

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
January 15, 2025 - 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  
Amanda Riggleman, Director of Curriculum  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager  
Denise Maurice, Principal (SHS)  
Jesse Schattin, SEA Administrator  
Mari Goodridge Miller, Asst. Principal (SHS)  
Shannon Miller, Principal (BT)  
Melissa Greenwood, Asst. Principal (BC)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Alex Alexander, Andrea Cechak, Brandi Dewey, Chantelle Micheli, Chris Moran, Christine Parker, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, Diane Solomon, Ella Lyford, Ellen Kaye, Elysha Thurston, Hunter Cummings-Washburn, Jackie Wheeler, Jan Zemba, Jeff Eddy, Josh Howard, Kirsten Evans, Laura Ortiz, Lauren Ball, Lindsey Wells, Martha Blaisdell, Megan Spaulding, Nicole Fuller, Paige Chouinard, Paul Malone, Rachel Van Vliet, Rhonda Thygesen, Samantha Knudsen, Samantha Lawrence, Sarah Brownell, Sarah Hill, Shannon Planck, Sharon Jacobs, Shellie Stevens, Steven Thompson, Wendy Sell

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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.  
The Chair reviewed how public comment works.

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

Add 5.5 Superintendent Search Update  
Take Executive Session out of order 1 VSA 313 (a)(3) (take out of order before #5)  
(Fix New Hire Name from Moran to Mason)

**Mrs. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, to approve the agenda with amendments; motion passed 7 to 1, Ms. Reynolds voted against the motion.**

Introduction of Board Members and Administrators present

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

**4.1 Public Comment**

Paul Malone and Rachel Van Vliet shared comments.

**4.2 Student Voice**

None

## **5. Current Business**

### **5.1 New Hire - ~~K. Moran~~ K. Mason**

**Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve the hiring of Kathleen Mason, seconded by Mr. Grant; the motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. Executive Session (Taken out of order)**

### **7.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)**

**Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, to enter into executive session; motion passed unanimously.**

**Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to exit executive session; motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, to ratify the first motion inviting in the superintendent; motion passed unanimously.**

### **5.2 FY26 Budget Discussion**

Community members shared comments, suggestions, and thoughts.

Board members shared comments, suggestions, and thoughts.

**Ms. Reynolds called Point of Information regarding the document being shared with the Superintendent.**

**Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve Option 1 - 5.14% budget using \$1 million in revenue from the surplus, seconded by Mr. Grant; motion failed 5 to 4.**

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

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

**Mr. Grant made a motion to approve Option 3 - 4.95% budget using \$1 million in revenue, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, motion passed 5 to 4.**

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

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

Mr. Boutin read the complete warning.

**Ms. Reynolds called point of order for Mr. Reil interrupting and speaking before being recognized.**

**Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to approve the Warning, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; both agreed to withdraw the motion.**

Approval of the Warning will take place at the January 22, 2025 Board meeting.

**Mr. Grant called point of information asking what additional information is needed they didn't already have.**

**Mr. Reil called the question; motion failed for lack of a second.**

**Ms. Reynolds called point of information and asked what convoluted formula Mr. Reil is referencing.**

**Mr. Reil called point of order and asked the chair to discipline the member for constantly in every meeting and every discussion doing these point of information to interrupt. It's intentional and intended to stop the flow of information. Asked that the member be censored.**

Dialogue began with Mr. Boutin and Ms. Reynolds. **Mr. Reil called point of order. Point of inquiry is to ask you a question for information, the chair is having a dialogue with the director.**

**Mr. Grant called point of information and asked where non-residential tax rate information was coming from?** Dialogue began with Mr. Reil and Mr. Grant. **Ms. Leclerc called Point of Order.** The chair called a recess for 5 minutes.

The board members returned and the Chair read the Board Norms. Mr. Boutin instructed Mr. Reil to continue.

**Mrs. Spaulding called point of order to question fictitious students.** Mr. Reil disagreed that's a point of order. **Mrs. Spaulding corrected it to point of information.**

**Mrs. Leclerc called point of order for an interruption when Mr. Reil continued.**

### **5.3 FY26 Budget Approval**

Motion made and passed under 5.2

### **5.4 FY26 Warning Approval**

Motion made and withdrawn under 5.2

### **5.5 Superintendent Search Update**

Mr. Grant provided an update from the four chosen Board member's first meeting.

## **6. Executive Session (Taken out of order before #5)**

### **6.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)**

## **7. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Gilbert*