

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
December 4, 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
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS
Shannon Miller, Principal BTMES
Melissa Greenwood, Principal BCEMS
Carol Marold, Human Resources Director
Jody Emerson, Director and Superintendent CVCCSD
Michelle Leeman, Business Manager CVCCSD

GUESTS PRESENT:

AJ Jones, Alex Alexander, Ben Matthews, Chantelle Micheli, Christie Omodeo, Christine Parker, Darby Hiebert, David DeRuosi - NESDEC, Ellen Kaye, Eric Blaisdell, Guy Isabelle, Joelen Mulvaney, Josh Howard, June Babel, Karen Heath, Lauren Buck, Lindsey Wells, Lisa Liotta, Martha Blaisdell, Michael Tagliavia, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Rocko Gieselman, Sam Carlson - Encore Renewable Energy, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Sharon Jacobs, Steven Thompson

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, December 4, 2024, special 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 and held a Mindfulness Moment.

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

Add 7.4 Approval of Audit Firm 2025
Move 11.1 Employee Contracts 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) to 4.2
Add Student Records 1 VSA 313 (a) (7) to Executive Session 11.2
Add 7.5 Annual District Meeting Officers and stipend

Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, to approve the agenda with amendments; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion - Suggested one Executive Session on the agendas for the future. Description of executive session items needs to be more specific per VSBA Executive Session Cheat Sheet and advised by our attorney.

Motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Reil, to amend the agenda further and add 7.5 Annual District Meeting Officers and stipend; motion passed.

4. Executive Session

- 4.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A)**
- 4.2 Employee Contracts 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A)**

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the Barre Unified Union School District at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public; motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding to enter into executive session at 6:12 p.m. to discuss Employee Contracts 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) and Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A).

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whalen to exit executive session at 6:32 p.m.; motion passed unanimously.

5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Public Comment

Rachel Van Vliet—I am excited to see community engagement, with many people attending the meetings. December 2nd was National Special Education Day, commemorating the signing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act into law on this day in 1975 (IDEA).

5.2 Student Voice

None

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Warrant Approval: November 14, 2024, November 21, 2024

Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

7.1 Superintendent Search and Evaluation Discussion (VSBA and NESDEC)

David DeRuosi from NESDEC presented their process. Sandra Cameron from VSBA presented their process.

7.2 Superintendent Evaluation Vendor Selection

Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve VSBA for the superintendent evaluation, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli; motion passed 5 to 3. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Leclerc, and Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.

7.3 Superintendent Search Vendor Selection

Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve VSBA for the superintendent search, seconded by Mr. Grant; motion failed 5 to 4. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Leclerc, Mrs. Whalen, and Mr. Boutin voted against the motion.

Ms. Reynolds disclosed she is a Central Vermont Representative on the VSBA Board. An unpaid volunteer, no cash, incentive, or financial gain to support the VSBA.

Mr. Reil made a motion to approve a Comprehensive search with NESDEC for the superintendent search, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc; motion passed 5 to 4. Mr. Reil, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Leclerc, Mrs. Whalen, and Mr. Boutin voted for the motion. Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Cecchinelli voted against the motion.

7.4 Audit RFP ([Briefing Memo](#) - added as an addendum after the meeting)

Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve the proposal of MJK conditionally for a new accountant assigned to the FY25 BUUSD audit, seconded by Ms. Reynolds; motion passed unanimously.

7.5 Discuss Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Mrs. Leclerc addressed the business manager and recommended that she make a resolution to change the articles and update the treasurer information. **Mr. Grant called point of order. Discussion/questions should be directed to the Chair.** Mrs. Perreault shared the elected Assistant Treasurer would step in, that's the guidance received. Appointed at an annual meeting of the public.

8. Old Business

8.1 FY26 Budget Discussion

Ms. Canning shared a presentation titled ([Budget Discussion 2](#) - added as an addendum after the meeting)

8.2 VSBA Business Meeting Update

The delegate doesn't have any updates. Directed people to review everything on the VSBA website.

8.3 Board Discussion - CVCCSD

The plan instituted 6 years ago remains in place with no real changes, but will continue to discuss that at CVCCSD board meetings. The next meeting at Hardwick School District, and everyone is welcome to attend meetings. **Mr. Cecchinelli called point of**

information and corrected Hardwick for Harwood. Mr. Grant called point of information, asking if feasibility was done on what CVCC would need. Ms. Emerson confirmed there was one done in 2019 by consultant Mike DeWeese. SHS campus discussed again as new suggestions were received. Test fit is being done at U32 and one is planned for SHS campus.

8.4 Consolidation Proposal for Feedback

Plan district-wide, all buildings, the possible move of middle grades to SHS. Be specific; talk about conceptual ideas and exploration. Conversation with the board, each building administrator, and administration. Support with a well-thought-out path. Impact on taxpayers, board structure, staffing, and community. Work with someone collectively to share goals and objectives. Add potential regionalization programs. Clarified this is fact-finding only. No decisions are being made at this point.

Approved feasibility - consultant looking at grade configurations in both Barre City and Barre Town schools and how we bring the grades together in a cost-efficient, effective way for serving students.

8.5 Confirmatory Easement Deed

Sam Carlson from Encore attended to answer questions. The current easement is clarified as just for ingress and egress access. This easement allows the ray to be interconnected to the electrical grid through underground powerlines.

Mr. Reil made a motion to approve the easement and authorize the Board Chair and Superintendent to sign the Confirmatory Easement Deed, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli; motion passed 7 to 1. Mrs. Farrell voted against the motion.

9. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Mr. Boutin - Nation cookie day today.
- Ms. Canning - December 6 - BT Middle School dance, December 12, 13, & 14 - SHS production of Dracula, December 19 - BC Family Engagement night focus on Literacy and Mathematics, December 18 - BC Winter Concert, December 10 - BC PTO Staff Appreciation Breakfast 7:15 a.m, December 5 - Budget meeting with SEA, December 7 - SHS Parent meeting regarding Budget at SHS Library. November 20th, staff at the Central Office were recognized for years of service: 5 years - Sue Cioffi, Mike Martin, and Rebecca Webb; 7 years - Megan Gonyaw and Ashley Young; 11 years - Carol Marold; 14 years - Ann Baker; 22 years - Jamie Evans and Jim Myers; 25 years - Kathy Couture and Tina Gilbert; 26 years - Lisa Perreault.

10. Next Meeting Dates

December 19, 2024, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

January 8, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

11. Executive Session

11.1 ~~Employee Contracts 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A)~~ (moved out of order to 4)

11.2 Student Records 1 VSA 313 (a) (7)

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, to go into executive session at 9:16 p.m. to discuss Student Records 1 VSA 313 (a)(7), inviting the superintendent to join; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Boutin and Mr. Cecchinelli are recused.

Following information provided by the Board Clerk.

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to exit executive session at 9:39 p.m.; motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert