

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING**

September 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**In-Person:** Spaulding High School Library, 155 Ayers Street, Barre

**Virtual Option:** Click this link to join the meeting remotely:

Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/vxi-arvi-mgb](https://meet.google.com/vxi-arvi-mgb)

Phone Numbers: (US)+1 929-777-4801 PIN: 769 689 006#

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you attend the meeting virtually and the video link fails, we will still proceed with the meeting at the assigned in-person location. You must state your name for the record to satisfy the Open Meeting Law.

*Public comment is welcomed and limited to 2 minutes per agenda item. The board will hear public comments and questions, but won't respond directly during public comments. This can feel impersonal, but is in place to allow the board to stay on task and address the work of the board for that meeting.*

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order/ Board Member Introductions
2. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment
3. Budget Informational Meeting Session
4. Additions or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda
5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda
  - 5.1. Public Comment
  - 5.2. Student Voice
6. Consent Agenda
  - 6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes - August 14, 2024, August 28, 2024
  - 6.2. Special Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2024
  - 6.3. Warrant Approval: [August 29, 2024](#), [September 5, 2024](#)
  - 6.4. New Hires
7. Current Business
  - 7.1. VISBIT (Multi-Line/Unemployment) Proxy Approval [**ACTION**]
  - 7.2. First Reading of Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution (A20) [**ACTION**]
  - 7.3. Facilities Projects Update/Solar Credits
8. Old Business
9. Committee Reports
  - 9.1. Curriculum Committee: Met September 4, 2024
10. Round Table
11. Future Agenda Items ([Board Meeting Planner](#))
12. Next Meeting Dates: September 25, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet  
October 9, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet
13. Executive Session
14. Adjournment

### **MEETING NORMS**

1. Keep the best interest of the school and children in mind, while balancing the needs of the taxpayers
2. Make decisions based on clear information
3. Honor the board's decisions
4. Keep meetings short and on time
5. Stick to the agenda
6. Keep remarks short and to the point
7. Everyone gets a chance to talk before people take a second turn
8. Respect others and their ideas



# **Barre Unified Union School District**

## **Budget Information Vote #4**

**August 26, 2024**

### **Our Strategic Plan Guides Our Work**

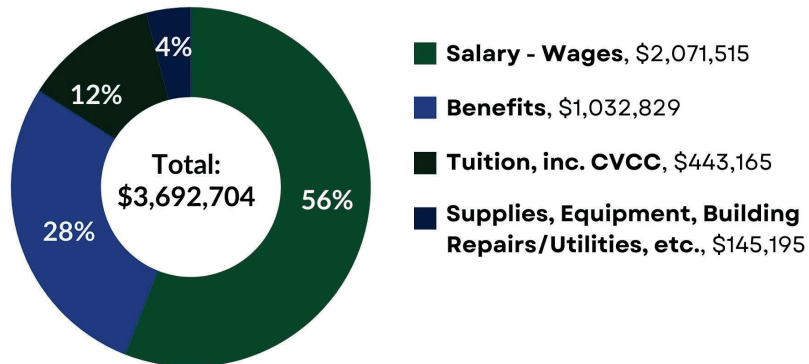
#### **Our Vision**

**A rock solid education for a lifetime of discovery**

#### **Our Mission**

**To build a community of curious learners that empowers student voice and exploration through education, character development, and perseverance, so our students can take on the world's greatest challenges.**

### FY25 INCREASES TO BUDGET



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### Vote History

	VOTE 1, 3/5	VOTE 2, 5/14	VOTE 3, 6/18	VOTE 4, 9/17
Expenses	55,380,532	\$54,660,337	\$54,186,445	\$53,308,338
Increase	\$5,764,899	\$5,044,704	\$4,570,812	\$3,692,704
Tax Rates After CLA				
BC 76.62%	\$1.51	\$1.46	\$1.44	\$1.417
BT 86.93%	\$1.33	\$1.29	\$1.27	\$1.249

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## FY 24 & 25 (Vote 4) Comparative Budget Expenses

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
General Fund	\$49,615,633	\$53,308,338	+ 7.4%
Grants	\$6,000,000	\$3,500,000	- 42%
Total	\$55,615,633	\$56,808,338	+ 2.1%

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## FY 24 & 25 (Vote 4) Expenses, Revenues, Education Spending

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
Expenses	\$49,615,633	\$53,308,338	+ 7.4%
Revenues	\$9,970,237	\$12,436,936	+ 25%
Education Spending	\$39,645,396	\$40,871,402	+ 3.09%

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## The Tax Rate: How Is This Calculated?

1) Total BUUSD Expenses	\$56,808,338
2) Less Local Revenues	\$15,936,936
3) Education Spending	<b>\$40,871,402</b>
4) FY25 Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTWADM)	3703.48
5) <b>Education Spending</b> per LTWADM	<b>\$11,036</b>

## The Tax Rate: How Is This Calculated?

6) LTWADM \$11,036, divided by Yield \$9,893, equals 1.116	1.116 w/.03 discount 1.086
7) Barre City CLA Barre Town CLA	76.62% 86.93%
8) Barre City Homestead Rate Barre Town Homestead Rate	1.417 (increase of 1 cents over last year) 1.249 (increase of 3 cents over last year)

## **Expenses: What We Spend**

**1. TOTAL EXPENSES:** These are the general fund expenses plus any grant-funded expenses.

General Fund Expenses = **\$53,308,338**, an increase of 7.4%,  
or \$3,692,704, from FY24

Grant Fund Expenses = \$3,500,000

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$56,808,338**

**THIS IS THE NUMBER YOU WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT**

## **Revenues: What Comes In**

**2) GENERAL FUND REVENUE:** This includes tuition from sending schools, the census based grant (special ed. Act 173), extraordinary reimbursement, interest, transportation state aid, tax stabilization, and "miscellaneous."

General Fund Revenues = \$12,436,936

Grant Fund Revenues = \$3,500,000

**TOTAL REVENUES: \$15,936,936**

## Education Spending: Expenses - Revenues

This is the amount that the  
**EDUCATION FUND must support.**

### WHAT IS THE EDUCATION FUND?

- Property taxes contribute to the total Education Fund revenues in Vermont, broken down as follows:
  - \* Homestead Property Tax (YOUR TAXES)
  - \* Non-homestead Property Tax (From Businesses and Second Home Owners)

## Act 127: The Impact of Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership

**EQUALIZED PUPILS has been changed to LONG TERM WEIGHTED AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (LTWADM) due to ACT 127:**

- Act 127 was signed into law in 2022.
- The law included changes to the weighting structure implemented under Act 60 of 1997.
- A study determined that the formula used for determining the costs for educating students was outdated and did not reflect true costs.
- The intent of Act 127 is to allow districts with students deemed to cost more to educate to increase services and educational capacity.
- The **equalized pupil calculation has changed to long-term weighted ADM starting in FY25** with new weights for students.
- Barre's student count increased by nearly 1,500 to a LTWADM of 3,703.48.



## **Act 127: The Impact of Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership**

**EDUCATION SPENDING PER LTWADM:** Divide LTWADM by the total expenses less revenues:

$$3703.48/\$40,871,402 = \$11,036$$

**THIS IS THE PER-PUPIL SPENDING YOU SEE ON THE BALLOT.**

**ESTIMATED FY25 State Average: \$13,242**

## **Act 127 Changed the weighting factors in FY25**

Factors affecting BUUSD student weights:

- Barre's pupil counts for students who are from economically deprived backgrounds increased considerably this year because Medicaid data can now be used to directly certify students for free and reduced priced meals
- Barre doesn't qualify for sparsity weights
- Barre doesn't qualify for small school status
- Barre has 18 ELL students who were reported in our ADM, Barre qualifies for a \$50,000 grant as well

## Act 127

The impact in numbers:

*FY24 Equalized Pupil Comparison (as proposed by AOE)*

	FY24 EqPupil	FY25 LTWADM	Change
Barre	2,205.25	3,703.48	+1,498.23

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## What is the Impact of the Property Yield?

**6) EDUCATION SPENDING Per LTWADM:** Divide LTWADM by property yield (9,893).

$\$11,036 / 9,893 = 1.116$  Act 127 Discount \$.03

**1.086**

## How Does the CLA Impact Our Taxes?

**7) The CLA**, or "Common Level of Appraisal," is a method of ensuring that each town is paying its fair share of education property tax to the state's Education Fund. This year we have seen unprecedented drops in the CLA across Vermont which means tax rates increased for nearly all towns. School districts have no control over this, but the CLA has a big impact on our tax rates.

**Divide equalized tax rate by CLA**

**$1.086 / 76.62\% = 1.417$  ADJUSTED TAX RATE**

**$1.086 / 86.93\% = 1.249$  ADJUSTED TAX RATE**

## How Does the CLA Impact Our Taxes?

**8) HOMESTEAD TAX RATE:** The tax rates are applied per \$100 of property valuation.

**1.417 TAX RATE for BC, Increase of 1 cents**

**1.249 TAX RATE for BT, Increase of 3 cents**

## RECAP: How is the Tax Rate Calculated?

### TAX RATE CALCULATION: Barre City

$$\$56,808,338 - \$15,936,936 =$$

$$\$40,871,402 / 3703.48 =$$

$$\$11,036 / 9,893 =$$

$$1.116 - .03 / 76.62\% =$$

**1.417**

## RECAP: How is the Tax Rate Calculated?

### TAX RATE CALCULATION: Barre Town

$$\$56,808,338 - \$15,936,936 =$$

$$\$40,871,402 / 3703.48 =$$

$$\$11,036 / 9,893 =$$

$$1.116 - .03 / 86.93\% =$$

**1.249**

## FY25 Education Taxes

	Barre City	Barre Town
100K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$1,427 + \$10 more than FY24	\$1,249 + \$35 more than FY24
200K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$2,838 + \$20 more than FY24	\$2,498 + \$70 more than FY24
300K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$4,251 + \$30 more than FY24	\$3,747 + \$105 more than FY24
400K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$5,668 + \$40 more than FY24	\$4,996 + \$140 more than FY24

*\*\*Taxes are Displayed as an Annual Amount\*\**

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Barre Unified Union School District Revote September 17, 2024

## Let's Turn The Page!

**\$56,808,338**

Total Proposed  
Expenses For FY25

**\$11,036**

LTW Per Pupil  
Spending

**+ 7.4%**

Change in  
General Fund  
FY24 to FY25

**Difference from  
FY24 to FY25**

Barre City Tax Rate  
(+1 cent) 1%

**Difference from  
FY24 to FY25**

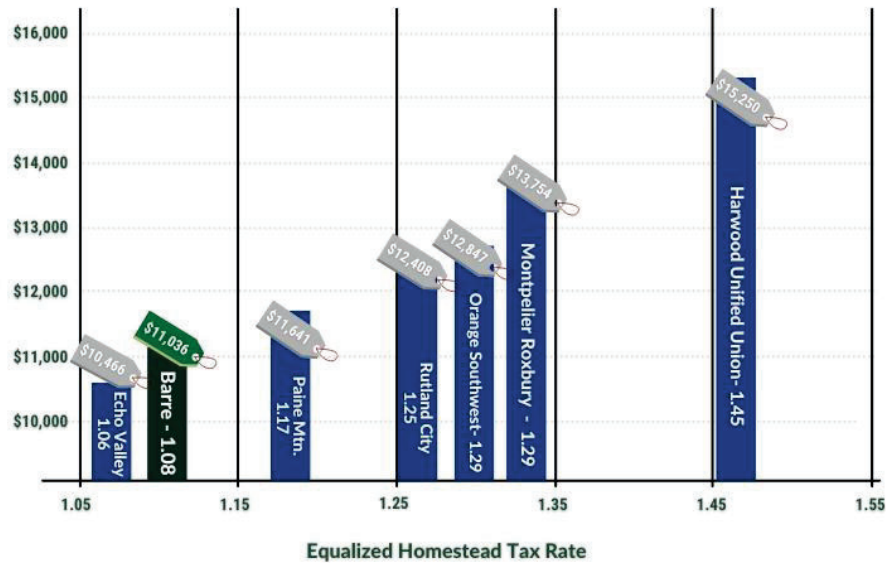
Barre Town Tax Rate  
(+3 cents) 3%



Scan the code or  
visit [buusd.org/budget](https://buusd.org/budget)  
for more information  
and questions about  
this year's budget.

**Our Kids, Our Future!**

## Proposed Per Pupil Spending By District



## Property Tax Credit

The Vermont Property Tax Credit assists many Vermont homeowners. The maximum credit is \$5,600 for the State education property tax portion and \$2,400 for the municipal property tax portion.

2024 Property Tax Calculator: <https://tax.vermont.gov/document/2024-property-tax-credit-calculator>

### Eligibility

- Your property qualifies as a homestead, you have filed a Homestead Declaration for the current year's grand list.
- You were domiciled in Vermont for the entire taxable year.
- You were not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer.
- You owned and occupied the property as your homestead as of April 1.
- If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant as of April 1, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the claim year.
- You meet the household income criteria (see form for current year income limit).



## Tax Rates without a passed budget

- For districts without a passed budget, tax bills of \$1.00 adjusted for CLA will go to member towns as an interim tax rate

***Barre City: \$1.00 / 76.62% = \$1.31***

***Barre Town: \$1.00 / 86.93% = \$1.15***

- Tax rates are released June 30<sup>th</sup>
- True-up of education taxes raised will occur upon passage of a budget and after the reconsideration period
- Taxpayers will see an increase in tax bills when the revised bills are sent out

**Thank you for spending the time to  
learn more about our budget!**



***Please help your friends and neighbors get out to vote.***



# DRAFT

## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Aldrich Public Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
August 14, 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)  
Garrett Grant (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Catherine Whalen (BT)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager  
Jesse Schattin, SEA Administrator  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Adam Jacobs, AJ Jones, Alex Alexander, Allison Mills, Amy Scalabrini, Brodey Priddy, Cassandra Demarais, Chris Moran, Colleen Kresco, Courtnie Lange, Darby Hiebert, Dave Wendt, David Delcore - Times Argus, Denise Lavallee, Holly Hoyt, Jackie Wheeler, Jasmine Wible, Jessica Maurais, Josh Howard, June Babel, Karen Moran, Kristina Merrifield, Kristina Safford, Lara Merchant, Lindsey Wells, Mary Bowers, Megan Spaulding, Michaela Morris, Nicole Fuller, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Rep. Peter Anthony, Roberta Melnick, Stephanie Collins, Steven Thompson, Susan Thompson, Tyler Graves, Tyler Watkins, Wendy Sell.

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, August 14, 2024, Regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., held at the Spaulding High School Library, Barre, 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**

The chair recited the norms from the agenda

**Motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to approve the agenda as presented, motion passed unanimously.**

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

Mr. Boutin reminded these are comments that are about anything but the fuel and the budget.

##### **4.1 Public Comment**

- Mr. Watkins, please Appreciate any veterans online or in person, including spouses. Challenge each board member to spend an hour, at least once a month, in one of the schools to get a good feel of how things are working. He has faith in both sides of the aisle.
- Mrs. Thompson - Spoke about [Act 35](#), which took effect in 2022, banning suspension and expulsion for students under age 8 except when a student poses an imminent threat of harm or danger to others in the school. Barre Town handbook contains information about Act 35 but important items are absent. If an administrator is considering suspension or expulsion, they must follow the appropriate due process requirements. It is vital for families to be informed of this and other education laws so that everyone can ensure accountability from the institutions that care for our children. [VT AOE Guidelines](#)

##### **4.2 Student Voice**

None



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## 5. Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes - July 24, 2024
- 5.2 Special Meeting Minutes - July 31, 2024
- 5.3 Warrant Approval: August 8, 2024
- 5.4 New Hires - No new hires

**On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc to approve the consent agenda, motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion: Clarification on Warrants? Will the Board receive a heads-up when large instructional programs are being purchased? Ms. Canning's experience if it goes through a full curriculum review is when it's purchased and approved by the administration. Are there any expenses on the warrant related to the overhead door replacement at Barre Town? Mrs. Perreault shared if it's over \$5000 it's a capital asset and would be documented.

## 6. New Business

### 6.1 Action Memo: Annual Fuel, Oil, Propane, Wood Chip contracts approval

Based on the action memo, this is giving authorization for the district to go for the lowest bid when it comes.

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding to authorize the Business Manager to make the best decision for the lowest price for fuel, oil, propane, and wood chip contracts, motion passed 6 to 2. Mr. Reil and Mrs. Leclerc voted against the motion.**

Discussion: Comparisons, last year's process, copy of bids, and budgeted amount requested. Mrs. Perreault sent an RFP to 12 different vendors and expects to get bids back on the 19th, which are good for 24 hours. Ms. Reynold's asked for a point of information. **Mr. Reil called point of order.** Ms. Canning assured in the future, if not prepared to give the comparisons, we'll provide RFPs. Bids are reviewed and approved by Mrs. Perreault and Mr. Evans looking at quality, price, working relationship, responsiveness, and invoicing. Ms. Reynold's point of information is a procedural question about how we're conducting our business, understanding board members direct their questions and comments to the chair, we're not engaging in discussion if we are, we're directing conversations to our superintendent. It was clarified that the superintendent directed the conversation to Mrs. Perreault. If we want to lock in at the lowest price, we will probably have to trust that the Business Manager is going to make the best decisions which is what's in this motion.

## 7. Old Business

### 7.1 FY25 Budget Discussion

Ms. Canning appreciated the level of detail and feedback from board members at the last meeting. Some had questions about some of the reductions, some had suggestions for those reductions, and some had concerns about reducing our budget any further. She went back and spoke to some community members. She will continue to be open to those discussions and will review the video.

- Provided a list of ESSER-funded positions (15 of them)
  - Some funded in different ways since 2021 according to the chart.
  - Some are in grants, some in the operating budget, and some are terminated or no longer part of the budget.
- Provided a list of reductions from votes 1, 2, & 3
- Defined unfilled positions in the previous presentation
  - Not filling Curriculum Coordinator/Math Coach (not literacy), individual move to another position.
  - Filling only one of two Intergration Specialist positions. Hiring for one and sharing amongst the schools
  - Will not fill the Grant Manager position; recent resignation. Responsibilities will be distributed to the Curriculum office, the Special Ed office, and potentially the Superintendent's office for management.
  - Support Services positions—There are a large number of openings in Special Education, ranging from teaching to support. Student populations change all the time. Kids move in and move out. At this point, we don't need two unfilled positions. If support is in an IEP, we will continue to look for those positions, and we will fill those positions to support.

Let it be known that these are changes in students' needs; they are not for our existing population, and we will fill every position to ensure that those IEPs are met.

The budget sent out yesterday is 7.8% increase in the overall budget. Ms. Canning and the Admin team went specifically through recommendations and some of those are impossible because people are under contract. Some are areas where we've already done some level of reduction and some had some thoughts and ideas for future planning.

The following were taken into consideration:

- Cares program: We are aware that we can't hire with so many other positions open, so we intend to hire two Behavior Interventionists. Those are the most critical student-to-student positions. The original request was \$350,000; we're going to reduce that by \$210,000.

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- Reducing custodial overtime by \$20,000, which occurred due to unfilled positions and not fully staffed.
- Vehicle lease - the plan to go out for another vehicle lease will not happen at this point and that expense will be a reduction of \$14,000.
- Reinstate \$50,000 for the SRO at Spaulding High School.

Additional cuts of \$194,000 changed the general fund expenses down to 7.4%. The information was appreciated but pointed out it wasn't shared in advance with the public, and the board is looking at something the community hasn't seen. Ms. Canning could table this document and bring it up next week for a full discussion after it becomes public. There are two more times to discuss this budget with the hope of a vote on the 21st. The board can vote that evening or wait until the 28th.

## Questions:

- \$15,000 cell phone reimbursement. (The use of cell phones is part of contracts for some of our administrators.)
- Facilities - Projects, money needed, reductions, and maintenance. How do they affect this year's budget? (Ms. Canning has a 5-year plan, and there are questions about whether it contains all of the information that it should, but there is a document)
- Bus Riders - Budgeting \$150,000 but incurring 300,000 in expenses
- Custodial overtime - documentation supporting \$40,000. There is no justification for budgeting that amount.

Ms. Canning hopes the board allows her to get her arms around staffing, and that is not an overnight task. Redundancy was not considered when the district merged, and there is redundancy in this budget. We need to decide whether we are going to tackle those redundancies, share some resources, and be able to do things differently.

Mixed feedback from the board included: Current increases seem very reasonable, and other communities are not able to put for such a low spending, low percent increase to their budget, Cares program why put it in at all, SRO - though important - should be in the category of not being able to fill for multiple years, list of reductions lowered increase listening to taxpayers and voters. Some feel there's more to do and this shows it's doable, surplus clarification to taxpayers, focus on moving forward by providing information and answers. Over \$2 million in reductions to date.

Ms. Canning agreed community engagement strategy would be a large part of the next meeting. We'll be talking to people and putting things up on our website, but what is the most important information that will give people what they need to understand? She will look into Special Ed extraordinary reimbursement, changed with Act 173, and bring the answer back to the board. She agreed to set up a question/answer page for the superintendent to answer questions specific to the budget, and the board will have access to answers.

Clarity provided by Mr. Reil: Tax stabilization comes into a budget essentially from two years before. FY24 surpluses wouldn't be able to be used until the FY26 budget. You can't use them until after they're audited so some monies that are in this current FY24 budget 686,000 came from the FY23 surplus. The remaining amount was leftover money in the tax stabilization fund from previous years. Also mentioned a report provided on June 30th says we had a balance of 692,000. In six weeks, what happened to 700,000? Mrs. Perreault explained year-end expenses, insurance, reconciling bank statements, and HRAs not included in the report.

## 8. Superintendent Report

- Bringing back Working Protocols to the next meeting
- Convocation (welcome back to staff) - Thursday 22nd, at SHS Auditorium, 2-hour program. Board members are invited to join. Let the superintendent know so seats can be reserved.
- The Interim Secretary of Education visited Barre Town a couple of weeks ago. She has started her Listen and Learn tour. She is planning a regional meeting with superintendents, a variety of Central Office people, and some Agency of Education personnel on September 17th at U32. They'd like us to look at some state-generated data with a set of questions that they'd like us to answer to respond to what schools need now and in the future as a way to give that feedback to the Agency of Education.
- Energy is speeding up. School is about to start. Can't believe the staff is coming back next Thursday. Had my last summer meeting with the administrative team today and asked on a scale from 1 to 10 how well you think you're prepared for the new school year. As you can well imagine, when there are still open positions, people are not feeling like they're ready for the school year. I'm an eight because I'm defining readiness as a mental state. I am ready to get back, welcome the teachers, and get this school year started. Meeting the kids and the families so that level of energy is real.

## 9. Round Table

- Mrs. Farrell: Excited about going into this school year. Probably the first time in a long time, sitting on this board, to be excited about going into a school year. We're making good progress and continue to keep that level of progress going on. Recommended the superintendent ask the board about their level of readiness and see how we are doing at the next or future meeting.
- Ms. Reynolds: TOPSoccer Capitol Region Vermont is looking for athletes, buddies, coaches, and board members for the 2024 fall season. Join us for an hour on Sundays for smiles and fun, and earn volunteer hours while you do it. Beginning the

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first Sunday after Labor Day and lasting six weeks in Barre Town. Find them on Facebook at [TOPSoccer Capitol Region Vermont](#). Offering kids with unique challenges an inclusive opportunity to thrive and enjoy a sport they watch siblings and peers have fun with every day. If anyone wants to volunteer, reach out to Cassandra Desmarais and Heather Slayton on Facebook or reach out to me and I'll connect you.

- Mrs. Spaulding: She often talks about balance between taxpayers and the student needs. Boiled it down to beyond taxpayers and student needs. Things she's struggling with most recently in this seat and the other seat she sits on is the idea that there's math and then there's people and sometimes it's hard to hold both of them at the same time. Encourages us to think about how, even though these are very carefully crafted cuts, they will impact people and students in some way, shape, or form. Recognize that every time we make a cut, it's going to have an impact on other people. When we reduce the Grant Manager we're now asking other people to take over the responsibilities for that role. Be aware that every single time we cut, that cut is going to have some kind of domino effect on other people and this isn't just a simple math equation that it's bigger than that. Just ask people to think about that.
- Mr. Grant: So apart from being on this board, he's also on the board of the Barre Community Justice Center. They are always looking for volunteers for the restorative justice panels, which, to put it very simply, is about repairing harm in the community, making sure that victims of lower-level crimes feel heard, and that we also put defenders on the right path instead of recommitting crime. So if you're interested in that or want to learn more about that, feel free to speak with him, or you can visit their website, [barrecjc.org](#).
- Mr. Cecchinelli: Very excited to start the school year and would consider himself at a nine.

## 10. Future Agenda Items

- Community Engagement Strategy
- Work Plan - not stagnant, it will move. In October, the Board will receive a report on solar credits
- There is no parking lot. Those items will become part of the work plan, which will be updated to reflect them.
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) - Update on how that's going with vendor payments.
- VSBA Resolutions

## 11. Next Meeting Dates

August 21, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet (Special Mtg)

August 28, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

## 12. Executive Session

## 13. Adjournment

**On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*

# DRAFT

## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Aldrich Public Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
August 28, 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) (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)  
Terry Reil (BT)  
Garrett Grant (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Catherine Whalen (BT)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Jennifer Bisson, Asst. Principal  
Laurie Smith, Asst. Director of Special Services  
Melissa Greenwood, Asst. Principal

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Alex Alexander, Allison Mills, Amy Scalabrini, Ben Matthews, Cassandra Demarais, Catherine Franks, Chris Moran, Christie Omodeo, Christine Parker, Colleen Kresco, Colleen LeFebvre, Courtnie Lange, David Delcore - Times Argus, Erika Dolan, Heather Hicks, Jackie Wheeler, Jan Trepanier, Jasmine Wible, Jessica Maurais, Erica Reil, Jude Brister, Julie Burns, Kirsten Evans, Laura Lagerstedt, Lexie Murray, Mackenzie Kovaka, Mariah Routhier, Martha Blaisdell, Megan Spaulding, Melissa Metayer, Michaela Morris, Morgan Cerasoli, Patt Miscavage, Peter Anthony, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Attig, Sarah Brownell, Sarah Hill, Shara Vitagliano, Sharon Jacobs, Stephanie Collins, Victoria Pompei, Wendy Hannigan, Wendy Sell

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, August 28, 2024, Regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., held at the Spaulding High School Library, Barre, and via video conference.

The chair reminded everyone that it's his duty to maintain order during the meeting. Public comment is welcomed and limited to two minutes per agenda item. The board will hear public comments and questions but will not respond directly during public comments. It is in place to allow the board to stay on task and address the work of the board for that meeting. For questions, provide the superintendent with your contact information or email her so that she can respond to the questions.

The chair read the board norms

#### **2. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment**

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

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

Added Executive Session - Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)  
Remove 5.1 - Minutes not included  
Combine 6.1 and 6.2

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

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

Mr. Boutin reminded these are comments that are about anything but the fuel and the budget.

##### **4.1 Public Comment**

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- Anastasia Douglas expressed her disgust with the elimination of para-educator positions. As they are legally required to comply with student IEPs, supporting their elimination is a violation of state and federal law. The administration should be ashamed of the lack of communication it has had with parents regarding the last-minute notification regarding support issues.
- June Babel asked about nameplates or the possibility of Board members identifying themselves at the beginning of meetings.
- Tyler Watkins thanked veterans, their family members and spouses, and military brats. Again, challenging each board member to visit one school each month. See what's going on and see what still needs to be improved upon, changed, or become better. More community outreach each month, recognizing a local business student or community member, and thanks to the superintendent for looking into mandating First Aid/CPR for every staff.
- Jasmine Wible addressed the Special Education email, stating there would not be support staff for children. The district's dismal communication and collaboration have led to this oversight, resulting in unmet needs and non-compliance with students with IEPs. This situation has further eroded the already fragile trust parents have in the administration. Effective communication and collaboration are crucial. Unfortunately, this has not been demonstrated.
- Erica Reil is with all the parents outraged about this lack of notification of not having support services. Clearly states in the Individuals with Disabilities, Education Act (IDEA) that the school must provide these services or reach out for alternatives for these services. If schools can not financially do this, they must reach out to the state for other budgets.

## 4.2 Student Voice

None

## 5. Consent Agenda

### ~~5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes - August 14, 2024~~

### 5.2 Special Meeting Minutes - August 7, 2024

### 5.3 Warrant Approval: August 15, 2024, August 22, 2024

### 5.4 ~~New Hires~~ - No New Hires

**Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cechinelli to approve the consent agenda items 5.2 and 5.3, motion passed unanimously.**

#### Discussion - Warrant questions

- Course Reimbursement—HR Department, no money budgeted. How are we booking expenses to an account that isn't there?
- Paving in BC parking lot for about \$6000, not on capital list.
- A garage door was installed at Barre Town. The warrant lists the cost of the door; it doesn't list the cost of the total project, which easily exceeds \$5000, not on the capital list.
- The warrant shows we're buying supplies. Are we buying from one place or spot buying? Using one may yield savings.

Ms. Canning shared that she had also looked into the warrant but had come up with other topics to discuss.

- Roof payment - large item previously approved
- EEI - HVAC project is on schedule
- Technology Equipment - a large amount - mainly replacement computers
- Many invoices for coursework tuition, technology software expenses, etc.
- Finals site subscription - the company used for the website, annual cost.
- Monthly copier lease cost in the amount of \$5,101. .

Minutes for August 7th, page 3, 2nd set of bullets has ELA change to CLA.

## 6. Current Business

### 6.1 Action Memo: Board Retreat- NESDEC

### 6.2 Action Memo: Board Training - VSBA

Combined 6.1 and 6.2 - Discussion on Board Retreat and request for training.

How do we want to proceed with the Board Retreat? Should we outsource it or have the superintendent do something?

Suggestions from Board members.

- No funds were budgeted for the Board Retreat. Mr. Boutin is willing to give half of his stipend if outsourcing chosen.
- It is recommended that they create their own. Another suggested that if the board has its own, there be a facilitator, and it is recorded.
- A suggested facilitator with a very tight agenda for what the retreat will encompass is a good idea. Solid foundation and a good road map of where we're going for the rest of the year and years to come. Build on good activities we have had so far
- Focus on the proper welcome of new members and the superintendent, Board Governance, work on Vision, Mission, and goals, Strategic planning, and an overview of our committees.

Governance - need to meet quality standards by July 1, 2025 it's not so much training as facilitated work sessions to make sure if we haven't met the standard, we have a plan to be able to meet them. The rubric created will be published once passed through AOE. Boards will be able to do a self-evaluation and find any needs that would be a good stepping-off point for any kind of facilitated training, but it's up to the board and will go into effect on July 1, 2025. Can start working before the rubric provided on July 1, 2025.

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Ms. Canning will come back with a couple of proposals to consider.

## 6.3 Policy A20

Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution (A20) - Just a discussion tonight; no changes.

Ms. Canning would like the board to consider changing the three days in A20 to five days before a meeting for packet distribution. If Action Memos are kept, they should be changed to Memos and added to A20. Modifications will be reviewed and brought back to the board for policy A20, and the Board can make a decision on them.

## 7. Old Business

None

## 8. Round Table

- Mrs. Farrell - Think about our practice for responding to emails from the public to every member of the board. Have a statement, or how do we respond. Christina Titus graduated from SHS two years ago and has completed two years at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was moved into his junior year and committed to the United States Army, and I think we should be very proud of his work not only here at SHS and ROTC but his work at that great place
- Mr. Reil - The Ron York Foundation just had an annual meeting. The foundation is generating a lot of money. The investment team has done a really good job there. Only three people applied for this amazing opportunity last year. Encourage all the students to do lots of science and stuff and apply for that great scholarship. Ms. Canning learned about it this week. Three students are going into engineering is really impressive. She is going to do more research on how it gets out to families because it really puts Barre on the map. Mrs Kresco has two children who received this scholarship. Put out through the SHS guidance office and preference is given to students who are applying for either electrical engineering degrees or aeronautic engineering. Mr. York was a local business owner who owned an electrical company called Bates and Murray. He was an electrician and an avid aviation person. He's dearly departed, but he had the foresight to do this and invest in our community and our kids. It's really cool, to talk about a guy in our community giving back and should get recognized. That's the guy. York Branch in East Barre was another thing he did.
- Mrs. Leclerc shared that there is a procedure for community response. It outlines when we get emails for any kind of correspondence how it needs to be handled, who needs to respond, and so on. It is under Procedures on the website.
- Mrs. Whalen shared her daughter had her first last day of school and wanted to give a shout-out to seniors who are graduating this year. Here's to a great senior year.
- Ms. Reynolds, thank you to the educators and staff for the first day of school. I hope it was exciting and exhilarating, everyone gets a lot of rest, and they're ready to do it again tomorrow. Thank you very much.
- Mrs. Spaulding attended the convocation with other board members, and it was a great opportunity to kick off the school year with the staff. Talked to some staff and heard different presentations. Loved the shared video. It was fantastic. Reminder about the Budget vote coming up on September 17th. Absentee ballots are available now. There still seems to be a lot of confusion about the budget and how much people's taxes are going up. When we tell you your taxes are going up by 1 cent or 3 cent that's what it's really going up. It's not an additional 14% that's coming up. You've received your tax bill, and it has your municipal portion once we get our budget set, that's what your tax rate will be. There are no additional state taxes coming down. That 14% was an average across the state for property taxes. This is Barre, and we are deciding when we get to vote whether we can accept a 1-cent or 3-cent property tax increase for the education portion of your budget. Please get out there and vote.
- Mr. Grant wished a happy first day to our Barre students, teachers, and faculty. Grand reopening of The Aldrich Public Library's new Teen Lounge this Friday, August 30th, from 3:30- 6:00 p.m. Thanks to federal funding given out to Vermont After School and the Vermont Youth Project, which made some investments here at the school as well. New furniture, live, real plants, light therapy lamps, games, arts and crafts, and all sorts of wonderful opportunities for our kids, so please come to the opening. There will be food, open mic, crafts, and activities, and we're going to have a lot of fun. Thank you to Vermont After School and Vermont Youth Project for making that happen.
- Mr. Cecchinelli—Today was Don Lessard's first day of his 50th year here in the district, and I would like to say a big thank you to Don for everything he's done. Hopefully, we can plan something big for him this year. A round of applause was given.
- Mr. Boutin introduced Ms. Canning last night to the City Council. It was a very good conversation, and appreciated our mayor talking about the budget. Huge endorsement from him saying he supports the budget, and I really appreciate that. Very thankful for that strong, ringing endorsement that he gave. Adorable video that one of our kids in our district made, and Jasmine (mom) is online, and wanted to say thank you so very much. That was really great, and he did share it on social media and folks can share it as well. It supports the budget, and it's just a cute video. Congratulations to Burlington for making some decisions on cell phone policies, and I think the way things are going in our state, I'm really excited to see all those changes coming and who knows what will happen in the future. Maybe it will happen here, maybe not, but wanted to say congratulations to them. September 17th, ask people to come out and vote, preferably yes, and if you want to see where we are in the state. There is a map on the State of Vermont website that shows the different percentages that each community is going up. Granville is going up 38% compared to what we're going up, that's really high.
- Ms. Canning -

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- Acknowledged the parents who spoke this evening about the Special Education issue and their frustration, and I apologize for that. I do have many years under my belt as a Special Education Director I've worked with a lot of different parents and kids in my life, and I have a very high respect and regard for parents who want to advocate for their students. It's been very difficult for our new Special Education Director to start a new job and try to collect information. There are over 600 kids with IEPs in our district, and this is not an excuse. This is the reality we've been going through. She needs to go through many, many IEPs to determine the level of service that we are supposed to be providing to our students. She did that without a lot of support over the summer. The letter sent out is being used in other school districts around the state in a way to be transparent. We want to acknowledge what we're not able to do right now. With that said, we have a plan for how to meet with each individual IEP team, with the parents involved, to talk about how we can make things better. Unfortunately, that did not happen before school started, and I apologize for that personally, and I will monitor this situation very closely. If a student has service in an IEP we will provide those services. If we don't have staff for that, we will provide some alternatives. We will do what we can. Positions that we were talking about previously in budget discussions had to do with positions that were no longer needed. Sounds funny with the state of affairs we're in right now, but it was not that we're reducing any students' need for individual support. We lost 17 support staff end of June. That is a significant number where we were already behind in trying to hire support staff so it has been challenging. Last two Board meetings, there haven't been any new hires, and even though you wouldn't be approving para-educators I'm not approving any in the office. We do have some interviews set up, and I feel hopeful that we're going to be able to uptick that a little bit, but we are behind the eight-ball in our hiring of support staff. The Special Services Director is working with teachers on what we can do and how to be creative with our schedules.
- The convocation went very well. Positive feedback, smiling faces, it was energetic. It is fantastic to visit the schools and get around to many classrooms. I saw only 9th graders today at SHS, but I am planning to visit tomorrow when others arrive, as well as SEA.
- Community engagement - Thanked the board for five members who've stepped up to be on the community engagement effort. Asked for feedback through email because having you at a meeting would require a warning. If you're interested in joining me at an event or reviewing written work or any other way you'd like to be involved. I'm not keeping anyone from this just the dilemma that I had around setting up a meeting with five board members interested. Community Engagement draft plan is in your packet and it's a working document.
- I had a good meeting with the City council last night. I was really very happy that the mayor himself endorsed the budget and asked the community to help us turn the page, and she thanked him for that. Thanks, staff, for all their hard work today. It is difficult coming back to a new routine when there are changes, and they've done a really fine job of that. I hope that we continue to work together to address some of our challenges.

## 9. Future Agenda Items

### 9.1 Budget Information Night September 11, 2024

- ESSER Funding Update (Mr. Reil)
- Facilities Project Update (HVAC, Lighting, Asbestos Remediation, Stormwater - Mr. Reil)
- Solar Credits (Mrs. Leclerc)
- EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) for Vendor Payments (Mrs. Leclerc)
- Parking Lot List (Mrs. Leclerc)
- Curriculum Committee Report (Mrs. Farrell)

## 10. Next Meeting Dates

September 11, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

September 25, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

## 11. Executive Session

### 11.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

**Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Grant to enter into executive session at 7:18 p.m. for Personnel - 1 VSA 313 (a)(3), inviting in superintendent, motion passed unanimously.**

Following information provided by the Board Clerk

**Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc to exit executive session at 7:37 p.m., motion passed unanimously.**

## 12. Adjournment

**On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*

# DRAFT

## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
August 21, 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) (left at 7:00 p.m.)  
Garrett Grant (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Catherine Whalen (BT)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager  
Michael Martin, Director of Technology  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Jesse Schattin, SEA Administrator  
Laura Ortiz, Benefits & Leave Manager

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Adam, Jacobs, Alex Alexander, Allison Mills, Ben Matthews, Brodey Priddy, Carey Miller, Chris MacRitchie, Chris Moran, Christie Omodeo, Christine Bell, Christine DiCicco, Colleen Kresco, Colleen LeFebvre, Dan Morrison, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, Denise Lavalley, Eirene Mavodones, Ella Lyford, Emily Thomas, Erika Dolan, Guy Isabelle, Heather Slayton, Jackie Wheeler, James Carpenter, Jane Watson, Jasmine Wible, Jesse White, Jessica Maurais, Joan McMahon, Jude Brister, Julie Burns, Karen Heath, Kristina Merrifield, Lara Merchant, Mary Bowers, Megan Spaulding, Melissa Metayer, Michaela Morris, Nicole Ladd, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Greenfield, Rachel Van Vliet, Raylene Meunier, Samantha Lawrence, Sarah Attig, Sarah Brownell, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Stacy Emerson, Stephanie Collins, Steven Thompson, Suzie Jacobs, Thomas Koch, Tyler Watkins, Wendy Sell

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Boutin called the Wednesday, August 21, 2024, Special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

Mr. Boutin explained that public comment is welcome but limited to two minutes per item. The board will hear public comments and questions but won't respond directly during the comments. We will ask the superintendent to respond to the comments. Mr. Boutin read the board norms.

#### **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**

Remove Consent Agenda - no new hires

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

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

Comments for something not on the agenda.

##### **4.1 Public Comment**

None

##### **4.2 Student Voice**

None



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## ~~5. Consent Agenda~~ ~~5.1 New Hires~~

## 6. Old Business

### 6.1 FY25 Budget Discussion

Ms. Canning answered two questions proposed during the last board meeting.

- Cell phone use: only one administrator has it as part of their contract, 37 people paid a small stipend for the use of their phones after hours/weekends, and positions included - custodians, administrators, directors, and people in the business office. Necessary for the superintendent to be able to reach people if things go wrong or if there's an emergency and needs an answer before the school week starts. It is not uncommon for this to happen across districts. Recommending not removing it from the budget.
- In reference to the Special Education question for extraordinary cost. The Special Ed Director and the Business Manager work together to determine and analyze a group of students whose programs reach a threshold of over \$60,000 each fall. State-placed student information is given to the Department of Education, and reimbursement is 100%. For the first category of students with extraordinary costs, we get some support for all of their programs, but once they hit the threshold, we get even more money reimbursement from the agency. A new Spreadsheet Calculator is in place which calculates what reimbursement we will get based on the information. Used for budgeting in the following year. The information in question was collected in the fall of 2023; in our case, because the budget vote will be late, we have an opportunity to look at that prediction versus our CIRS Special Ed Expenditure report given to the state. At this point in time those numbers represent some of those high costs, such as tuition, transportation, OT/PT services, and all of the services that go into serving that student. So the information is an estimate, and we use it in budgeting for the following year. Going forward we expect more predictability.

Ms. Canning brought back the same budget presented last week to deliberate over this evening in hopes of full board support. If that cannot happen, the hope is they can agree in the end to operate as one board and speak with one voice as we go forward.

Comments from Board members:

- Fine with and supportive of this presented budget
- Not supporting any more cuts
- Superintendent recommends it, then I can support it
- Supported budgets that were more than this, and I can support this one too.
- Additional questions about affordability, and transparency, 5.4% last year versus 7.4% this year.
- Exceeding what the needs are results in a surplus
- Revenue of 3.2 million is a guesstimate high compared to past comparisons
- The discrepancy with the bus riders/monitors budgeted for \$150,000, but your actuals for the last two years have come up to almost \$300,000
- Facilities - planned projects, equipment purchases, or any facilities needs, the expenses that are going to be needed
- 6.5, Barre City taxpayers would not see a tax increase it would be flat. Barre Town would recognize a .02 cent increase.
- Special Ed extraordinary historical numbers 2.1 to 2.6 don't jive with the 3.2 estimate, deficit spending?
- The bottom line number is what matters. 56 million is a huge number. Why is increasing our budget 6.5% from last year not acceptable?
- Two million dollars later in cuts, less than 1% in Barre City and less than 4% in Barre Town. Won't support looking at 6.5%

The chair asked Ms. Canning, "If we were to dig any deeper, Do you think we could do that without having an impact?"

Her comments:

- She started the job two months ago, made some promises to all of them, and intends to keep those promises.
- She needs to look more fully at the staffing patterns and how things are done in this District.
- She has emphasized that she can't do that in 90 days. She needs the year to do that, and when we put this to rest, we're heading into a new budget cycle.
- She's asking there be some trust that will happen. She intends to learn more about the district
- She was a Special education Educator for many years, a Special Education Director, and has completed a zillion service plans.
- I have full confidence that by using that calculator and the parameters around us, we're going to get better information going forward
- She believes in the budget that she brought forward

Mrs. Reynolds asked **Point of Information** while Mrs. Leclerc was speaking. Mr. Boutin asked to hold on and let her finish. Mrs. Spaulding called **Point of Order**, stating the point of information is she asks the speaker if she can ask a question and the speaker can decide whether she will allow it or not. Board members reviewed Robert's Rules to verify point of information. It is a request for more

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information about a motion or process. It's a way to obtain information about business, and it's directed to the chair, then the chair directs the question to the member through the chair.

Point of Information requested: Ms. Reynolds was curious about where the \$68 million number came from, and who's the "we" that's getting together and working on the budget that Mrs. Leclerc spoke of. Mr. Boutin asked Mrs. Leclerc if she'd like to answer that and she agreed to. The \$68 million was the last audit, the total funds that were used for education. She works independently to get her information, but still considers us all "we". Does that answer your questions? Ms. Reynolds stated "We," the board, didn't get together and do that tax rate calculation. Mrs. Leclerc was referring to whoever she was getting together with, not the board.

Mr. Boutin acknowledged that Ms. Canning has been doing this for over 40 years. There's a point where you have to defer to people with experience, and she has the experience. She's set on this budget, and she feels confident that she's going to be able to work within it without going over.

## 7. Current Business

### 7.1 FY25 Budget Approval

**Motion made by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding to approve the FY25 Budget**

Discussion: Future Budget to see an instructional plan, buying plan, and facilities plan so it is based on something. Have we done an inventory? What are we basing this budget on? If we are investing all this money, What should be the expected growth that we should see in our students? Have we cross-hatched what was supposed to be done under the COVID plan with what's happening now? What can the public expect for their community? What can parents expect for their children? Hopeful she can come back next year with a budget that realizes some of the concerns that folks may have in this budget. Maybe everyone in the community can get behind the budget. How people vote really matters we need to move forward with this proposal and do the best that we can, and give JoAn a chance to give us her best option for next year.

Motion on the table

**Motion made by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding to approve the budget at \$56, 808,338, motion passes 5 to 3. Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Leclerc, and Mrs. Whalen voted against it. Mr. Reil was not present for the vote.** Mr. Boutin expressed his support for the budget.

### 7.2 FY25 Budget Warning

**Motion made by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, to approve the FY25 Budget Warning for September 17th at the Barre Auditorium and Barre Town School, motion passes 6 to 2. Mrs. Whalen and Mrs. Leclerc voted against it. Mr. Reil was not present for the vote.**

### 7.3 Affirm Working Protocols

Recommendation by Tracy, now that it's public, she took your comments and added this to the final document. So that's why I'm asking for it to be reaffirmed. The chair read through the Working Protocols.

**Motion made by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, to affirm the Working Protocols.**

Discussion: There is confusion about providing Tracy with additional comments and having them approved beforehand. A suggestion was made for number 5—change "called before" the meeting to "prior to" the meeting because the essence of calling somebody before a meeting can have a negative meaning.

**Motion made by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, to amend the first motion to affirm Working Protocols with modification saying "prior to the meeting" for number 5, motion passes 7 to 1. Mrs. Leclerc voted against it. Mr. Reil was not present for the vote.**

### 7.4 Community Engagement Plan Development

- Created a postcard to send out.
- Work with some of you who are willing to join the school events with me
- Be present in the public to go to the Music Festival in Currier Park
- Look at voter lists and see if we can determine, based on who's voted, what the strategy might be
- Respectfully ask we work together on messaging so it's from all of us not just one of us.
- Recommendation to use Podcasts in the Community (Barre Beat, Aired Out, WDEV, Pat McDonald)
- Contacted by VPR and Vermont Digger
- Recommendation to use emails to parents, school newsletters, and websites

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We can have this discussion now, or we could form a small group and work on it outside of a board meeting. I'm open to other suggestions, such as Rotary, Elk Club, and what's happening in our towns and cities that would leave an opportunity for us to reach out. Send an email if anyone is interested in working with her with your availability, and she'll pull something together.

## 7.5 Open Meeting Law Complaint

The issue with the website has been dealt with. The point of order was called during the public comment section as it felt like she was speaking about the budget. She waited to speak during that discussion. There was another point of order brought up for talking about National politics. The chair asked her to discontinue speaking multiple times and she did not and he muted her. He realized the comment was to set the context of her comments about the budget. He offered her to continue and she declined. We, as a board, have to determine if it's a violation. Questions?

Discussion included: Complaint not valid, unprofessionally done, Robert's rules - point of order read, Vermont statute - Open Meeting read, Not an open meeting Law violation. Wrongfully muting is excluding their public right to have a comment, it is an Open Meeting Law violation. Out of order to continue speaking after repeatedly being asked to discontinue. Interrupting simply because someone didn't like what was being said isn't a reason to mute someone and that's why it's an open meeting law violation. Our role as a board is to hear public comment we are to serve the public, to serve our community. It was the subject matter she was speaking of that triggered that point of order. That kind of action does create a violation.

**Ms. Reynolds made a motion to acknowledge the violation. As presented in the email and state attempt to cure it within 14 calendar days, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, motion failed 4 to 4 with Mr. Boutin voting no. If the board does not acknowledge, it is considered, not a violation.**

So the motion is that the failure of the body to respond to a written notice of the ledge violation within 10 calendar days shall be treated as a denial of the violation for the purposes of enforcement of the requirements of this subject number B. Two A and B state that the public body has determined that no violation has occurred. Number 3 - a failure of the public body to respond to a written notice.

## 8. Round Table

**Mrs. Spaulding:** My word for the night is disappointed and I'll leave it at that.

**Ms. Reynolds:** I just want to remind everyone that we are revoting our budget on September 17th. The polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 P.M. Barre City votes at the auditorium, and Barre Town votes at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School. So please mark your calendars, make plans to vote, and talk to your friends and neighbors.

**Mrs. Farrell:** Career center, which I am happy to be the representative from this board to that board, and there are some interesting activities coming up at the career center. We have a welding program that will be opening this year. We also have the continuation in a unique form of our Design and Fabrication program, which is basically Granite design and carving, and individuals who might be interested in that type of work and education can certainly contact my fellow board member Mr. Checcinelli, who is the instructor of that. We have opted to keep that program available for this coming year and look forward to many students and their parents asking questions and possibly joining that program.

**Mrs. Leclerc:** With the first day of school next week, I want to give my best wishes to all our staff and students and to the superintendent. I hope your year is all about growth, learning, and success, and I hope you have a great first day.

**Mrs. Whalen:** Thank everybody that's here and that even though we don't always see eye to eye. I think that it's great to do the work that we're doing, and everyone's voice is coming out I think sometimes it feels like it doesn't give people something to put their hope in because there are a lot of differing opinions, but I look at our board as that's a good strength of ours because we have so many different opinions. and thank you all for hanging in there and we're working through it.

**Mr. Boutin:** Echo what Emily said September 17th is the budget. Hope folks come out and vote yes for it so that we can move forward and start talking about the next budget. I also want to echo what Catherine said I do think that our board has a very diverse set of opinions, and I do think that it is good for our community to have those different opinions, and I know that it can be very difficult at times as the person in the middle I can assure you it can be very difficult. So with that, I do want to say thank you to everybody for tonight. I think two hours is not too bad when we were talking about the budget and we did pass it.

## 9. Future Agenda Items

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[\(Board Work Plan\)](#)

## 10. Next Meeting Date

August 28, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet (Special Meeting)  
September 11, 2024. Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

## 11. Executive Session

### 11.1 Student Matter 1 VSA 313 (a)(7)

**Motion made by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc to enter into executive session at 8:10 p.m, motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion made by \_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_ to exit executive session at 8:20 p.m., motion passed unanimously. (missing in the recording)**

## 12. Adjournment

**On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*



## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXHIBIT B VSBIT PROXY OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

- **In order to vote at the VSBIT Annual Meeting on October 25, 2024, Exhibit B must be completed prior to the meeting.**
- If you will be sending a person to the Annual Meeting to represent you, complete the first selection, option **(a)**, by checking the box and listing the name of your representative and their title. **This person must be present, with a copy of this form, in order to vote.**
- If you will not be attending or sending a representative to the Annual Meeting but wish to cast a vote, complete the second selection, option **(b)**, by checking the box and in doing so, naming the VSBIT Board as a proxy to cast a vote on your behalf.
- If your school district is a participating member of **both** the VSBIT Multi-Line Program **and** the VSBIT Unemployment Program, a separate Exhibit B form must be filled out for each program.
- **In either case, sign and date the bottom of the form and either bring it to the meeting or mail it ahead to:**

**VSBIT  
Annual Meeting  
52 Pike Drive  
Berlin, Vermont 05602**



## **EXHIBIT B**

### **VSBIT PROXY OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT: Barre Unified Union SD \_\_\_\_\_, member of  
(Name of Member Supervisory District/Supervisory Union)  
the VSBIT Multi-Line Program, a body corporate and politic, created and existing under the laws  
of the State of Vermont, does hereby:

#### ***Certificate of Authority***

☐ (a) appoint as its authorized representative to appear and vote on its behalf at any and all meetings of the members of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, or any adjournment thereof, the following person:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Note: If option (a) is selected, the person listed above must attend in-person to vote.***

**OR**

#### ***Proxy***

☐ (b) appoint as its true and lawful attorney, the Board of Directors of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, by majority vote, with the power of substitution for it and in its name to vote at the Annual Meeting of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024 or at any adjournment thereof, with all the powers it should possess if personally present through its authorized representative.

**Please sign and date this section once you have chosen (a) or (b):**

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Vermont, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

This action is valid for one year [365 days] from the date of enactment, or until it is superseded by subsequent action of the member filed with the Trust.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member Supervisory District/Supervisory Union

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

UNEMPLOYMENT



**EXHIBIT B**

**VSBIT PROXY OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT: Barre Unified Union SD \_\_\_\_\_, member of  
(Name of Member School District/Supervisory Union)  
the VSBIT Unemployment Program, a body corporate and politic, created and existing under the  
laws of the State of Vermont, does hereby:

***Certificate of Authority***

☐ (a) appoint as its authorized representative to appear and vote on its behalf at any and all  
meetings of the members of the Vermont School Board Insurance Trust, or any adjournment  
thereof, the following person:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Note: If option (a) is selected, the person listed above must attend in-person to vote.***

**OR**

***Proxy***

☐ (b) appoint as its true and lawful attorney, the Board of Directors of the Vermont School  
Boards Insurance Trust, by majority vote, with the power of substitution for it and in its name to  
vote at the Annual Meeting of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, to be held on the  
25th day of October, 2024 or at any adjournment thereof, with all the powers it should possess if  
personally present through its authorized representative.

**Please sign and date this section once you have chosen (a) or (b):**

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Vermont, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

This action is valid for one year [365 days] from the date of enactment, or until it is superseded  
by subsequent action of the member filed with the Trust.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member District

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #097  
POLICY**

**CODE: A20**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING: 09/04/2024**

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:**

**ADOPTED:**

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**Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution**

**Policy**

All Barre Unified Union School District Board meetings will be held in compliance with Vermont's open meeting laws, 1 V.S.A. §§310 et seq.

**Regular Meeting Schedule**

Regular meetings of the board will be held at the Spaulding High School Library, on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting schedule will be published and made available by the superintendent to any person on request.

Special and emergency meetings will be called by the chair on his or her own initiative or when requested by a majority of the board and shall be warned appropriately. Only items on the agenda may be acted upon at these meetings.

**Conduct of Board Meetings**

Meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. One or more members of the board may attend and participate in a regular, special or emergency meeting by electronic or other means so long as the requirements of 1 V.S.A. §312(a)(2) are met.

**Executive Sessions**

Executive sessions of the board will be convened only for the purposes stated in 1 V.S.A. §313. The minutes of any meeting where an executive session takes place will reflect the specific statutory reason for convening the executive session. Board members will not make public the confidential issues discussed during an executive session.

**Agenda Preparation**

The superintendent will prepare proposed agendas for all meetings of the board after consultation with the board officers. Items of business may be suggested by any board member, staff member, student, or resident of the district by providing an ~~Action~~ Memo form to the superintendent or superintendent designee. The inclusion of items on proposed agendas will be at the discretion of the board chair and superintendent. An item may only be added or removed from a meeting agenda as the first order of business at the meeting. Other adjustments to an agenda may be made at any time during the meeting.

**Agenda Distribution**

The proposed agenda, together with supporting materials, will be distributed to board members by the superintendent three five days prior to regular meetings and as soon as practicable before special and emergency meetings. At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special meeting, the superintendent shall ensure that the agenda is posted in the municipal clerk's office and [two other designated physical locations in the municipality]. In addition, proposed meeting agendas will be made available to any interested person upon specific request.





## **MEMO: BUUSD BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION ITEM:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ACTION ITEM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD AGENDA DATE:**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**

**PERSON(S) SUBMITTING:**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**BACKGROUND/SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**DESIRED OUTCOME:**

**LINKS/ATTACHMENTS:**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:**

## 2024 SUMMER PROJECTS

### SHS

1. Underground heating lines replacement (*Capitol reserve fund*) \$127,347
2. Stormwater mitigation project (*majority from grant funding*) est. \$63,800
3. Six classroom floors (asbestos abatement and install of new tiles) \$36,030
4. Gym roof repair \$14,358
5. Girl's locker room heater replacement \$3,600 (*not completed yet*)
6. Wrestling room ventilation/heater installation \$9,980 (*not completed yet*)
7. Volleyball equipment installation in gym (*grant money*)
8. Gym floor refinishing \$7,400

### BCEMS

1. Library carpet replacement \$34,875
2. Gym floor refinishing \$3,500
3. Victaulic fitting replacement (*work not performed*)
4. Wood chip boiler upgrades (*majority from grant funding*) est. \$20,000 match
5. Playground equipment upgrades ARP ESSER funds - \$130,421
6. Roof replacement (*Capitol reserve fund*) \$546,000

### BTMES

1. Classroom floor tile installation \$20,000
2. Asbestos abatement on roof drains \$6,950
3. Bathroom partitions installation \$11,454
4. Maintenance garage door project \$27,585.14

### Solar Overview-September 5, 2024

**Solar contracts were executed by John Bacon in .**

**Barre City Elementary Middle School:**

Barre SU-61 - Barre City School- 50 Parkside Terrace (11770000005)	13.94%
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**BUUSD/Spaulding:**

Barre - Spaulding High School (3167000000)	20.36%
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Barre - Career Center (4167000000)	3.93%
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Barre UUSD - Admin Building (5067000000)	1.54%
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Originally each of these accounts received the corresponding percentage of the monthly generation of the Montpelier Super Group. These allocations change as usage fluctuates. The two contracts are billed the actual amount so there is no need to reconcile at the end of the calendar year.

**Green Lantern Solar** – Construction, Operations & Maintenance (O&M), Asset Management (billing and accounting)

**Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure (KSI)** – facility owners and accounts receivables

Montpelier Super Group consists of four solar generating facilities. The generation from these four solar sites are pooled and distributed to 20 accounts, four of which are in the Barre Unified Union School District under two current contracts.

Novus Broad Brook Solar, LLC (contract with Barre City Elementary School)

Novus Sharon Solar, LLC

Novus Pine Hill Solar, LLC (contract with BSU/Spaulding)

Novus Montpelier Solar, LLC

**BTMES Solar**- In FY24 Technical issues from inverters continued throughout all of 2023, leading to lower than expected production, and thus, the entirety of payments made in 2023 were reimbursed. Due to this equipment failure, the BUUSD did not pay solar fees as noted in the monthly/annual analysis.

After nearly two years of compromised production, they have solved the majority of the inverter issues on site, and restored production to 80%. They will continue to work to restore the site to 100%, but given the history and age of this project, this was a huge step forward. Audits will continue and a reconciliation will be conducted in the spring of 2025.

**July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

GMP Account Numer: 11770000005

Barre Town Summary of Electric Bills and Solar Credits						
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024						
Month	GMP w/o Credits	Your Share Generation	Energy Used	Credits	Net Solar Fees (Novus Broad Brook Solar, LLC)	Net Power Savings
<a href="#">July 2023</a>	\$13,609.58	0	59,769	\$ -		
<a href="#">August 2023</a>	\$11,909.08	0	53,582	\$ -		
<a href="#">September 2023</a>	\$13,055.98	0	54,693	\$ -		
<a href="#">October 2023</a>	\$13,526.99	0	54,099	\$ -		
<a href="#">November 2023</a>	\$11,476.40	0	54,456	\$ -		
<a href="#">December 2023</a>	\$10,940.39	0	49,740	\$ -		
<a href="#">January 2024</a>	\$11,124.09	0	50,906	\$ -		
<a href="#">February 2024</a>	\$11,680.98	0	54,615	\$ -		
<a href="#">March 2024</a>	\$11,428.00	0	51,068	\$ -		
<a href="#">April 2024</a>	\$12,327.37	0	57,149	\$ -		
<a href="#">May 2024</a>	\$12,488.77	0	50,352	\$ -		
<a href="#">June 2024</a>	\$12,820.58	2,620	62,016			
	\$146,388.21	2,620	590429	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		kWh	kWh			
GMP Account Numer: 49871000003						

**July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

GMP Account Numer: 50670000004

Spaulding High School Summary of Electric Bills and Solar Credits						
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024						
Month	GMP w/o Credits	Your Share Generation	Energy Used	Credits	Net Solar Fees (Novus Broad Brook Solar, LLC)	Net Power Savings
<a href="#">July 2023</a>	\$13,043.59	74,607	63,546	\$ 17,064.01	\$ 14,165.66	\$ 2,898.35
<a href="#">August 2023</a>	\$12,902.61	88,570	70,090	\$ 19,783.74	\$ 16,816.18	\$ 2,967.56
<a href="#">September 2023</a>	\$16,589.78	73,468	81,949	\$ 16,409.07	\$ 13,947.71	\$ 2,461.36
<a href="#">October 2023</a>	\$19,744.87	64,754	100,209	\$ 15,082.20	\$ 12,819.87	\$ 2,262.33
<a href="#">November 2023</a>	\$20,512.78	32,216	107,166	\$ 7,503.61	\$ 6,378.06	\$ 1,125.55
<a href="#">December 2023</a>	\$19,171.44	25,457	97,913	\$ 5,931.57	\$ 5,041.83	\$ 889.74
<a href="#">January 2024</a>	\$20,475.81	25,068	108,376	\$ 5,839.76	\$ 4,963.79	\$ 875.97
<a href="#">February 2024</a>	\$18,674.76	26,768	109,941	\$ 6,234.78	\$ 5,299.56	\$ 935.22
<a href="#">March 2024</a>	\$19,674.17	58,973	102,200	\$ 13,737.11	\$ 11,676.53	\$ 2,060.58
<a href="#">April 2024</a>	\$20,864.23	64,071	108,329	\$ 14,921.50	\$ 12,683.27	\$ 2,238.23
<a href="#">May 2024</a>	\$17,767.94	77,872	86,096	\$ 18,137.24	\$ 15,416.66	\$ 15,416.66
<a href="#">June 2024</a>	\$17,769.46	98,167	81,641	\$ 22,862.89	\$ 19,433.45	\$ 3,429.44
	\$217,191.44	709,991.00	1,117,456.00	\$ 163,507.48	\$ 119,209.12	\$ 37,560.99
		kWh	kWh			
GMP Account Numer: 41670000003 & 31670000004						