

# DRAFT

## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
April 16, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Boutin (BC) – Chair  
Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair  
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) - Clerk (online)  
Alice Farrell (BT)  
Garrett Grant (BC) (online)  
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large) (arrived late)  
Ian Campbell (BT)  
Jeff Eddy (BC)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Catherine Whalen (BT)

#### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources  
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS  
Mari Goodridge Miller, Asst. Principal SHS

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Alicia Partridge, Colleen Kresco, David Delcore - Times Argus, Diane Solomon, Ella Lyford, Emerson Family, Lindsey Wells, Martha Blaisdell, Michael Whalen, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Steven Thompson.

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Wednesday, April 16, 2025, special 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.

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

Modify #7 - to discuss special meeting dates

**Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the agenda with the amendment; the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Public Comment**

Ms. Canning and Mrs. Emerson clarified social media comments about the electric buses not being in use and being off campus in relation to taxpayers. Mrs. Emerson's letter will be posted to the website.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

- 5.1. Board Retreat Minutes: April 7, 2025**
- 5.2. Special Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2025; April 8, 2025**
- 5.3. Warrant Approval: March 27, 2025; April 3, 2025; April 10, 2025**
- 5.4. New Hire: Brandon Talley**

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

#### **6. Round Table/Superintendent Report**

- Mr. Eddy shared Aldrich's presentation on Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 about rain gardens and how to utilize the rain to benefit your backyard ecosystem.
- Mrs. Wheeler thanked Ms. Canning and the public for their comments regarding the electric buses. Correcting misinformation is important and necessary.

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- Ms. Canning thanked Mrs. Lincoln for inviting her to read during their Read to Our Students week. Other board members joined as well.
- Mr. Boutin invites the school board to a special viewing of Can't Lookaway tomorrow from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the State House regarding social media and our children. If the school cell phone bill passes, the board may need to discuss this in the future, as we'll need a policy.

## 7. Next Meeting Date

May 5, 2025 - Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., Spaulding High School Library and via Google Meet.

There were concerns about the number of special meetings and a suggestion to discuss two monthly meetings. The original plan was one regular meeting a month with a second meeting for committees. The board will discuss this at the May 5th meeting.

## 8. Executive Session

8.1. Superintendent Search 1 VSA 313(a)(1)

8.2. Contracts 1 VSA 313(a)(1)

**Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to find that premature general public knowledge regarding contracts clearly places the board at a substantial disadvantage because the board risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it is discussed in public; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to enter into executive session to discuss both items under 1 VSA 313(a)(1), inviting Carol Marold and JoAn Canning; the motion passed unanimously.**

The Board Clerk provided the following.

**Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to exit executive session at 6:55 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to approve the superintendent contract as presented in executive session and authorize the chair to sign the contract; the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Boutin shared that it's a contract for JoAn Canning, and he'll release a press release later tonight.

Ms. Canning gave a heartfelt thank you to the board for working with her and having confidence in her this last year, but also for thinking about the future and offering her another opportunity to serve the students, parents, staff, and community. She is looking forward to working with everyone. Facing some unprecedented times will cause them to be more together, aligned, and to work together. Thanks to the community and teachers on the call. She looks forward to working more closely with all of them. Thanks for the support.

## 9. Adjournment

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*