

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
August 4, 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) (remote)
Ian Campbell (BT)
Jeff Eddy (BC)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS

GUESTS PRESENT:

Andrea Cechak, Andrew Evans, Bern Rose, Chantelle Micheli, David Delcore - Times Argus, Evelyn Kalat, Garret White, Jennifer Chioldi, Karen McKelly, Kirsten Evans, Lindsey Wells, Mary Fifield, Paige Chouinard, Peter Anthony, Roberta Melnick, Stephanie Kennett, Steven Thompson, Tyler Watkins

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the Monday, August 4, 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.

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

Remove 9. Board Education - School Board Assessment
Add 5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda before Executive Session

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

Added - 5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Kennett, Mrs. Chioldi, Mrs. Fifield, and Mrs. McKelly commented on the importance of keeping and supporting the Arts and Music programs. (Referenced: savethemusic.org)

4. Executive Session

4.1. Legal Services 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to enter into executive session for Legal Services 1 VSA 313 (a) (1); the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whalen, to exit executive session at 7:35 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

5.1. Public

Mr. Anthony shared comments regarding the pay of substitutes. Mrs. Melnick requested clarity on communicating with the board and receiving responses.

5.2. Student Voice

Andy Evans, Student Council President, and Evelyn Kalat, Student Council Vice President, from SHS shared goals for the school year. Focus: Student voice on issues to the School Board and Ways to display student talent.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: June 2, 2025

Mrs. Wheeler Reynolds - Request that the minutes be reviewed again for accuracy.

6.2. Special Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2025

6.3. Warrant Approval: June 6, 12, 19, 30, 2025 and July 10, 17, 24, 30, 2025

6.4. New Hires: M. Fair, H. Maruyama, A. Beauregard, G. Breer, J. Ramirez, W. Haywood, Z. Jerome, A. Walkowiak, G. Tait, S. Peirce-Speight.

Ms. Canning and Mrs. Maurice provided additional information about candidates. Questions were answered.

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guiliano, to approve the consent agenda items, including the addition of the July 30th Warrant; the motion passed unanimously.

7. Board Reports

7.1. Facilities Committee

7.2. Finance Committee

7.3. Policy Committee

Committee chairs provided verbal reports of their meetings.

7.4. Invitation to Explore Regional Merger Opportunities

Mr. Boutin read an email invitation from Michael Clark from Orange Southwest to discuss building a district. Board members provided feedback and thoughts.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, for the superintendent to RSVP on behalf of the BUUSD School Board that we'll attend the meeting and send our representatives; the motion passed unanimously.

8. Current Business

8.1. Second and Final Reading of Policy D8

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to approve the second and final reading and adopt Policy D8; the motion passed unanimously.

8.2. Board Meeting Planner Draft

Document shared - Suggestion to add Board Goals.

8.3. All Schools Plan for Cell Phone Management 2025-2026 (draft)

All school administrators contributed ideas for a draft procedure with the law coming forward. All will be different based on the needs of each school. Medical exceptions will be honored.

~~9. Board Education~~

~~9.1. School Board Meeting Assessment~~

10. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Ms. Whalen - Electrician being hired. Someone leaving? Ms. Canning confirmed it's a replacement for one who's leaving.
- Mrs. Farrell - Do we have safety committees? Ms. Canning confirmed there are committees for each building and a district committee.
- Ms. Wheeler Reynolds - Suggested the Board consider ways to interact with our community beyond public comment.
- Mr. Grant - Thanked community members who spoke on behalf of our Arts and Music programs. Suggest taking steps in next budget to support the arts more.
- Mr. Eddy - Echoed other board members regarding community and students' comments. Looking forward to hearing more thoughts and ideas on how the board can support and seeing more student talent.
- Ms. Canning - Invited board members to convocation on August 20th at 8:00 a.m.; days 2 and 3 of the Admin Retreat - working hard on data systems, supervision and evaluation, and professional communities. Federal Grants have been received. Ms. Canning is very much in support of the arts. There haven't been cuts, but equity in time for arts is being considered. She is excited for school to start; it's going to be a great year.

11. Next Meeting Date

Labor Day, September 1, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet. (Superintendent's Recommendation - September 8, 2025)

The next board meeting will be on September 8th.

Meeting Date Conflict: March 2, 2025 (Superintendent Recommendation - March 4, 2025)
Will be discussed at a future meeting.

12. Executive Session

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

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to enter into executive session 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. Eddy, to exit executive session at 9:25 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert