

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference – Google Meet
January 20, 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) (Virtual)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)
Ian Campbell (BT) (Virtual)
Jeff Eddy (BC)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Christina Kimball, Business Manager Consultant (Virtual)
Carol Marold, Director of Human Resources

GUESTS PRESENT:

Christie Omodeo, David Delcore - Times Argus, Denise Maurice, Gabby Cota, Josh Howard, Lindsey Wells, Mark McDermott, Nancy Leclerc, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:01 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 Two executive session Contract 1 VSA 313 (a)(1) and Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)
Add 5.5 - Superintendent Charge review and approval

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to approve the agenda with the amendments; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Boutin explained how Public comments work and proceeded with introductions.
Ms. Van Vliet acknowledged and shared thoughts pertaining to Martin Luther King Day

5. Current Business

5.1. FY Budget Discussion

Ms. Canning provided one budget (draft 3): \$57,829,257 (3.36%) - per pupil spending \$12,982, with a 13.12% increase in per pupil expenditure. Draft 3 reflects a .5 reduction in a staff member, \$1 facilities per square foot reduced to .85, additions \$10,000 wood chips for BT, and \$25,000 for summer custodial, \$100,000 for summer school, tax stabilization \$100,000, not touching Capital Reserve Fund, and moving the Annual meeting from March to May.

5.2. FY27 Budget Approval

5.3. FY27 Warning Approval

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the Warning for the \$57,829,257 budget, which includes language to move the annual meeting from March to May. Includes Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4.

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Mr. Grant withdrew his motion since 5.2 Budget Approval was skipped.

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the FY27 budget (5.2) as presented, totaling \$57,829,257; the motion passed 7 to 1. Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.

Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the Warning with Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4; the motion passed 7 to 1. Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.

5.4. FY26 Annual Meeting Warning Approval

Language for the Annual Meeting Warning was included in the FY27 Warning approval (5.3) and approved.

5.5. Superintendent Charge Review & Approval

Mr. Boutin read the Superintendent Charge provided by Mrs. Marold

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to approve the Superintendent Committee Charge as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Next Meeting Date

February 2, 2025, Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet.

7. Executive Session

7.1. Contract 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)

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

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

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to enter into executive session to discuss 1 VSA 313 (a)(1) and 1 VSA 313 (a)(3), inviting in Mrs. Marold and Mr. McDermott; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to exit executive session at 7:44 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Whalen was not present for the vote.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Whalen was not present for the vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert