

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
January 17, 2024 – 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:**

Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)

**ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent  
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum

**GUESTS:**

None

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Wednesday, January 17, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00 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 – November 15, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index**

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index (dated 1/9/2024) was distributed.

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

**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 Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Policy (E1)**

Copies of the District and VSBA policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised that recent VSBA updates were done to assure alignment with Federal requirements and reiterated the need for the district to spend time reviewing the policy. Mr. Hennessey and Mrs. Fredericks shared context on some of the work being done on this policy. Very detailed policy that’s still a work in progress. Mr. Kelly questioned Title I being for certain categories of people or everyone. Mrs. Fredericks confirmed it focuses on certain stakeholders but everyone else can benefit. Ms. Parker questioned if Title I is a grant funding stream based on certain demographics and you get a certain amount of funding as a Title I school. Mr. Hennessey and Mrs. Fredericks added you get more depending on the needs of the community. Title I is Federal monies. Used to be only Barre City benefitted, now all schools benefit due to a waiver which allows us to create investments for Barre Town. One middle school and one elementary school would allow even more funding. Ms. Parker questioned as we’re doing different things like planning these

events that hit some of these highlighted things in the packet, is this something you are filling in this document or what's the plan moving forward to get stuff in all these. Mr. Hennessey shared it's a full group admin team effort. Return this policy back to the parking lot and review again later in the spring 2024.

#### **5.4 Employee Unlawful Harassment Policy (B5)**

Copies of the District and VSBA policies were distributed.

Ms. Parker advised we have a policy B5 in place adopted in 2021 and that VSBA Policy Notes talks about how they know they had already, not so long ago, reviewed and revised this but new changes in the law happened in 2023 and new definitions based on those laws to keep things consistent and that's why it's coming back. Mr. Hennessey recommended leaving the Administrative Procedures section out and continuing to list these as procedures in employee handbooks.

**On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Committee voted 2 to 1 to send Policy B5, as amended, to the Board for First Reading with Administrative Procedures separated out.**

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

#### **6. Old Business**

None.

#### **7. Future Agenda Items**

- E1 – Title I, Part A: Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Return to parking lot for review late spring 2024)

#### **8. Next Meeting Date**

The February 21, 2023 meeting is canceled.

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

#### **9. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Gilbert*