

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 3, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Boutin (BC) – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) - Clerk
Catherine Whalen (BT)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)(online)
Ian Campbell (BT)
Jeff Eddy (BC)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Andrew Evans
Evelyn Kalat

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Alice Farrell (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Jennifer Bisson, Asst. Principal BCEMS
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Cary Lafiria, Christine Parker, Cidney Bonneau, Courtney Danforth, Eddie Rouse, June Babel, Kirsten Evans, Lindsey Wells, Mackenzie Kovaka, Nancy Leclerc, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Hill, Sonya Spaulding

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the meeting to order on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library in 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.

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

Take 8.1 out of order move before #4
Add Executive Session 1 VSA 313 (a)(3) and 1 VSA 313 (a)(4)

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

8.1 Selection of Committee Members on Committees

Interviews were conducted, and the Board will make its selections during Executive Session.
BC Finance Committee Seat: Cary Lafiria
BT Finance Committee Seat: Cidney Bonneau, Paul Malone, Belma Rooney
BT Facilities Committee Seat: Josh Howard, Michael Baribault (neither present)

4. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1. Public Comment

Ed Rouse - Sent a letter of interest for the Facilities Committee, but it's a Barre Town seat. He is a Barre City resident and will continue to attend as a volunteer.

4.2. Student Representatives

Andy Evans and Evelyn Kalat, Student Council representatives, shared events and upcoming plans.

The blood drive exceeded their goal, Girls' soccer team is in the semi-finals, Modern Band attended Battle of the bands at HUUSD (didn't place but lots of positive feedback), planning a concert in the auditorium to benefit VT food bank, planning bi-monthly assemblies to reach more students about educational events, sporting events, PSATs, etc., Alumni nights for girls and boys basketball - looking for 10 alumni to scrimmage at half time (incorporate into hockey, baseball and softball), Winter Pep Rally - survey to student body for game ideas, and hold a ceremony for girls soccer team.

5. Board Presentation

5.1. FY27 Budget Guidance

Ms. Canning and Mrs. Perreault reviewed information in the PowerPoint. The superintendent is seeking guidance and direction from the school board on budget priorities.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds - Moving grant-funded items into the operating budget is important; provide amounts for moved items; Class size/state guidelines.

Mr. Campbell - Add back Summer school. Obtain the cost over the last five years to determine an amount to consider.

Mr. Grant - Inequities in programs between BC and BT - Chip away in this budget to make them more equal. JoAn review - AOE graduation requirements.

Mrs. Wheeler - Remove level funding, prefer to look at the needs and try to stay level and keep it down. Capping it would be detrimental to all the other things on the list.

Mr. Boutin - Agrees with Mrs. Wheeler, but have staff provide 0% as a reference to show losses with 0%. Mrs. Wheeler - Transparency, but not overburdening staff.

Ms. Canning - Prioritize the Strategic Plan and Board/Superintendent goals with feedback from administration—a good starting point to identify improvements and enhancements the buildings would like to provide. On November 17th, there will be presentations by building Principals and the Director of Curriculum. On December 15th, there will be presentations from Directors and budget options.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: October 6, 2025

6.2. Warrant Approval: October 9, October 16, October 22, October 29, 2025

6.3. Contract Approval: E. Recchia

Ms. Canning provided details about the teacher

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

7. Board Reports

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

Reports were provided in the board packet. No questions.

7.2. Facilities: Canceled October 13, 2025; Next Meeting: November 10, 2025

7.3. Finance: Met on November 3, 2025; Next Meeting: December 1, 2025

7.4. Policy: Met on October 8, 2025; Next Meeting: November 12, 2025

Committee chairs provided verbal reports of their meetings. Policy B8 was removed from the agenda as it doesn't match the statute.

8. Current Business

8.1. ~~Selection of Community Members on Committees~~ (Taken out of order)

8.2. First Reading of Policies: (D3) Responsible Computer Internet & Network Use, (C5) Firearms, (C7) Student Attendance

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to approve policies D3, C5, and C7; the motion was withdrawn by both.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the first reading of policies D3, excluding the Barre Town language, as well as C5 and C7; the motion passed unanimously.

8.3. Board Governance Self Assessment

Annually, the Board completes a self-assessment. Ms. Canning reviewed each standard and requested that Board Members rate each with a 1-4, with 4 being the highest rating.

9. Round Table/Superintendent Report

Mr. Campbell - Support CVCC; vote tomorrow

Mr. Grant - attended Student Voice at the VSBA Conference - inspired by how to engage with our students better.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds - Attended Step up to conflict at VSBA Conference- It was personal work value-based and new skills

Mrs. Whalen - Would like clarification on what the finance committee is allowed to do or not do? Fiscal oversight, reaching out to the community, planning, and budgetary guidance. Add to the December agenda.

Mrs. Wheeler - Echoes CVCC support, impressed with the community's interest in committees.

Ms. Canning - Requesting feedback from the board on the community and staff newsletter. Will send out 3 to 4 more times this year.

Mr. Boutin - VSBA meeting was encouraging. Governance - he's proud that our board has done it. AI is intriguing and terrifying, used to help children with academic progress, but it's taking away personal interaction.

10. Next Meeting Date

November 17, 2025, BUUSD Budget Meeting - Board, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

December 1, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

11. Proposed Executive Session

11.1. Personnel VSA 313 (a)(3)

11.2. Personnel VSA 313 (a)(4)

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to enter into executive session to discuss 1 VSA 313 (a)(3) and 1 VSA 313 (a)(4), amended to invite the superintendent; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to exit the executive session at 8:22 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Provided by the Board Clerk

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and authorize a five-day unpaid leave for an employee; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to appoint Michael Baribault to the Facilities Committee, Bella Rooney and Cary Lafirira to the Finance Committee; the motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert