

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library
and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
September 22, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Pierre Laflamme, BCEMS Principal
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Marlon Maylor, SHS Co-Principal
Ted Mills, BTMES Assistant Principal
Rebekah Mortensen, Assistant Director of Special Services
Jennifer Nye, BTMES Principal
Erica Pearson, BTMES Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager
Brenda Waterhouse, BCEMS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Stacy Boltin	Michael Boutin	Magan Brown	Lily Charbonneau
Chris Cheney	Allison Courtemanche	Marisa Craige	Michael Deering, II	Pragya Donovan
Nicole Galup	Karen Heath	Cora Hebert	Michelle Hebert	Sarah Helman
Sarah Hill	JoshHoward	Stacy Hubbell	Mariah Jacobs	Prudence Krasofski
Colleen Kresco	Kerri Lamb	Tara Martin	Dan Morrison	Gwen Mulligan
Ruby Myers	Dawn Poitras	Heather Slayton	Kevin Spaulding	William Toborg
Rachel Van Vliet	Kim Whitcomb			

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Thursday, September 22, 2022, Regular meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., which was held at Barre City Elementary and Middle School in the James Taffel Library, and via video conference.

2. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held a Mindfulness Moment. Mrs. Spaulding read the Meeting Norms. Mrs. Spaulding thanked community members for their attendance and read the public comment guidelines.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to add 6.8 Procedures for Policies Discussion.

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to add 12.2 Personnel Matter

Mr. Toborg queried regarding when the Board made the decision not to allow public comment under the Agenda Item for Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Agenda as amended.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that she would like to take a few Agenda Items out of order;

6.1 – Hold discussion before Agenda Item 4.1

Agenda Items 8.1 and 8.2 – Hold discussion after Agenda item 4.1

Brief discussion was held regarding making permanent changes to the order of the Agenda, to allow administrators to leave the meetings at a reasonable time.

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1 Public Comment

Michael Deering advised regarding his interaction with staff, noting positive changes have been made to improve experiences for students.

Heather Slayton voiced appreciation for an education based agenda and thanked BTMES staff for the positive experience her kindergartener is having.

William Toborg addressed the Board, voicing concern regarding events involving the Superintendent and Board Chair. Mr. Toborg would like to know that people are satisfied that what has occurred is not untoward, he believes an investigation by an ‘outside’ entity should be held, and that the Board Chair should recuse herself from any such investigation.

Josh Howard addressed the Board advising that he would like to see educational performance updates and would like to know what the District is doing differently this year, to improve the quality of education. It was noted that an Education Performance update is scheduled for October.

4.2 Student Voice

None.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2022 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2022 Regular Meeting.

5.2 Approval of Minutes – August 31, 2022 Emergency Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 31, 2022 Emergency Meeting.

6. Current Business

6.1 Student Presentation: BCEMS – Students on the Move

BCEMS students Ruby Myers and Lily Charbonneau addressed the Board presenting information on the Students on the Move and Fuel Up to Play 60 Programs. Ms. Myers and Ms. Charbonneau then proceeded to answer questions from the public and the Board. Dawn Poitras, Student Assistance Professional provided additional input regarding her involvement coordinating these and other programs.

6.2 New Hires

No candidates were presented for hire.

6.3 Interviews for Community Member for Finance Committee (BT Seat)

Letters of interest from Kimberly Whitcomb and Michelle Hebert were distributed.

The Board interviewed the named candidates and advised that a decision will be announced after Agenda Item 12.1

6.4 Student Discipline Update

Mr. Hennessey advised regarding Innovation Teams implemented at SHS, and some of the work of the new Assistant Principal. Mr. Hennessey advised regarding work being performed at BCEMS and BTMES, including setting clear expectations at the beginning of the school year. It was noted that staffing shortages are having an impact. It is anticipated that some behavioral data will be available to be shared at an upcoming Board meeting. Community members advised regarding some positive changes they have seen this year.

Mr. Toborg queried regarding sharing anti-bullying curriculum with community members. Sarah Helman suggested that the Board consider an ADHOC Committee to look a little deeper into behavioral issues, review each building's procedures and confirm that procedures are being followed. Mr. Reil voiced concern that the 'Task Force' discussed in June is very different than the Community Coalition being discussed this evening. It was noted that the District would not 'own' the Community Coalition. Mr. Hennessey encourages Board Members to look at the link to the Hartford Community Coalition. Mrs. Leclerc queried regarding previous discussions regarding the Board being presented with data related to behavioral issues.

6.5 VEHI/VSBIT Annual Meeting Information/Proxy Forms

A copy of the Agenda for the VEHI Annual Meeting (10/21/22 at 8:15 a.m. at Lake Morey Inn – Fairlee, VT) was distributed.

A copy of the 'Instructions for Exhibit B – VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority' document was distributed.

A copy of a document titled 'Exhibit B – VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority' was distributed. – Vermont Education Health Initiative for Health Insurance

A copy of a document titled 'Exhibit B – VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority' was distributed. – Vermont Education Health Initiative for Dental Insurance

A copy of the Agenda for the VSBIT (Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust) Annual Meeting ((10/21/22 at 8:00 a.m. at Lake Morey Inn – Fairlee, VT) was distributed.

A copy of the 'Instructions for Exhibit B – VSBIT Proxy or Certificate of Authority' document was distributed.

A copy of a document titled 'Exhibit B – VSBIT Proxy or Certificate of Authority' was distributed. – VSBIT Unemployment Program.

A copy of a document titled 'Exhibit B – VSBIT Proxy or Certificate of Authority' was distributed. – VSBIT Multi-line Program.

Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview of this matter noting that there are no anticipated major items being voted on at this year's annual meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Superintendent Chris Hennessey to appear and vote on behalf of the BUUSD for the VSBIT Unemployment Program, the VSBIT Multi-line Program, the VEHI Health Program and the VEHI Dental Program.

6.6 CVCCSD Lease Discussion

Mr. Hennessey provided a brief update, noting that he believes all outstanding issues have been resolved and that contracts are being reviewed by respective legal counsels. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding an addition to the contract signed in November 2021.

Mr. Hennessey advised that concerns arose pertaining to issues related to if/when the Career Center moves. Mr. Hennessey advised that there is urgency in finalizing the lease because there currently is no lease in place. It was also noted that a new lease may have been necessary because the November 2021 lease was with CVCC, not the CVCCSD which was not in effect until 07/01/22.

6.7 EEI Lighting Proposal for SHS

A letter to Jamie Evans from Energy Efficient Investments, Inc., dated 09/08/22 was distributed.

A document titled 'Led Lighting Upgrade' was distributed.

Mr. Evans provided an overview of the project proposed by EEI. Mrs. Perreault advised that based on discussion at the Finance Committee meeting, she reached out for quotes. Mrs. Perreault received a proposal (fixed quote valid from 09/21/22 until 10/07/22). The proposal lists two options: #1 (for SHS only) – a 10 year lease financing \$533,000 at 3.99%, with an annual payment of \$65,681.36. Option #2 (SHS and CVCC wing) – 10 year lease financing \$719,000 at 3.99%, with an annual payment of \$88,602.07. This information has been shared with District Counsel. If the Board wants to move forward, there is a draft Resolution that the Board will need to approve. Mrs. Perreault advised that there is no bid requirement because the District is working with a Performance Contractor and Efficiency Vermont. Lengthy discussion was held, including other less expensive options (retrofitting existing fixtures), energy efficiency savings, sharing the new expense with CVCCSD, and risks for not moving forward quickly (increasing interest rates and loss of rebates). As part of discussion, the Board reviewed the information included in the packet.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Parker the Board voted 7 to 1 to approve moving forward with the EEI proposal for the new lighting project for Spaulding High School and CVCC, with a ten year lease.

Mr. Boltin, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, Ms. Parker, and Mrs. Pregent voted for the motion. Mr. Reil voted against the motion.

The Board recessed from 8:29 p.m. until 8:37 p.m.

6.8 Procedures for Policies Discussion.

It is Mr. Malone's understanding that the Board needs to have a good understanding of the procedures linked to policies. Mr. Malone advised that the Board hasn't been reviewing procedures and should be in order to see that; the procedures match up with the policies, to assure that procedures are being implemented, and to assure that the procedures are effective. Mr. Malone queried regarding where

to find the procedures that align to policies, and the date that each procedure was developed. Mr. Malone would also like the Board to make sure that procedures are aligned with statute. Mr. Malone would like the Board to develop a methodology to assure that procedure review is taking place for existing and new policies. Ms. Parker provided a brief overview of Policy A30 and some of the definitions included in that policy. Mr. Hennessey advised of the group of administrators, led by Mr. Aither, that are reviewing existing procedures. Finance procedures are available on line in the Business Office section. The Policy web page also has links to some procedures. Mr. Malone advised that Policy A30 does not include verbiage related to the Board reviewing procedures, and suggested that it be amended to include that piece. Brief discussion was held and the Board agreed to table discussion until a later time.

7. Old Business

7.1 Second and Final Reading Substitute Teachers Policy (B1)

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker provided of brief overview of edits to the policy. Brief discussion was held. Community input was received.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Substitute Teachers Policy (B1), and agreed to adopt said policy.

7.2 Second and Final Reading Role and Adoption of School Board Policies Policy (A30)

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker provided of brief overview of revisions to the policy.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Role and Adoption of School Board Policies Policy (A30), and agreed to adopt said policy.

7.3 Second and Final Reading Board Member Education Policy (A31)

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Ms. Parker provided of brief overview of edits to the policy. After discussion, the Board agreed to replace the word 'will' with the words 'are encouraged to' in the first sentence under the Implementation section. Mrs. Gilbert was lauded for her efforts working on policies.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Second and Final Reading of the Board Member Education Policy (A31), and agreed to adopt said policy.

7.4 Board Values and Goals for FY24 Budget Development

A copy of the BUUSD FY24 Budget Development Schedule (Revised 09/02/22) was distributed.

A copy of a document titled 'Draft Meeting Schedule' was distributed.

Board Members did not provide any input.

8. Reports

8.1 Superintendent Report

A copy of the Superintendent's Report (dated 09/16/22) was distributed. Mr. Hennessey advised he has nothing to add to the Report. In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey advised regarding post-COVID challenges, including a shortage of Special Educators and other support staff, including para-educators. The lack of Special Educators is having an impact on the District's ability to provide all the services defined in IEPs, noting that current practices are not sustainable. Mr. Hennessey has been looking into working with outside entities. In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey advised regarding members on the Community Coalition (formerly referred to as a Task Force), and its purpose. The Coalition met twice over the summer. The Coalition is still being formed (members) and goals still need to be set. The next meeting date has not been set.

8.2 Building Reports: BCMES, BTMES, SHS, SEA

Copies of the Building Reports from BCMES, BTMES, and SEA, were distributed. A copy of 'Tide Nation Update' was distributed. Mrs. Waterhouse introduced Marisa Craige advising that she has been organizing PAWS (People Accessing Wholebeing Support). Ms. Craige addressed the Board and provided an overview of the work performed thus far, including creation of the 'Paws Closet', where students and families have easy access to free basic supplies. It is anticipated that many other 'events' will be held and the school is working to coordinate with the Vermont Food Bank to start a food shelf at the school. Brief discussion was held regarding promotion of the various events, and lists of 'needs', as well as how/where individuals can make donations. Mrs. Waterhouse provided a brief overview of the work/vision of the BCEMS PTO. Additionally, Mrs. Waterhouse advised that she has been working with the YMCA and she anticipates an After-school Program (serving approximately 50 students) will be in place in approximately one month. Ms. Pearson encourages individuals to attend the 'Coffee with the Principals' event on 09/27/22. The next BTMES PTO meeting is on 10/04/22 at 7:00 p.m. in the BTMES Library. Mr. Reil advised regarding his recent visit to SHS and lauded administrators for new programs, including Innovation Teams, to assist 'meeting students where they are at'. It was noted that SHS is working on having a resurgence of the Boosters, and are hoping that the Boosters can work with the SHS Foundation "under one

umbrella”. SHS Homecoming Weekend was a big success. Stacy Hubbell requested that some sort of weekly paper ‘newsletter’ be sent home to parents who would like notifications in paper form. It was noted that the SEA Program is short 2 Special Educators and 1 Behavior Interventionist. These staffing shortages have precluded the addition of 7th and 8th grade students to the Program. Transportation is available for students who request it. Brief discussion was held regarding the need for sidewalks on Allen Street (for safety issues).

8.3 CVCCSD Board Report

Mrs. Farrell provided an overview of discussion held at the last CVCCSD Board meeting. CVCCSD continues to work on policy development. It was noted that there are individuals on wait lists for every program offered. The Board held significant discussion regarding the lease.

8.4 Finance Committee

Minutes from the September 15, 2022 meeting were distributed.

Mrs. Leclerc provided an overview of the minutes. There were no questions from the Board.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

8.5 Facilities & Transportation Committee

Minutes from the September 12, 2022 meeting were distributed.

Mr. Cecchinelli provided an overview of the minutes. The Board received community input regarding interest in assisting with improvements to the SHS athletic fields.

The Monday October 10, meeting is cancelled due to the holiday.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

8.6 Policy Committee

The Monday, September 19, 2022 meeting was cancelled.

Ms. Parker advised that the Committee continues to work on items listed in the Parking Lot and revising policies that may be impacted by the change from CVCC to CVCCSD.

The next meeting is Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

8.7 Curriculum Committee

Minutes from the September 1, 2022 meeting were distributed.

Mrs. Pregent provided an overview of the minutes.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

8.8 Negotiations Committee

Mr. Hennessey advised that the District has formally reached out to the Association and they have advised that they anticipate being ready by mid-October.

The next meeting date is to be determined

9. Other Business/Round Table

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to thank and commend Ruby and Lily for their very insightful report tonight on Students on the Move.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to thank and commend Marisa Craige for her activities on behalf of the PAWS Program.

Mrs. Pregent advised that she enjoyed having the Building Reports at the beginning of the meeting

Ms. Parker congratulated BCEMS for a successful Open House this evening and thanked Mrs. Waterhouse and Mr. Laflamme for welcoming the Board and providing background information and a tour.

Mr. Toborg suggested that Student Voice be on the Agenda before Public Comment.

Mr. Hennessey thanked the Board and the community for the support received during this meeting, noting that it was very much appreciated.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Warrant Procedures for Payroll – Board Approval
- New Hires (10/13/22)
- CVCCSD Lease Discussion
- Educational Performance Update (first meeting in October)

- VSBA Resolutions (10/13/22 meeting)
- SHS Foundation Report (10/13/22)
- ADHOC Committee for Behavior Issues (10/13/22)
- Role of Chair (10/13/22)

11. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the SEA Building and via video conference. A tour of the SEA Building will occur prior to the meeting (at 5:30 p.m.). Additional details will be forthcoming.

Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the SEA Building and via video conference.

12. Executive Session as Needed

12.1 Discuss and Appoint New Community Member for Finance Committee

12.2 Personnel Matter

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Discussion of New Community Member for Finance Committee and a Personnel Matter – Wrap-up of Superintendent Evaluation..

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:36 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Michelle Hebert as the Barre Town Community Member on the BUUSD Finance Committee.

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted that the Board recognized this matter (the Superintendent's Evaluation) as a personnel matter and the issue has been resolved.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin