

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

Community Room - Community National Bank, 316 Main Street, Barre, VT
April 5, 2022 – 4:30-8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding (BC) – Chair
Alice Farrell (BT) – Vice Chair
Chris Parker (BT) - Clerk
Renee Badeau (BT)
Tim Boltin (BC)
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC)
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)
Terry Reil (BT)
Sarah Pregent (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT:

Josh Howard

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Board Retreat meeting to order at 4:33 p.m., which was held in the Community Room at Community National Bank.

1.1 Introductions & More About You

Board members went around the table and shared fun facts about their lives and why they decided to run for/be on the school board.

2. Additions or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Agenda as presented.

3. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

3.1 Public Comment

None.

3.2 Student Voice

None.

4. Current Business

4.1 Finding Common Ground

Pink: what is our greatest asset as a district

Blue: What is one thing that you love about our district

Yellow: what is one thing that you wish we could change about our district

<u>PINK: What is our greatest asset as a district?</u>	<u>BLUE: What is one thing you love about our district?</u>	<u>YELLOW: What is one thing you wish you could change about our district?</u>
People (x 2)	School does try to reach the community (my) kids	Climate
Community	Community commitment	Give children the world
Our communities	Community	Challenge every student
Commitment to Barre & Barre Schools	Passion/pride in schools/community	Improve education
Desire to grow and do what is best for students	Stable community	<u>All</u> kids be successful
Kids	Thriving extra-curricular opportunities for all	Education funding formula
Students	Great programs for some	Make education the focus
Respect for all students	Spirit of the schools & the community	Distrust of the board
Passion/Pride in schools/community	School spirit	Distrust of educators
School is in town	Diverse student body, many opportunities to succeed in school	Distrust from community
Well maintained facilities	Diversity	Feelings of distrust in the community
Buildings		Community perception of the schools
We have funding		Divisiveness
		Combined Elementary & Middle schools

Lots of classes Dedicated staff Commitment of our teachers & long-term staff Staff Committed and devoted staff	Longevity of admin & educators- dedication to Barre Willingness of teachers to do what they need to in challenging situations Dedication of our teachers History of the schools	Narrow the divide between the town & city BT/BC divide
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We are all working together toward the same goals. We are all on the same team and doing our best. Sonya will take pics of the post-its and write them up, so we have reminders about how we all answered these questions. Board norms were shared briefly. Ms. Badeau: From Snelling leadership institute: What is our north star? Our north star is what's best for kids.

4.2 Committee Policy & Charge

Chris H talked about finance and policy - we are similar to other districts in terms of monthly meetings for these two committees. BUUSD is seen as an outlier in terms of how many meetings we have regarding other committees. Length of meetings is also much longer than other districts. Concerns of administrators, worry about trust to do their work. Renee brought up her knowledge of how meetings work in other districts. Discussed facilities, curriculum, transportation committees – need for information to the board, but do we need entire committees with monthly meetings for these topics? Long discussion on committee work and needs for committees. Talked about whether we have a need for a policy related to committee work. No decisions were made. Will continue this discussion.

4.3 Dinner and Odds and Ends

Questions about board members as mandated reporters
Questions about the role of substance abuse prevention programs and supports in the schools
Questions about special ed and provision of IEP services related to staffing shortages
Questions about subjective political activity and instruction in schools.

4.4 Review Board Work Using Annual Assessment Survey

Discussion of a more thorough deep dive into the school board's effectiveness via the VSBA annual school board self-assessment survey. This will be put on a future board agenda, with the possibility of having this sent out to central office staff, admin, building principals. Mr. Hennessey will work with Mr. Allen to do this. We are waiting to hear back from the VSBA about the digital version of this file. Board to discuss policy A32 on a future agenda, and whether to rescind it as the VSBA has.

4.5 Annual Work Plan/Board Goals

Goal: To oversee the strategic plan
Discussion about the strategic plan and ways to make sure it is a living document, referenced regularly in committee meetings and board meetings. Wanting to make sure that parents, community members, stakeholders, etc are able to access this document and fully understand it. Mrs. Farrell: Professional development for the board from the VSBA? Sonya has a call with Phil of the VSBA on Thursday and she will ask about this. Nancy likes this idea and is in favor of team building activities.

5. Next Meeting Date

Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Will be at BTMES Library. Both board meetings in April will be at BTMES. Full board meetings will rotate locations on a monthly basis. Committee meetings will always be at the Spaulding library. A virtual option will continue to be offered for all meetings.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Parker
BUUSD School Board Clerk