

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

Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference – Google Meet  
May 4, 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) (present/virtual)  
Ian Campbell (BT)  
Jeff Eddy (BC)  
Samn Stockwell (BC)  
Lindsey Wells (BT)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

JoAn Canning, Superintendent  
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS  
Rob Stalling, IT Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Bern Rose, Christie Omodeo, Nancy Leclerc, Ryan Harlow, Sue Paxman

**1. Call to Order/Pledge/Mindfulness Moment**

The Board Chair, Mr. Grant, called the Monday, May 4, 2026, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library in Barre and via video conference. The pledge and mindfulness moment followed.

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

Remove item 7.5

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to approve the agenda as presented; the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Mr. Grant explained the procedure for public comment

**3.1. Public Comment**

None

**3.2. Student Representatives**

Andy Evans, Student Council Representative - Currently working Friday shows, Class olympics, Concert with Modern Band, and for Teacher Appreciation week - movie themed gifts which many local community businesses donated to.

**4. Board Education**

**4.1. FY25 Audit Presentation**

Representatives Glenna Pound and Tyler Kimberley from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. were present and presented findings for FY25 Audit. No finding of fraud and federal report went very well. A lot of factors played in delay including losing half of the administrative staff noted in the report. Recommended some improvements which are already being acted on and district in good shape financially. Doing well even though revenue grants were down.

**4.2. Appoint Community Seats: Policy Cmt BT; Policy Cmt BC**

Only one letter of interest for the Barre Town seat was received.

**Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to appoint Ryan Harlow to the Barre Town Policy Committee seat; the motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Consent Agenda**

**5.1. Meeting Minutes - March 30, April 6, 2026**

Correction for April 6 minutes - 7.2 vote should be 6 to 2

**5.2. Warrant Approval: April 9, April 15, April 23, April 30, 2026**

**5.3. New Hire: L. Poor, C. Juneau, C. Squires, K. Kerrigan**

Ms. Canning shared details about the four new hires on the agenda

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the consent agenda with an amendment; the motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Board Reports**

**6.1. Building Reports (BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, SEA)**

**6.2. Facilities Committee - Minutes 3/30/2026**

**6.3. Quarterly Reports: Enrollment/Home Study; CIA Plan, Special Ed Staff/Child Count Data**

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

**7. Current Business**

**7.1. First Reading New Policy: Student Use of Cell Phones (C16)**

New policy to be implemented by July 1, it's being presented directly to the board rather than the normal review by the Policy Committee. This is recommended by the VSBA and vetted by their legal counsel.

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the first reading of policy C16; the motion passed unanimously.**

**7.2. First Reading Local Wellness Policy (C9)**

Policy C9 is required to be implemented by July 1, it's being presented directly to the board rather than the normal review by the Policy Committee. Reviewed by the SHAC Committee, up to standard, and vetted. Uploaded to the Nutritional department. Compliance with state and federal law.

**Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the first reading of policy C9; the motion passed unanimously.**

**7.3. VSBA Resolutions**

Shared information from the VSBA - deadline to submit any BUUSD resolutions is June 15, 2026

**Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to charge the policy committee to draft proposed resolutions for VSBA, which will be brought back to the board; the motion passed unanimously.**

**7.4. Open Meeting Law Violation Discussion**

Mr. Grant reviewed the briefing memo provided in the packet. Complaint: Quorum of the board violated open meeting law. Legal council determined under VT law 1 VSA 310 (5)(d), a gathering of a quorum at an event of this nature does not constitute a meeting for purposes of open meeting law, provided no action is taken.

**Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to determine that no open meeting law violation occurred pursuant to 1 VSA 314 (B)(2)(b) and to affirm that the April 13, 2026, Budget Town Hall was conducted in compliance with open meeting law requirements; the motion passed 6 to 2. Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.**

**Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to support future compliance by designating a board member to confirm in advance that any event where a quorum may be present is properly considered under open meeting law requirements. Mr. Campbell amended the motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to have the policy committee draft a checklist for the board to use for any new meetings scheduled outside regularly scheduled board meetings. The motion was rescinded.**

~~**7.5. Motion to approve use of Capital Reserve Fund**~~

**7.6. Reaffirm Staff Appreciation: Resolution FY25/Resolution FY26**

Mr. Grant reviewed the resolution provided in the packet.

**Ms. Stockwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the resolution presented; the motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Next Meeting Dates:**

Monday, May 18, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Finance, Facilities, and Policy Committees (carousel style meetings), SHS Library & via Google Meet

Regular Board Meeting: June 1, 2026, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library & via Google Meet

**9. Executive Session**

**9.1. Negotiations Update 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)**

**Ms. Stockwell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Whalen, 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 Mr. Campbell, to enter into executive session to discuss 1 VSA 313 (a)(1), related to labor relations agreements with employees, inviting in the superintendent; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to exit executive session at 8:10 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Whalen was not present for the vote.**

**10. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Ms. Stockwell, seconded by Mr. Eddy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tina Gilbert*