

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
January 8, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sonya Spaulding (BC)- Clerk

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources
Denise Maurice, Principal (SHS)
Jennifer Bisson, Asst. Principal (BC)
Melissa Greenwood, Asst. Principal (BC)
Mari Goodridge Miller, Asst. Principal (SHS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Alina Schenkman, Amanda Rancourt, Andrea Stiff, Carrie Blodgett, Chantelle Micheli, Chris Moran, Christie Omodeo, Christina McGonagle, Christine Parker, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, David DeRuosi - NESDEC, Eirene Mavodones, Ellen Kaye, Garret White, Jan Zemba, Jeffrey Philip Eddy, Jodi Bushway, Josh Howard, Julie Burns, Lauren May, Lindsey Wells, Mackenzie Kovaka, Martha Blaisdell, Mary Fifield, Paul Malone, Peter Anthony, Pierre Trepanier, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Randi Collins, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Sharon Jacobs, Sherry Lewton, Steven Thompson, Tyler Watkins

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, January 8, 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 and ran through introductions of Board members and administrators present.

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

Add 11.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3) (take out of order after 3)

Remove items under 7

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

11. Executive Session (Taken out of order)

11.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

Mrs. Leclerc made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to enter into executive session, inviting in the superintendent; motion passed unanimously.

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

4. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1 Public Comment

None

4.2 Student Voice

None

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes - December 19, 2024 (add the budget presentation to minutes)

5.2 Warrant Approval: December 19, 2024, January 2, 2025 (Emerald Lake Solar - Mrs. Perreault will look into it)

5.3 Annual Announced Tuition

5.4 Annual Winooski Valley School Choice Approval

Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

6.1 FY26 Budget Discussion

Mr. Reil suggested a 4% budget covers contractual obligations, covers health insurance increases, and leaves some over. Apply \$800,000 of tax stabilization to revenue so it offsets expenses.

Ms. Reynolds questioned Mrs. Leclerc about declining enrollment. **Mrs. Leclerc called Point of Order** for interruption by Ms. Reynolds. Chair addressed Ms. Reynolds about needing to call point of information. **Ms. Reynolds called Point of Information** and asked What does declining enrollment mean? Mrs Leclerc chose to move on and answer questions at end. **Mr. Reil called Point of Order** because point of order was called and ignored and point of information should be addressed to the chair who then asks the other Board member if they're willing to comment.

The Chair circled back on all the points and Mrs. Leclerc chose not to answer the point of information.

A poll was taken regarding Mr. Reil's 4% budget suggestion, and some agreed, some would like to see it on paper, and some did not agree to additional cuts.

7. New Business

~~**7.1 FY26 Potential Budget approval**~~

~~**7.2 FY26 Potential Warning Approval**~~

8. Round Table/Superintendent Report

Mr. Grant -Thanks to Brenda Waterhouse for caroling on the front steps of Aldrich Library on December 13th. The Barre City PTO provided hot chocolate, and we sang Christmas carols. We hope to make this a yearly tradition.

Ms. Canning - Randy Clapper, our custodian, is being recognized this month for his sunny personality and positive influence on school culture. As a new employee, he enjoys connecting with students and staff, spreading joy with his smile. Thank you, Randy, for contributing to our positive environment. Additionally, January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we appreciate your valuable time and volunteer efforts for the kids. Mark your calendars for a community forum on special education on January 27th, followed by another special education forum in March and a curriculum forum in February and April. Dates are forthcoming, and board members are welcome to participate.

Mr. Reil - Winter sports have begun, and our hockey teams are playing on Wednesday nights and Saturdays. If you're looking for some fun, attend a game—they're exciting and really enjoyable to watch!

Mrs. Farrell - As the CVCC Board's representative, I want to remind everyone that now is the time for students considering career and technical education. There has already been one round of applications, so act now if you're interested.

Mrs. Leclerc - A big shout out to JoAn and Carol Marold for their work on the org charts. This information is invaluable as it clarifies responsibilities and our chain of command, supporting our board's efforts for transparency and communication. It also helps the community identify the right contacts. Thank you for providing this important resource—I really appreciate it!

Mr. Boutin - I visited the Youth Build building behind the resource center, which felt similar to a career center with its hands-on approach. It was interesting to tour the facility. During our discussion tonight, I remembered a previous meeting where I didn't answer Terry's question properly. I apologize for my unpleasant response when he asked if I had completed my training. I have completed it, and I recognize that my reaction didn't set a good example as board chair. I sincerely apologize for that.

9. Next Meeting Dates

Special Meeting: January 15, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet.

Cancel Policy Committee meeting previously scheduled for January 15th.

Regular meeting: January 22, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet

The board took a 5 minute break

10. Superintendent Search Setup

David DeRuosi from NESDEC walked the Board through the next pieces needed for the Superintendent Search

Goals: Review timeline, decide on hire date, choose liaison, choose spokesperson, salary listing, number of focus groups, and size of the screening committee.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Whalen, to appoint to the Superintendent Search Committee Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Grant, Mrs. Farrell, and Mrs. Whalen; motion passed unanimously.

11. Executive Session (Taken out of order under #3)

11.1 Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert