BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD RETREAT MEETING
Barre Social Club, 105 N. Main St #102, Barre and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 7, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

<u>MINUTES</u>

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>
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)

<u>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:</u>

<u>ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:</u>
JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Michael Martin, Technology Director

<u>GUESTS PRESENT:</u>
Tracy Wrend - Facilitator, Annie Duke

1. **Call to Order**
   The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Monday, April 7, 2025, meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. at the Barre Social Club, Barre, and via video conference.

2. **Pledge and Mindfulness Moment**
   The Board held a Mindfulness Moment, with no flag present for the pledge.

3. **Additions and/or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda**
   Add 4.4 Update on Title VI

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

4. **Current Business**
   4.4 Update on Title VI - (taken out of order) Email from Secretary Saunders asking school districts to review and sign an assurance related to Title VI by this Thursday afternoon. Requested by the Federal Government, and if we didn't sign, the idea was that we would not receive, as a state, the Title I funds. The superintendent recommends that the board sit tight before any action is taken.

   4.1. VoIP Recommendation Approval / Barre Town Stormwater Approval
   Recommended phone system.
   BT Stormwater approval for $26,000

   Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to approve the superintendent's recommendation to enter into a three-year contract with Broadvoice for phone services; the motion passed unanimously.

   Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the superintendent's recommendation to use K Bellavance Land Works for the stormwater project at BTMES. BUUSD share is 10%, and the board approves $26,995 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund; the motion passed unanimously.

   Concerns were raised about the estimate due to the inflated cost of other projects with this company. This is under a bid and contract, and any change will be returned to the board.

4.2.   Board Retreat - Tracy Wrend introduced herself and took over facilitating the Board Retreat section of the agenda.
>   **4.2.1.   Roles and Responsibilities & Working Agreements**
>>   **4.2.1.a. What does this mean to us individually and collectively?**
>>   **4.2.1.b. How will we deal with disagreements/conflict?**
>   **4.2.2.   Roberts Rules, Open Meeting Law, FOIA**

Board members moved to a circle to practice strategies where everyone could share their thoughts and perspectives and have a chance to be heard and discuss District Quality Standards in effect July 1, 2025, a self-assessment, goal setting, Strategic Plan, and reflect on working agreements and board norms.

The board will break for dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The board returned to the table to discuss the Open Meeting Law and FOIA. Robert's Rules documents, Guidelines for Public Comment, Board Operating Protocols, and How to Engage with the Board were handed out. Reviewed the Procedure and Policy website page.

4.3.   Committees (Next Steps)

Policies - Policy tracking and consider Policy Audit with VSBA; use Metric to guide committees; consider proposed switch up for committees; Plan a Summer Retreat; move forward on the Strategic Plan; clean up duplicated documents on the website; organize Goals/Objectives; write an Education Plan; move forward in an organized fashion; reconsider two regular meetings a month; build a framework allowing easy transition of new members; community input and public comment.

4.4.   Update on Title VI

Taken out of order - Moved to the beginning of 4.1

5.   Next Meeting Date:
Not Discussed

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert