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BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference – Google Meet
June 1, 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
Jen Bisson, Assistant Principal BCEMS
Rob Stalling, IT Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:
David Delcore - Times Argus, James Carpenter, Kirsten Evans, Sarah Hill, Ellen Kaye, Christina Kimball, Prudence Krasofski, Just Add Learning, Eirene Mavodones, Alex, Linda McNamara, Christine Parker, Rachel Van Vliet, Jesse White

1. Call to Order/Pledge/Mindfulness Moment
The Board Chair, Mr. Grant called the Monday, June 1, 2026, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library in Barre and via video conference.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a brief mindfulness moment was observed.

Mr. Grant took a moment to recognize Superintendent Joanne Canning for her service, professionalism, and leadership during challenging times for the district.
Joanne Canning expressed gratitude to the board, staff, and community.

2. Additions or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda
Add executive session under VSA 313 (a)(1)(a)

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to approve the agenda as amended; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda
Mr. Grant explained the procedure for public comment

3.1. Public Comment
Tyler Watkins acknowledged school staff, especially Brenda Waterhouse for her dedication.

3.2. Student Representatives
Evelyn Kalat, student body vice president at Spaulding High School, reported on end-of-year activities, concerts, and events.

4. Board Education

4.1. Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)
CIP as a framework for collective learning and improvement. Focus on root causes, equity, and data-driven strategies.
Five main goals identified for the district:

- **Safe and Healthy Schools:** Target to reduce chronic absenteeism to no more than 20% districtwide by next June.
- **Self-Efficacy:** Increase to 55% of students reporting high self-efficacy on SEL survey.
- **Academic Proficiency:** By June 2027, aim for 80% of students to meet or exceed proficiency on Renaissance Star Math and ELA assessments.
- **Early Literacy:** By June 2028, 80% of K-3 students to meet benchmarks in early literacy, in line with Act 139.

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- **Post-Secondary Planning:** Ensure all graduates have post-secondary plans, including college, work, or training.

School leaders shared strategies and progress for each goal and had discussions on professional development, vertical alignment, and targeted interventions. Progress monitoring is set for three times per year.

4.2. Portrait of a Learner/Graduate
Discussion on developing a new district strategic plan focused on the "Portrait of a Learner/Graduate." Plan to form a design team with community involvement for a multi-month process. To be discussed further at a board retreat with the new superintendent.

5. Consent Agenda
5.1. Meeting Minutes - May 4 special; May 4 regular; May 7, 2026 special
The May 4th special meeting minutes are incomplete and tabled until completed.
5.2. Warrant Approval: May 7, May 14, May 21, 2026
5.3. New Hire: S. Lyford, C. Field, K. MacIver, A. Morse, J. Stanley
Ms. Canning shared details about the five new hires on the agenda
5.4. Resignation: K. Rondeau

Mr. Cecchinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve the consent agenda (except May 4th special meeting minutes); the motion passed unanimously.

6. Board Reports
6.1. Building Reports (BCEMS, BTMES, SHS, SEA)
Reports available in board packet; no significant discussion. Appreciation expressed for music teachers and district performances.

7. Current Business
7.1. Budget Revote
Update on budget process, open positions, and possible reductions. Discussion of community engagement and strategies for passing the budget. Plan for additional meetings and community outreach prior to the August budget adoption deadline.

7.2. BUSUD Resolutions for VSBA
Ms. Wheeler Reynolds shared information from the VSBA - deadline to submit any BUUSD resolutions is June 15, 2026. The Policy Committee provided two resolutions for the board to consider approving.

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve forwarding the resolutions to the VSBA Resolution Committee for consideration; the motion passed unanimously.

7.3. Second Final Reading & Adoption of New Policy: Student Use of Cell Phones (C16)

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stockwell, to approve the second reading and adoption of policy C16; the motion passed unanimously.

7.4. Second Final Reading & Adoption of Local Wellness Policy (C9)

Mr. Eddy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the second reading and adoption of policy C9; the motion passed unanimously.

7.5. Authorize Superintendent to Approve Federal and State Grants
Annual authorization that a VT School Board must explicitly authorize the superintendent to approve and accept federal and state grants under 16 VSA 5638,

Ms. Stockwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli II, to authorize the superintendent to approve and accept federal and state grants; the motion passed unanimously.

7.6. Contract Signing/Food Service Contract - Summer
Mr. Cecchinelli II made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the contract signing of the food service contract; the motion passed unanimously.

7.7. Annual Designation of Truant Officers and HHB Report Recipients (Policy C10)
Annual requirement to update the superintendent's recommendation of assignments. The state statute is in the packet explaining the truant officers and HHB report recipients.

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Mr. Cecchinelli II made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to accept the superintendent's recommendations of assignments of Truant Officers and HHB report recipients; the motion passed unanimously.

8. Next Meeting Dates:

Ms. Canning shared a request from the Facilities committee for the board to take action on the request to use Capital Reserve funds to replace boilers at the high school. Board agreed to meet 15 minutes prior to committee meetings on Monday June 15th at 5:45 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library

No meetings in July unless needed

Regular Board Meeting: August 3, 2026, 6:00 p.m., SHS Library & via Google Meet

9. Tentative Executive Session

9.1. Contracts 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(a)

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that premature general public knowledge clearly places the board at a substantial disadvantage, as it risks disclosing sensitive information; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stockwell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to enter into executive session to discuss 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(a), related to contracts, inviting the superintendent; the motion passed unanimously.

The board exited the executive session.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert