

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
September 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)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)
Ian Campbell (BT)
Jeff Eddy (BC)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Andrew Evans
Evelyn. Kalat

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities
Dr. Melody Frank, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Andrea Cechak, Ben Matthews, Cassandra Demarais, Christine Parker, Colleen Kresco, Dan Morrison, David Delcore - Times Argus, Dr. Meagan Roy, Garret White, Kirsten Evans, Lindsey Wells, Meaghan Provost, Michael, Nancy Leclerc, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sharon Jacobs. Samantha Watkins, Sarah Watkins, Tyler Watkins.

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025, 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 and proceeded with introductions.

5. Additions and/or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda (taken out of order)

Move 8.4 and 8.5 before #3

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

8.4 Annual Fuel Oil/Propane/Woodchip Contract Approval (taken out of order)

Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to enter into a contract with Irving for fuel and propane and Causen Forest Products for woodchips services; the motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Annual Snow Removal Contract Approval (taken out of order)

Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to enter into a contract with Bellevance Landworks and Hauling for snow removal; the motion passed 7 to 1. Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.

3. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

3.1. Public Comment

Ms. C. Demarais, Mr. T. Watkins, Ms. R. Van Vliet, Mr. P. Malone, Ms. M. Provost, Mr. G. White, and Mr. A. Evans were allowed to speak. Topics included the Arts Program, the Upcoming Budget, the BTMES Front Office position, and the Special Education Report.

3.2. Student Representatives

Mr. A. Evans and Ms. E. Kalat will provide information around the school

Ms. S. Watkins spoke about Music/Arts

The president and vice president (SHS Students) of the Turning Point USA chapter introduced themselves to the Board. Turning Point USA is a youth organization that helps get kids more familiar with the Constitution and interested in politics.

4. Board Education

4.1. Special Education Program Review Presentation

Dr. Melody Frank and Dr. Meagan Roy presented a slideshow of the report findings. Board members were allowed to ask questions.

The community will also be able to ask questions at the Fall Community Forum on Wednesday, October 22nd, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

5. Additions and/or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda (taken out of order under #2)

~~Move 8.4 and 8.5 before #4~~

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

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2025

6.2. Special Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2025, August 18, 2025

6.3. Warrant Approval: August 14, 2025, August 21, 2025, August 27, 2025

6.4. New Hires: J. Villa, T. Bull, C. Brouillette

6.5. Resignation: P. Peters

Ms. Canning provided additional information about candidates. Questions were answered.

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the consent agenda; 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. Paine Mountain/Orange Southwest Consolidation Discussion

As one of the board representatives, Mr. Boutin shared the meeting details. Mixed suggestions were shared. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

8. Current Business

8.1. First Reading of Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Policy (F5)

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to approve the first reading of Policy F5; the motion passed unanimously.

8.2. VSBIT Proxy (Multi-Line & Unemployment) Authorization

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to appoint a proxy, Board of Directors of the VSBIT, by majority vote to represent our interests at this meeting; the motion passed 5 to 3. Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Farrell, and Mr. Boutin voted against the motion.

8.3. VEHI Proxy (Dental & Health) Authorization

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to appoint a proxy, Board of Directors of the VEHI, by majority vote to represent our interests at this meeting; the motion passed 5 to 3. Mr. Cecchinelli, Mrs. Farrell, and Mr. Boutin voted against the motion.

~~**8.4. Annual Fuel Oil/Propane/Woodchip Contract Approval (taken out of order above #3)**~~

~~**8.5. Annual Snow Removal Contract Approval (taken out of order above #3)**~~

8.6. Member Selections (Negotiation/Policy Committees - L. Wells Letter)

A third representative is needed for the teacher and support staff negotiations, per the recommendation of counsel to have three board members.

Lindsey Wells has submitted a letter of interest to become a community member for the Policy Committee.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to appoint Mr. Campbell as our third representative to the negotiation committee; the motion passed 7 to 1. Mr. Eddy voted against the motion.

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to appoint Lindsey Wells as the community member for the policy committee; the motion passed unanimously.

9. Round Table/Superintendent Report

- Mr. Eddy thought getting Andy Evans' student perspective about the music/arts programs was great.
- Mrs. Whalen agreed.
- Mrs. Farrell was impressed by Dr. Roy and her work. Glad to see that.
- Mr. Cecchinelli thanked all the students who attended. The largest group he has seen attend.
- Mr. Grant provided information about Aldrich Library, which is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every weekday. Grades 7-12 students are invited to stop by the Teen Lounge after school. Teen nights are held on the first Friday of each month, and other events are on a calendar posted in the lounge. Pam Wilson, a Teen artist and resident, joins the lounge once a week.
- Ms. Wheeler Reynolds reminded us of the Board Association Regional meeting on September 30th via Zoom. Check your email. She's also interested in communicating more with the tech center and understanding how we can support their efforts, possibly at a future meeting next month.
- Mr. Campbell shared that today's presentation and community involvement were excellent. Wonderful to hear community outreach regarding the importance of music and arts.
- Ms. Canning - Two-day conference at Double Tree in Burlington, October 28 and 29. Encourage Board members to attend. There's a special workshop on conflict. She's working on her Superintendent's goals for next month. Recommends the Board as a whole work on goals as well.

10. Next Meeting Date

October 6, 2025, Spaulding High School Library/via Google Meet.

Mr. Boutin reminded us that the Fall Community Forum will be held on October 22nd at 5:37 p.m.

11. Proposed Executive Session

11.1. Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)

Mrs. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to enter into executive session to discuss contracts 1 VSA 313 (a)(1), inviting the superintendent at 8:18 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to exit executive session at 8:37 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert