

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet

May 5, 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)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)
Ian Campbell (BT)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Eddy (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS

GUESTS PRESENT:

Alex Alexander, Christine DiCicco, Christine Parker, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, Jamie James - TimeClock Plus Rep, Lindsey Wells, Nancy Leclerc, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Randi Collins, Sarah Capron, Sharon Jacobs, Steven Thompson.

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Monday, May 5, 2025, regular 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

Add under 5.2 May 1, 2025 Warrant
Add under 5.3, additional new hires Jessica Obrial and Natalie Smith
Add 5.5 Administrator Contracts

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

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds recommended that 8.4 be removed, as it had been discussed at a previous meeting. Mrs. Farrell agreed.

Mr. Cecchnelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to amend the motion and remove 8.4; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1. Public

None

4.2. Student Voice

None

5. Consent Agenda

5.1. Special Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2025

5.2. Warrant Approval: April 17, 2025; April 24, 2025; May 1, 2025

5.3. New Hires: Cara Arduengo, Allison Corse, Jessica Obrial, Natalie Smith

5.4. Final FY26 Calendar

5.5. Administrator Contracts

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, to approve the consent agenda; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Principal Monthly Reports

6.1. SHS, SEA, BTMES, BCEMS

Corrections from SHS: Monday, June 9th, is the Spring Concert.

6.2. Superintendent End of Year Letter/ Summer School Letter to the Board

The Summer School letter is linked in the addendum. Ms. Canning read the letter aloud. Concerns shared about getting summer school added and financed through the next budget cycle.

7. Current Business

7.1. Grant Reports

A high-level explanation of the grant report was requested. The Business Manager, Mrs. Perreault, provided an overview of the Grant Reports. There is a 5-year contract with Genuine Foods, but each year is renewable.

7.2. Year-End Projections/Expenditure Report

Mrs. Perreault shared summarized details. Requested a narrative of items contributing to surplus balances.

7.3. Timekeeping, Attendance, and Substitute Management Electronic System

Ms. Canning explained the purpose of updated systems that communicate with each other and provide accurate information and reports.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contract with TimeClock Plus using the FY25 funds to pay for the initial year's license and implementation costs, totaling \$69,175.46; the motion passed unanimously.

7.4. Policy Review Contract VSBA Approval

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to authorize the BUUSD Board Chair to sign the VSBA contract and allow the superintendent to coordinate the work as soon as possible; the motion passed unanimously.

7.5. Long-Range Master Building and Operations Plan

Ms. Canning and Mr. Evans, Director of Facilities, provided an overview of the work on these plans.

7.6. Safety Equipment Request

Ms. Canning and Mr. Evans inquired about using the SHS SRO budgeted monies (\$50,000) to upgrade building safety equipment. Filling the position was unsuccessful, so it will become a shared position between Barre City and SHS. The spending is not to exceed \$80,000.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to approve the Facilities Director for upgrades to security cameras and smoke detectors in the hallways, not to exceed \$80,000; the motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

8.1. CVCC Update/Regional Meeting

Mrs. Farrell shared that the CVCC board will attend the sending school's board meetings to discuss the future of the career center. With the current education climate, CVCC will move forward while awaiting what will be allowed once the state organizes schools.

8.2. RFP for Building Consolidation

Ms. Canning would like to bring in a consultant familiar with consolidation, building studies, and unification to have a conversation with the board to generate ideas concerning what we want to do. How do we want to move forward in Barre? Is it just K-8 buildings? This may help with the study we want and a plan to move forward. Ms. Canning will get a proposal and send it out to the Board, with the possibility of them visiting the next board meeting on June 2nd.

8.3. School Board Committees

Tentative assignments pending input from Mr. Eddy. Policy: Mr. Campbell and Mr. Grant; Finance: Mrs. Whalen and Mr. Campbell; Facilities: Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Farrell (ad-hoc); Negotiations: Ms. Wheeler Reynolds and Mrs. Wheeler.

Mrs. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to institute the policy, finance, and facilities committees with the abovementioned assignments; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Boutin moved to authorize the superintendent to advertise for a BT community member for the Facilities committee; the motion passed unanimously.

8.4. Board Meeting Frequency

9. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Mrs. Farrell - Resolution honoring school nurses. Potential \$7 million surplus - request to address. Warrant had two Tractors purchased. Ms. Canning confirmed that she should have brought two replacements to the board.
- Mrs. Wheeler - Visit the PTO FB page; there are many events.
- Mr. Campbell - Warm weather and more students are cycling. Remind everyone to wear a helmet.
- Ms. Wheeler Reynolds - SHS Staff Appreciation breakfast kicks off Teacher Appreciation Week. Nice to connect with educators and staff. Municipal vote in May
- Mr. Grant, Echo Staff Appreciation Breakfast. Shout out to the cafeteria staff. Listen, learn, and understand to make decisions that make a meaningful difference.
- Ms. Canning, the letter includes many events. Thanks to the board members for attending, and I look forward to the next couple of days of recognizing our staff. Air conditioning has been updated in some areas. We are aware that some areas are hot in the summer, so we'll do our best to keep buildings as cool as possible. We will find alternatives to that challenge.
- Mr. Boutin - Great attendance at Breakfasts. Holding a public forum regarding social media on May 19 @, 5:30 p.m., "Can't Look Away". Documentary about the impact of children and social media. Mental health awareness month. SHS Auditorium. Panel discussion after the documentary with doctors attending.

10. Next Meeting Date

June 2, 2025 - Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., Spaulding High School Library, and via Google Meet.

11. Executive Session

None

12. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert