

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
March 9, 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)
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
Mike Martin, Director of Technology
Amanda Riggleman, Director of Curriculum
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal BCEMS
Jennifer Bisson, Asst. Principal BCEMS
Melissa Greenwood, Asst. Principal BCEMS
Shannon Miller, Co-Principal BTMES
Elizabeth Koons, Asst. Director of Special Services
Jesse Schattin, Administrator SEA

GUESTS PRESENT:

Alicia Partridge, Brandon Curington, Carey Miller, Cass Lang, Christine DiCicco, Christine Parker, Courtnie Lange, Darby Hiebert, David Delcore - Times Argus, Jacqueline Johnson, James Carpenter, Jen Cote, Jesse White, Jordan Heiden, Josh Howard, Karen Guthrie, Karen Heath, Karen Moran, Kirsten Evans, Lauren Buck, Mackenzie Kovaka, Mariah Routhier, Mark Kalat, Martha Blaisdell, Prudence Krasofski, Rachel Van Vliet, Roberta Melnick, Sarah Capron, Sarah Hill, Sarah Jordan, Sherry Lewton, Steven, Tyler Watkins

1. Call to Order/Pledge

The Superintendent, Ms. Canning, called the Wednesday, March 9, 2026, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library, Barre, and via video conference.

2. Reorganize - Data sheet

Ms. Canning opened the floor for Board Chair nominations
Ms. Wheeler Reynolds nominated Garrett Grant. There were no other nominations.
Ms. Canning collected paper votes to elect the nominee. **Mr. Grant was elected as Board Chair.**

Mr. Grant moderated the rest of the meeting and provided an opening statement.

Mr. Grant opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds nominated Mr. Cecchinelli II for Vice Chair, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, no other nominations; the nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. Stockwell made a motion to nominate Ms. Wheeler Reynolds for Board Clerk, seconded by Mr. Eddy, no other nominations; the motion passed unanimously.

The board meeting schedule was discussed.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Eddy; the motion passed unanimously.

The Board Retreat was discussed.

Ms. Canning suggested putting this on a future agenda, given all the current amount of work the board has, and the retreat should be with the new superintendent. She will help provide training in the meantime. Open Meeting Law and Robert's Rules are suggested.

Committees —Mr. Grant suggested the full board reflect on the current committee structures and the charges of each committee before finalizing membership, but reaffirm membership to the negotiation committee since that work is still ongoing. Suggestion of a steering committee to assist the superintendent and chair in creating the agenda and sticking to the work plan created. The board agreed to table all committee assignments for further discussion, except the Negotiations Committee.

Negotiations Committee: Currently consists of BEA/Para (Mr. Cecchinelli II, Ian Campbell, & Mrs. Wheeler); AFSCME (Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, Mr. Cecchinelli II, and Mrs. Wheeler)

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to reaffirm the Negotiation Committee assignments above, seconded by Mr. Campbell; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wells made a motion to confirm Mr. Cecchinelli II as the CVCCSD representative, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler. No other nominations; the motion passed unanimously.

District spokespersons would be the superintendent and board chair (Ms. Canning and Mr. Grant)

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to approve this structure for spokespersons, seconded by Ms. Stockwell; the motion passed unanimously

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign employee contracts on behalf of the board, seconded by Ms. Stockwell; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stockwell made a motion to authorize the board chair to sign other contracts on behalf of the board, seconded by Mr. Campbell; the motion passed unanimously.

(Mutually agreed to notify other board members via email of the contracts to be signed.)

Mr. Eddy made a motion to approve the Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager, and Superintendent to sign accounts payable, payroll, and warrants after board approval, seconded by Mr. Campbell; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to post agendas and minutes at each school building, offices of the town and city clerks, Front Porch Forum, the BUUSD website, BUUSD Central Office, and Facebook pages, seconded by Ms. Stockwell; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eddy made a motion to use the regular form of Robert's Rules of Order, seconded by Mrs. Whalen; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Grant read through the Code of Ethics. Ms. Canning advised that once signed, they can be turned in to her for filing.

Mr. Grant reviewed the Executive Session information and Open Meeting Law. No questions.

Ms. Canning briefly explained and reviewed the Board Superintendent's current Working Protocols and Meeting Norms. No discussion or questions.

Mr. Grant read through the Conflict of Interest Policy. Additional board policies are on the BUUSD website.

Mr. Grant highlighted important pieces of the Social Media Reference Guide provided by VSBA.

Local and Statewide Education Advocacy- Many board members are interested in exploring this more through committees.

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to affirm that the board reviewed the above items; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cecchinelli II made a motion to designate the Times Argus as our official papers, seconded by Mr. Campbell; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to nominate Mr. Cecchinelli II to represent the Spaulding High School Foundation, seconded by Mr. Campbell. No additional nominations; the motion passed unanimously.

Board packets will continue to be available in both electronic and paper copies.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion to approve the Negotiation Committee Chair as the voting delegate for the Statewide Health Care Bargaining, seconded by Mr. Campbell; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Additions or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda

Add 6.1 a - Universal Vote by Mail

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

4. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

4.1. Public Comment

Mr. Malone, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Evans, and Ms. Van Vliet shared comments

4.2. Student Representatives

Andy Evans and Evelyn Kalat, Student Council Representative - Hosted a very successful Winter Dinner & Dance, continuing pep rallies focused on information about clubs and sports. Requested that the board ask any questions they have about SHS, they're a good resource for questions.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1. Meeting Minutes - February 2, February 12, 2026

5.2. Warrant Approval: January 29, February 5, February 12, February 19, February 26, and March 5, 2026

5.3. New Hire: D. Gadd

Ms. Canning shared information about the new hire.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy, to approve the consent agenda; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Current Business

6.1. Town Meeting Debrief

Ms. Canning thanked voters for participating and suggested a revolt in May with the municipal elections. Draft Audit received, showing a small surplus, pending finalization. Reasons Board Members feel the recent budget failed: education funding formula disadvantages the district, inequities in municipal tax rates, ballot language confusing (clearer communication and more outreach), low turnout (10%), misinformation circulating, missing/incomplete information, affordability concerns are significant, little appetite for tax increases, better guidance from the governor and legislature or engagement with legislative committees, and exploring more about enrollment numbers and Central Office costs.

6.1 a Universal Vote by Mail

Briefing Memo from Ms. Wheeler Reynolds: Request for universal vote-by-mail for equal access to ballots. Municipalities need to approve this to move forward. Next steps: draft letter, get on the town and city municipal agendas, and be invited to discuss and take action on the item.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to authorize the board chair to draft and send a letter to the Barre Town Select Board, Town Manager, Barre City Council, and City Manager to make a request relative to the handling of the BUUSD ballots, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler; the motion passed 6 to 2. Mrs. Whalen and Mrs. Wells voted against the motion.

6.2. Superintendent Update: Co-Principal Search at BCEMS

Ms. Canning thanked the Co-Principal screening committee for their work in recommending two exceptional final candidates for consideration. Appointed three internal administrators to new roles that will ensure consistency, continuity, and professional growth across our district. Barre City School will adopt the same leadership model as Barre Town. Jen Bisson will be the elementary principal, Jesse Schattin will be the middle school principal, and Brenda Waterhouse will transfer to the SEA building as the Director. They are currently posting the Assistant Principal position at BCEMS.

6.3. Second Reading and Adoption of Policies: C11, C13, C14, C15, B7, B8, C1, C2, C4

Mr. Cecchinelli II made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the second reading and adoption of the policies as presented (C11, C13, C14, C15, B7, B8, C1, C2, C4); the motion passed unanimously.

7. Next Meeting Dates: April 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library & via Google Meet; March 16th & March 30th for Special Board Budget meetings

8. Tentative Executive Session

8.1. Superintendent Search 1 VSA 313 (a)(3)

Ms. Stockwell made a motion that premature public knowledge of this discussion would clearly place the board or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stockwell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to enter into executive session to discuss 1 VSA 313 (a)(3), inviting in Mr. Younce, at 7:50 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to exit the executive session; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to direct the district to schedule a virtual community meet and greet on Thursday, March 12th, at 4:00 p.m. to meet the search committee's recommended superintendent candidate, seconded by Mr. Eddy; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion to direct the district to schedule a board meeting for Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of an executive session with the superintendent candidate for an interview, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the motion passed unanimo

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Wheeler Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert