



JoAn Canning
Superintendent of Schools

Spaulding High School
Spaulding Educational Alternatives (SEA)
Barre City Elementary and Middle School
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

Dr. Melody Frank
Director of Special Services
Barre Unified Union School District
March 5th, 2025

To our BUUSD Community,

We are writing to provide an overview of two important district wide reviews that are currently underway to support the continued improvement of our Special Services department. We have partnered with Dr. Meagan Roy, an independent reviewer, while also following the guidance of the Agency of Education (AOE) to ensure we are refining our systems and providing the highest quality services to our students.

As a result of allegations of noncompliance that are reviewed as part of Vermont's General Supervision and Monitoring System, which is the Agency of Education's approach for monitoring, documenting, and enforcing accountability of the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the AOE is initiating an investigation of BUUSD. Their focus is on reviewing documentation and compliance with state and federal regulations. Their investigation and subsequent report will ensure that our future practices align with necessary guidelines, help us meet legal requirements, and ensure that we continue to improve the structural integrity of our department's operations. AOE will be scheduling onsite visits in March, and you will be receiving an online survey this week that we encourage you to complete.

Additionally, we have partnered with Consultant [Dr. Meagan Roy](#), former Vermont Superintendent and Director of Special Services. She is conducting an independent review of our special services systems and programming with a focus on minimizing cost and maximizing quality. This review is focused on evaluating the effectiveness of our current service delivery practices, identifying strengths, and pinpointing areas that may require improvement. It is an opportunity for us to gain an external perspective on our internal operations, with the goal of enhancing the overall quality and efficiency of the services we provide. We will be using her data and report to improve our continuum of services provided to students in the least restrictive environment. Dr. Roy will be visiting schools and meeting with various staff beginning in April.

Since July, Superintendent Canning and Dr. Frank, Director of Special Services, have learned of a desire from within our schools, and from our BUUSD community, for continued improvement in our department. This includes the strengthening of professional development, as well as the implementation of systemic changes that will support the long-term success of our services. Our partnership with Dr. Roy and cooperation with AOE are a direct response to the needs of our students, and to the staff members who are dedicated to providing them with high-quality support. They also directly align with the district goals Superintendent Canning presented to the board in the fall. The focus has always been on creating an

environment that provides the best possible learning experience for all of our students—especially those who require special education services and support. Our commitment to this goal remains steadfast while balancing the need to provide cost effective services.

The AOE investigation and Dr. Roy's independent review will each offer valuable insights to help guide our progress. They will provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the areas that need improvement most crucial to meeting the needs of our students, while building on the strengths that already exist within our department. To be clear, this investigation and independent review are not a reflection of the work or performance of any individual, whether current or past. Our staff members—across all levels—have shown exceptional work ethic, professionalism, and a commitment to the best intentions for our students. These efforts are seen daily, and we are proud of the work that has been accomplished to date.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we work together to build the best educational environment for all of our learners. We will continue to share updates as we move throughout the spring.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melody Frank

Dr. Melody Frank, Director of Special Services

JoAn Canning, Superintendent of Schools