

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
October 25, 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)
Terry Reil (BT)
Emily Reynolds (BT)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vacant Position (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Mari Miller, SHS Assistant Principal
Jennifer Nye, BTMES Principal
Erica Pearson, BTMES Principal
Brenda Waterhouse, BCEMS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Jody Bushway	James Carpenter	Alice Harding	Sarah Helman
Josh Howard	Pierre Laflamme	Dan Morrison	Andrea Poulin	Sarah Pregent
Brody Priddy	Jessica Van Orman			

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Wednesday, October 25, 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

Add 8.3 VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority
Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report will be discussed under Committee Reports.
Add 13.2 Personnel Item - Executive Session Items are VSA 313 (a) (3) and VSA 313(a) (4)
Add 8.4 Board Governance
Change 10.1 to read that the next Finance Committee meeting is November 13, 2023.

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

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1 Public Comment

None.

4.2 Student Voice

None.

5. Faculty/Staff – Reports/Presentations

5.1 Combining Middle School Athletic Programs

Mr. Hennessey advised that administrators have been reviewing the possibility of combining middle school athletics. A list of the pros and cons is contained in the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Hennessey displayed the list and provided an overview of the pros and cons identified by administrators. Information is broken down under the current 'landscape', including the list of current teams and cultivation and payment of coaches. Lengthy discussion was held, including, but not limited to; differences in the current landscape, current issues with teams not having enough players to field teams, concerns regarding 'cutting' students from teams, a suggestion to have 'A and B' teams (in an effort to let all students play), a suggestion to work through the list of cons in an effort to provide equity to students, difficulty in scheduling games when there are too many teams, a suggestion that rivalry builds character, transportation considerations/costs, a suggestion that the District should be moving towards combining sports, a suggestion that combining teams requires a lot of research, and perhaps should be included in a larger discussion, a query regarding allowing students to join teams when their school does not have a particular sport (currently this is allowed), the importance of having a sense of community, a query regarding the process for allowing students from one school to join the other school's team (and the impact if numerous students want to join), concern that currently, not all students are given the opportunity to learn and play and are not prepared to play at the high school level, the belief that no child should be denied the ability to play sports, logistics related to differing school end times, clarification that administrators do not see any of the cons as 'insurmountable', parental input regarding concerns that their students are not able to participate in sports, information that other schools in the state have combined middle school sports and a suggestion to speak with those districts regarding how they manage their programs, a previous situation where due to the high number of players, players did not get sufficient playing time, the difficulty of scheduling multiple games with other teams, school pride, the relationships built between coaches (teachers) and students, the purpose of middle school sports, a suggestion that programs in Barre be expanded at younger grades, disagreement with some of the cons expressed, and a belief that some of the commentary comes from a place of privilege, a belief that BCEMS students do not have enough teams and are not provided with enough opportunity, a belief that combination of teams needs to be resolved sooner rather than be pushed out to the future, reiteration of the difficulty of scheduling games when there are multiple teams per school (including VPA regulations), confirmation that BCEMS students have played on the BTMES field hockey team, brief discussion of BYSA sports, a suggestion that the caveats and possible solutions be explored, difficulties being encountered with the large number of students currently joining the BTMES basketball teams, member to member agreements, the need for a fulltime athletic director (if sports are expanded), the importance of having a building based athletic director (building relationships and supporting students), the importance of using a 'problem solving lens' to research this matter further, a belief that there is unity when students merge at the high school, and the understanding that combining of middle school sports will continue to be investigated.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting.

6.2 Warrant Approval (10/12/23 and 10/18/23)

Copies of the Warrants were distributed.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board voted 6 to 1 to approve the Warrants dated 10/12/23 and 10/18/23.

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

7. Building Reports

7.1 Building Reports; BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, SEA

Copies of Building Reports were distributed.

BCEMS; discussion included confirmation of a recent resignation at BCEMS (science department), a query regarding inclusion of behavioral issue information (in the report) and a request for confirmation that the information will be included, concern that inclusion of the behavioral information on a monthly basis would be cumbersome, confirmation that information will be shared quarterly, and appreciation to Mrs. Waterhouse for the smooth start to the school year.

BTMES: discussion included; kudos for recognition from the VTPBIS State Team and Scholastic Book Fair sales, budgetary considerations for a new sound system and replacement of playground equipment, and appreciation for the work of administrators.

SHS: discussion included; positive staff response and support for '6 Seconds' training/program, appreciation for installation of new benches and planters (which are well utilized), credit to Ms. Busker for her efforts to meet the needs of all students (both those that need to be 'called back to class' and enrichment for those who don't), thanks to staff and administrators for all they do, notification that the Reynold's Scholarship has been updated and will (beginning January 2024), include six \$40,000 awards, and notification that next week's Showcase will be on the SHS Enrichment Program.

SEA: It was noted that there was no report from SEA, but today's Showcase focuses on the Farm to Table Program at SEA. Various representatives were present to celebrate the Program.

7.2 Superintendent Report

A copy of the Superintendent's Report was distributed.

A copy of an undated letter from Mr. Hennessey and Ms. Fredericks, to BUUSD District Families was distributed. This letter refers to VTCAP Assessments.

Discussion included; confirmation that VTCAP Assessment results are being sent to families in early November, a belief that the State will release statewide data in December, confirmation that there is a plan in place to answer questions from families, a query regarding equity between BTMES and BCEMS ECO classes (different models are used at the two schools), and a brief overview of ECO at BCEMS (currently K-4 (various levels based on teacher expertise), with a goal to grow the program and expand green space. BCEMS Middle school has an elective Environmental class.

8. Current Business

8.1 New Hires

The resume and BUUSD Notification of Employment Status Form for Lori Daugherty (English Language Learners) was distributed. Mr. Hennessey provided an overview of the candidate and advised that the new position is funded through a Medicaid grant.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Lori Daugherty for the position presented.

8.2 Interview Process for Board Seat

Mr. Cecchinelli advised City Council of the vacancy. The ad is posted in the Times Argus and will be posted for two weeks. Letters of interest are to be submitted to Carol Dawes with a deadline of November 7, 2023 at noon. Interviews will be held on November 8, 2023.

8.3 VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority

Documents titled Exhibit B (VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority for Health and Dental) were distributed. Mr. Cecchinelli provided a brief overview and clarification was provided regarding what is being voted on.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Superintendent Chris Hennessey to appear and vote on behalf of the BUUSD for the VEHI Health and Dental Programs.

8.4 New Governance Standards

Mrs. Leclerc noted that the Standards are effective 07/01/25 and Board priorities need to be defined by that deadline. Mrs. Leclerc advised of the work that needs to be performed (definition of Board priorities in a number of categories and sub-categories) Mrs. Leclerc provided a brief overview of some of the categories and requested that the Board organize 'carving out' a portion of each category each month. Mrs. Leclerc acknowledged former Board Member Alice Farrell for her work in drafting these new standards. Brief discussion was held, including discussion of this matter at the Board Retreat.

9. Old Business

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.5 were distributed. Ms. Parker advised that there was an outstanding question on policy C3. The Board agreed to discuss that policy separately.

9.1 Second and Final Reading Volunteers and Work Study Students Policy (B2)

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Readings of Policies B2, B4, B7, and F26 and agreed to adopt said policies.

9.2 Second and Final Reading Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees Policy (B4)

See action under Agenda Item 9.1.

9.3 Second and Final Reading Tobacco Prohibition Policy (B7)

See action under Agenda Item 9.1.

9.4 Second and Final Reading Transportation Policy (C3)

Discussion included; the question from Mr. Reil regarding contradictions with the last sentence in the Statement of Policy, and verbiage in 'D' under Administrative Responsibilities, suggested changes from Mr. Hennessey and Ms. Parker, (adding "and authorized by the Board" under letter 'D', a reading of the amended section of the policy, a suggestion to strike the last sentence from the Policy Statement, and a request that the policy be re-drafted and presented at the next meeting. Community feedback included concern that taking transportation away from out of district students (in early August) does not help market SHS and a request that the Board decide

whether or not it wants to commit to providing transportation. It was agreed that a clean copy will be provided at the next Board meeting.

9.5 Second and Final Reading Electronic Surveillance Policy (F26)

See action under Agenda Item 9.1.

10. Committee Reports

Mr. Cecchinelli advised he sent the Superintendent Evaluation Committee minutes to Board Members. In response to a query, Mr. Cecchinelli advised that filling the vacancy on this Committee needs to be addressed. Ms. Parker advised of a minor adjustment that should be made to the minutes.

10.1 Finance Committee

Minutes from the October 16, 2023 meeting were distributed. No discussion.

The next meeting is Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10.2 Facilities & Transportation Committee

Minutes from the October 2, 2023 meeting were distributed.

It was noted that Mr. Reil is listed as both a Committee Member and a Board Member.

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

10.3 Policy Committee

Minutes from the October 18, 2023 meeting were distributed. No discussion.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10.4 Curriculum Committee

Minutes from the October 4, 2023 meeting were distributed.

It was noted that Mrs. Leclerc is listed in the minutes as both a Committee Member and a Board Member.

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

10.5 CVCCSD Board

Minutes from the October 16, 2023 meeting were distributed. No discussion.

The next meeting is November 13, 2023.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Procedures and Processes and How Behavior Issues are Reported
- Follow-up on Middle School Athletic Program (quarterly)
- Presentation of the New Financial Software System
- Electronic Storage of Documents
- Board Chair Not Communicating or Responding to Certain Board Members

Brief discussion was held regarding Parking Lot Items that are slated for November.

In response to a query regarding a timeframe for when the Board can review procedures for policies F3 and F4, Mr. Hennessey advised that procedures are in the Crisis Response Manual and in Handbooks. Mr. Hennessey will forward that information to Mrs. Leclerc. Brief discussion was held regarding the best time (before or after the budget passes) to add Presentation of the New Financial Software System.

12. Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

13. Executive Session

13.1 Personnel

13.2 Personnel

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include two personnel issues.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Hennessey and Mrs. Marold in attendance, at 7:47 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 8:57 p.m.

14. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin