

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
August 10, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucas Herring - Chair
Sonya Spaulding – Vice Chair
Jim Carrien - Clerk
Anita Chadderton – arrived at 5:42 p.m.
Guiliano Cecchinelli, II
Anita Ristau
Tyler Smith
Leslie Walz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nathan Reigner

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Jackie Tolman, Principal
Stacy Ferland, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Maureen Burford

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Herring, called the Monday, August 10, 2015, Regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add Maureen Burford, Creative Lives (after school program) under Agenda Item 3 – Visitors and Communications

3. Visitors and Communications

3.1 Maureen Burford, Creative Lives After School Program

Maureen Burford addressed the Board providing information regarding a proposal for a K through 4 after school program. The proposed program, collaborating with the White River program, would begin in January 2016 and serve 30 children. Staffing ratio is 5 to 30. Funding is available for this program. Liability insurance is held by the program. Bright Futures VT licensing is required. Cost to BCEMS is limited to ‘in kind’ donations of space and telephone service for the program. The program provides a snack and some family style meals. Additional discussion included cost for those without scholarships, sliding scale fee, selection of participants, transportation, advantages of parent pick-up, extended care, coordination with special educators, school and summer vacation programs, a school / program liaison, and teacher buy-in. Administration is very supportive of this program and feels there are approximately 400 students who could benefit from this program. Mrs. Tolman advised that a program for older students would also be very beneficial. It was noted that BCEMS staff do not need to be on-site for the program. Ms. Burford advised that she will be holding an “Adventures In Parenting” class in the future. This class is a separate event. **On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Administrative personnel to look further into the Creative Lives Afterschool Program.**

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – July 20, 2015 Special Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board voted 5 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the July 20, 2015 Special Meeting. Mr. Carrien, Mrs. Chadderton, and Mrs. Walz abstained. Mr. Herring voted on the motion.

5. New Business

5.1 Resign/Retire/New Hire(s)

Resumes from the following individuals were distributed; Sherri L. Allen, Jessica Maurais, Justine Guthrie, and Erin E. Pomeroy. Brief discussion was held regarding the candidates. Mr. Pandolfo led the discussion providing an overview of each candidate.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the hiring of Sherri L. Allen.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the hiring of Jessica Maurais.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the hiring of Justine Guthrie.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the hiring of Erin E. Pomeroy for the position of intensive needs special educator, and to move Rebecca Dwyer to a grade level position.

Brief discussion was held regarding Melissa Campbell, a candidate for a long term substitute position. As this is not a contracted position, it is not necessary for the Board to take action. There are no resignations or retirements to discuss. All teaching positions are currently filled. A couple of para-educator positions remain to be filled.

5.2 Ratification of Teachers' Agreement

Mr. Herring advised that he will provide more information in Executive Session. This item is not ready to be voted on.

5.3 Fuel Bid Recommendation

A document titled 'RFP Results for FUEL OIL, PROPANE, and WOOD CHIPS', was distributed. Mr. Herring provided an overview of the submitted bids. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding his recommendations.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and enter into fuel contracts with Conti Oil, Blue Flame, and Catamount.

5.4 Budget Development Schedule for FY '17

A draft document titled 'Barre Supervisory Union / BCEMS/BTMES/SHS-CVCC / Budget Development Schedule for FY 2017' was distributed. A copy of the Budgeting Policy (DB) was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Lisa Perreault created the schedule. The Board requested that Mr. Pandolfo express their gratitude to Ms. Perreault for her efforts in creating this useful document. Mrs. Spaulding advised that Board involvement will begin in September, as they should begin to discuss goals and direction. Board goals and direction will be on the Finance Committee Agenda.

6. Old Business

6.1 Boiler Repair or Replacement

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a summary document providing an update on this project. Detailed back-up documentation is available for review. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the summary. It appears that construction of the access door can be completed well within the \$50,000 budget. Extensive research continues regarding a long term fix. Mr. Pandolfo would like to commend John Walker for his knowledge and extensive record keeping of the current boiler. Though repair of the current boiler does not seem like a long term solution, it may be possible to make repairs (for less than \$2,500) to get through the upcoming heating season, thus allowing more time to research the best options. It was noted that a new boiler may cost much more than originally anticipated. Proposals will be accepted through August 27, 2015. This will allow time for assessment and formulation of a recommendation for presentation at the September 14, 2015 meeting. One vendor has advised that they could deliver by late November, but their cutoff date for notification is unknown. The vendor is aware that proposals are still being accepted. In response to a query, Mr. Pandolfo advised that achieving more consistent heating throughout the building, would be a separate project, incurring additional expenses.

6.2 Solar Project

A copy of a newspaper article titled 'Barre schools aglow over solar push' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo distributed a 'Solar Group Net Metering Agreement'. Mr. Herring provided a brief overview of the Agreement that encompasses both BCEMS and the SU. The Board agreed it would be appropriate for Mr. Pandolfo to sign this agreement once it is approved. Discussion included the project and review of the Agreement by the Consortium. Mr. Pandolfo will consult with the Consortium regarding recommended law firms. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Mr. Pandolfo to sign the Agreement contingent on its meeting the approval of a Vermont Consortium recommended law firm, and that it is in-line with, and supersedes the current agreement.**

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Business Manager will make a recommendation regarding stipend payments and he may present the recommendation at the SU meeting on August 13, 2015. A progress report was submitted to Rebecca Holcombe as requested in her response to the waiver request (Transportation and Special Education at the SU level). The next progress report is due in 90 days. Mr. Pandolfo would like to acknowledge the tragedy that occurred in Barre City on Friday August 7, 2015. He has drafted a document to send to all staff advising of various available supports. Mr. Pandolfo would like to post something similar on Front Porch Forum.

7.2 Principals Report

Mrs. Tolman advised that most hiring has been completed and work is currently being performed on PLPs (personalized learning plans). Mr. Taffel advised that he is working on better collaboration between counselors and behavior specialists. Mr. Taffel has been working with The North Eastern Family Institute regarding developmental trauma and would like to have them come to the school 7 times within the next year, to meet with a core group of (trauma informed) staff for training. Additionally, he would like to have them come to the school 3 times this year, to meet with classroom teachers regarding individual students. Mr. Taffel invited Board members to attend one of the 7 training sessions.

7.3 Committee Reports

Curriculum – will be meeting this month.

Security&Safety – Draft Minutes from the June 24, 2015 meeting were distributed. Mr. Carrien provided an overview of the minutes, including discussion relating to the school's lack of a swipe card security system. The Board commended Mr. Carrien and the committee for the report and the thoroughness of their work on safety issues.

Finance/Facilities – Mrs. Spaulding distributed a copy of the minutes from the August 8, 2015 meeting and provided an overview of the discussions. One agenda item of the last meeting was a request from Eddie Rousse regarding a contribution towards refinishing of the tennis courts. It is not known if additional reimbursement will be received from VSBIT (\$22,784 has been received). Expense and Revenue reports dated August 6, 2015 were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview, advising that though the projected surplus is \$242,581, this number has not yet been audited. Mrs. Spaulding queried the Board regarding the amount of detail they would like to see in financial reports. The suggestion is to have quarterly summary reports, with line item data available electronically. It was noted that this year's budget will be much different than in years past. In response to a query from Mrs. Chadderton, it was noted that Transportation and Special Education must be moved to the SU budget as part of recent legislation.

7.4 Financial

Discussion held under 7.3 Committee Reports. Nothing additional.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Monday August 21, 2015 is the first official staff day though one flex day will occur prior to August 21, 2015. August 24, 2015 will be the first day the SU meets (in the Spaulding auditorium). The September 14, 2015 meeting should include a meet and greet session with new staff, including the new Assistant Principal. This meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The retreat is scheduled for September 28, 2015. Board members should advise Mr. Herring regarding items they wish to have for discussion. On Monday, August 17, 2015, VSBA will be providing training to the Spaulding Board. If any BCEMS Board member is interested, they may attend.

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.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion. Administrative personnel were invited to attend.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

No Action.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin