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BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
September 13, 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
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Martha Blaisdell	Mary Bowers	Sandra Cameron	Kristin Gilbar
Prudence Krasofski	Jessika Maurais	Andrea Poulin	Brody Priddy	Rachel Van Vliet

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Wednesday, September 13, 2023, Regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment

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

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to add 8.1 Fuel Bids Authorization to the Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to add 8.2 Warrant Signature Page to the Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to add 8.3 Community Correspondence Responses.

Brief discussion was held regarding the legal grounds (criteria) for discussing Agenda Item 12.1 (Personnel Matter) in Executive Session. Mr. Reil does not believe the item being presented for discussion falls under any of the categories listed as those that qualify for Executive Session. It was agreed to add an agenda item (7.8 Personnel Matter), in the event that discussion in Executive Session has the outcome that the matter be discussed in open session. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that the documents provided for Executive Session, are privileged information. Mr. Reil queried regarding the titles of the documents (without personal/personnel information). The document titles were not provided. Mr. Hennessey advised that he was prepared to discuss the personnel matter in Executive Session, but is not prepared to discuss it in the live portion of the meeting. At the suggestion that an Executive Session be held at the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Boutin reiterated his belief that all Executive Sessions be held at the end of the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to add 7.8 Personnel Matter to the Agenda.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to take Agenda Item 7.6 (FY24 Superintendent's Evaluation) out of order.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the addition of Test Scores, a status update on the hiring of an SRO for SHS, a status update on receipt of written legal opinions, and a status update on the 5-Year Plan

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board voted 5 to 4 against the motion to add Status Update on 5-Year Plan to the Agenda

**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 for the motion.**

Mr. Cecchinelli advised he will add 'Status Update on 5-Year Plan' to the next Agenda.

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board voted 5 to 4 to add 8.4 Update on Written Legal Opinions to the Agenda.

**Mr. Boutin, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, and Mr. Reil voted for the motion.
Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted against the motion.**

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

4. Executive Session (as needed)

No Executive Session was necessary.

5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Public Comment

Mary Bowers (BTMES teacher) addressed the Board advising that, contrary to what she has been advised, she does not believe that BTMES has air conditioning. Mrs. Bowers requested that if there is air conditioning at BTMES, it needs to be fixed, and if BTMES does not have air conditioning, she wants it installed. Additionally, Ms. Bowers believes it to be strange that the District only has one electrician on staff.

Mrs. Leclerc advised that she finds the agenda approval to be a painful process, and noted that the Parking Lot continues to grow. Mrs. Leclerc believes requested items are not being added to the agendas, and she would like to see more progress. Additionally, Mrs. Leclerc believes the agenda should contain more items pertaining to finances and the education of students.

Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding whether Public Comment is open for comments by Board Members or just community members.

5.2 Student Voice

Brody Priddy introduced himself, advised that he has been elected to represent SHS students at Board meetings, and provided a brief update on activities of the SHS Student Council.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of Minutes – August 23, 2023 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2023 Regular Meeting, and the August 28, 2023 Special Meeting.

6.2 Approval of Minutes – August 28, 2023 Special Meeting

Action taken under agenda item 6.1

6.3 Warrant Approvals

Copies of Warrants for 08/31/23 and 09/07/23 were distributed.

Brief discussion was held regarding warrants pertaining to; a local landscaping warrant for over \$40,000 that Mr. Reil believes required Board approval, the purchase of 175 virtual seats (virtual high school), the draw down for SEA shop supplies, and architectural fees for the BCEMS roof.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants dated 08/31/23 and 09/07/23.

Discussion moved to Agenda Item 7.6

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7. Current Business

7.1 New Hires

The resumes and BUUSD Notification of Employment Status Forms for Lucas Heath Howe (SHS PE), and Jeff Amato (BCEMS 6th Grade ELA) were distributed.

Mr. Hennessey provided a brief overview of the SHS PE teacher candidate and advised that Mr. Amato has withdrawn his application for the BTMES position.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Lucas Heath Howe.

7.2 SHS Foundation Board Representation

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he is currently filling the Board Representative position. It is likely that the Board Representative will provide minutes. Mrs. Spaulding, noted that she is currently only on one Committee, and volunteered to fill the position.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board voted 7 to 1 to appoint Mrs. Spaulding as the BUUSD Board Representative on the SHS Foundation Board.

Mr. Boutin, Mr. Malone, Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Mr. Reil, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mrs. Leclerc voted against the motion.

7.3 Articles of Agreement: Articles 3 and 4

A document titled BUUSD Action Item Briefing Memo was distributed.

A document titled The Barre Unified Union School District Articles of Agreement Amended February 19, 2019 was distributed.

Mr. Boutin would like the Board to approve having the Superintendent reach out to legal counsel regarding what needs to be done to have elimination of Articles 3 and 4 on the March 2024 ballot. Lengthy discussion ensued, including but not limited to; acknowledgement that Article 3 needs to be modified, rather than removed, possible benefits to reconfiguring the student populations at each building, clarification of the benefits of removing the Articles, acknowledgement of the differing opinions between the Town/City during Act 46 voting, a query regarding how the grades would be divided between BCEMS and BTMES, complications that could arise for families that would have students in both of the schools, a query regarding the need, a query regarding how the student populations would balance out, recognition that removal of the Articles does not necessarily mean that school restructuring would occur in the near future, a request to have this item discussed on a monthly basis, a request that there be full Board support of this initiative, and discussion of transportation. **Mr. Reil called Point of Order, noting that discussion has transgressed from the motion on the floor. Mr. Cecchinelli called the vote.**

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board voted 6 to 2 to direct the Superintendent to get a written legal opinion regarding the pathway forward to get removal of Articles 3 and 4 on the ballot, and what if any risks are involved.

Mr. Boutin, Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Mr. Reil, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mrs. Leclerc and Mr. Malone voted against the motion.

Additional discussion was held regarding the request to have this item as a monthly agenda item, concern that the Board will not be ready to put removal of Articles on the March 2024 ballot, the need to have a feasibility study, the need to provide the community with the information they will need to know to make an informed decision, concern over the number of unknown factors, the reasons the Articles were put in place, outstanding logistical issues, concern that raising this issue will have a negative impact on passing the budget, the benefits that monthly discussions may have in determining the next step, a suggestion that investigative work be done in each of the Committees, a suggestion that there be an ADHOC committee for this initiative,

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 5 to 3 to have Discussion of Revisions of Articles 3 and 4 as a standing monthly agenda item.

Mr. Boutin, Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, and Mr. Reil voted against the motion.

7.4 Allocation of Board Stipend for Staff Appreciation

A document titled BUUSD Action Item Briefing Memo was distributed.

A document titled 'Board Member Stipend Waived/Redirected' was distributed.

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Mr. Boutin made a motion to allocate School Board Director Michael Boutin's stipend to an event for the benefit of BUUSD staff, with details being worked out with Carol Marold and Michael Boutin. Mr. Reil seconded the motion.

Discussion included; the document titled Board Member Stipend Waived/Redirected, concern that there be a legal opinion on this matter, concern that there might be an escheat issue, concern that the Board is spending time on this matter, a suggestion that Mr. Boutin accept the stipend, pay taxes, then donate back to the District, concern that the funds would be better dedicated to something student oriented (e.g. AP exam fees, scholarships), Mr. Boutin's practice of donating his City Counsel stipend for the employee Christmas party, Mr. Boutin's wish to do something nice for the teachers, gratitude to Mrs. Perreault for providing information on the distributed document, appreciation for the 'spirit' of the donation, a suggestion that there be a budgetary line item for teacher 'appreciation' events, concern that the suggested donation sets a 'weird precedent', clarification that the only way for Mr. Boutin to donate the full amount (pre-tax) requires that the Board allocate the funds, and concern over what happens to the funds if Mr. Boutin does not accept the funds (escheatment issues),

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board voted 5 to 3 to allocate School Board Director Michael Boutin's stipend to an event for the benefit of BUUSD staff, with details being worked out with Carol Marold and Michael Boutin.

**Mr. Boutin, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Moore, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion.
Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, and Ms. Parker voted against the motion.
Mr. Reil abstained.**

7.5 November 22nd/December 27th Meeting Dates

After lengthy discussion, including coordination with the Finance Committee (budget season), and a suggestion that January and February meetings also be review/revised, **it was agreed that Mr. Hennessey and Mrs. Perreault will draft a schedule and present it for approval at the next Board Meeting.**

7.6 FY24 Superintendent Evaluation

Sandra Cameron addressed the Board, providing an overview of the process and answering questions from the Board. Ms. Cameron advised that the process which includes tools that reflect Standards for Educational Leaders, a rubric with rating scales, the option to embed current Superintendent goals, and the timeline (4 to 6 weeks). The goal is to issue surveys to stakeholders (generally all Board Members, the Administrative Team, the Leadership Team, and the Superintendent). Feedback is anonymous. The survey is generally open for 2 weeks, but can be extended if necessary. Feedback is analyzed and summarized, at which point, some areas for goals are eliminated and some are identified. The summary report includes identification of possible goals. The process usually involves the use of an evaluation committee. Themes and goals are discussed in meetings, with the Superintendent involved in the process. An annual evaluation of the Superintendent is legally required. In response to a query, Ms. Cameron advised that the role of the committee is to coordinate and communicate the process, and that all Board Members will have the opportunity to provide feedback. The VSBA utilizes a tool to perform the evaluation and Ms. Cameron will be bringing a report back to the Board and the Superintendent. The report will evaluate feedback from all stakeholders. Clarification was provided regarding stakeholders and it was confirmed that principals are included as part of the leadership team. It was confirmed that a committee is not necessary for smaller boards but can be beneficial for larger boards. The final report will contain 3 sections (Board, Administrator, and Superintendent), and a 'total' section. Discussion was held regarding meeting dates. **It was agreed to hold the first meeting on October 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at SHS (if a room is available), and there will be a virtual option.** A member of the Committee will be responsible for taking/providing minutes. It was noted that a quorum of the Board will be present. The Committee meetings will be warned. Ms. Cameron will need to have a point of contact. The contact person will be decided at first meeting.

Discussion moved to Agenda Item 7.1.

7.7 VEHI/VSBIT Annual Meeting Info/Proxy Forms

A document titled 'Exhibit B – VSBIT Proxy or Certificate of Authority' (for unemployment insurance)
A document titled 'Exhibit B – VSBIT Proxy or Certificate of Authority' (for multi-line insurance)

Brief discussion was held.

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

The Board recessed at 7:58 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

7.8 Personnel Matter

No discussion.

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8. Old Business

8.1 Fuel Bids Authorization

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to direct the Business Manager to solicit additional bids from Suburban and Bourne's fuel vendors, to continue to monitor fuel prices and authorized the Business Manager to enter into a contract when she believes the best rate has been offered.

8.2 Warrant Signature Page

A copy of an e-mail from Lisa Perreault to Pietro Lynn (dated 08/23/23), titled Warrant Process/Signature Page, was distributed. This document was originally labeled belonging under Agenda Item 6.3.

It was noted that this matter was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, and the document is the result of that meeting.

Mrs. Leclerc does not believe that the warrant procedures are a finalized matter. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the current warrant approval process, including, but not limited to; concern that the procedure does not match statute, that the procedures do not reflect the current process, a request for clarity on the process for submitting questions and answers on warrants, a request that the Business Manager be present for discussion of warrant procedures, acknowledgement that legal counsel has advised that he sees no issues with the current process/procedures, expressions of frustration that this matter is a continual subject of discussion, discussion of the Board's obligation to review procedures, know that they follow statute, and that they are followed, the Board's obligation to provide fiscal oversight, concern that the question posed to legal counsel was not the correct question, reiteration of the request for the Business Manager to be present for discussion of warrant procedures, and a query regarding clarification of Mrs. Leclerc's concerns.

Mr. Reil called Point of Order and requested that the Chair regain control of the room. (unrecognized speakers). Discussion continued, and included; reiteration that discussion was held at the Finance Committee and the Business Manager contacted legal counsel (as requested), reiteration of the concern that the correct question was not posed to legal counsel, reiterated expressions of frustration that this matter continues to be a topic of conversation.

Mrs. Spaulding made a motion that the Board stop talking about warrant procedures because she is fine with them.

Mr. Moore seconded the motion.

Discussion included concern that the topic needs continued discussion in order to resolve some outstanding issues with the procedures, and concern that a motion to tell Board Members to not ask questions, or discuss or communicate about procedures is not appropriate, a reading of the attorney's response, a query regarding clarification on what the concerns are, clarification that procedures are not policy, clarification that the Board can require that procedures be changed if they feel that procedures do not match statute or meet the District's needs, concern that the Board has sought legal advice and is ignoring that advice, reiteration of the concern that the proper question was not posed to the attorney, and concern that the Board not be allowed to discuss a matter and instruct administration on a matter they believe poses an issue.

Mrs. Spaulding withdrew the motion.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Board voted 5 to 3 to postpone indefinitely, discussion of Warrant Procedures.

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

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

Mr. Reil moved to reconsider the question. Mrs. Leclerc seconded the motion.

Discussion included; concern that the intent of the motion is to quash debate, a suggestion that the Superintendent facilitate a meeting between the Business Manager and Mrs. Leclerc, and report back to the Board, vs. quashing discussion when a Board Member clearly has concerns, agreement that the Board does need to move on from this subject, a suggestion that the Board respond to legal counsel, accepting his offer to provide a more lengthy legal opinion, concern regarding the cost of obtaining a more lengthy legal opinion, a belief that the new warrant process was working smoothly until the procedures were written and distributed, acknowledgment that the procedures were created jointly (by the Superintendent and Business Manager) because they felt that questions were less about warrants and more about questioning the professionals who have been hired by the Board to do this work, questioning competence, motives and integrity, and that is administrators biggest concern, a request for clarity on the warrant question process (who is to be responded to – full Board or individuals), frustration that administrators don't know who they are really responding to, a request from administrators, that the Board as a whole, provide guidance, a belief by administrators that their competence is being questioned on any line item that's in the budget, a belief that discussion regarding warrant questions was fairly resolved at the Finance Committee meeting, but in terms of some specific questions that have been asked, Mr. Reil advised that some of his specific questions (regarding expenses and processes) have not been answered and he believes these questions on process and decisions are well within the scope of his oversight role as a Board Member, and is not judgement on employees ability, but rather is his attempt to achieve clarity and

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understanding of the process that is behind some of the decision making. Mr. Reil reiterated that he wishes to reconsider the motion because he does not believe it is appropriate to tell people that they can't participate and ask questions, or speak about a topic. Mrs. Spaulding believes that this topic has been discussed ad nauseam and she, as Finance Committee Chair, is willing to have a meeting with the Business Manager, the Superintendent, and any Board Member who has concerns, but she does not believe this item should come back to the Board, Mr. Malone noted that if the legal response had included a link to the statute, it may have resolved the issue, and reiterated that he has asked for this information at multiple meetings. Mrs. Leclerc advised that warrant questions submitted to the District, are simply questions related to warrants and have nothing to do with questioning the competency of employees. Mr. Boutin suggested that if there are problems with the procedure, a recommendation should be made to change them and the Board can vote on that. Mrs. Leclerc believes getting warrant detail information is problematic.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board voted 7 to 0 to Call the Question.

Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Mr. Reil, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mr. Boutin, abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by, Mrs. Leclerc, the Board voted 4 to 3 against the motion to reconsider the question.

**Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, and Mr. Reil, voted for the motion.
Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted against the motion.
Mr. Boutin, abstained.**

8.3 Community Correspondence Responses

Mr. Reil advised that 2 ½ weeks ago, he advised regarding a community member who had submitted a question and has not received a response or reply. As of today, the community member still hasn't received a reply. Mr. Reil advised that the District does have a policy and procedure regarding responding to community correspondence, and he would like to know when and who is going to reply to the community member. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that Mr. Evans (Director of Facilities) was supposed to respond to the community member. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he will speak with Mr. Evans and resolution will occur on 09/14/23.

8.4 Update on Written Legal Opinions

It was agreed that Board Members will submit their legal questions to Mr. Cecchinelli, and he will compile a list and distribute it to the entire Board. Mr. Malone requested written legal opinions on 'The Salary Metrics' (including the authority from the Board to approve individual contracts), the issue that deals with "The Issue Between an Individual Board Member and the Board Chair" ("and whether or not that is a public discussion that is allowed, as the Board just had a discussion on what we can talk about in Executive Session and what can be talked about in public"), and "Where We Are in Communication" (a detailed roster will be provided later).

9. Round Table

Mr. Reil advised that at the last meeting, he would look into the 'appeal matter'. On the appeal subject on whether the Board can appeal the Chair's decisions, appeals is a Robert's Rules thing (Section 24-5) and it only applies to rulings by the Chair, not decisions. Rulings would be items that pertain to 'Point of Order' rulings or when someone makes a motion or is out of order and the Chair makes a ruling. If someone wants to appeal one of the Chair's decisions, it's done through motions, motions to amend, other types of motions, and/or Board Member discipline processes that are defined in Robert's Rules. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he has taken that a step further, and advised regarding the process for the Board to appeal the Chair's decisions (e.g. Agendas).

Mr. Reil advised that a community member sent him a picture of a social media post where a Board Member replied to someone else's post. Mr. Reil is concerned that a Board Member may be inciting discontent amongst the Board, noting that that is inappropriate and does not align with meeting norms. Mr. Reil does not believe Board Members should be out on social media attacking other Board Members, he believes it is inappropriate and needs to stop.

Mr. Boutin advised that there will be a Curriculum Committee meeting in October, and that Karen Fredericks will present on the AP courses and Work Programs. The date will be announced.

Mr. Boutin expressed appreciation to Mrs. Waterhouse for reaching out to him regarding his concern on truancy issues.

Mr. Boutin appreciates Ms. Bowers for speaking to the Board this evening (regarding BTMES air conditioning issues), and suggested that perhaps the Board should discuss this matter in the future.

Mr. Malone, referencing the Warrant issue, advised that a Board Member recently submitted a list of questions (to the Business Manager), and there was a questions as to why that was done. Mr. Malone noted that the Board was asked to submit their questions in writing. Mr. Malone is concerned that a Board Member was being attacked for sending questions in an email format, as that is what the Board was directed to do. Mr. Malone finds it disturbing that there was a direct violation of Open Meeting Law, as the Board Member

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who ‘attacked’ the other Board Member, copied the entire Board on their email. Mr. Malone would like the Board Chair to exercise his prerogative to see that this doesn’t happen again, as the Chair had advised that he will take these matters seriously, including ‘fines’. Mr. Malone has a budgetary concern, noting that in the new fiscal year, there are a number of line items that are already over budget, and there are a number of line items that have encumbrances listed that will also go over budget. Mr. Malone finds it concerning that a number of line items are already significantly over budget this early in the year. Mr. Malone encourages all Board Members to be reviewing finances. Mr. Malone would like an explanation as to why line items are already significantly over budget. Mr. Malone advised that this information will be very important for the FY25 budgetary process.

Mrs. Leclerc echoed Mr. Malone’s sentiments, advising that she also finds it concerning that after following the Business Manager’s request to send questions via email, she received an email claiming that it was not appropriate for her to submit questions (and that this email was copied to the entire Board). Given this chain of events, Mrs. Leclerc believes the Board needs to hold a discussion regarding the process for getting warrant questions answered.

Mrs. Leclerc, advised that with regard to Open Meeting Law, VSBA advises that Board Members should utilize the ‘blind copy’ email function to assure that Board Members don’t violate Open Meeting Law. Mrs. Leclerc advised that a Board Member advised they would no longer reply to Mrs. Leclerc’s emails because they include ‘blind copies’. Mrs. Leclerc noted that using blind copy is the safest way to communicate.

Mrs. Leclerc advised that the Board Retreat Meeting Minutes, from April 12, 2023 are still not posted on the District web site.

Mrs. Poulin, referring to previous discussion where some believed ‘Other Business’ is a category, not an agenda item, advised regarding the definition of Other Business/Any Other Business “The last item on the agenda for a meeting when any matter not already dealt with has been raised.”, also “Subjects that need to be discussed at a meeting after all subjects on the agenda official list, prepared before the meeting, have been discussed.”. Mrs. Poulin stands by her assertion that Other Business is an agenda item, not a category, and noted that it is common on agendas, including the most recent VSBA Annual Meeting Agenda, as well as other municipalities, etc. Mrs. Poulin noted that it was stated that Other Business would no longer be on the Agenda and that only Round Table will be included. It was stated that Round Table is for discussion of “congratulatory’ types of information and that no Board business can be discussed. Mrs. Poulin noted that though Other Business is not on the Agendas, Board business has continued to be raised under Round Table. Mrs. Poulin queried, that given that Board Business is regularly being introduced under Round Table, is the Board going to add Other Business back to the agenda, or is the Board going to stop discussing Board business under Round Table? Mrs. Poulin advised that this is all very confusing to the public and is in direct conflict with what was announced. Mrs. Poulin, as a community member, would like clarification on this matter. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that if there is confusion, he can remove it (Round Table) from agendas.

10. Future Agenda Items

September 27, 2023 Meeting:

- Status Update on 5-Year Plan
- November 22nd/December 27th Meeting Dates
- Combining Middle School Athletic Programs (Parking Lot Item G)
- Update on Paying Vendors Via ACH
- Education Update

Add to Parking Lot:

- Consolidation of Buildings (Articles 3 & 4) – keep in Parking Lot. Will be added to Agendas monthly.
- Total Compensation Package (Added by NL 09/13/23 – discuss at Finance Committee first)
- New Governance Standards (Added by EWR 09/13/23 – new standards go into effect in July)
- Special Education Staff and Child Count Data Report (quarterly Nov/Jan/Apr/June) (added by Board)

11. Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet).

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet).

12. Executive Session as Needed

12.1 Personnel Matter (08/09/23 Meeting)

12.2 Superintendent Evaluation

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Matter and the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mr. Moore, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the Barre Unified Union School District at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

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On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Hennessey and Mrs. Marold in attendance, at 9:11 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. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 10:06 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 6 to 3 to agree that the evaluative process of accepting the Superintendent's response was complete.

Mr. Boutin, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Moore, Ms. Parker, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Malone, and Mr. Reil voted against the motion.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin