

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Spaulding High School Library, 155 Ayers St, Barre, and via Google Meet
March 30, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Garrett Grant (BC) – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) - Clerk
Catherine Whalen (BT)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large) (virtual)
Ian Campbell (BT)
Jeff Eddy (BC)
Samn Stockwell (BC)
Lindsey Wells (BT)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

JoAn Canning, Superintendent
Christina Kimball, Business Office Consultant
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS

GUESTS PRESENT:

+1 802-***-***09, Belma Micic, Courtnie Lange, David Delcore - Times Argus, James Carpenter, Jessica Maurais, Martha Blaisdell, Norma Malone, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Senka Valle.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Mindfulness Moment

The Board Chair, Mr. Grant, called the meeting to order on March 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library in Barre, and via video conference.

Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness Moment led by the chair.

2. Executive Session

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

Ms. Stockwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that premature public knowledge of this discussion would clearly place the board or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage; roll call taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to enter into executive session under Personnel 1 VSA 313(a)(3) to invite in the Superintendent; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cecchinelli II made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to exit the executive session at 6:34 p.m.; roll call taken and the motion passed unanimously

3. Additions or Deletions with Motion to approve the Agenda

Add 5.4 Facilities Committee (action needed)

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to approve the agenda with the amendment; roll call taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Grant reviewed the procedure for public comment.

None

5. Current Business

5.1. FY27 Budget Discussion and Community Engagement

Ms. Canning provided a list of additional reductions for the potential budget revote.

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Use \$300,000 - Tax Stabilization Fund and \$269,518 of surplus from audit as revenues. The yield number changed with a positive impact. Grant-funded positions being moved to the budget will be returned to the grants. Grant monies for those would have been used elsewhere. Revote 2.73% lowest since 2022. There will be a property tax buydown statewide, but the details are not known until May. Mrs. Kimball, Business Office Consultant, reviewed the tax calculations.

Mrs. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whalen, to approve the use of surplus funds to fund summer school; the motion failed 6 to 2. Mr. Campbell, Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, Mr. Cecchinelli II, Mrs. Wheeler, Ms. Stockwell, and Mr. Eddy voted against the motion.

5.2. FY27 Budget and Warning Approval

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the FY27 warning and budget in the amount of \$57,420,457 which is a 2.73% increase over the current budget.

Mrs. Wheeler Reynolds amended her motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to reflect the warning budget amount of \$57,479,257; the motion passed 6 to 2. Mrs. Whalen and Mrs. Wells voted against the motion.

Mr. Grant read the warning article aloud.

Regarding community engagement, Ms. Canning requested that a couple of board members attend the select board meetings for BC and BT, as well as two Coffee and Conversations. Also requested was the board's presence at the virtual Town Hall night and the informational meeting.

Request of the superintendent to put out a concise message about the Central Office restructure.

5.3. FY27 School Calendar

A copy of the calendar was provided, and Ms. Canning shared some changes for next year.

5.4. Facilities Committee

Request for Board approval regarding the Spaulding High School Foundation fundraising for athletic field renovations and improvements.

Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to officially designate the Facilities Committee as one of the committees; the motion was withdrawn so all committees can be discussed at the next regular meeting.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli II, to approve tasking the SHS Foundation with raising funds for the OPCC and future funding for the renovation/improvements of the SHS athletic complex; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Next Meeting Date

April 6, 2026 - Regular Board Meetings, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert