

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Parker, Chair (BT)
Emily Reynolds, Vice Chair (BT)
Thomas Kelly (BC Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Boutin (BC)
Jon Valsangiacomo – (BT Community Member)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent

GUESTS:

Josh Howard

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Wednesday, November 15, 2023, meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference - Google Meet.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 10/26/23) was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that the document continues to be updated procedurally and with VSBA updates.

Mr. Hennessey advised that since the last meeting, the Team hasn't met for further documentation.

5.2 VSBA Policy Notes

A document titled 'VSBA Policy Notes – BUUSD Policy Committee' was distributed.

Ms. Parker advised regarding the notes which provide information regarding VSBA updates for the policies being discussed this evening.

5.3 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Background Checks Policy (B20)

Copies of the District and VSBA policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker noted that the policy was last adopted by the District on 05/24/23. Ms. Parker advised regarding recent VSBA updates based on a recent U.S. Supreme Court case. VSBA will be discussing the U.S. Supreme Court Case in their fall newsletter. It was noted that the VSBA policy has one option that needs to be decided by the District, relating to who will carry the cost associated with background checks. Brief discussion was held and it was confirmed that the District had recently decided that the District will shoulder the costs associated with background checks. Brief discussion was held regarding identification of the VSBA update that was providing clarification of the court ruling. Ms. Parker will contact VSBA for additional information on this matter. Information provided by VSBA will be shared with the Board.

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the Committee unanimously voted to send B20, as amended, to the Board for a First Reading.

5.4 Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (C9)

Copies of the District policy and the Vermont Agency of Education Model Local Wellness Policy were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that VSBA removed this policy on 09/07/23, and has replaced it with the AOE Policy Guide, noting that an AOE issued Policy will be coming soon. VSBA has recommended rescinding Policy C9 and replacing it with the current AOE Vermont Local Wellness Policy Guide. Brief discussion was held regarding what changes are being instituted (currently unknown), and how the District would adopt the AOE Guidelines if they are not in the format of a formal policy. There is no VSBA Model Policy at this time. Mr. Hennessey believes the VSBA is asking that AOE Guidelines replace C9 until a formal policy is written. Mr. Kelly prefers to leave the current policy in place until a formal replacement policy is written.

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Committee voted 2 to 1 to rescind Policy C9 and to send the ‘AOE Model Policy’ to the Board for review.

Ms. Parker and Ms. Reynolds voted for the motion. Mr. Kelly voted against the motion.

5.5 Fiscal Management & General Financial Accountability Policy (F20)

Copies of the District and VSBA policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker provided an overview of the VSBA policy notes. Brief discussion was held, including discussion on whether or not this policy should be reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to being presented to the Board. It was noted that if a First Reading is presented to the Board, the Board may opt to send the policy to Finance Committee rather than approving the First Reading. Mr. Kelly advised that he is not comfortable recommending the policy until he has additional information.

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Committee voted 2 to 0 to send Policy F20, as amended, to the Board for a First Reading.

Ms. Parker and Ms. Reynolds voted for the motion. Mr. Kelly abstained.

5.6 Capitalization of Assets Policy (F23)

Copies of the District and VSBA policies were distributed.

The situation with this policy is similar to the previous policy. Mr. Kelly has the same concerns as with Policy F20. It was noted that the policy contains an optional section that requires a decision to be made. The Committee agreed that the Board should make the decision on the optional section.

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Committee voted 2 to 0 to send Policy F23, as amended, to the Board for a First Reading, with the recommendation that the Board make the decision on the optional section.

Ms. Parker and Ms. Reynolds voted for the motion. Mr. Kelly abstained.

5.7 Community Use of School Facilities Policy (E20)

Copies of the District and VSBA policies were distributed.

Brief discussion was held and it was noted that there has not been any controversy with the current policy. Ms. Parker noted one option requiring a Board decision (2 G option – possession/use of firearms).

On a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously voted to send Policy E20, as amended, to the Board for a First Reading, with the recommendation that the Board make the decision on the optional section.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Future Agenda Items

- E1 – Title I, Part A: Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Parking Lot Item A)
- B5 – Employee Unlawful Harassment Policy (Parking Lot Item D)

8. Next Meeting Date

The December 20, 2023 meeting is cancelled.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin