

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
February 12, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Boutin (BC) – Chair
Sonya Spaulding (BC)- Clerk
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) (virtual)
Alice Farrell (BT) (virtual)
Catherine Whalen (BT) (virtual)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair
Terry Reil (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager (virtual)
Denise Maurice, Principal (SHS)
Amanda Riggleman, Director of Curriculum
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (BC) (virtual)
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources (virtual)
Shannon Miller, Co-Principal (BT)
Erica Pearson, Co-Principal (BT) (virtual)
Jesse Schattin, Administrator (SEA)
Melody Frank, Director of Special Services
Jennifer Bisson, Asst. Principal (BC)
Mari Goodridge Miller, Asst. Principal (SHS)
Rebecca Busker, Asst. Principal (SHS) (Virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT:

+1 802-***-**02, +1 802-***-**85, Chantelle Micheli, Christine DiCicco, Christine Parker, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, Diane Solomon, Eirene Mavodones, Ella Lyford, Erika Dolan, Jackie Wheeler, Jan Zemba, Jeff Eddy, Jessica Maurais, Josh Howard, Kate Hawley, Kirsten Evans, Laura Ortiz, Laura Potter, Lindsey Wells, Mackenzie Kovaka, Martha Blaisdell, Mary Fifield, Melissa Metayer, Michael Frank, Michaela Morris, Nicole Fuller, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Raylene Meunier, Rocko Gieselman, Sally Russell, Sarah Hill, Sarah Rollins, Sharon Jacobs, Stephanie Collins, Steve Mackenzie

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, February 12, 2025, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. 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 reviewed the Board Norms
Introduction of Board Members and Administrators present

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

Remove 8.4
Add 12.2 Superintendent Evaluation 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)
Take Board Recognitions/Awards out of order after approval of agenda

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

4. Board Recognition/Awards

Ms. Canning read the governor's proclamation, J Philip B Scott, recognizing February as Schoolboard Appreciation Month in Vermont and presented board members with manila envelopes.
Mr. Boutin recognized a schoolboard member leaving, Sonya Spaulding, and presented her with a plaque.

5. Budget Informational Session

Ms. Canning and Mrs. Perreault shared a presentation and opened the presentation up for questions.

6. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

6.1. Public Comment

Josh Howard, Sally Russell, and Rachel Van Vliet shared comments. Josh Howard presented an Open Meeting Law violation for unposted minutes.

6.2. Student Voice

None

7. Consent Agenda

7.1. Regular Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2025

7.2. Warrant Approval: January 23, 2025, January 30, 2025, February 5, 2025

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

8. New Business

8.1. Presentations

8.1.1. Youth First Mentoring Program

Sally Russell presented and responded to questions

8.1.2. Empty Bowl Event Approval

Eirene Mavodones presented and responded to questions

Mr. Grant made a motion to approve and support the off-campus event, Empty Bowls Event, covered by the district Multi-Line Insurance; the motion passed unanimously.

8.1.3. SHS - Freshman Academy

Denise Maurice presented and responded to questions

8.2. Policy Committee Update/Direction

Ms. Reynolds is asking the Board to approve a motion to charge the policy committee with developing and reviewing a policy with procedures. This is a mechanism for policy development and review.

Ms. Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, to charge the Policy Committee with drafting a policy development, reviewing the policy with procedures, and bringing it to the Board for first reading.

Discussion continued

Mr. Grant called the question.

Mrs. Spaulding seconded Mr. Grant's motion to call the question, which failed 4 to 3. Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Grant, and Ms. Reynolds voted for the motion, while Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Whalen, Mrs. Leclerc, and Mr. Boutin voted against it.

Ms. Reynolds original motion passed unanimously.

8.3. Flexible Pathways Expansion Options

Mr. Boutin shared information and answered questions. Ms. Canning gave her thoughts as requested.

Mr. Boutin requested a motion to instruct the superintendent to look into capitalizing the VTVLC flexible pathways options available to the BUUSD and report back with pros, cons, and next steps as she recommends; No motion was made.

Point of order was called when a public member advocated for votes on March 4th for an open Board seat.

~~8.4. Stipend Reallocation~~

9. Old Business

None

10. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Mrs. Spaulding - Reminder about absentee ballots and voting.
- Mr. Grant - Thanked everyone for the amazing presentations.
- Ms. Canning - The art show is up until April 6th. Please get out and support the students.
- Ms. Reynolds - Thanked all staff who came and shared understanding of students and community.
- Mrs. Leclerc - Thanked Mrs. Maurice, Dr. Frank, and Ms. Canning for doing a great job.
- Mr. Boutin - Thanked staff for hanging in there and staying extra hours after long days.

11. Next Meeting Dates: Mr. Boutin will notify the Board of a special meeting next week.

February 27, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet (vacation)

The February 27th meeting has been canceled.

March 12, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet (Board Reorg)

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

12.1. Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

12.2. Superintendent Evaluation 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

Mrs. Leclerc made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, to enter into executive session and invite the Superintendent; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Leclerc made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to exit the executive session at 9:19 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Leclerc made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to authorize the superintendent to institute a two-day leave without pay for one of our staff members due to confidential information provided in the executive session; the motion passed unanimously.

13. Superintendent Search Update

Mr. Grant shared that focus groups started on Monday, another one tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the SHS library or virtually, and watch the weather. Mr. Grant read the Search Committee Charge to be voted on.

Mrs. Spaulding made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, to approve the Search Committee Charge as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert