

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
July 20, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucas Herring - Chair
Sonya Spaulding – Vice Chair
Guiliano Cecchinelli, II
Nathan Reigner
Anita Ristau
Tyler Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Carrien - Clerk
Anita Chadderton
Leslie Walz

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Herring, called the Monday, July 20, 2015, Special meeting to order at 5:33 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 5.3 Stipends
- 5.4 Board Size
- 5.5 E-rate Award

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the June 22, 2015 Regular Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignations and New Hire(s)

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a letter of resignation from Sage Tallman as well as numerous resumes with Notification of Employment Status cover sheets. Board members reviewed the information and brief discussion was held for each candidate. The new cover sheet was well received. Mr. Pandolfo advised he is currently reviewing the form and will make appropriate revisions. Approval of one candidate will be postponed until after discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Reigner, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Sage Tallman.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring Phillip Heinz.

On a motion by Mr. Reigner, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring Amelia Abraham for a one year position as a long term substitute.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring Dale Burnash.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring James Weselcoach.

On a motion by Mr. Reigner, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring Rebecca Dwyer.

On a motion by Mr. Reigner, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Nicole Vallance contingent on confirmation that counseling services will continue to be available and provided at the Granite Academy. It was noted that this employee will provide both academic and behavioral support services. Mr. Taffel will contact Stacy Ferland to confirm the availability of counseling services.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring Sara Thompson for a one year position as a long term substitute.

There will be six more new employees needing approval.

5.2 Approval of Borrowing in Anticipation of Tax Revenue

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a document titled 'RAN BIDS – Revenue Anticipation Note Bid FY 16'. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview and requested approval to contract with Merchants Bank. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve contracting with Merchants Bank for the Revenue Anticipation Note.** The contract/agreement was circulated to Board Members for signatures.

5.3 Stipends

Mr. Pandolfo advised that adjustments would need to be made in the processing and schedule of stipend payments to Board Members. Brief discussion was held, including the possibility of quarterly payments being made in September, December, March, and June. Mr. Pandolfo, with input from the Business Manager, will create a draft stipend schedule that will work consistently across all SU Boards.

5.4 Board Size

Possible changes to the BCEMS board size cannot be presented on the up-coming ballot. This item could be presented for voter approval in March of 2016.

5.5 E-rate Award

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a document titled 'The FCC's E-Rate Modernization Order of 2015 will affect us in various ways'. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the funding programs which will allow upgrades to the network infrastructure, managing gigabit switches and wireless access points. The benefits include increased network capacity and increased monitoring and management of the network environment. The E-Rate Modernization Order will allow BCEMS to purchase \$53,121 worth of network equipment and services for \$14,873.88. The savings include the E-Rate Consultant fee of 10%. **On a motion by Mr. Reigner, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to approve the E-Rate for purchasing of equipment.** Mr. Herring requested advance notice of future E-Rate endeavors.

6. Old Business

6.1 Boiler Repair or Replacement

A copy of a letter from GWR Engineering, P.C. (dated July 19, 2015) was distributed for review and discussion. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the document which details three possible courses of action and a summary of recommendations and action items. Lengthy discussion ensued, including discussion of the various options, timeframe to assure adequate heating for the upcoming season, fuel costs, boiler room access, efficiency, and capacity of current boiler. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for GWR Engineering to provide an economic analysis regarding boiler size and controls. The cost for the analysis is approximately \$5000 - \$7000. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board approved construction of a boiler room access door at a cost of no more than \$50,000, with funding provided from the Long Term Maintenance Fund.**

6.2 Solar Project

Discussion of this agenda item was postponed until the August meeting.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated July 20, 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to the AOE response to Special Education and Transportation Waiver requests and background checks for employees of partner Pre-K centers. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview advising that the waivers will be granted for one year, but that by July 1, 2016, Transportation and Special Education Costs must be paid through the SU. All Special Education staff must be BSU employees by the same date. Fact finding regarding cost effectiveness of multiple busing schemes vs a single busing scheme must be performed. A progress report

detailing the steps being taken to assure compliance must be submitted to the AOE by August 13, 2015. Brief discussion was held regarding background checks for PreK partners. Concerns raised include; enforcement and financing of additional administrative work.

7.2 Principals Report

Mr. Taffel advised that hiring of new employees has been his major focus. Mr. Taffel provided an update regarding the \$170,000 in psychological contracted services. This line item was miscoded, and can be found under Regular Education Tuition for Students. Mr. Taffel has the breakdown available for review. While providing his report, Mr. Taffel received an e-mail from Stacy Ferland. Mr. Taffel read the e-mail to the Board which confirmed that counseling services will continue to be available at the Granite Academy and that the new hire will provide both behavioral and academic services. **This e-mail satisfies the contingency placed on the hiring of Nicole Vallance.**

7.3 Committee Reports

Busing/Security & Safety – The Committee met on June 22, 2015.

7.4 Financial

Nothing additional to report.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Herring advised that the Consolidation Committee was discussed at the SU Board meeting. Two members from each Board should be members of this new committee. The Finance Committee Chair from each Board will make up one of the two participants.

Mr. Cecchinelli expressed interest in joining the committee. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to nominate Mr. Cecchinelli as the second BCEMS representative on the Consolidation Committee.**

Mr. Reigner thanked the Board for their tolerance of his absence from the last meeting.

Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding the upcoming Family Fun Race which benefits 'Girls on the Run' and 'Girls on Track'.

Mr. Herring advised regarding the upcoming Bathtub race. As a City Council member, he will be participating.

Mr. Pandolfo commended Administration on their success at finding good candidates to fill open staff positions.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Negotiations

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include negotiations and a personnel issue.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public and agreed to enter into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Reigner, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve hiring Richard Meyer for the position of Assistant Principal for a salary of \$72,000 per year.

Additional discussion included negotiations. No action was taken.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin