

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
June 2, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Boutin (BC) – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) - Clerk (arrived at 6:30 p.m)
Alice Farrell (BT)
Catherine Whalen (BT)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)
Ian Campbell (BT)
Jeff Eddy (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

+1 802-***-***09, Alex Alexander, Bernadette Rose, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, Debbie Singiser, Ellen Kaye, Jeanne Collins Deweese, Kirsten Evans, Lindsey Wells, Nancy Leclerc, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Hill, Steven Thompson, Susan Thompson, Evelyn Kalat, Andy Evans.

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Monday, June 2, 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.
The Chair reviewed how public comment works.
Introduction of Board Members and Administrators present

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

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the agenda as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion: Facility/Grade Configuration Needs

Taken out of order, placed after 7. Reports

5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1. Public

Bernadette Rose and Steven Thompson shared information with the Board

5.2. Student Voice

Andy Evans and Evelyn Kalat shared their elected roles in the Student Council and will represent that group with things for the Board.
Andy is President, and Evelyn is Vice President.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: May 5, 2025

Correction needed: Change Emily Reynolds Wheeler to Emily Wheeler Reynolds.

6.2. Warrant Approval: May 8, May 15, May 22, & May 29, 2025

6.3. New Hires: S. McGlothilin, M. Lamarre, J. Stamper

Ms. Canning provided additional information about each candidate being hired for FY26.

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6.4. Annual Designation of Truant Officers & Annual Designation of HHB Report Recipients (Policy C10)

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

7. Reports

7.1. Principal Reports: SHS, SEA, BTMES, BCEMS

The board provided comments and questions, including Touch a Truck - Friday Field Days, VT Students attending West Point (an average of 3 per year), and clarity on phones in the SHS report, confirmed that those are student phones.

7.2. NESDEC/BUUSD Enrollment & Home Study Reports

7.3. CIA Plan Report

7.4. Special Ed Staff/Child Count Data Report

7.5. Discipline Data Report

7.6. Building Safety Devices - Materials purchased; work will occur over the summer.

Ms. Canning explained the use and need of the data reports, but she would like a clearer understanding of what the Board would like. She will consider and reflect on the feedback, work with the administrators, and come back with an idea.

4. Discussion: Facility/Grade Configuration Needs

Jeanne Collins Dewese and Dr. Michael Dewese from Dewese Consulting LLC joined online to facilitate the discussion. No consensus or decisions are being made; the objective is to stimulate thinking. The board split into small groups of three to discuss the three reflection questions provided by Mrs. Dewese. The board shared their work on the questions. Mrs. Dewese will get a copy to Ms. Canning; they can be available or recommend other consultants if there's a decision to move forward with a Futures Planning Action Goal.

8. Current Business

8.1. Validation Resolution - Annual Mtg

The Chair read the resolution provided by the attorney for BUUSD, acknowledging that the March 3, 2025, Annual meeting was not conducted in accordance with VT expectations for municipal elections.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to accept and sign the validation resolution; the motion passed unanimously.

8.2. Contract Signing Over Summer

The board will still be notified of contracts prior to signing them, but it won't be during a public meeting due to there being no meeting in July.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to authorize the board chair to sign contracts and other miscellaneous contracts in consultation with the superintendent over the summer months; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wheeler amended the motion to authorize the board chair to sign employee and other various contracts without the board's prior approval in consultation with the superintendent when the board is not in session.

Mrs. Wheeler removed her amended motion.

Mr. Cecchinelli recommended amending the original motion to include, over the summer months to align with the agenda item.

8.3. Bids for Summer Projects

Mr. Evans, Director of Facilities, provided an overview of the summer projects.

Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to authorize the payment of \$36,500 from the Capital Reserve Fund; the motion passed unanimously.

The board took a 5-minute break

8.4. Adopt by July 1, 2025: Policy Selection of Library Materials (D8)

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whalen, to approve the first reading of policy D8 Selection of Library Materials; the motion passed unanimously.

8.5. Committees of the Board

The board chair reviewed the list of committee assignments recommended by the superintendent.

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to accept the superintendent's recommendations for committee assignments with the amendment to add Mrs. Whalen to the Policy committee; the motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Cecchinelli wanted transparency and added that he would join the negotiation committee after July 1, 2025, when he is no longer part of the BEA representation.

Mrs. Whalen amended the original motion, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, to add Mrs. Whalen to the Policy Committee; the motion passed unanimously.

9. Old Business

None

10. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Mr. Eddy praised the Barre City staff and students' Empty Bowls fundraiser, which was a well-attended and great event.
- Mrs. Whalen attended a CPR training course, and part of it included using AED units. Consider looking into grants to have an AED unit for our sporting teams. Request that policy A20 be updated; it contains an old board meeting schedule. Requested the cost of the summer school program and, if cut, where it was cut from.
- Mrs. Wheeler attended Can't Look Away, a good documentary, favoring S69.
- Mrs. Farrell shared on June 9th that there will be a Career Center Forum in the SHS Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. Important board members show up. The CVCC Board will be there. Reiterated tick problems and tick checks on pets are good things.
- Ms. Wheeler Reynolds shared that June 7th is the Barre Pride Festival in City Hall Park, from 8:00 to 5:00. Encourage people to attend.
- Mrs. Canning commented on the great Memorial Day parade and how nice seeing all the schools represented was. Fabulous job with the Empty Bowls event. June 21, 11:00 a.m. is the SHS graduation. Two Board members have graduates this year Mr. Cecchinelli and Mrs. Whalen. There will be a special reserved seat for board members. Let her know if you plan to attend.
- Mr. Boutin echoes comments about Empty Bowls and Can't Look Away. AED is in legislation.

11. Next Meeting Date

August 4, 2025 - Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., Spaulding High School Library, and via Google Meet.

12. Executive Session

12.1. Personnel Matters 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to enter into executive session at 8:28 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee under 1 VSA 313 (a)(3); the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to exit executive session at 8:42 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert