

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
January 24, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Chair  
Chris Parker (BT) – Vice Chair  
Paul Malone (BT) - Clerk  
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)  
Sarah Pregent (BC)  
Terry Reil (BT)  
Michael Boutin (BC) (arrived at 7:19 p.m.)  
Emily Reynolds (BT)  
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent  
Melissa Greenwood, Assistant Principal  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Reed McCracken, Interim Administrator - SEA  
Jennifer Nye, Principal  
Erica Pearson, Principal  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal  
Mari Goodridge Miller, Principal  
Ted Mills, Assistant Principal  
Luke Aither, Principal  
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services  
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Dave Delcore – Times Argus	Marc Bernier	Mary Bowers	Sue Brennan	James Carpenter
Jennifer Bisson	Cassandra Demarais	Alice Farrell	Kristin Gilbar	Garrett Grant
Miranda Green	Carol Hebert	Sarah Hill	Josh Howard	Prudence Krasofski
Colleen Kresco	Jody Leone	Karen Moran	Victoria Pompei	Maria Richards
Jackie Wheeler	Mariah Routhier	Rachel Van Vliet	Catherine Walen	Lori Bernier
Jeff Blow	Jan Trepanier	Bern Rose	Brody Preddy	Landen Neul

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Wednesday, January 24, 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**

Added Agenda Item under Old Business 9.1 (Budget Narrative Issues)

Added Agenda Item under Current Business 8.4 (Discussion with Building Administrators)

Add Executive Session 13.2 Personnel (representation petition with the representatives, both principals and assistant principals)

Add Executive Session 13.3 Attorney-Client Communication - 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) 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. Mr. Boutin was not present for the vote.**

**13.3 Attorney-Client Communication - 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) proposed for discussion in Executive Session taken out of order.**

**On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss the items proposed for discussion. Mr. Boutin was not present for the vote.**

Board returned from Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. and proceeded with the meeting agenda.

#### **4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

##### **4.1 Public Comment**

Bernadette Rose shared attending the Voting Expo put on by the SHS Student Council and she was impressed. Well run, so proud of them Kids, and they really got into participating in the voting. Thrilled to be able to come and witness it, it was wonderful, Bang up job!

Lori Bernier shared budget concerns. Asking if the board has considered the balance or in balance between schools?

Mr. Malone and Mrs. Leclerc recognized Andrea Poulin for her many years as a scribe for committees and boards with BUUSD. Good luck, we will miss you.

Mrs. Leclerc expressed concerns about the growing list of items in the parking lot needing to be addressed and managed.

Rachel Van Vliet, President of Barre Educator Association (BEA) shared that the BEA executive council unanimously voted to endorse the BUUSD School Budget. It addresses the needs of students, family, staff and community. Act 127 should be used to meet the basic needs of students which is how BUUSD is using it, increasing spending to meet the significant needs of our students.

##### **4.2 Student Voice**

None.

#### **5. Faculty /Staff - Reports/Presentations**

##### **5.1 CIA Plan Update**

A document with Winter STAR Assessment, NAEP Comparison, and K-8 Progress Monitoring Update was distributed

Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, spoke through highlights of the three categories. In addition to these highlights presented, Winter 2023 and Fall 2024 STAR assessment stats were provided at the meeting before engaging in discussion and answering questions posed by board members.

##### **5.2 Special Education Staff and Child Count Data Report**

A document titled "BUUSD Special Services Board Report January, 2024" was distributed.

Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services, referenced the data in her report. Sharing AOE Monitoring data was provided the next day and included in the board addendum before engaging in discussion and answering questions posed by board members.

#### **6. Consent Agenda**

##### **6.1 Approval of Minutes - January 4, 2024 Special Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2024 Special Meeting. Mr. Boutin was not present for the vote.**

##### **6.2 Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2024 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2024 Regular Meeting with amendment from Mr. Reil. Mr. Boutin was not present for the vote.**

##### **6.3 Warrant Approvals – January 4, 2024 and January 11, 2024**

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants dated January 4, 2024 and January 11, 2024. Mr. Boutin was not present for the vote.**

#### **7. Building Reports**

##### **7.1 Building Reports: BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, SEA**

Copies of Building Reports were Distributed.

Administrators from each building engaged in discussion and answering questions posed by board members. Much praise was given by Board members for hard work and multiple positive events taking place within the buildings.

##### **7.2 Superintendent Report**

A copy of the Superintendent's Report was distributed.

Mr. Hennessey added FY25 Budget communications/presentations were sent out for community members to review. Budget Information Night is February 1, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Spaulding High School Library. The superintendent engaged in discussion and answered questions posed by board members.

#### **8. Current Business**

### **8.1 New Hires**

The resumes and BUUSD Notification of Employment Status Forms for Jodi Bartley (BCEMS Math Interventionist) and Wren Lansky (SHS Social Studies Teacher) were distributed.

Mr. Hennessey provided an overview of the candidate, and answered questions from the Board.

**On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Jodi Bartley and Wren Lansky.**

### **8.2 Announced Tuition**

A document titled Background on Announced Tuition dated 1/8/2024 was distributed.

A document titled FY25 Announced Tuition Data Collection Reporting was distributed.

The announced tuition are as follows; Elementary K – 6: \$18,000, and Secondary 7 – 12: \$18,500.

Mr. Hennessey provided a brief overview of this process which is performed annually and engaged in discussion and questions from board members.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Annual Tuition Rates as proposed (K – 6 \$18,000 / 7 – 12 \$18,500 ).**

### **8.3 Enrollment/Home Study**

A document titled District Enrollment/Staffing – January 2024 was distributed.

A document titled Home Study Report (AOE provided data) was distributed.

Mr. Hennessey provided a brief overview of the quarterly report, noting that there is an increase in students since a year ago, 2205 to 2274. It's been a fairly steady enrollment from month to month this year.

The superintendent answered clarification questions from board members. Mr. Reil, Mr. Boutin, and Mrs. Pregent made valid points regarding teacher to student ratios at both elementary and middle school buildings in terms of consolidating from an equity perspective. Mrs. Leclerc requested a dollar amount spent on outside placed students be provided to the Board.

### **8.4 Discussion with Building Administrators**

No Discussion took place.

## **9. Old Business**

### **9.1 Budget Narrative Issues**

Mr. Reil shared that the last narrative provided has inaccurate information. It excluded PreK and Transportation from Barre Town, Barre City, and the Central Office. Barre Town actually gets better, in the original narrative it was going back 2.29% it goes up 1.91% backwards, still a negative but not quite as much. Barre City goes from 14.34% down to 13.8% and same with Central Office it goes from 18.1% increase down to a 16.47% increase. Mr. Reil noted the number at the bottom was correct and this doesn't impact what we voted on, it just impacts the numbers at the buildings. Mr. Hennessey provided some clarifications about the narrative and that it will be updated and added to the website.

Mrs. Spaulding requested the Annual Meeting Warning, in the addendum, be approved now as it kind of coincides with the budget and isn't on the agenda.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board voted 7 to 1 to approve the Annual Meeting Warning. Mr. Reil voted against the motion.**

## **10. Committee Reports**

### **10.1 Finance Committee**

Minutes from the January 4, 2024 meeting were distributed. No discussion.

The next meeting is Monday, February 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

### **10.2 Facilities & Transportation Committee**

Minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting were distributed.

The next meeting is Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

### **10.3 Policy Committee**

Minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting were distributed. No discussion.

The Wednesday, February 21, 2024 meeting is canceled. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

It was noted there will be new members as reorganization will take place in March.

### **10.4 Curriculum Committee**

No meeting occurred in January 2024; next meeting TBD

### **10.5 CVCCSD Board**

Minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting were distributed. No discussion.  
The next meeting is February 12, 2024.

### **11. Future Agenda Items**

- Appointment of Community Members to Committees
- Action Plan Memos

### **12. Next Meeting Dates**

Regular Meeting - Wednesday, February 14, 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 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet). (Noted that February 28th is a vacation week)

### **13. Executive Session as Needed**

#### **13.1 Superintendent Evaluation**

**13.2 Personnel (representation petition with the representatives, both principals and assistant principals)** proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

**13.3 Attorney-Client Communication - 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F)** taken out of order and discussed after Additions and or Deletions to the Agenda

Mr. Reil suggested taking 13.2 out of order and discussing it first in executive session.

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion (related to a petition for recognition submitted to the BUUSD by the principals and assistant principals) would clearly place the petitioners and or the school board at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with the Superintendent, Principals and Assistant Principals in attendance, at 8:42 p.m. under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss the items proposed for discussion.**

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

**On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.**

### **14. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Boutin, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*