

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
September 27, 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 Services
Jason Derner, Alternative Education Administrator
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Mari Miller, SHS Assistant Principal
Jennifer Nye, BTMES Principal
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager
Brenda Waterhouse, BCEMS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Martha Blaisdell	Linda Couture	Cassandra Demarais	Natasha Eckert Baning
Michael Gilbar	Jessica Johnson	Ellen Kaye	Samantha Knudsen	Prudence Krasofski
Lisa Liotta	Raylene Meunier	Andrea Poulin	Sarah Pregent	Dean Preston
Brody Priddy	Joe Reil	Bern Rose	Megan Spaulding	William Toborg
Jan Trepanier	Rachel Van Vliet	R. Lee Walther	Mindy Woodworth	Jan Z.
That Guy	802-***-***79			

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Wednesday, September 27, 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

Delete 4 – Executive Session not needed.
9.1 – Take out of order (after 8.4)

Mr. Malone requested that ‘Other Business’ or ‘Round Table’ be added to the agenda so that ancillary business may be discussed. Mrs. Leclerc requested that Warrant Process and Oversight be added to the agenda. Brief discussion was held regarding the legality of postponing ‘indefinitely’ an agenda item. Mrs. Leclerc advised that Mr. Hennessey has made comments relating to oversight that should be addressed/discussed. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that the Board is done with any discussion on this topic. Mr. Reil requested that an agenda item be added to hold Board discussion the validity of the motion to indefinitely postpone discussion of an agenda topic. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that any objection should have been raised at the previous meeting. Mr. Reil reiterated his belief, based on research that the motion was not appropriate and was not valid. Mr. Reil believes the Board needs to hold discussion and invalidate what was done at the previous meeting.

Mr. Reil moved to add Round Table or Other Business to the Agenda. Mrs. Leclerc seconded the motion.

Discussion included the Chair's decision to delete these items for all agendas, a query regarding clarification of how Round Table would be defined, support for adding Round Table/Other Business back to the Agendas as the Board Chair is not responding to emails and this agenda item provides an opportunity for Board Member to ask questions, acknowledgement that Mrs. Spaulding had asked (at the start of consolidation) that Round Table be added to all agendas, concern that it is not appropriate to discuss this matter during agenda approval, concern that the Chair is trying to silence Board Members from asking questions, a query regarding why the agenda item has been removed, concern that removal of Round Table/Other Business is being used as a type of control of Board Members and deprives Board Members from trying to speak about other business, acknowledgement that the VSBA indicates that all Board Members be allowed to speak on Board matters, a reading of documentation that advises that the Chair creates the agenda and that there is no statute that stipulates what needs to be on an agenda, a reiteration of the query regarding what is wrong with having Round Table or Other Business on the agenda (why the Chair does not want to have it on the agenda), and the Chair's belief that the agenda item takes too much time and that the Board is not able to adhere to limiting discussion to informational purposes only. The Chair advised that 'we are not discussing this'. There was no more discussion and the Chair called the vote.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board voted 5 to 4 against adding Round Table/Other Business to the Agenda.

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

Mr. Reil moved to add Warrant Process and Oversight to the agenda. Mrs. Leclerc seconded the motion.

Mrs. Leclerc reiterated that the Superintendent has sent several emails regarding this matter (oversight) and she believes the Board needs to hold discussion on this matter. Mr. Hennessey began to provide information relating to previous discussion on this matter. **Mr. Reil called point of order, citing that discussion should be limited to whether or not the item will be added to the agenda and that the matter should not be discussed during agenda approval.**

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board voted 5 to 4 against adding Warrant Process and Oversight to the Agenda.

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

Mr. Reil moved to add an item to discuss the invalidity of the motion and vote at the last meeting, the vote to postpone indefinitely the discussion of an agenda topic. Mrs. Leclerc seconded the motion.

Discussion included support for adding items to the agenda, a query regarding whether there is something in Robert's Rules of Order pertaining to discussing a matter that has already been voted on, Mr. Cecchinelli advised regarding his belief that Robert's Rules allows an individual from the prevailing side, to bring up an item that has already been voted on (at the same meeting), clarification that Mr. Reil's motion pertains to how the vote was done (validity), a reading from Robert's Rules regarding motions to postpone indefinitely ("if an embarrassing main motion has been brought before the assembly, a member can propose to dispose of the question without bringing it to a direct vote"), acknowledgement that there was no motion on the floor to be postponed indefinitely, a belief that the motion to postpone, indefinitely, cannot be used to forbid the Board from ever discussing a matter in the future, reiteration that the motion being considered, is to discuss the validity of the motion to postpone indefinitely, an agenda item (from the last meeting). The Chair called the vote. **Mr. Reil called Point of Order, advising that Robert's Rules says the vote was inappropriate, and as the Board did something inappropriate and wrong, the Board can't ignore its own violation of the rules. Mr. Cecchinelli called the vote.**

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board voted 5 to 4 against the motion to discuss the invalidity of the motion and vote at the last meeting, the vote to postpone indefinitely the discussion of an agenda topic.

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

Mr. Reil advised that the Point of Order has not been addressed and needs a ruling. Mr. Reil reiterated his Point of Order, stating that the Board did something inappropriate at the last Board meeting, and it's not appropriate to do what the Board did, it's very clear in Robert's Rules (Chapter 5 Section 11), and the Board just essentially voted not to do things properly, by not discussing what it did incorrectly. Mr. Reil believes this is a problem. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he will need to research the matter regarding how to fix issues, and asked Mr. Reil what the Board is supposed to do, after a meeting has ended. Mr. Reil began to respond to the Chair. Mrs. Spaulding called Point Of Order, advising that she does not know if the

Board should be discussing what happened at the last meeting. Brief discussion was held and it was reiterated that the Board knowingly violated Robert's Rules. **Mr. Cecchinelli does not believe the board knowingly violated Roberts Rules. Mr. Reil advised that the Board now knows it violated Robert's Rules. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that the Board has just voted not to take corrective action on the violation from the previous meeting. Mr. Reil reiterated his belief that, by this vote, the Board has now knowingly violated the rules it agreed to adhere to. Mr. Reil wants his position on the record. Mr. Reil also wants on record, the Chair's decision on the Point of Order that the Board violated Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he agrees with those on the Board that voted not to address the violation.** Mr. Reil advised that he will be asking for a legal opinion on this matter and he believes that the Board should remove Mr. Cecchinelli from the position of Chair because Mr. Cecchinelli does not want to follow the rules. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that everyone should be following the rules.

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 5 to 3 to approve the Agenda as amended.

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.

4. ~~Executive Session (if needed)~~

5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Public Comment

Mr. Boutin noted that the Heritage Festival was a great success and lauded Laura Potter, Brenda Waterhouse, Carol Marold, Karen Fredericks, Melissa Greenwood, and Luke Aither for their presence at the event. Additionally, Mr. Boutin advised that he visited BCEMS today and reported that it was 'awesome' to see the teachers in action. Mr. Boutin advised regarding the classrooms he visited and thanked teachers for hosting him.

Mrs. Poulin queried regarding two very important legally required policies (F3 and F4) that were adopted by the Board in July, advising that neither the legally required policies nor the legally required procedures are showing on the District's web site. Mrs. Poulin believes these policies and procedures were required to be in place by August 1, 2023. Mr. Hennessey will look into this matter, noting that the policies and procedures should be on the web site.

Bern Rose addressed the Board and voiced concern regarding a recent policy committee meeting, where one member of the committee voiced opposition to using the singular 'they' instead of he/she, him/her. Ms. Rose encourages the Board to think about the reasoning behind 'they and them', and encourages the Board to use language that is as inclusive as possible, and that everyone feels welcomed. Ms. Rose encourages the Board to work harmoniously in support of students.

Cassandra Demarais addressed the Board advising of the Top Soccer Program (adaptive soccer program), provided an overview of the Program, and noted that the Program needs more 'buddies' for the Program. Ms. Demarais queried regarding interest by community members, or students in need of community service hours, and encourages the Board to help spread the word that additional help is needed. The 6 week Program still has three weeks to go. The Program is held on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 pm. Volunteers (buddies) should plan to arrive by 10:30 a.m. (top field at the Barre Town Rec Center). The Program has a Facebook Page; TOPSoccer Capitol Region Vermont. Ms. Demarais answered questions from the Board and provided additional information about the Program.

5.2 Student Voice

None.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Clarification was provided that discussion included changing the motion from 'removing' Articles of Agreement, to modifying Articles of Agreement, but there was no official request to change the motion. The change can be made at a future meeting.

6.2 Warrant Approval (09/13/23 and 09/21/23)

Copies of the Warrants for 09/13/23 and 09/21/23 were distributed.

Mr. Malone queried regarding his understanding that all questions go to the Business Manager (via e-mail) and that was done so that questions are not asked at Board meetings. Mr. Cecchinelli responded 'yes', and advised that Warrants are e-mailed to Board Members and in are included in the packets. Mr. Malone advised that if the Business Manager is responding to all Board Members, he is concerned that Open Meeting Laws are being violated 'in reverse'. Mr. Malone wants clarification on how the process will be carried out. Mr. Hennessey does not believe that Open Meeting Laws will be violated if there are no responses to the emails, but

rather just a sharing of the Business Manager's response. Mr. Hennessey confirmed that Board Members' questions are shared with the entire Board, utilizing this email chain. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she believes the Board should be discussing approval of the Warrants, not the procedures associated with approving them. Mr. Malone advised that in order for the Board to approve the Warrants, and the questions that come via the Warrants, and are not discussing the Warrants publicly, he want to look at a process that gets to Warrant completion without violating Open Meeting Law. Mr. Reil advised that the procedure that was written, was that Board Members should email questions to the Business Manager, but that does not preclude any Board Member from asking questions at Board meetings. Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding discussion held at the Finance Committee meeting; questions should be emailed to the Business Manager, so that she has time to perform the proper research to provide an accurate answer, though that does not preclude asking questions in meetings. Mr. Cecchinelli asked for questions. Mrs. Leclerc queried regarding whether or not phone calls were acceptable. **Mr. Boutin called Point of Order advising that he believes the matter has already been voted on and he believes someone wants to reconsider it. Mr. Cecchinelli called Mrs. Leclerc out of order. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that Mrs. Leclerc had already spoken twice, so she could not speak again. Mrs. Leclerc advised that she had not used nearly any of the 10 minute timeframe. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that when she spoke and stopped, that utilized her turn. Mrs. Leclerc called Point of Order on the Board Chair and to remove him. Mrs. Leclerc moved to declare the Chair position vacant and proceed to elect a new Chair Person. Mr. Reil seconded the motion. Mr. Reil read from Robert's Rules, the section pertaining to; Removal of Presiding Officer From Chair for All or Part of a Session. Mr. Boutin called the question. Mrs. Spaulding seconded the motion. Mr. Cecchinelli called for a vote.**

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to Call the Question.

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board voted 5 to 2 against the motion to declare the Chair position vacant and proceed to elect a new Chair Person.

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

Mrs. Leclerc and Mr. Reil voted against the motion.

Mr. Malone abstained with definition.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that if no one had questions, he would call the vote. Mr. Boutin voted immediately (prior to any responses to the query regarding questions). Mr. Malone advised he had questions. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that voting had already started, so he would not take questions. Mr. Malone advised that if due process is going to be shortened this way, it will be a very, very quick meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants dated 09/13/23 and 09/21/23.

7. Building Reports

7.1 Building Reports; BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, SEA

Copies of Building Reports were distributed.

BCEMS - Mrs. Waterhouse answered questions from the Board, including information on; communicating out on meetings for 'The Barre City Way – to be Kind, Safe and Responsible', heat issues, a request to include behavioral statistics in the monthly report, family surveys, open positions, the lengthy hiring process, and student counts (will be provided on 10/01),

BTMES – Mrs. Nye had departed the meeting (at 6:41 p.m.) and was not available. Mr. Evans provided information related to cooling issues in the building. Ms. Parker noted that BTMES is going to be recognized by the Vermont State PBIS Team, and expressed appreciation for the 'All for Books' fund. Mr. Malone noted the high number of children on the waiting list for pre-school. Mr. Malone noted that BTMES is trying to upgrade a sound system. Mr. Evans advised regarding the LED lighting project, and noted that the work load has become too much for one electrician, noting that he wants to add one more electrician during budget development. Mr. Evans noted that District electrician Arthur Young has submitted his resignation. Mr. Young was lauded for the work he has performed throughout the District. Mrs. Leclerc very much appreciates the mentor program.

SHS – Mr. Aither advised regarding the student reaction to enrichment days, and advised that volunteers are welcome (but will need to contact the BUUSD to assure that the proper process is followed). Mr. Toborg advised that he is concerned regarding showing the Barbie movie as part of enrichment (possible copy-write issues and questions showing this movie as an enrichment activity, as it does not seem to provide anything in the way of academics). Ms. Parker reported some concerns she has heard (from parents) regarding access to surveys. Mr. Aither advised regarding some of the challenges faced when changing to the proficiency based grading system. Ms. Fredericks provided a brief overview of changes being made to the proficiency based grading system.

SEA - There were no questions for Mr. Derner. Ms. Rose noted how much she enjoys driving by the SEA campus, and expressed her belief that students of the SEA Program are in a very welcoming environment.

7.2 Superintendent Report

A copy of the Superintendent's Report (dated 09/22/23) was distributed.

In response to a query related to hiring of unfilled positions, Mr. Hennessey advised that the hiring process is very fluid. Mr. Hennessey does not know how many support openings currently exist.

Discussion moved to Agenda Item 8.4

8. Current Business

8.1 New Hires

There were no candidates presented for hire.

8.2 Finance Committee Update (Audit Update, Act 173, Budget Development, and FY23 Year-end)

A document titled 'FY23 Audit Process Update – Unaudited Fund Balances, 09/20/23' was distributed.

A document titled 'Act 173 of 2018' was distributed.

A document titled FY25 Budget Development Timeline, 09/20/23' was distributed.

A document titled FY23 Expense/Revenue Year-end Summary Report – Updated 09/20/23' was distributed.

Mrs. Perreault advised that the audit process is starting off smoothly, with auditors reporting a productive week. Auditors were in the building from 09/18/23 through 09/22/23. Auditors will be back at the Central Office from 10/09/23 through 10/13/23. The District will continue to provide information as requested by the auditors. A draft audit should be provided to the Business Office by mid-November and the Board presentation is scheduled for 11/29/23. Mrs. Perreault advised that the District has discussed procuring another auditing firm, but given the complexity of the finance system conversion, Mrs. Perreault would prefer to stay with the current firm for FY24, and go out to bid after that audit. Mrs. Perreault advised that the unaudited fund balances are included in the packet. In response to a query, Mrs. Perreault advised regarding the \$277,000 reduction to the fund balance. Mrs. Perreault will provide documentation regarding the payables that resulted in the reduction. Mr. Reil queried regarding whether the \$157,000 for the e-rate system needs to be approved by the Board. E-rate is a grant and requires a 10% match by the District. Research will need to be performed to confirm whether or not the bid law supersedes BUUSD policy on this matter. Bid law does not require Board approval for instructional materials (technology). Mrs. Perreault advised that the \$50,000 expended for flood repairs, falls under emergency repairs, which is an exclusion for requiring Board approval. Brief discussion was held regarding the 'fast track' program at Saint Michael's College (many employees with provisional or emergency licenses are using this program). In response to a query regarding budgeting for these expenses (FY24 projections and anticipated FY25 expenses), it was noted that under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, employees get 6 credits per year; additional credits may be granted at the discretion of the Superintendent and principals. In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey advised he would need to research the number of employees in this program. In response to a query related to reconciliation of solar fees and credits, Mrs. Perreault advised that she has shared BTMES information with Mr. Malone (BTMES is a set rate), SHS and BCEMS are charged based on usage. Mrs. Leclerc queried regarding the Food Service Fund Balance (\$1,100,000). Mrs. Perreault advised that the District has an approved spend down plan and that there will be a Food Service Program Presentation at the next Board Meeting, including information relating to procurement of a new contract. Mrs. Perreault will share the Spend-Down Plan with Mrs. Leclerc. Mrs. Perreault advised that the Plan is a fund 'management' plan. Mr. Malone queried regarding utilizing this fund for upcoming Capital Improvements, noting that recently, General Fund funds were utilized for a walk-in freezer. Mrs. Perreault advised that moving forward, the plan is to use Food Service funds for improvements, but they can only be used if the improvement solely benefits the Food Service Program. Regarding Act 73, Mrs. Perreault advised that she has provided additional information in the packet. For the purpose of budget development, the District is looking at what the revenue stream will look like. Act 173 utilizes a new census based funding stream. It was noted that higher reimbursement is being received for extraordinary services (e.g. outplaced students). Worksheets are being utilized to assist with projecting expenses/revenue for extraordinary services. Mrs. Perreault provided a brief overview of the budget development timeline. Additional discussion will be held under Agenda Item 8.5. Mrs. Perreault advised regarding the FY23 Year-end Projection Report (the anticipated surplus of \$1,600,000, includes the \$700,000 of unused Tax Stabilization money).

8.3 Director of Curriculum Update

Mr. Hennessey advised that additional information will be provided at next week's Curriculum Committee meeting.

Mr. Reil queried regarding adjusting the agendas to discuss administrator involved items at the beginning of the meeting.

The Board recessed from 7:59 p.m. until 8:04 p.m.

8.4 BCEMS Maintenance Truck Lease Buyout – Funding Approval

A document titled 'BCEMS Truck Purchase' was distributed.

Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of truck usage and the recommendation to purchase the truck. Mr. Evans answered questions from the Board. Brief discussion was held, including discussion regarding financing of the proposed purchase. In response to a

query, Mrs. Perreault advised that the BCEMS Maintenance budget could be utilized, and if overspent, monies can be moved from other areas.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Board unanimously voted to approve the purchase of a 2018 GMC 2500HD truck with plow from Capital city GMC for \$15,117.

Mr. Cecchinelli queried the Board regarding holding discussion on how to fund the purchase. Brief discussion was held, including discussion of depreciation.

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to fund the truck purchase utilizing funds from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Discussion moved to Agenda Item 9.1.

8.5 Fall/Winter Board/Committee Meeting Dates

A memo from Mr. Hennessey and Mrs. Perreault (dated 09/19/23) was distributed. The document includes a proposed schedule of meeting dates through January 2024.

Mr. Hennessey provided an overview of the proposed schedule. Lengthy discussion ensued, including, but not limited to; concern regarding the number of committee meetings that have been cancelled, a suggestion that one Board meeting focus mainly on budget development, the availability of numerous other days that could be utilized for meetings, a belief that no meetings need to be cancelled, clarification that adjustments during holiday months could necessitate meeting on days other than Mondays and Wednesdays, acknowledgment that the Negotiations Committee met on Fridays, a preference to keep meetings on Monday and Wednesdays, a suggestion that Board meetings always be held on Wednesdays, acknowledgement that State provided information is generally not provided until mid-December, Mrs. Spaulding's unavailability to meet on 10/23/23, concern that voting on all meeting dates now, will preclude Committee Chairs from calling meetings when necessary, the need to allow flexibility for Committee Chairs to call meetings when necessary, a suggestion that the Finance Chair reach out to the Business Manager to set an additional October date (other than the 23rd), and a suggestion that the Board set Board meeting dates prior to closing this agenda item

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to approve the School Board meetings as presented, except for the one for the 18th, moving that to the 20th.

4Board Meetings will be held on; 11/08/23, 11/29/23, 12/13/23, 12/20/23, 01/10/24, and 01/24/23.

8.6 VSBA Annual Meeting Delegate

A document titled 'From the Boardroom – 2023 VSBA/VSA Annual Conference' was distributed.

The Annual Conference will take place on October 26, 2023 through October 27, 2023 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised of the upcoming Annual Meeting and it was discussed that the proposed Resolutions should be on a Board Agenda, so the voting delegate has a directive from the Board on how to vote. Brief discussion was held regarding who might wish to be the voting delegate and a query regarding the Resolutions and where those can be found.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to table this item until the first meeting in October.

9. Old Business

9.1 Status Update on 5-Year Plan

A document titled '5-Year Capital Plan Summary, 09/20/23' was distributed.

Mrs. Perreault provided an update advising that the District is nearly done creating the Plan, directed Board Members to information included in the packet, and advised that the District is currently waiting for a report from PCI Capital Project Consulting (the State contracted with this vendor to perform condition assessments in each building). Mrs. Perreault advised that Capital Reserves total \$1,200,000. In response to a query from Mr. Malone, Mrs. Perreault advised that \$488,000 was spent on the SHS lighting project and the BCEMS roof. Mr. Evans advised that there is a smaller incentive for the SHS lighting project (vs. BCEMS and BTMES lighting projects). Mr. Malone queried regarding reimbursing the Capital Improvement Fund with rebates/incentives being received for lighting projects. Mrs. Perreault advised that typically, these types of rebates/incentives are not used to reimburse the Capital Improvement Fund. It was confirmed that the lighting lease has been paid in full.

Discussion returned to Agenda Item 8.1

9.2 Procedures for Policies Update

A document titled 'Procedures for Policies – Board' was distributed.

Mr. Hennessey advised that the document in the packet is a 'living' document that is continually updated by Mrs. Gilbert.

Mr. Hennessey believes good progress is being made. Brief discussion had been held at the Policy Committee Meeting. In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey advised regarding the 'key' on the document, that he believes the 'X' means a procedure is not appropriate, 'P' is unknown (Mr. Hennessey will need to look into this), and advised that Formally Documented procedures are in written format in one of several places and that 'Operational' procedures are procedures that are followed, that are not necessarily written in a handbook or manual and may not be documented in writing. Mr. Hennessey advised that procedure work has not been worked on much during the school year. Procedure work is generally ongoing as new policies are written or existing ones amended.

10. Committee Reports

10.1 Finance Committee

September 18, 2023 meeting cancelled due to no quorum.

The next meeting is Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10.2 Facilities & Transportation Committee

The September 4, 2023 meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting is Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10.3 Policy Committee

The Committee met on September 20, 2023.

Ms. Parker advised regarding a discussion she and Mr. Hennessey had with VSBA. She felt the call was encouraging in that they were impressed with how policies are tracked and the Agenda process. Ms. Parker reported that VSBA questioned if the Board wanted to have a Policy Audit, when it appears that a lot of tracking is currently happening. Mr. Malone queried regarding public comment expressing concern to gender reference discussion at the Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Parker advised that VSBA has been amending policies, including those that have changes to formats (some gender reference related), and that verbiage of 'he/she' is being replaced with the singular 'they' in an effort to be more inclusive. It was noted that one Committee Member is opposed to the language change, and voiced his concern. The Committee voted and approved moving forward with the proposed language change. It was noted that all Board/Committee/community members are free to share their opinions and perspectives.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10.4 Curriculum Committee

The September 6, 2023 meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10.5 CVCCSD Board Report

Minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting were distributed.

The next meeting is October 9, 2023.

11. Future Agenda Items

October 11, 2023 Meeting:

- VSBA Resolutions and Voting Delegate
- Executive Sessions and Exempt Records and Qualification for Open Meeting Law
- Discussion of Vote to Postpone Indefinitely
- Consolidation of Buildings - Articles 3 and 4 (Parking Lot Item A – ongoing – keep in Parking Lot)
- 5-Year Capital Plan Draft
- Combining Middle School Athletic Programs (Parking Lot Item I – should be ready for one of the October meetings)
- SAP (Student Assistance Professionals) Presentation (Parking Lot Item J)
- Policy First Reads
- Open Meeting Law Follow-up – Legal Opinions (Mr. Cecchinelli advised that some of his emails are listed as deleted and he cannot find them)
- Board Member Matter
- Food Service Presentation

Add to Parking Lot:

- 5-Year Capital Plan (ongoing)

A suggestion to take Parking Lot Item G off the Parking Lot list

It was reiterated that the Retreat Minutes are still not posted to the website.

12. Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

13. Executive Session as Needed**13.1 Personnel Matters – Updates on Disciplinary Matters (2)**

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include an Update on two Disciplinary Personnel Matters.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Hennessey in attendance, at 8:55 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 Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

14. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin