

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
July 31, 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)  
Emily Reynolds (BT)  
Terry Reil (BT) (arrived at ??)  
Garrett Grant (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Catherine Whalen (BT)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Michael Martin, Director of Technology  
Rebekah Mortensen, Assistant Special Services Director  
Ashley Young, Asst. Business Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Anne Ward, Colleen Kresco, Jasmine Wible, Lisa Liotta, Megan Spaulding, Nora Duane, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Raylene Meunier, Roberta Melnick, Sharon Jacobs, Steven Thompson

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Boutin called the Wednesday, July 31, 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 and Mindfulness Moment**

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

**3. Additions and/or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda**

Added in Mindfulness Moment under 2  
Added in Round Table under 5

**Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, to approve the agenda with amendments, motion passed unanimously.**

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

**4.1 Public Comment**

None

**4.2 Student Voice**

None

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Superintendent-Board Working Agreements**

Meeting turned over to Tracy Wrend. She made a few brief remarks in the context of the full meeting. Ms. Canning asked her to join you to facilitate a board-superintendent partnership work session. Work sessions are about learning and it will include some sharing and discussion, but they are not about decision making. The public is welcome to observe. But to do our best work, I'm going to ask the board to step away from the board meeting table and we're going to do our work in a circle. We will not be recording the session while we're in the circle doing the work session. We're taking minutes and the minutes might just say something simple like the board entered a work session on the board-superintendent partnership. I want to reassure everyone that any agreements or products that come out of the work session, that the board chooses to adopt, will be considered in open meeting at the board table. When we return to the formal meeting and or at a future meeting. It tends to be my recommendation that if you take some action preliminarily on something tonight that you clearly include that item on a future agenda and affirm it so that the public has full opportunity to know that a particular decision or agreement is on the agenda and has the opportunity to weigh in. Tonight we have two goals, one is to frame

some working agreements for the board-superintendent partnership and the second is to begin to map out a short-term work plan that includes ideally an opportunity for the board to build an annual work plan. Her hope is that they'll conclude some drafts they can affirm when you return to the meeting table preliminarily and perhaps finalize at future meetings.

A community member pointed out it's almost sort of a semi-executive kind of work session. Is this kind of leading towards an agreement? That's more contractual or just an agreement of understanding, mou? Ms. Wrend confirmed it's not contractual. It's not an MOU. It's a board study work session to explore the board superintendent partnership deeply and to think together about what the elements of that beginner's relationship with a new CEO looks like. It's not private, it's not an executive session. Public is welcome to continue with us and observe. There's no group commentary coming from the public. The opportunity comes in the future. Let's let them do some work and learn.

Request was made to clarify public comment. Mr. Boutin explained this is a working session. There will be no public comment during the working session. It will just be the board members, superintendent, and the facilitator. Mrs. Leclerc asked if it's a negotiation and Ms. Canning confirmed it's not. Mrs. Wrend added it's learning together.

**The board, superintendent, and facilitator entered a work session on the board-superintendent partnership at 6:08 p.m.**

**The board, superintendent, and facilitator returned from the work session on the board-superintendent partnership at 8:43 p.m.**

**Mrs. Farrell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Reynolds to adopt the operating protocol noting that additional comments will be made and sent to Tracy by August 8th for the Board-Superintendent Working Agreement. Motion passed 7 to 1, Mr. Reil voted against the motion.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to affirm meeting norms reviewed by the chair. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion included taking some time to go through each norm, the norms not being set in stone, and it was determined these could be revisited periodically to determine they're still the right norms. This is just to affirm the board is using them and can revisit them at any time.

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding to suspend committees until November with the expectation of the Curriculum Committee to hold a special meeting in September to orient the new Director of Curriculum. Motion passed 7 to 1, Mr. Reil voted against the motion.**

Suspending committees gives an opportunity to review all the committees and discuss the charge so the committees can be more effective and efficient in doing their work. The Board is acting on the recommendation of the Superintendent as part of this six-week short-term work plan. Last Board meeting in October will include committee discussion on the agenda.

Recommendation made that the board affirm a clean slate. Starting all over as a board with a new superintendent

**Mrs. Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant that whereas the board and superintendent have successfully concluded their first work session and developed draft operating protocols and confirmed board norms that therefore the board is resolved that we are moving forward together in the spirit of a clean slate committed to building and developing a new relationship for the benefit of our district, our schools, and our students. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Round Table**

**Mrs Spaulding:** Went to the Heritage Festival and the BUUSD had a booth, waved at Joanne as she went by in the parade, spoke to Carol and Jennifer Huthcinson, food service. Jennifer tried to encourage her to get on the bike to make a smoothie but too early in the morning for that. Glad to see them there and so glad to see that they were next to the kid's zone. That was the perfect place for them with popcorn, free books, and sunglasses. It was just awesome! Hope it was as much fun as it looked.

Ms. Canning agreed it was and gave the HR department all the credit. They did the planning, invited administrators to come. It was a lot of fun and lots of kids came up and I introduced myself. Some staff I haven't met yet, so really a lot of energy. Couldn't believe the parade was so long and just went on and on.

**Mr. Grant:** Aldrich Library rearranged brand new furniture in the team room paid for by Vermont After School. Which received \$40,000 in funds from the federal government to invest in team spaces and one of those spaces is in Barre in the library. It's really colorful, it's modern. The teens picked out the furniture and the color scheme. In the near future there will be an opening and I look forward to inviting everyone to attend that and stay tuned for more details.

**Mrs. Farrell:** There are still families and elders who are displaced because of the floods. We need to be cognizant of that and if individuals are without food and water. There's still some communities, not necessarily ours, folks are still looking for the pets that were lost. If you're out hiking and you meet someone of the canine persuasion who looks like he doesn't belong there, it might be

someone who's lost from the flood. Individuals, there are helping organizations throughout the community that will very readily supply any needs for folks. If anyone knows of any homes or apartments for rent, that might be very good for some folks that are still bunking in with relatives because of whatever happened to their homes.

**Mrs. Leclerc:** Thanked all the Board members. It was an enjoyable meeting tonight. Sitting and listening to nice conversation and thoughts and just getting to know people a little better. Extending an appreciation to Tracy Wrend, who did a great job. Welcomed JoAn to their first in person meeting. Super job tonight and she looks forward to working with her.

**Mr. Boutin:** Apologized for not getting to the booth until it was being packed up. Did drive the smoothie bike, glad he didn't know that's what it was. Picked it up and brought it behind and that's about the extent of his work for the BUUSD booth but thinks it's really great to have it down there.

**7. Next Meeting Date**

August 7, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet (Special Meeting)

**8. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrel, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*