

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference – Google Meet
August 12, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Eddy (BC)
Samn Stockwell (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Emilie Knisley, Superintendent
John Smith, Manager of Operations
Jody Emerson, Superintendent CVCC (Virtual)
Michelle Leeman, Business Manager CVCC (Virtual)
Dan Lagerstedt, IT Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Peter Anthony, Mary Bowers, Sarah Capron, Dave Delcore - Times Argus, Beth Hilgartner, Sarah Hill, Prudence Krasofski, Cass Lang, Paul Malone, Jessica Maurais, Bern Rose, Sonya Spaulding, Rachel Van Vliet.

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair, Mr. Grant, called the August 12, 2026, meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library in Barre and via video conference.

2. Additions or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda

Add 4.3 Shared Services with Central VT Career Center (CVCC)

Mrs. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, to approve the agenda as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Grant reviewed how public comment works
None

4. Current Business

4.1. FY27 Budget Approval

Mr. Smith clarified details about the document in the packet. Board members suggested clear communication about how your tax rate is determined. Link in communications to the grand list and calculator. Create a table of smaller increments. List of cuts since start of budget development.

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the \$57,479,257 for fiscal year 27; the motion passed 5 to 1. Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.

4.2. FY27 Budget Warning Approval for September 15, 2026 Revote

Mr. Grant read the warning

Ms. Wheeler Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, to approve the FY27 Warning for September 15th Revote; the motion passed 5 to 1. Mrs. Whalen voted against the motion.

4.3. Shared Services with Central VT Career Center (CVCC)

Mr. Smith described ongoing staffing challenges and the need for better coverage and resource sharing between the BUUSD and CVCC offices. The team is moving forward with a phased plan to integrate business office and HR functions, provide cross-training, and assign staff to focus on grants management. Goals include improved internal controls, more efficient use of existing systems, and proactive planning to avoid future staffing crises. This effort lays the groundwork for potential future collaboration or mergers while ensuring continuity and better service for both districts. The board will be informed as conversations continue.

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5. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - Informational Meeting (5:00 p.m.) and Regular Board (6:00 p.m.): SHS Library & via Google Meet

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Gilbert