

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
January 10, 2024 - 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)
Sarah Pregent (BC)
Terry Reil (BT)
Emily Reynolds (BT)
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Luke Aither, Principal
Emanuel Ajanma, Director of Technology
Rebecca Busker, Assistant Principal
Melissa Greenwood, Assistant Principal
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Mari Miller, Assistant Principal
Ted Mills, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Nye, Principal
Erica Pearson, Principal
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Martha Blaisdell	Mary Bowers	Sue Brennan	James Carpenter
Erin Carter	Madison Cooley	Cassandra Demarais	Erika Dolan	Nora Duane
Dorinne Dorfman	Brendan Eason	Alice Farrell	Garrett Grant	Miranda Green
Karen Heath	Carol Hebert	Michelle Hebert	Sarah Helman	Darby Hiebert
Sarah Hill	Josh Howard	Guy Isabelle	Elien Kaye	Samantha Knudsen
Prudence Krasofski	Colleen Kresco	Jody Leone	Sherry Lewton	Eric Lindner
Karine Marineau	Ben Matthews	Jessica Maurais	Lauren May	Joan McMahon
Karen Moran	Mickey Morris	Nathan Phelps	Victoria Pompei	Andrea Poulin
Jackie Wheeler	Merrin Rousseau	Heather Slayton	Megan Spaulding	J. Starr
Rhonda Thygesen	Jan Zemba	Jeff Blow	Michael Gilbar	Brodey Priddy
Rachel Van Vliet	Larry McEnany	Mary Gaudreau		

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 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

Agenda Item 6.4 (Information Request) will be taken out of order.

Agenda Item 7.1 (Second and Final Reading Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Checks) (B20) will be taken out of order

Agenda Item 7.2 (Second and Final Reading Community Use of School Facilities) (E20) will be taken out of order

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

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1 Public Comment

Ms. Dorfman shared one of Barre's greatest accomplishments is our focus on providing reading instruction to all students who need help based on valid reliable assessment data that tells teachers and interventionists who needs instruction and what areas. In the 22-23 school year, Barre Town middle school students with special education and received their literacy services from an interventionist improved by 49 points on the Renaissance Star Assessment, a percentile increase of nearly 7.5 percent. Among the 55 students taught altogether 91% improved in word reading, 87% increased their reading rate and 69% increased their passage reading accuracy.

4.2 Student Voice

None.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2023 Special Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 8-1 to approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2023 Special Meeting. Mr. Malone voted against the motion

5.2 Warrant Approvals – December 20, 2023 and December 28, 2023

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants dated December 20, 2023 and December 28, 2023.

Discussion moved to Agenda items 6.4, 7.1, and 7.2

6.4 Information Request

Mrs. Leclerc requested number of hours for fiscal year 22-23, overtime pay cost for those number of hours, and hours that support the \$60,000 in overtime. Mr. Malone added – What are the justifications for adding \$60,000 to this budget line item and the backups that support that? Board members and Mr. Hennessey engaged in discussion and answering questions. **Mr. Reil called Point of Order – reason - Chair participating in debate and that's not allowed.**

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board voted 5 to 3 to approve a request of the Business Manager to provide July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 payroll overtime information for custodial staff and send it to the Board.

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

7.1 Second and Final Reading Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Checks (B20)

A copy of the policy was distributed

Selection number one was clarified to say that the cost of background checks will be borne by the school district not by the individual and that is what we currently do and what we want to continue to have done. Everything else is the same.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Checks Policy (B20).

7.2 Second and Final Reading Community Use of School Facilities (E20)

A copy of the policy was distributed

Section 2 G – Option to allow or prohibit possession or use of a firearm or to permit it for a specific reason. Reached out to attorneys and their response mentioned there is additional risk of liability if you allow guns on campus for any reason that said the option to permit is valid particularly if you limit it to gun safety courses approved by the school which falls under an exception to the laws around guns in schools. You should state that limitation expressly.

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board voted 7-1 to approve the Second and Final Reading of Community Use of School Facilities (E20) with the firearms provision. Instructional purposes (e.g. gun safety courses as approved by the district).

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

Discussion returned to 6. Current Business

6. Current Business

6.1 New Hires

None

6.2 FY25 Budget Approval

A document titled "Act 127 Impact on BUUSD" was distributed.

A document titled "Budget Modeling Update 1/8/24" was distributed.

Superintendent Chris Hennessey presented the Act 127 impacts on BUUSD and Budget Modeling information which had been updated. The presentation was followed by discussion by board members, community input, and answering questions posed.

Mr. Malone moved to call the question. Mrs. Pregent seconded it. The vote was called by the Chair.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the BUUSD Board voted 5 to 4 to approve the proposed budget of \$58,888,532.

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

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

6.3 FY25 Warning Approval

A document titled "Barre Unified Union School District Warning for March 5, 2024 Vote" was distributed.

Amendments discussed: Article I – Strike last line and add Two Barre Town district directors for the term of 3-years; Article 3 change to \$11,795, Information below Article 5 – Change informational meeting to Annual meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024. Change last sentence dates from January 13, 2024 to January 10, 2024 and change January 14 2024 to January 11, 2024

On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 5 to 3 to approve the Warning with amendments.

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

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

7. Old Business

Discussion of items 7.1 and 7.2 took place prior to 6. Current Business

8. Future Agenda Items

None

11. Next Meeting Dates

Regular Meeting - Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet). – Packet will be sent Friday with Addendums on Monday.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet).

12. Executive Session as Needed

Personnel Updates (1 VSA section 313 A4) proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

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 7:41 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 A4 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:56 p.m.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert