

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

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
May 20, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent  
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services  
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum  
Melissa Greenwood, Asst. Principal BCEMS  
Reed McCracken, SEA Administrator  
Jen Nye, Co-Principal BTMES  
Erica Pearson, Co-Principal BTMES  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal BCEMS  
Mari Goodridge Miller, Interim Principal SHS  
Elizabeth Brown, Early Education Coordinator  
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

|                            |                    |                  |                   |                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| David Delcore, Times Argus | Sarah Attig        | Jan Trepanier    | Melissa Battah    | Martha Blaisdell |
| Stacie Boltin              | Jeff Blow          | Sue Boutin       | Mary Bowers       | Julie Burns      |
| Amy Caffry                 | Sarah Capron       | Brandon Campo    | Randi Collins     | Lori Bernier     |
| Linda Couture              | Jordan Doctor      | Erika Dolan      | Nora Duane        | Brendan Eaton    |
| Kirsten Evans              | Mary Gaudreau      | Shayna Guild     | Karen Heath       | Carol Hebert     |
| Darby Hiebert              | Sarah Hill         | Josh Howard      | Guy Isabelle      | Sharon Jacobs    |
| Raymond Kramer             | Prudence Krasofski | Colleen Kresco   | Samantha Lawrence | Ben Matthews     |
| Jessica Maurais            | Joan McMahon       | Carey Miller     | Karen Moran       | Lorraine Morris  |
| Michaela Morris            | Dan Morrison       | Christine Parker | Lauren Paulsen    | Victoria Pompei  |
| Michael Prosalik           | Mariah Routhier    | Kristina Safford | Rhonda Thygesen   | Wendy Sell       |
| Rachel Van Vliet           | Mya Violette       | Michael Whalen   | Jesse White       | Jasmine Wible    |
| Jan Zemba                  | Jane Watson        | Suzie Jacobs     | Paul Malone       | Bern Rose        |
| Ellen Kaye                 | Pam Morin          | Jackie Wheeler   | Marilyn Bolles    | Winfred Bolles   |
| Rodney Morin               |                    |                  |                   |                  |

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mr. Boutin called the Monday, May 20, 2024, Special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance/Mindfulness Moment**

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

**3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Added 4.3 New Hire Administrator Contracts (taken out of order after executive session)

Added 6.2 Contracts

**Mr. Grant made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, seconded by Mr. Reil. Motion passes unanimously. Mrs. Spaulding wasn't present for the vote.**

#### **4. Current Business**

##### **4.1 FY25 Budget Revisions (#3)**

Discussion went around the room regarding the June 11th revote date being too early. Mrs. Whalen, who also serves as Assistant Clerk for Barre Town recommended June 17 or 18 as a more comfortable date. Mrs. Spaulding shared June 11th would allow the turnaround of another vote if needed as well as doing it while school is still in session and parents are around. Mrs. Perreault, Business Manager would like the Board to give a clear direction so administrators can move forward with what the Board is asking. If a budget isn't agreed upon by June 1 the district will need to operate at 87% of the current year budget until a budget passes. The Finance Committee is ready to do the work of going line by line to look for reductions on Tuesday, May 21st.

**Direction requested:** Mr. Reil definitely south of 10.2%, optimistically 6.5% understanding we may not now be able to get there. Mrs. Whalen addressed the double digit increase when past increases have been single digits. She feels that's what voters are looking at. Mrs. Farrell shared points from community members from both the town and city. Biggest point, lack of communication, they want to know that their dollars are being spent well and the kids are benefitting. Mrs. Reynolds hopes they can come up with a list of reductions from a line by line discussion with an outcome that options presented would be accepted by the board. Mrs. Spaulding will run the exercise but it's unclear what's wanted. Feels it's not up to the board to tell administrators what they need.

The Finance Committee will work on a line by line review to find reductions on Tuesday. Mrs. Perreault feels they can provide an update on the work at Wednesday's Board meeting.

##### **4.2 Community Survey for Budget Development**

Action memo provided in the packet asking staff to put a survey together.

**Ms. Reynolds made a motion to move to create a community budget development survey from the board and ask the superintendent to distribute it to the community for input during the next phase of budget development with the amendment, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, motion passed 6 to 2.**

**Mr. Grant, Mrs. Farrell, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Cecchinelli and Mrs. Whalen voted for the motion Mrs. Leclerc and Mr. Reil voted against the motion.**

Survey out to the community by the end of the week with survey closing by Tuesday. Ms. Reynolds sent out questions to board members with hopes to collaborate on this. Provide paper copies as well as the electronic option.

**Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to amend the first motion and add questions go to Ms. Reynolds, she collates removing any duplicates and work with staff to send out, seconded by Mr. Grant, motion passed 6 to 2.**

**Mr. Grant, Mrs. Farrell, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Cecchinelli and Mrs. Whalen voted for the motion Mrs. Leclerc and Mr. Reil voted against the motion.**

Outcome is to get a better understanding of the voters. Get input from the people who respond to this survey to see what they would like as an outcome. Bring the community into our decision making process.

Board took a 10 minute break. Board returned at 8:21 p.m.

##### **4.3 New Hire Administrator Contracts**

Board took this item out of order to be discussed after the executive session.

#### **5. Round Table**

- Mrs. Leclerc shared an email from a community member reminding everyone we have lives we need to live and increases are occurring in everything and not aware of anyone in the current workforce getting 8-23% wage increases.
- Mrs. Farrell shared that the Central VT Humane Society is raising funds. Anyone interested in looking at what they do should go to the website and check it out.
- Mr. Grant attended the VT Library Association conference in Killington, took a workshop on Having a Dyslexia Positive Library and shared an estimate of 20% of our population having Dyslexia. Encourages celebrating Dyslexia Day on October 8th to bring down that stigma.
- Mrs. Whalen is excited about the prospect for the superintendent search and looks forward to the work we're going to do as we move ahead.

- Mr. Boutin thanked everyone who voted in Barre City. Larger than town meeting day which was the presidential primary. Annual meeting with that much excitement. Super thankful for the voters.

## **6. Executive Session**

### **6.1 Personnel 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) Appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee**

#### **6.2 Contracts**

**Mrs. Spaulding made a motion for findings for both items, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion to enter executive session at 8:29 p.m. inviting Kristin Wright from Lynn, Lynn, and Blackmann, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion to exit the executive session at 9:38 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Farrell, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made during executive session regarding a confidential personnel matter, motion failed 5 to 4.**

**Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to appoint Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Leclerc to negotiate a contract with a consultant to offer consultation services, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, motion passed 7 to 1, Mr. Riel voted against the motion.**

#### **4.3 New Hire Administer Contracts**

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to approve the FY25 Administrator contracts and authorize the Board Chair to sign contracts for Michael Martin, Denise Maurice, Shannon Miller, Laurie Smith, and Jarrod Weiss, seconded by Ms. Reynolds., motion failed 5 to 4.**

**Mr. Grant, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Spaulding, and Mr. Cecchinelli voted for the motion**

**Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Reil, Mrs. Whalen, and Mr. Boutin voted against the motion**

## **7. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Grant the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*