

# DRAFT

## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
January 5, 2026 - 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)  
Alice Farrell (BT) (Virtual)  
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  
Jody Emerson, CVCC Superintendent  
Erica Pearson, Co-Principal BTMES  
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS  
Mike Martin, Director of Technology

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Andrew Evans, Carly Martin, Cass Lang, Christine Parker, David Delcore - Times Argus, Ella Lyford, Ellen Kaye, Jesse White, Kirsten Evans, Lindsey Wells, Lisa Liotta, Mackenzie Kovaka, Martha Blaisdell, Mary Fifield, Nancy Leclerc, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Samantha Lawrence, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Sonya Spaulding, Steven Thompson

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the meeting to order on Monday, January 5, 2026, 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.

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

Add Executive Session 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)  
Add under 7.3 - Finance - Approve Letter

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

#### **4. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the process of public comment and proceeded with introductions.

##### **4.1. Public Comment**

Ms. Lang, Ms. Liotta, and Ms. Kaye expressed disappointment that the Board Chair would be a speaker for the Turning Point USA event.

##### **4.2. Student Representatives**

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

Gathered feedback after meeting with Food Service Provider, Boys' basketball game tomorrow night for alumni night, January 13th SHS band/chorus concert, January 16th Tones for the Table food drive - benefits VT Food Bank, winter sports alumni nights planned. All events can be found on the Spaulding High School website at [spauldinghs.org](http://spauldinghs.org) in Tide Pride.

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## 5. Board Education

### 5.1. Common Level of Appraisal Presentation- Carly Martin, Assessor, City of Barre

Ms. Martin presented her presentation, received questions, and provided answers.

- How to Read your Tax Bill: [Your Vermont Property Tax Bill | Department of Taxes](#)
- Information on Assessment: [Assessment | Department of Taxes](#)
- Barre City Re-Appraisal: [Assessment - City of Barre](#)

#### Questions or concerns:

In Person: Tuesday and Friday from 8:00 am-12:00 pm and by appointment

Email: [assessor@barrecity.org](mailto:assessor@barrecity.org)

Phone: 802-476-0244

### 5.2. CVCC Budget Presentation

Ms. Emerson presented her presentation, received questions, and provided answers.

[CVCC Budget Presentation](#)

## 6. Consent Agenda

### 6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: December 1, 2025 (8.4 - request to not lose sight of)

### 6.2. Special Budget Meeting Minutes: December 15 and December 16, 2025

### 6.3. Warrant Approval: December 3, December 11, & December 18, 2025

### 6.4. New Hire: P. Reimer

Ms. Canning provided details about the candidate.

### 6.5. Annual School Choice Agreement FY27

### 6.6. Annual Announced Tuition FY27

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

## 7. Board Reports

### 7.1. Building Reports: BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, SEA

The administrator presentations were delightful, and a request was made for them to return at the end of the year to update on how student goals were met. Liam Chase - BT 8th grade - Congratulations - will be a Paige for this session of legislature..

### 7.2. Facilities: Met December 8, 2025; Next Meeting: January 12, 2026

### 7.3. Finance: Met on December 1, 2025; Next Meeting: January 5, 2026 (Approve Letter)

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds read the letter to the Board.

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the letter and send it to representatives invited to the legislative breakfast on January 12th; the motion passed unanimously.**

### 7.4. Policy: Canceled December 10, 2025; Next Meeting: January 14, 2026

### 7.5. Quarterly Reports: Enrollment/Home Study, CIA Plan

Committee chairs provided verbal reports of their meetings.

## 8. Current Business

### 8.1. Second Reading and Adoption of Policies: (F3) Options-Based Response to Violent Intruder Drills, Fire Drills and Emergency Preparedness, (C3) Transportation, (C8) Pupil Privacy Rights, (D1) Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements, Policies A1, B1, B2, B3, B4 - non-substantial changes.

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the second reading and adoption of policies F3, C3, C8, D1, A1, B1, B2, B3, and B4, to be in alignment with VSBA policies; the motion passed 8 to 1. Mr. Boutin voted against the motion.**

### 8.2. Superintendent Search

With Ms. Canning's departure, a superintendent search is required.

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the VSBA contract and authorize the Board Chair to sign; the motion passed unanimously.**

### 8.3. Budget Development

Ms. Canning gave a recap of the last budget meeting. Support appears to be for Option A, a level-funded budget with a caveat to explore the possibility of transferring some grant-funded positions into the general operating budget if feasible.

With projected enrollment numbers for FY27, we can reduce two primary school teachers. This, in turn, would allow two of the eleven grant-funded positions to be moved to the general fund without changing the dollar amount. If the board uses the capital improvement fund, it would reduce the general operating budget and use the Tax stabilization fund to increase revenue, reducing the budget.

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Keeping in mind that it takes \$578,000 in reductions for a one-cent adjustment. Ms. Kimball presented a tool to assist with calculations.

## 9. Round Table/Superintendent Report

Mr. Eddy - BCEMS concert was phenomenal a couple of weeks ago. standing room only.

Mrs. Wheeler - Shared website called votersoftomorrow.org. Gen Z organized - goal is to get students more involved politically

Mrs. Farrell - Leaving the board as of January 12th. She's turning 75 tomorrow - half of her time has been spent in public service, and she's ready to "do nothing".

Ms. Canning - Will get specific invitations regarding student events to everyone

Mr. Boutin - Shared his respect for Alice and her service, "Gem of Barre Town."

## 10. Next Meeting Date

January 12, 2026, BUUSD Special Budget Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

January 20, 2026, BUUSD Special Budget Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

## 11. Tentative Executive Session

### 11.1. Employment and Evaluation of a public officer or an employee 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

**Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that premature general public knowledge regarding contracts clearly places the board at a substantial disadvantage, as it risks disclosing sensitive information; the motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, to exit the executive session at 8:50 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.**

## 12. Adjournment

**On a motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Gilbert*