

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

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Boutin (BC) – Chair  
Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair  
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) - Clerk  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Catherine Whalen (BT)  
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)  
Garrett Grant (BC)  
Ian Campbell (BT)  
Jeff Eddy (BC) (arrived at 7:39 p.m.)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager  
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

AJ, Brian McPherson, Cass Lang, Cassandra Demarais, Chris Moran, Dan Morrison, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore- Times Argus, Ella Morrison, Erika Dolan, Jody Emerson, Josh Howard, Julie Burns, Karen Heath, Lauren Buck, Lindsey Wells, Martha Blaisdell, Michael Whalen, Nora Duane, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Raylene Meunier, Rocko Gieselman, Samantha Lawrence, Sarah Hill, Stephanie Collins, Steven Thompson, Tana Cosgrove, Thomas Koch.

**1. Call to Order**

The Superintendent, Ms. Canning, called the Wednesday, March 12, 2025, meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library, Barre, and via video conference.

**2. Reorganize - Data sheet**

Ms. Canning open the floor for Board Chair nominations

Mr. Cecchinelli made a nomination for Michael Boutin. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Canning collected paper votes to elect the nomination. **Mr. Boutin was elected as Board Chair; 5 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.**

Mr. Boutin moderated the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Boutin confirmed new members completed the Oath of Allegiance and were provided the Essential Work of School Boards.

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds nominated Mr. Cecchinelli for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Grant, no other nominations; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to nominate Ms. Wheeler Reynolds for Board Clerk, seconded by Mr. Grant, no other nomination; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; the motion passed unanimously.**

The board meeting schedule was discussed.

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to meet on the first Monday of each month, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and online; the motion passed unanimously.**

The Board Retreat was discussed.

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to schedule the Board Retreat on Monday, April 7th, at 5:00 p.m., with location and details to be determined, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; the motion passed unanimously.**

Committees discussed—facilities, policy, and negotiations. Mr. Boutin asked for interested members for each committee. Mrs. Farrell requested that committee assignments be postponed until after the Board Retreat. The board agreed to table all committee assignments until then, except the Negotiations Committee.

Negotiations Committee: Mrs. Wheeler and Ms. Wheeler Reynolds. Ms. Canning agreed to two assigned members for now, adding additional later if needed.

**Mrs. Whalen made a motion to appoint Mrs. Farrell as the CVCCSD representative, seconded by Mr. Grant; the motion passed unanimously.**

District spokespersons will be Ms. Canning and Mr. Boutin

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to appoint Mr. Grant to represent the Spaulding High School Foundation, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign employee contracts after approval from the board, seconded by Mr. Grant; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign other contracts after approval from the board, seconded by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to approve the Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager, and Superintendent to sign accounts payable, payroll, and warrants after approval from the board, seconded by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion to follow state statute and have agendas and minutes posted on the BUUSD website and available in the central office but continue to have them in the areas also listed on the data sheet, seconded by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mrs. Farrell made a motion to use the regular form, not the short form, of Robert's Rules of Order, seconded by Mr. Grant; the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Boutin mentioned reviewing the Code of Ethics, signing it, and returning it to the Central Office. Reviewing Executive Session information and Open Meeting Law included in the packet, no questions.

Ms. Canning briefly explained the Board Superintendent's Working agreement. Operating Protocols, Agreements, and the Board's Yearly Work Planner will be discussed further at the Board Retreat.

There is a policy for communication practices. Mr. Boutin read the Board Norms. Board Development opportunities: VSBA and NESDEC are available to Board members.

Local and Statewide Education - VSBA is our advocate.

**Mr. Grant made a motion to designate the Times Argus and The World as our official papers, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; the motion passed unanimously.**

Board packets will continue to be electronic and paper copies.

**Mrs. Farrell made a motion to appoint the to-be-determined Negotiation Committee Chair as the voting delegate for the Statewide Health Care Bargaining, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli; the motion passed unanimously.**

### **3. Pledge and Mindfulness Moment**

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and held a Mindfulness Moment.

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

The Chair reviewed how public comment works

Introduction of Board Members and Administrators/staff present

Remove 6.3 Annual Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2025

Add under Executive Session Personnel Item 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

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

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

**5.1. Public Comment**

Rachel Van Vliet, Lindsey Wells, and Darby Hiebert shared events, concerns, and comments.

**5.2. Student Voice**

Ella Morrison shared an event.

**6. Consent Agenda**

**6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes - February 12, 2025**

**6.2. Special Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2025**

**6.3. ~~Annual Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2025~~**

**6.4. Warrant Approval: February 12, 2025, February 20, 2025, February 27, 2025, March 6, 2025**

**6.5. Monthly Expenditure Report: January 2025**

Modify February 12, 2025 minutes - Mr. Malone called a point of order that needs to be removed.

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

**7. New Business**

**7.1. School Board Training Topics**

The superintendent highly recommends the Open Meeting Law, Robert's Rules, and VSBA webinars. New Board members should meet with the superintendent for school district orientation.

**8. Old Business**

**8.1. Budget Debrief**

Ms. Canning publicly thanked the community for supporting the students and budget. We are on a good trajectory. Student assessment results show positive trends toward continued progress. The biggest hurdle will be to provide ongoing high-quality professional development for staff. Many thanks to parents and community members who came out to vote and meet face-to-face for discussions.

Board thoughts: Positive comments about the brochure, coffee and conversation, engagement from the superintendent, and reminders. Recommendations to have community engagement throughout the year, not just weeks leading up to voting. Board members consider playing a more prominent role in community engagement.

**9. Round Table/Superintendent Report**

- Mrs. Farrell, on Saturday, there will be a rabies clinic for dogs and cats at the BT Municipal building.
- Ms. Canning - Getting to Y event, March 20th, 5-7, SHS Library, Music Festival March 18th
- Mr. Cecchinelli welcomed new Board members.
- Ms. Wheeler Reynolds - VSBA is providing a lot of information, such as legislative updates and what's happening federally.
- Mr. Grant thanked the community for voting. Aldrich Library Spring Fling, April 5th, 6-9 p.m.

**10. Next Meeting Dates: Board Retreat Monday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m.**

**11. Executive Session**

**11.1. Personnel Contracts 1 VSA 313 (1)(a)**

**11.2. Personnel Item 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)**

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to enter into executive session at 7:10 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to exit the executive session at 7:43 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.**  
**Mr. Eddy arrived at 7:39 p.m.**

**12. Superintendent Search Update**

**12.1. Candidate Profile Approval**

**Mrs. Farrell made a motion to approve the Candidate Profile from NESDEC, seconded by Mrs. Whalen; the motion passed unanimously.**

**12.2. Search Screening Committee**

**Mrs. Wheeler made a motion to delegate the four Superintendent Search Committee members to review and select screening committee applicants, seconded by Mrs. Farrell; the motion passed unanimously.**

**13. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*