

Addendum
BUUSD Board Meeting
October 25, 2023



Spaulding High School

155 Ayers Street - Suite 1
Barre, Vermont 05641-4300
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Website: www.spauldinghs.org

Principal

Luke Aither

Assistant Principal of Faculty

Mari Goodridge Miller

Assistant Principal of Students

Rebecca Busker

Director of Athletics & Activities

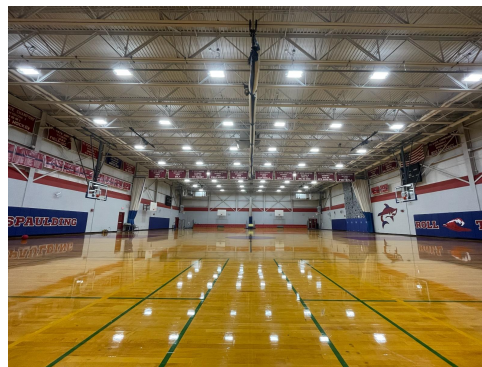
Derek Cipriano

Good evening,

In the past month, we saw significant improvements to the campus facilities, have continued to dial in the Wednesday schedule, are wrapping up the fall sports season, and are embracing the full swing of the academic year!

Construction - On Friday, October 13th, teachers and staff moved Science classes back into their intended classrooms, and one JROTC and Wellness class were relocated so those rooms could be updated.

Lighting - The LED lights are coming along nicely! About half of the hallways and classrooms have been completed, with more spaces being checked off every day. The gymnasium has also been completed, and the difference is astounding! The first photo below shows the difference (along the back wall) between the old yelling lights, and the new crisp, white LEDs, and the second shows the completed product:



Wrestling and Multipurpose room - New mats that were ordered nearly a year ago were delivered and have been laid out to "cure." The smell was a little offputting, but the final product will be well worth it! The purchase was a combined effort of the SHS Foundation, gate receipts from athletic events, the athletic budget, and continued donations. Expect photos next month!

Cafeteria Benches/planters - The long-awaited exterior cafeteria benches/planters were delivered and installed to create a safe space for students to eat outside when the weather permits. The granite and labor were donated by Buttura and Gherardi Granite Artisans, and the installation was completed by the Granite Corporation of Barre. Flowers will be planted in the spring.



Classes of 2022 and 2023 Gift - The gift of two benches from the Classes of 2022 and 2023 have been installed and provide much-needed seating for the end of the day, as well as a welcoming feature to the front of the building.



Wednesdays - We have continued to use Wednesdays in a flexible way to support students who need more intentional time with their teachers, provide new and fun enrichment activities, or hold a second session of classes when we have short weeks. On Wednesdays, students are dismissed at 2:10 PM and departments gather to focus on such things as: reviewing the intent and effectiveness of assessments, considering recognition and awards for students, updating Honors-level projects and embedded Honors, reviewing Habits of Mind, and how to incorporate them into classes, examining new curricula and how to differentiate it for learners, refining pacing guides, and other department specific initiatives. This is critical work for improving our practices to support our students.

6 Seconds - On the morning of the October 6th Professional Development Day, teachers worked with our 6 Seconds coaches to dive deeper into the core tenets of the philosophy. The previous week, staff completed individual surveys (called the Six Seconds Emotional Intelligence Assessment), and throughout the morning, staff reviewed their individual results to learn more about themselves and their emotional habits. Our next steps include differentiation: everyone will continue to get core instruction, a smaller group of interested staff will get more directed and specific instruction and strategies for how to use this information with students, and an even smaller group will get intensive coaching on how to support staff in their work with the material.

WBL - Work Based Learning continues to expand its offerings based on student interest and need. We currently have over 40 partners, but a comprehensive list of our historical partnerships will be emailed separate from this report! Additionally, many students who participate in WBL access internships, Early College, Awards, and Scholarships; that historical list is also available in the emailed document.



Barre Unified Union School District

**Spaulding High School
Central Vermont Career Center
Barre City Elementary and Middle School
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School**

Chris Hennessey, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

A rock solid education for a lifetime of discovery

120 Ayers Street, Barre, VT 05641
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Fax: 802-476-4944 or 802-477-1132
Website: www.buusd.org

October 20, 2023

Dear BUUSD School Board,

We are looking forward to discussing the current situation with 7th and 8th grade sports in our district next week. Brenda Waterhouse and Erica Pearson will be present along with me to answer questions and talk about the pros and cons of making any changes to our current middle school sports programs. In addition to a few other updates below, I'd like to offer some helpful information on the current middle school sports landscape along with some of the clear advantages and caveats that would come with any changes.

Current Landscape: Grade 7-8 Sports in the BUUSD

BCEMS (1 Athletic Director = \$8,650)

Fall: Soccer (7-8, G/B), Cross Country (5-8, Co-ed)

Winter: Basketball (7 boys, 8 boys, 7-8 girls combined)

Spring: Baseball (7-8), Softball (6-8), Oversee Barre Community Track & Field (5-8)

BTMES (1 Athletic Director = \$10,380)

Fall: Cross Country (1 team), Soccer (2/4 teams), Field Hockey (1 team)

Winter: Basketball (4 teams)

Spring: Baseball (2 teams), Softball (1 team), Track (1 team)

Other Considerations

- * There are currently no combined teams between BCEMS and BTMES. Both schools have enough membership to field entire teams without cutting athletes.
- * Middle school coaches are paid according to Appendix B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Pros and Cons for Combining Sports Programs

Pros/Advantages (How combining could be good for kids, BC/BT, and the district):

- Building a cohesive athletic program to send to SHS.
- Breaking the BC/BT stigma/rivalry - Building a stronger community.
- Creating opportunities for more diverse teams and friendships
- Potential cost savings - 1 MS AD, 1 Budget (bigger discounts in equipment/uniforms),
- Athletes played on combined teams K-6 through BYSA and BCBS, then separate for 7/8, and again back together at SHS. This creates an unnecessary rivalry between the athletes that can carry over onto teams at SHS.

Cons/Concerns (How combining could present challenges for kids, BC/BT, and the district):.

- Dismissal time difference between schools: Practices would need to accommodate both schedules. The school day ends at different times - transportation would have to occur to get kids to the correct buildings for practices. No practices could start right after school at BT with our current schedules.
- Concern over cuts - Many BC athletes are playing sports for the first time as many families have been unable to have them attend at younger ages. With the school teams being free to participate for the first time, many will come out in 7th/8th Grade as first timers. At BT, cuts could also be needed as they have many athletes and have completely full rosters. Cuts generally do not come into play until students enter high school. Trying out and cutting middle school students is a big concern.
- Combining programs would make it more challenging for any member to member agreements (BT has these agreements for children who live in Orange and Washington, or who attend private schools without sports programs) and often these students then attend SHS.
- Both schools have cultivated coaches from their staff, which helps hold student athletes accountable to eligibility requirements and builds strong relationships.
- Middle school Athletic Directors are currently stipended positions filled by full time faculty members (see above). The amount of hours for our ADs is actually rather large. It takes many hours throughout the week working with other schools for schedules, ref coverage, eligibility requirements, and parent communications. When the AD is in the building, these things can generally be managed much smoother and easier.

Update: Vermont Common Assessment Program (VTCAP) As you recall, the Agency of Education made the decision a year ago to move on from the SBAC as our state assessment to the VTCAP. Schools across Vermont, including all in the BUUSD, administered the new VTCAP for all students in grades 3-9 this past spring. You will also recall that the technical and administrative glitches experienced by all districts were significant and no doubt had an impact on the validity of the results statewide. Here is what we know since we updated you last month:

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Karen Fredericks and I reached out to families this week informing them that their students will be receiving their VTCAP results along with their Quarter 1 reporting the week of November 6. Please see attached letter.

As we understand it now, the AOE will be sharing statewide results in December. At that point, we believe we will have the green light to share the results publicly. There will certainly be more to follow on this! We will update the board and the community as information becomes available.

This Week's BUUSD School Showcase I always like to end my report with the latest school showcase, because it gives all of us an opportunity to keep perspective on what's most important! The latest message to the community in case you missed it:

"Dear BUUSD Community,

This week's School Showcase brings us into the woods with ECO at BTMES! Our friends at the [North Branch Nature Center](#) in Montpelier have helped bring [ECO](#) (Educating Children Outdoors) to both BTMES and BCEMS for years, and we got to experience a wonderful hour in the woods with a group of BT 5th graders this week on a perfect autumn day. Check it out here:

[ECO at BTMES!](#)

After watching this video, you surely will have never seen a group of students more fascinated by fungus in your life! BTMES teachers **Kevin Rondeau** and **Luke Spencer** bring their students out for ECO every Wednesday, and I was incredibly impressed with the whole lesson. I learned more about mushrooms in that hour than I ever have! North Branch teacher/naturalist **Carrie Riker** joined the team and also provided her expertise and fun, safe approach to learning about mushrooms. The kids had such an engaging experience foraging for the diverse and wide variety of mushrooms to be found on the trail, and every single student was having a blast while experiencing the natural world. The community can be proud that our schools provide opportunities like this for all of our students."

That's a good place to end! A link to all communications from my office can be found on our website here: [2023-24 Superintendent Updates](#)

I welcome your thoughts and questions. I am honored to be leading my colleagues and serving the Barre community as your superintendent, and I thank you for your support.

Thank you for reading, and have a great rest of the week.

Respectfully,

Chris



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Dear Barre Unified Union School District Families:

As you may remember, your student(s) took either the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment (VTCAP) or the Multi-State Alternate Assessment for the first time this past Spring. These assessments replaced both the Smarter Balanced Assessment and the Vermont Science Assessment. Schools across Vermont, including all in the BUUSD, administered the new VTCAP for all students in grades 3-9 and 11 this past spring.

You may also recall that the technical and administrative glitches experienced by all districts were significant and no doubt had an impact on the validity of the results statewide. In other words, these glitches may have influenced scores here in Barre and across Vermont. Your child's individual score report from the new statewide assessments will be sent home during the week of November 6 with Quarter 1 reporting, and we suggest that you keep this in mind when you see your child's results.

These assessments are only one way of showing your student's accomplishments. The scores represent how your student performed on the day of testing. If tested on a different day, they might get a slightly different score. The results are also only one way to measure your child's learning. Talking with your student's teachers and school leadership will help you get the full picture of your child's performance.

A few notes about the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment:

- VTCAP has a unique scale score range. The lowest possible score is 1500 and the highest possible score is 2000.

- VTCAP results are not directly comparable to Smarter Balanced results. The State is working on a method to compare this year's results with prior years. This will be available later this year.

- While the results for your student(s) are accurate, the statewide and district results you will see on the report card are not yet official. The State will release official statewide results later in the year.

- State and district-level results currently do not include results from the VTCAP Alternate Assessment. Those results will be included in the official results released later this year.

- Family Interpretation Guide: available in a selection of languages at <https://vermont.onlinehelp.cognia.org/reporting/>

If you need support in understanding the report or have additional questions, please begin the conversation with your student's classroom teacher.

Chris Hennessey

Superintendent of Schools

Karen Fredericks

Director of Curriculum

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEW HIRE NOTIFICATION FORM

Complete and Submit to the Central Office
(please submit via email to hr@buusd.org)

Date Received by Central Office:

To be Completed by Hiring Administrator: (please leave notes for Central Office on the back page)

Name: Lori Dougherty Location: BSU

Submission Date: 10/16/2023 Administrator Action/Checklist Complete: ☒ Y ☐ N

Position: Multilingual Learner Instructor Grade (If Applicable):

Endorsement (If Applicable): ☐ Hourly-Non Exempt ☒ Salary-Exempt

Hours Per Day: Scheduled Hours: a.m. to p.m.

Account Code: medicaid 50%, SWP#53 50%

Replacement? ☐ Y ☒ N

If Yes, For Whom? Salary Rate: \$

Administrator Approval: Theresa Judnicko Signature Date: 10/16/2023

REVERSE SIDE: Complete the New Hire Checklist prior to emailing candidate packet for Superintendent review.

For Central Office Use Only:

Contract Complete Date Offer Letter Complete Date DOH

Total Years of Experience: 15 Step: 16 Column Placement: M30

Hourly Rate: \$ Salary Rate: \$ Seniority Date:

Contract Type: ☒ Teacher ☐ Para ☐ Replacement ☐ Interim ☐ Offer/Non-Contracted Letters
☐ AFSCME ☐ N/A

Days Per Year: 190 Salary: \$ 81,634 Contract Days: 144
Pro-Rated - \$61,869.98 *Pro-Rated*
Hire Date: 10/30/21

Teacher: AOE Endorsement: ☒ YES ☐ NO

If No, Required: ☐ Provisional ☐ Emergency ☐ Apprenticeship

Para-Educator: Associates Degree ☐ YES ☐ NO (If NO) → ParaPro ☐ YES has passed ParaPro
☐ NO will need to take ParaPro

Chris Heavner
Superintendent and/or HR Director Approval Signature

OCT 19, 2023
Date

Lori Daugherty

Education

Northcentral University

Prescott Valley, Arizona

Doctor of Education

Major: TESL

GPA: 4.000

Attended August 2008 to April 2015

Degree conferred July 2015

University of North Alabama

Florence, Alabama

Master of Art Education

Major: Elementary Education

GPA: 4.000

Attended January 1995 to December 1996

Degree conferred December 1996

University of North Alabama

Florence, Alabama

Bachelor of Education

Major: Early Childhood Education

Attended August 1990 to December 1994

Degree conferred December 1994

Bradshaw High School

Florence, Alabama

Attended August 1987 to May 1990

Degree conferred May 1990

Vermont College of Fine Arts

Montpelier, Vermont

Master of Fine Arts

Major: Writing for Children and Young Adults

Degree conferred January 2024

Experience

Murfreesboro City Schools

Oct 2018 - May 2023

ELL Lead Teacher

Murfreesboro, Tennessee USA

Served as ELL teacher for K-6. Administered WIDA Screener as well as end of year WIDA assessment.

Collaborated with general education teachers, presented at PLCs, and implemented both push in and pull out teaching structures.

Reason for leaving: I moved to Vermont.
Supervisor: Mr. Don Bartch (615-893-2313)
Experience Type: Professional/Work, Full-time
It is **OK** to contact this employer

Metro Nashville Public Schools

Aug 2016 - Oct 2018

ELL Teacher
Nashville, Tennessee USA

Reason for leaving: Hired at a school significantly closer to my home.
Supervisor: Dr. Darwin Mason (615-259-4636)
Experience Type: Professional/Work, Full-time
It is **OK** to contact this employer

ELS Nashville

Oct 2015 - Aug 2016

Center Director
Murfreesboro, Tennessee, USA
Only the academic director is still working at ELS (who would know me). You can contact Ms. Sevda Keshti at the above number.

Reason for leaving: I wanted to return to teaching language learners rather than a director role.
Experience Type: Professional/Work, Full-time
It is **OK** to contact this employer

University of North Alabama

May 2008 - May 2015

ELL Instructor, Interim Director
Florence, Alabama USA
I served as adjunct, then full time instructor teaching English to language learners hoping to matriculate to the university. I served as interim director one year.

Reason for leaving: Moved the Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Experience Type: Professional/Work, Full-time
It is **OK** to contact this employer