

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
December 1, 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)
Alice Farrell (BT) (Virtual until 7:28 p.m.)
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
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager (Virtual)
Mike Martin, Director of Technology
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities

GUESTS PRESENT:

Christine Parker, Dan Morrison, Denise Maurice, Diane Solomon, Kirsten Evans, Lindsey Wells, Michael Deering, Nancy Leclerc, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Sonya Spaulding

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Boutin, called the meeting to order on Monday, December 1, 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.

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

Add under Executive Session 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)
Add to Current Business - 8.8 Board Self-Assessment

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, 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 suggested asking all questions first so that all questions could be heard.

4.1. Public Comment

None

4.2. Student Representatives

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

December focused on better communication of information to students. Held the first edition of an Informational Assembly, planning bi-weekly videos interviewing sports teams/clubs, Thursday a Food service provider meeting with questions from the providers and students, Tunes for the Table food drive will be January 16th - SHS Modern band hosting concert at SHS auditorium - admission is 10 canned food goods - students earn community service hours, Alumni nights basketball half-time game - would like to implement in each sport moving forward to connect past and current students.

5. Board Presentation

5.1. FY27 Budget Presentations: Technology/Facilities/Budget Narrative

Mike Martin, Director of Technology, shared his presentation and answered questions.

Mr. Evans, Director of Facilities, shared his presentation and answered questions.

Mrs. Perreault, Business Manager, reviewed the Budget Narrative.

Proposed Draft 1 is at 3.41%, which is a \$1.9 million increase. Does not include summer school or grant-funded positions discussed.

Those added would be 5.29%, resulting in a \$1,055,000 increase. If administrator needs are added, it would be a 6.85% increase.

Every 1% increase to this budget is about \$560,000. The tax rate calculation is currently estimated. A Google Form for community

engagement, where users can submit questions and responses, is linked to the website. Education spending is 5.79%; revenues

decrease it to 3.41%. Pending reappraisals, the Barre City Homestead Tax Rate with the current CLA is set to increase by 36 cents;

Barre Town is set to increase by 24 cents. For every \$100,000 of home value, taxes increase by \$246 for Barre Town and \$367 for

Barre City (pending reappraisal, a decrease of \$387 for every \$100,000 in value). Reminder: FY26 Revenues - \$1 million was used to

decrease education spending. That has not happened in this scenario. After the \$1 million is used, the tax stabilization funds have a

balance of \$800,000.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2025

6.2. Special Budget Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2025

6.3. Warrant Approval: November 6 and 19, 2025

6.4. New Hire: J. Shaffner

Ms. Canning provided details about the candidate.

6.5. MOUs - Board/Committee Minutes

6.6. Annual Financial Management Questionnaire

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

7. Board Reports

7.1. Facilities: Met November 10, 2025; Next Meeting: December 8, 2025

7.2. Finance: Met on December 1, 2025; Next Meeting: January 5, 2025

7.3. Policy: Met on November 12, 2025; Next Meeting: December 10, 2025

Committee chairs provided verbal reports of their meetings. Mrs. Whalen requested Board approval for the committee to conduct a 5-year trend analysis of growth and loss. Will be added to the next board meeting agenda.

8. Current Business

8.1. First Reading 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.

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the first reading of policies F3, C3, C8, D1, A1, B1, B2, B3, and B4, retaining the BUUSD language; however, the motion failed due to a tie.

Mr. Grant made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, to approve all of the first readings, but revisit D1 and B3 at the second reading; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the second readings and adoptions of D3, C5, and C7; the motion passed unanimously.

8.3. Legislative Breakfast Date (January)

The board selected January 12th.

8.4. PK-8 Restructuring/Articles of Agreement (Articles 3 & 4)

Mr. Boutin provided some background on the Act 46 merger, and these articles cause barriers moving forward.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to instruct the superintendent to conduct a high-level rough estimate of cost savings and efficiency gains by merging the schools as intended by Act 46, and to reach out to legal counsel to inquire about removing or modifying articles in March. Ms. Wheeler Reynolds withdrew the motion.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to reaffirm our commitment to the feasibility study, which we already approved, and ask the superintendent to draft an article to include on the ballot for March that will ask our community to approve spending money on the feasibility study; the motion passed unanimously.

8.5. Finance Committee Charge

Mr. Boutin reviewed the current charge of the committee. Ms. Wheeler Reynolds recused herself from the discussion. The original request sought clarity on what the board expected from the Finance Committee.

8.6. Community Engagement

Discussion centered on strengthening connections with the families of our students. Learning their needs, wants, and values in the education of their children. Lunch & Learn tours and questionnaires discussed.

8.7. Public Comment

Mr. Boutin did some research with other boards, and only one allowed a back-and-forth discussion. Most allow, on average, a maximum of 2 to 3 minutes. The board has agreed to remain at a 2-minute public comment period.

8.8. Board Self-Assessment

Mr. Boutin reviewed the document, and board members voted on each.

9. Round Table/Superintendent Report

Mr. Grant - Light up the Library launched today—an annual event of the Aldrich Library Public Group, donation of holiday tree and wreath. Trees have prizes in them to bid on. One ticket is \$1, or five tickets for \$6, or just take a break from the cold and walk around the library to look at the different trees. Drawing is on December 15th.

Mr. Campbell - Be kind to one another

Mr. Boutin - Christmas for Kids Coin Drop, 8:00-12:00, encouraging board members to attend.

10. Next Meeting Date

December 15, 2025, Special Budget Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

January 5, 2025, Regular Board Meeting - Board, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

11. Proposed Executive Session

11.1. Personnel VSA 313 (a)(1)

11.2. Contracts VSA 313 (a)(1)

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

Mrs. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, 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.

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

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to exit the executive session at 9:37 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert