great, is a timely example that demonstrates that there are budgetary items that are outside of the Board’s control, and that she is grateful that the equalized pupil count increased. It was noted that the approved FY23 Expenditure Budget total of \$53,254,319 has not changed and does not need to be re-voted on.

4.2 FY23 Combined Warning Approval

Three documents were distributed;

A document titled Barre Unified Union School District Warning for March 1, 2022 Vote (Ten Articles)

A document titled Barre Unified Union School District Warning for March 1, 2022 Vote (Five Articles) – relates to CVCC

A document titled Barre Unified Union School District Annual Meeting Warning for February 28, 2022 Vote

The Board was advised that prior to the start of discussion of Warning Approval, the Board needs to rescind the 01/13/22 votes pertaining to approval of Warnings that will be replaced by the Warnings presented this evening. Brief discussion was held.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to rescind the; 01/13/22 vote to approve, with amendments as discussed, the Barre Unified Union School District Warning For March 1, 2022,

the 01/13/22 vote to approve, with the discussed amendments, the Barre Unified Union School District Warning For March 1, 2022, (CVCC Governance related),

and the 01/13/22 vote to approve, as amended, the Barre Unified Union School District Annual Meeting Warning for February 28, 2022.

Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview of the Warnings included in the packet, including the highlighted changes. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that there needs to be a correction to his name.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the ‘Barre Unified Union School District Warning for March 1, 2022 Vote’. (Warning with 10 Articles).

~~4.3 FY23 BUUSD Separate Warnings Approval~~

4.4 FY23 CVCC Warning Approval

A document titled Barre Unified Union School District Warning for March 1, 2022 was distributed. This Warning pertains to two articles related to a new governance structure for the Central Vermont Career Center. Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of the Warning, and advised that there will be no in-person location for this meeting. The correction to Mr. Cecchinelli’s name will need to be made to this Warning also.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as discussed and amended, the Barre Unified Union School District Warning for March 1, 2022.

5. Executive Session

5.1 Superintendent Interview

The Superintendent Interview was proposed for discussion in Executive Session. The Board agreed to begin Executive session by discussing the process and interview questions, and would then invite the candidate to join Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Isabelle, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mrs. Marold and Mr. Hennessey in attendance, at 5:53 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. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Board unanimously voted to offer a two year contract to

Chris Hennessey for the position of BUUSD Superintendent.

It was asked that the record reflect that Mr. Boltin is not in attendance at the meeting and did not vote.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin