

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

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
March 13, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Boutin (BC) – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II (BC) – Vice Chair
Sonya Spaulding (BC)- Clerk
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)
Terry Reil (BT)
Emily Reynolds (BT)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Alice Farrell (BT)
Catherine Whalen (BT)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Emmanuel Ajanma, Director of Technology
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Ted Mills, Assistant Principal
Kristin Morrison, Assistant Principal
Rebecca Mortensen, Assistant Director of Special Services
Jennifer Nye, Principal
Erica Pearson, Principal
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal
Ashley Young, Assistant Business Manager
Stacy Anderson, Special Services Director
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Rachel Aldrich	Jo-Ann Buzzi	Nathaniel Fredericks	Yoko Kishishita	Mari Miller
Alex Alexander	Dr. Brandon Campo	Jamie Frey	Thomas Koch	Karen Moran
Sam Alexander	Sarah Capron	Nicole Gallup	Prudence Krasofski	Michaela Morris
Peter Anthony	James Carpenter	Kristin Gilbar	Colleen Kresco	Colton Myers
Paula Beaudet	Jackie Cassel	Rachel Greenfield	Samantha Lawrence	James Norby
Christine Bell	Kristina Charissakis	Melissa Greenwood	Sherry Lewton	Aaron Pacetti
Jennifer Bisson	Stephanie Collins	Kate Hawley	Lisa Liotta	Christine Parker
Martha Blaisdell	Venus Dean	Karen Health	Karine Marineau	Amanda Pierce
Jeff Blow	David Delcore	Carol Hebert	Tara Martin	Michael Prosalik
Stacie Boltin	Cassandra Demarais	Chris Hennessey	Kendyl Mason	Maria Richards
Mary Bowers	Brandi Dewey	Rebecca Henry	Ben Matthews	Jackie Rockstar
Sue Brennan	Jordan Doctor	Darby Hiebert	Denise Maurice	Merrin Rousseau
Elizabeth Brown	Erika Dolan	Sarah Hill	Joan McMahon	Tim Sanborn
Lauren Buck	Nora Duane	Mariah Jacobs	Melissa Metayer	Wendy Sell
Julie Burns	Jody Emerson	Katie Jarvis	Raylene Meunier	Megan Spaulding
Jodi Bushway	Mary Fifield	Ellen Kaye	Carey Miller	Katie St Raymond
Denise Lavallee	Jeff Pulice	Michael Deering II	Sarah	Lauren May
Adam Jacobs	Paul Malone	Rachel Van Vliet	Erin Carter	Michael Whalen
Mary Gaudreau	Ragini Misra	Brendan Edison	Dan Morrison	William Toborg
Bern Rose	Kim Tewksbury	Nealee Thibault	Pierre Trepanier	Jessica Van Orman
Rachel Van Vliet	Mya Violette	Jane Watson	Jarrold Weiss	Jessie White
Brittany Wood	Jan Zemba	Alice Harding	Joe	Jordan
Sarah	Stacey Lynds	Suzie Jacobs	Brodey Priddy	Lindsey Wells

1. Call to Order

District Superintendent, Mr. Hennessey, called the Wednesday, March 13, 2024 Regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Organize

Nominations for Board Chair – motion made by Mr. Cecchinelli to nominate Michael Boutin, motion was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Nomination made by Mrs. LeClerc for Terry Reil to be board chair; motion was seconded by Mrs. Farrell. Vote for Mr. Boutin 5 to 4, as Michael Boutin will be the new board chair. **Mr. Cecchinelli, Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Boutin, Mr. Grant and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mrs. Whalen, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Reil, and Mrs. Leclerc voted against the motion.**

Nominations for Board Vice Chair – nomination for Terry Reil, made by Mrs. Farrell. Mr. Reil declined nomination. Ms. Reynolds nominated Giuliano Cecchinelli motion was seconded by Mrs. Spaulding. Vote for Mr. Cecchinelli 5 to 4, as Giuliano Cecchinelli will be the new board vice chair. **Mr. Cecchinelli, Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Boutin, Mr. Grant, and Mrs. Spaulding voted for the motion. Mrs. Whalen, Mr. Reil, Mrs. Farrell, and Mrs. Leclerc voted against the motion.**

Nominations for Board Clerk – Mr. Cecchinelli nominated Sonya Spaulding, motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds. Vote 5 to 3. Sonya Spaulding is the new board clerk. **Mr. Cecchinelli, Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Grant, Mrs. Spaulding, and Mrs. Farrell voted for the motion. Mrs. Whalen, Mr. Reil, and Mrs. Leclerc voted against the motion.**

Board Meeting time— Mr. Reil proposed keeping the meetings on the current schedule – 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6 pm, motion was seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Retreat date – April 11th, 2024, 4 pm-8 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Committees-

Finance: Catherine Whalen, Sonya Spaulding, Emily Reynolds volunteered– motion made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Reynolds; motion passed unanimously.

Facilities: Giuliano Cecchinelli and Garrett Grant volunteered, 3rd member TBD; Tabled

Curriculum: Alice Farrell, Garrett Grant, and Catherine Whalen volunteered – motion made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Grant; motion passed unanimously.

Policy: Emily Reynolds, Giuliano Cecchinelli, and Michael Boutin volunteered – motion made by Mrs. Whalen and seconded by Mrs. Farrell; motion passed unanimously

Negotiations: Terry Reil, Sonya Spaulding, and Emily Reynolds volunteered – motion made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Reynolds; motion passed unanimously

CVCCSD: Alice Farrell volunteered; motion made by Mr. Reil and seconded by Mrs. Whalen; motion passed. Mr. Cecchinelli voted against the motion.

Community members for committees – express interest to Tina Gilbert tgilbbsu@buusd.org, will be interviewed at the March 27th Board meeting and new community members will join committees in April.

District Spokesman- Superintendent and Board Chair

Authorized Chair to sign employee contracts – motion made by Mrs. Spaulding and seconded by Ms. Reynolds, added with board approval to motion, motion passed unanimously.

Sign other contracts (with board approval) motion made by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Farrell -- motion passed unanimously

Approve Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager, Superintendent to sign Accountants Payable, Payroll warrants – motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Grant – motion passed unanimously.

Location for posting agendas and minutes – each school building, offices of Town and City Clerk, Front Porch Forum, BUUSD website, Central Office Building, Facebook pages -- motion by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli; motion passed unanimously.

Agreement on Robert's Rules of Order – motion by Mr. Reil seconded by Mrs. Whalen. Discussion about considering Robert's Rules for Small Boards. Due to needing consensus for small boards the Motion to accept Robert's Rules of Order passed unanimously.

Discuss Code of Ethics. – motion to approve Code of Ethics by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mrs. Whalen, motion withdrawn. Code of Ethics is to discussion as a group by for each person to decide individually regarding signing.

Discussion of Executive Session, Open Meeting Law- no additional discussion around these topics

Identify communication practices – designated Chief Communication Officer, reviewed packet information from Vermont School Board Association.

Board development opportunities – VSBA conference and webinars; New England School Development Assoc.

Discuss local and state-wide education advocacy responsibilities – no additional discussion around this topic

Designate Newspaper of Record – Times Argus

Board Packet format – Electronic or paper (email Tina or Chris to request)

Appoint Negotiations Committee Chair as the Supervisory Union/School District voting delegate for State-wide Healthcare Bargaining - motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Reil, motion passed unanimously

3. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held a Mindfulness Moment.

4. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Discussion about Executive Session – Personnel update and other is Administrative Contract. Change to 313 (a) (1) (A) for both sessions. Discussion keeping of 7.3 Consolidation of Schools on agenda. **Motion made to add Action Memos to the Agenda by Mrs. Leclerc and seconded by Mr. Reil – motion failed 4 to 3 and 1 abstention by Mrs. Farrell. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Whalen, and Mrs. Leclerc approved the motion; Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Grant, Mrs. Reynolds, and Mr. Cecchinelli voted against the motion.**

Motion to remove 7.3 Consolidation of Schools from agenda – motion made by Mrs. Leclerc and seconded by Mrs. Farrell. Mrs. Spaulding thinks that it's telling the people who don't want it on the agenda probably just don't want to talk about it for the record. Mrs. Leclerc stated just because I don't want it on the agenda doesn't mean that I don't want to talk about it. **Motion failed 4 to 3 and 1 abstention by Mrs. Whalen. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Farrell, and Mrs. Leclerc approved the motion; Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Grant, Mrs. Reynolds, and Mr. Cecchinelli voted against the motion.**

Motion made by Mrs. Leclerc to change 7.2 Failed Budget Overview to a discussion. Seconded by Mrs. Whalen. Chris Hennessey noted that School District's with failed budgets need to get a basic number into the Agency of Education by Friday, 3/15/24. This will help the State of VT to calculate the yield and give the administrators numbers to work with to present to the Finance Committee on Monday. **Motion to amend 7.2 Failed Budget Overview from Action to Discussion – motion approved 5 to 4. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Whalen, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Leclerc, and Mr. Boutin approved the motion; Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Grant, Ms. Reynolds, and Mr. Cecchinelli voted against the motion.**

Mr. Reil moved to approve the agenda as amended – Everything staying as is except 7.2 changing from Action to Discussion and changing Executive Session item Personnel to VSA 313 (a)(1)(A). **Motion passed 6 to 2. Mrs. Spaulding, Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Reil, Mrs. Whalen, and Mrs. Farrell approved the motion; Mrs. Leclerc and Mr. Grant voted against the motion.**

5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Public Comment

Jeff Pulice provided comment about his experience as a substitute at Spaulding High School.

Prudence Krasofski welcomed the new School Board Members.

Dan Morrison communicated request to board to work together for a positive impact on our child's education and about making hiring Superintendent and Director of Special Services a priority. Dan asked for those who voted no on the budget to share what cost reductions they are willing to forward and what positive impact it will have on the children.

5.2 Student Voice

No Comment

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board voted to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting – motion approved 5 yes and 3 abstentions. Mrs. Spaulding, Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Reil, Mrs. Leclerc approved the motion; Mr. Grant, Mrs. Whalen, and Mrs. Farrell abstained.

6.2 Warrant Approvals – February 14, 2024, February 22, 2024, February 28, 2024 and March 7, 2024

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Reynolds. The Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants above.

7. Current Business

7.1 New Hires

Mr. Hennessey stated two candidates to bring to the board – Anna Montoya as a Spanish Teacher and David Baird as a Social Studies teacher at Spaulding for 24-25 school year. Part-time Interventionist position for Barre City for remainder of 23-24 school year.

Motion to approve Anna Montoya and David Baird, with Part-time interventionist conditional upon no questions via email, Motion made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mrs. Spaulding to approve. Motion passes; Mrs. Leclerc voted against the motion.

7.2 Failed Budget Overview

Lisa Perrault, Business Manager, discussed Budget Development Re-Vote timeline. Agency of Education requests a revised number from Barre and Administration is looking to obtain direction for a dollar amount or a percentage decrease advisement from the board tonight. Administration will go back to the drawing board with recommendations and prioritize reduction and bring to Finance Committee on Monday, March 18. Number given by BUUSD to the State will impact the yield and the tax rates.

Discussion of when contracts go out to teachers – per CBA April 1. If RIF are considered, will need to have plenty of notice.

Proposed Changes-

Alice Farrell – discussion of public input: administrative salary increases, adding staff from ESSER grants, sports budget Catherine Whalen- 3% decrease Emily Reynolds- 11-10 % Giuliano Cecchinelli 10.6 % Nancy Leclerc – look at the budget as a whole/overages from past 2 years/review of programs Sonya Spaulding- would like to see budget go back out as the rate would be lower, 11 %, Garrett Grant- 1% decrease, Terry Reil – 6.5 % (4.5% new money + use 1 million surplus from previous year's to give us an additional 2 million)

7.3 Consolidation of Schools

Sonya Spaulding reviewed the Action Memo – proposing feasibility study to look at consolidation of schools; address increase needs of students and academic success – Elementary and Middle School; study will provide information for Board consideration; looking for bids for the feasibility study. Board members discussed thoughts about feasibility study and consolidation of schools. Consultant that would give information on transportation, facilities, athletics, academics and other questions. Discussion of CVCC leaving and optimization of use of space.

Mrs. Spaulding made the motion for the Superintendent to RFP (bids for feasibility study) request for proposals to consolidate schools, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli. Motion passes 6 to 1. Mrs. Spaulding, Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Whalen, Mrs. Farrell, and Mr. Grant approved the motion; Mr. Reil voted against the motion; Mrs. Leclerc wasn't present at that moment and did not vote.

Mrs. Farrell made the motion that the Board will approve the RFP draft before it goes out, seconded by Mr. Reil. Vote 4 to 5, motion fails. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Whalen, Mrs. Leclerc, and Mrs. Farrell approved the motion; Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Boutin voted against the motion.

8. Old Business

None

9. Future Agenda Items: (reminder for Action Memos sent to Tina Gilbert, Michael Boutin, and Chris Hennessey)

- Action Memos
- Final Approval of FY23 audit
- School Board Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024
- Guidance from District's attorney on action memos
- Anonymous email from community member
- Budget discussion/Financials
- Building reports

10. Next Meeting Dates

Regular Meeting - Wednesday, March 27 Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet)

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet).

Finance Committee – Monday, March 18, Spaulding High School Library 6 p.m.. and via Video Conference (Google Meet)

Mr. Boutin apologized, he thought you had to do findings and he was wrong

Motion to go into Executive Session for two personnel issues, with Carol Marold joining, made by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Reil. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Executive Session

11.1. Personnel 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(A)

11.2. Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A)

Mrs. Farrell made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:43 p.m. Mrs. Whalen seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Descoteaux/Tina Gilbert