

DRAFT

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL/BOARD MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and via Video Conference – Google Meet
September 8, 2026 - Informational Mtg 5:00 p.m.; Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Garrett Grant (BC) - Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli II (BC) - Vice Chair
Emily Wheeler Reynolds (BT) - Clerk
Catherine Whalen (BT) (virtual)
Jackie Wheeler (At-Large)
Ian Campbell (BT)
Jeff Eddy (BC)
Samn Stockwell (BC)
Lindsey Wells (BT) (arrived at 5:08)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Emilie Knisley, Superintendent
John Smith, Managing Director of Operations
Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities
Amanda Riggelman, Director of Innovation and Technology
Denise Maurice, Principal SHS
Dan Lagerstedt, IT Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

David Delcore - Times Argus, Bern Rose, Paul Malone, Rachel Van Vliet, Sonya Spaulding, Stephanie Magnan, 1-802-***-**-09

1. Call to Order/Pledge/Mindfulness Moment

The Board Chair, Mr. Grant, called the September 8, 2026, Informational meeting to order at 5:00 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.

2. Additions or Deletions with Motion to Approve the Agenda

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the agenda as presented; the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Wells was not present for the vote.

3. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Mr. Grant explained the procedure for public comment

3.1. Public Comment

Comments provided by Bern Rose

4. Current Business

4.1. Presentation of FY27 Budget for September 15th Revote

Mr. Grant reviewed the voting times and locations for Barre City and Barre Town. Mr. John Smith, Managing Director of Operations and Financing, presented the FY27 Budget information for the September 15th vote.

- The district proposed a level program budget, keeping offerings the same with no new programs.
- Budget increases were reduced to 2.11%, below inflation.
- 11.5 full-time staff positions were cut in response to enrollment and feedback.
- \$300,000 in tax stabilization funds used to offset tax rates.
- Community concerns focused on tax impact and budget growth; the board made cuts accordingly.
- If the budget fails, further cuts and borrowing at 4% interest would be necessary, affecting non-academic programs.

The board emphasized the importance of passing the budget to maintain programs and avoid further cuts.

4.2. Warning Questions

Not discussed due to limited time available.

DRAFT

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Stockwell, seconded by Mr. Eddy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert