

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 8, 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)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

David Delcore - Times Argus, David DeRuosi - NESDEC, Emerson Cohen, Cynthia Ryle

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Tuesday, April 8, 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

Remove Consent Agenda

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

4. Public Comment

Shared points of view from a teacher's perspective regarding Zoie Saunders' communication regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

5. Consent Agenda

~~5.1. Special Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2025~~

~~5.2. Warrant Approval: March 27, 2025; April 3, 2025~~

~~5.3. New Hire: Brandon Talley~~

6. Current Business

6.1. Resolution

Mr. Boutin read his drafted resolution in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, to adopt the resolution; the motion passed unanimously.

7. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Ms. Wheeler Reynolds and Mr. Grant look forward to being mystery readers at BT. Thanks to Principal Miller, who invited them.
- Mr. Eddy attended the Alrich Spring Fling fundraiser, which was wonderful. There was a ton of community, and everybody was in great spirits in that beautiful venue. Barre is lucky to have it.
- Mrs. Wheeler is proud of the diversity in the community and that we provide equal opportunities for everyone.

8. Executive Session

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

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

Ms. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, 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.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to enter into executive session to discuss both items under 1 VSA 313(a)(1), inviting David DeRuosi from NESDEC for item 8.1; the motion passed unanimously.

The Board Clerk provided the following.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to exit executive session at 7:02 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to authorize the chair to enter into negotiations for a superintendent contract; the motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert