

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET MEETING**  
Spaulding High School Library, 155 Ayers St, Barre, and via Google Meet  
March 16, 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) (arrived 6:03 p.m.)  
Ian Campbell (BT) (Virtual)  
Jeff Eddy (BC)  
Samn Stockwell (BC)  
Lindsey Wells (BT) (arrived 6:06 p.m.)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Christina Kimball, Business Office Consultant

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Alex Alexander-Scott, Amy Caffry, David Delcore - Times Argus, Denise Maurice, Ella Lyford, Ian Campbell, James Carpenter, Jessica Maurais, Jude Brister, Karen Moran, Mackenzie Kovaka, Megan Spaulding, Paul Malone, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Teddy Waszazak.

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board Chair, Mr. Grant, called the meeting to order on March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library in Barre, and via video conference.  
Pledge of Allegiance led by the chair.

**2. Additions or Deletions with Motion to approve the Agenda**

Remove item 4.1 FY27 School Calendar.

**Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to approve the agenda with the amendment; the motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

Teddy Waszazak and James Carpenter shared comments

**4. Current Business**

- ~~4.1. FY27 School Calendar~~
- 4.2. FY27 Budget Discussion

Ms. Canning presented an executive summary of 72 survey responses.

- 36% support for the current budget; the majority oppose it due to tax impacts and high spending.
- 69% of respondents advocate for using **Tax Stabilization funds** to provide immediate relief.
- 63% felt the budget was poorly explained.

**Proposed reductions:** \$150,000 budgeted for SRO; remove ½ time SHS unfilled position (\$50,000); split BC SRO between the two schools (\$100,000). Put the two grant positions back in grant funds. Remove Summer School (\$100,000) timing and hiring constraints.

**Board thoughts:** Level-funded budget is still 16% tax increase for Barre Town. Revisit consolidation (e.g., K-5 in one building, 6-8 in another).

4.3. Community Budget Engagement

Discussed strategies for improved outreach, including short-form videos (TikTok/Facebook reels), postcards explaining ballot language, and Board presence at upcoming school and community events.

**5. Next Meeting Date**

March 30, 2026 Special Board Budget Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library/via Google Meet

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

**6. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli II, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Gilbert*