

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
February 14, 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)  
Emily Reynolds (BT)  
Sonya Spaulding (BC)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Reed McCracken, Interim Administrator - SEA

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Martha Blaisdell	Rachel Greenfield	Pierre LaFlamme	Rachel Van Vliet	Garrett Grant
Mary Bowers	Sarah Hill	Adam Jacobs	Kristin Gilbar	Bern Rose
James Carpenter	Karen Moran	Brodey Priddy	Shellie Stevens	Jackie Wheeler
David Delcore	Andrea Poulin	Maria Richards	Lindsey Wells	Alice Farrell

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Wednesday, February 14, 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**

**Mr. Reil made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, removing section 7.1. Motion was seconded by Paul Malone.**

Discussion ensued about the removal of item 7.1 (Action Memos) from tonight's agenda.

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boutin, to amend the motion and include 7.1 Action Memos back into the agenda. Board approved the motion to approve the agenda unanimously.**

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

**4.1 Public Comment**

As it is Board Appreciation Month, James Carpenter thanked the School Board for the time and effort and work for the community.

**4.2 Student Voice**

Brodey Priddy, SHS Student Council Member, presented information regarding the \$40,000 grant funding given to Barre Youth. Brodey stated there has been voting this week, and that every project should be funded. Mentoring group has been working with the Dream Program and will start in approximately a month at Barre City Elementary Middle School. Pep rally at Spaulding on Feb. 23, morale booster, and multiple fundraisers coming up.

Mr. Hennessey shared information about "Think Pink" Cancer Awareness.

## **5. Consent Agenda**

### **5.1 Approval of Minutes - January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Chris Parker, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting.**

### **5.2 Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2024 Special Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Boutin, the Board voted unanimously to table the approval of the Minutes of the February 1, 2024 Special Meeting until the next Board meeting.**

### **5.3 Warrant Approvals – January 18, 2024, January 31, 2024, February 7, 2024**

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Nancy Leclerc.** Chris Parker noted in the warrant from January 31, that under Maple Hill tuition entries that the initials should be removed if they belong to students. **The Board unanimously voted to approve the Warrants dated January 18, 2024 and January 31, 2024 and February 7, 2024.**

## **6. Current Business**

### **6.1 New Hires**

Mr. Hennessey stated that there were no new hires to share.

### **6.2 Community Members of BUUSD Board Committees Procedure/ Newspaper AD**

Mr. Hennessey presented the information and asked for feedback. Mrs. Spaulding noted that on the first page of the handout (procedure) there was a discrepancy between the timeframe of the term of a community member that needs correcting. It should read community members should be appointed every two years. On the warning in the newspaper ad needs to read that the candidate needs to be a registered voter. Brief discussion regarding March Finance and Policy Committee meetings having possible new Board members with current community members as current community members serve through the end of March. It was decided since these meetings will be only reorganizing they can meet in March as planned and new community members will start in April.

### **6.3 Spaulding High School Stormwater Project**

Facilities is looking for Board approval on 10% Match \$63,800. Board reviewed the report from Dubois and King and discussed the use of material being removed.

**Mrs. Pregent made a motion to approve the 10 % match \$63,800 and designate it comes from the Capital Fund, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Spaulding. The Board approved unanimously.**

## **7. Old Business**

### **7.1 Action Plan Memos**

Discussion on use of Action Memos —will help new board members and provide transparency. In 6 out of 9 meetings items have been added or deleted from the agenda, as well future items were added. Action Memos could provide background and clarification on agenda items. Anything that would make meetings efficient and would like to review with leadership team and get questions answered receipt, and be ready for the parking lot. Questions regarding timeline or links for information. Concerns with staffing time to complete the action memo. Proposal of piloting the project for six months. Would this also be for items coming to the board from the committees? Policy Committee - all the explanation Ms. Parker provides at the meetings verbally would be on an Action Memo instead.

**Mr. Boutin with a motion to implement the Action Memo for 6 Month trial basis and to bring it up for discussion in six months. Ms. Parker seconded the motion. Board voted 5 to 3 to approve.**

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

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

**Mr. Malone made a motion to have legal counsel review the legality of the action memos, seconded by Mr. Reil. Board voted 5 to 3 the motion to seek legal counsel.**

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

**Mrs. Pregent, Ms. Reynolds and Mrs. Spaulding voted against the motion.**

### **7.2 Act 127 Update**

Mr. Hennessey shared a letter and information regarding the updated budget presentation, including information about the tax rate changes. Discussion about the changes with the legislative information. Yield currently set at \$9775 with no cap and 1.20 rate and .03 discount. Discussion about making the current Homestead tax rate of .129 increase for Barre City and .139 for Barre Town. Will be official at the end of the Legislative sessions. The Legislature is voting on giving school boards options to re-warn their budget votes

with a deadline of April 15. He stated that there won't be an advantage to re-warn the budget with delays and costs etc. If the budget vote is voted down, there will be an opportunity to revote in May. He also shared Act 127 PowerPoint with updated changes on Feb. 13, 2024. Discussion of budget and questions regarding tax increase changes. Information will be updated on the BUUSD website.

#### **8. Future Agenda Items**

- Discussion of behaviors of children within the district. Behaviors toward teachers and staff from adults in the district.
- Policy B5 for a first reading
- test scores % are down, in depth conversation including Reading and Math Interventionist with the School Board regarding how to increase scores

#### **9. Next Meeting Dates**

Regular Meeting - Wednesday, February 28, 2024 is canceled.

Next Regular Meeting - Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference (Google Meet). Reorganization meeting.

#### **10. Executive Session**

None

#### **11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Descoteaux/Tina Gilbert