

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
March 9, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Chair
Chris Parker (BT) – Vice Chair
Paul Malone (BT) - Clerk
Michael Boutin (BC)
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)
Ben Moore (BC)
Terry Reil (BT)
Emily Reynolds (BT)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Education
Jason Derner, Alternative Education Administrator
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Mari Miller, SHS Assistant Principal
Ted Mills, BTMES Assistant Principal
Brenda Waterhouse, BCEMS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Sarah Attig	Mel Battah	Martha Blaisdell	Sarah Capron
Erika Dolan	Jody Emerson	Alice Farrell	Mary Fifield	GameLord502
Alice Harding	Sarah Helman	Jacob Hemmerick	Lucas Herring	Sarah Hill
Josh Howard	Ellen Kaye	Agatha Kessler	Prudence Krasofski	Kerri Lamb
Lisa Liotta	Sarah Maas	Jessica Maurais	Raylene Meunier	Karen Moran
Dan Morrison	Sarah Pregent	Bern Rose	Diane Solomon	Megan Spaulding
William Toborg	Jay Treaty	Heather Slayton	Rachel Van Vliet	Hayes Walker
CameoWells	Jan Z	Michelle Leeman	Isabella Cecchinelli	Leslie Babic

1. Call to Order

The Superintendent, Mr. Hennessey, called the Thursday, March 9, 2023, Reorganizational meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Organize

VSBA Board Re-organization documentation (including the Reorganization Meeting Data Sheet) was distributed.
A copy of the Community Members on BUUSD Board Committees Procedure was distributed.

Mr. Boutin nominated Mr. Cecchinelli for the position of Board Chair. Ms. Parker seconded the nomination.

Mr. Hennessey queried regarding any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board voted 8 to 0 to elect Mr. Cecchinelli as BUUSD Board Chair. Mr. Reil abstained.

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Mr. Cecchinelli chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Cecchinelli requested nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Mrs. Spaulding nominated Ms. Parker for the position of Vice Chair. Ms. Reynolds seconded the nomination.

Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Board voted 8 to 0 to elect Ms. Parker as BUUSD Board Vice Chair. Mr. Reil abstained.

Mr. Cecchinelli requested nominations for the position of Board Clerk.

Mrs. Spaulding nominated Mr. Boutin for the position of Board Clerk. Mr. Boutin declined the nomination.

Ms. Parker nominated Mr. Malone for the position of Board Clerk. Mrs. Spaulding seconded the nomination.

Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations.

The Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Malone as Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to hold Regular Board meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning in April, and to hold Committee meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays.

It was noted that Policy A20 will need to be amended to reflect the new meeting days for Regular Board meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to hold a Retreat on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at a meeting place to be determined.

Concern was expressed that the Board would not be holding a second Regular meeting in April.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding Committees, including; Committee Charge (may be added as a Retreat agenda item), the number of Board members on each Committee (at least 3), the number of community members on each Committee (2), and Committee assignments.

Committee meetings will be held on the following schedule:

Facilities – 1st Monday of each month

Policy – 3rd Wednesday of each month

Curriculum – 1st Wednesday of each month

Finance – 3rd Monday of each month

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Board Chair to sign employee contracts, and to sign other contracts as approved by the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Business Manager, the Assistant Business Manager, and the Superintendent to sign Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants; and to authorize the Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair to sign Accounts Payable Warrants.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following Committee assignments:

BUUSD Curriculum Committee: Mr. Boutin, Mrs. Leclerc, Ms. Parker, and current community members.

BUUSD Facilities/Transportation Committee: Mr. Moore, Mr. Reil, Mr. Cecchinelli, and current community members.

BUUSD Negotiations Committee: Mr. Malone, Mr. Reil, and Mrs. Spaulding.

BUUSD Policy Committee: Mr. Boutin, Ms. Parker, Ms. Reynolds, and current community members.

Board Representative to the CVCCSD Board: Mr. Cecchinelli

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 5 to 4 to support the Board Chair's recommendation for Finance Committee Membership as follows:

BUUSD Finance Committee: Mr. Malone, Mr. Moore, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Spaulding, and current community members.

Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion.

Mr. Boutin, Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, and Mr. Reil voted against the motion.

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On a motion Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to post Agendas and Minutes at the BUUSD Central Office, BUUSD District Schools, the Barre City Clerk's Office, the Barre Town Clerk's Office, Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and on the BUUSD website,

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to use Robert's Rules of Order.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Code of Ethics document and whether or not there is a legal obligation to sign the Code of Ethics document.

Mr. Boutin moved to Table discussion of the Code of Ethics document. Mr. Reil seconded the motion. Brief discussion was held regarding the necessity of the Code of Ethics, including possible consequences for those who do not abide by the code of ethics, and concern that the Code of Ethics was not followed by all members of the previous Board. The Code of Ethics will be discussed at the Retreat. **Mr. Reil called the question.**

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Reil the Board unanimously voted to Table discussion of the Code of Ethics until the Board Retreat.

Brief discussion was held regarding Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to accept and approve the statute regarding Executive Sessions.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to approve Open Meeting Laws.

Brief discussion was held regarding communication practices and Mr. Reil advised that it is very important for Board Members to be very careful about how they communicate, and know that personal communications are subject to FOIA requests if they pertain to Board business. Mr. Reil believes that Board Members should do their best not to utilize electronic devices in meetings. It was noted that communication practices are not clearly defined for discussion purposes at this meeting. Brief discussion was held regarding whether or not electronic devices should be utilized during meetings. **Mr. Boutin made a motion to roll communications practices into the Open Meeting Law.** A community member voiced concern regarding Board Members, using their personal/non-BUUSD email account, to send emails to community members personal email accounts, utilizing an email address that was only known to the Board Member because of Board/Committee Business. After brief discussion, it was agreed that community member Committee Members will be assigned BUUSD email addresses for Committee business. **Mr. Boutin restated the motion to roll communications practices into the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Malone seconded the motion. On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to roll communications practices into the Open Meeting Law.**

Brief discussion was held regarding various Board development opportunities available through the VSBA, as well as various training manuals, and in-person development opportunities.

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted that they discussed Board Development Opportunities.

Mr. Boutin made a motion to move on from the topic of Discussion of Local and Statewide Education Advocacy Responsibilities. Seconded by Ms. Parker.

Mrs. Spaulding does not believe tonight's discussion included Local and Statewide Education Advocacy, and advised regarding legislative information provided by VSBA and Board Members' responsibility to be aware of possible legislation, understand legislation's impact to the District, discuss legislation with representatives, and provide testimony etc.

Mr. Boutin moved to move on from discussion of the topic. Seconded by Ms. Parker.

Mr. Boutin called the question, noting a motion had previously been made. The second motion was not withdrawn.

The Board voted on the original motion; On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to move on from the topic of Discussion of Local and Statewide Education Advocacy Responsibilities.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to name the Times Argus as the District's paper of record.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to provide Agenda Packets in paper and electronic format.

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Mr. Cecchinelli advised that the Superintendent, and the Board Chair (Mr. Cecchinelli), will be the designated spokespersons for the Board.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to appoint the Negotiations Committee Chair to be the voting delegate for State-wide HealthCare bargaining Agreement.

3. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held a Mindfulness Moment.

4. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 8.1 FY24 Budget Revote Timeline

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

5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Public Comment

Mr. Toborg advised regarding his belief that Robert's Rules of order were not followed for one agenda item, and requested that this year, the Board revert back to allowing public comment for all agenda items.

5.2 Student Voice

None.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2023 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2023 Regular Meeting.

7. Current Business

7.1 New Hires

No individuals were presented for hire.

8. Old Business

8.1 FY24 Budget Revote Timeline

A document titled 'What Happens When the School Budget does Not Pass' was distributed.

Mr. Hennessey provided a brief overview of the document, advising of a possible revote date of 05/09/23, noting that the City polling venue is not available on the date the Town holds their municipal vote. Mr. Malone advised regarding requirements for providing absentee ballots, and possible personnel availability issues at Barre Town. Discussion was held regarding requirements for revote venues. Mr. Hennessey will contact the City regarding possible locations available for voting.

9. Other Business/Round Table

Mrs. Spaulding congratulated the SHS Girls' Hockey Team for winning the State Championship.

Mr. Malone requested clarification relating to Accounts Payable items he has questions on. It was noted that discussion relating to solar credits will be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Parker welcomed new Board Members.

Mr. Boutin advised that he took the oath of office, visited the Central Office, and advised he is looking forward to serving on the Board.

Mrs. Leclerc welcomed new Board Members, and congratulated the SHS Girls' Hockey Team for winning the State Championship.

Mr. Reil welcomed new Board Members and also lauded the SHS winter sports teams, highlighting the four year success of the SHS Girls' Hockey Team.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he has been and will be continuing to reach out to Board Members regarding their thoughts on various matters.

Mr. Hennessey also lauded the SHS sports teams and advised regarding the traditional end of season ceremony held this morning.

10. Future Agenda Items

Parking Lot Items A – F (for 03/23/23) (items B and C may need to be spread over a couple of meetings)

Building Reports

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11. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet).
The April 13, 2023 meeting is cancelled.

A Retreat will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at a location to be determined, and via Video Conference (Google Meet).

12. Executive Session as Needed

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin