

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library

September 14, 2015

New Staff Reception 5:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leslie Walz

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Amelia Abraham	Dale Burnash	Dawn Fuller-Ball
Justine Guthrie	Brandy Kolling	Denise Latshaw	Morgan Matthews	Jessica Maurais
Alicia Partridge	Erin Pomeroy			

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Herring, called the Monday, September 14, 2015, Regular meeting to order at 6:08 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

Agenda Item 5.3 ‘Thank a Teacher Today’, will be discussed out of order (discussed at the beginning of the meeting).

Add Agenda Items: 5.4 Committee Restructure

9.2 Personnel Matter (under Executive Session)

3. Visitors and Communications

3.1 Introduction of New Staff

Mr. Pandolfo advised that new faculty members were present at the meeting. New faculty members introduced themselves and advised regarding the position they were hired for. It was noted that Morgan Matthews (Middle School Band) was present for the reception, but needed to depart the meeting prior to formal introduction to the Board.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – August 10, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2015 Regular Meeting.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – August 24, 2015 Special Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board voted 6 to 0 to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the August 24, 2015 Special Meeting. Mrs. Spaulding abstained. Minutes will be changed to reflect they were submitted by

Mr. Carrien, not Mr. Reigner.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignation(s)/New Hire(s)

It was noted that there was only one new hire. This new hire ties into Agenda Item 5.2. Voting was postponed until after discussion of Agenda Item 5.2. **On a motion by, Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Reigner, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Elyse Gluck for a one year, grant funded position.**

5.2 Early Ed Initiative Grant 2015-16

The following documents were distributed: 'Early Education Initiative Grant 2015-2016 – Cover Page', 'BCEMS EEI Grant', BSU Notification of Employment Status sheet and resume for Elyse Gluck. Ms. Gluck is proposed as a new hire for a one year, grant funded position. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the proposed scope of work. It was noted that there are no 'strings attached' to this grant. Though reporting will most likely be required, there is no monetary match requirement. No plans have been made to extend this position beyond the end of the current school year. Ms. Ferland advised that this position will assist with the transition away from Head Start and will benefit both students and their families. Ms. Gluck 'will track data regarding the types of needs the families have and will establish an organizational system so that BCEMS staff has information to continue to support families long after the grant term ends. Twenty families will benefit from this program, though the selection criteria for participants is not known at this time. Mr. Taffel and/or Ms. Ferland will get clarification regarding who will be served (families from partner centers only, or a mix of partner center and school families)

5.3 Thank a Teacher Today

A copy of a letter from the Office of the Governor was distributed. Mr. Herring named Joyce DeForge as the teacher who made the most significant impact on his life. Mr. Herring encouraged other Board members to advise regarding a specific teacher that stood out as having a large impact on their lives. Mrs. Ristau thanked Loris Fontaine as one of many teachers who made a difference. Ms. Tolman thanked Frances Cooper for the influence she had on her life.

5.4 Committee Restructure

It was recommended that the Finance/Facility Committee be split such that the Finance Committee is a stand-alone committee and that the Facility Committee join with the Safety Committee. Mr. Herring suggested that the Safety Committee (an ad hoc committee) be renamed the Facility Committee, which is named in a policy. It was agreed that safety/security issues will now be addressed under the direction of the Facilities Committee.

6. Old Business

6.1 Boiler Repair or Replacement

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a document outlining the RFP results for the BCEMS biomass heating plant replacement project. Additionally Mr. Pandolfo distributed a letter from GWR Engineering outlining a recommended course of action. Mr. Pandolfo requested a definitive answer from the Board on how to proceed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the RFP responses, noting that there are some outstanding questions. The cost for additional engineering for system analysis is approximately \$4000. The recommendation at this time is to perform a temporary fix at a cost of approximately \$2,500, and spend additional time researching the permanent fix. The cost for the temporary fix could most likely be funded through the operating budget. Mr. Pandolfo will have more specific information to present at the October meeting regarding the costs thus far for the new door construction project. A recommendation regarding the permanent solution should be ready for the December meeting, with the possibility of beginning the installation process in April 2016.

6.2 Solar Project

The new contract is being reviewed and has been compared to the template. There are still outstanding questions which may need to be discussed with those who created the template. As more time is needed to review the contract, no action will be taken at this time. This item will be placed on the October agenda. If, after all review is completed, the contract looks correct, Mr. Pandolfo will sign the contract (as previously authorized).

6.3 Board Retreat Date/Planning

A draft agenda was distributed. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to remove items 4.2 through 4.6 and have those items addressed at regular board meetings. Section 4 of the agenda will be revised and will include four items:

- 4.1 Board Member Self-Assessment/Review Using Template From VSBA 2012
- 4.2 Review of Previously Defined Goals
- 4.3 Set Board Goals using Planning Template
- 4.4 Collate Board Goals and Priorities into Continuous Improvement Plan.

The meeting will be held on October 14, 2015 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The venue will be selected by Mr. Pandolfo. All Administrative personnel will be invited (not required) to attend. Administrative personnel should plan to arrive at 6:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on October 12, 2015 (a school holiday) at 5:30 p.m., at the SU Office.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated September 14, 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Budget Development for Special Education and Transportation Consolidation, Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee update, Tri-Board Meeting (October 8, 2015), and the Fall Forum on new VEHI health plans (October 7, 2015 - 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the report and requested that Board Members advise him if they plan to attend the VEHI meeting. It was noted that the audit is on schedule to begin in October, with presentation at the January 2016 meeting.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated September 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Student Enrollment, new staff, Staff Development, the new school start time, reading assessments, SBAC/NCAP assessments, BCEMS security audit (performed on 09/09/15), the fresh fruit and vegetable grant, school garden's supply of vegetables to the lunch room, Education Support Teams, Band/Chorus, Open House (5 – 8 was held on 08/24/15, PK – 4 to be held on 09/22/15), Picture Day (09/15/15), the Athletic Program, and an update on the new Assistant Principal position, held by Mr. Richard Meyers. A copy of a letter from Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Education, dated August 24, 2015 was distributed. Ms. Holcombe's letter addressed the results of recent SBAC test results. Mr. Taffel conveyed how well the new staff is working out and it was noted that Staff Development days have been very productive. Mark Moody has performed a safety audit and a report will be produced. George Mackey was able to secure the fruit/vegetable grant again this year. Hot lunch totals have increased by about 100 meals per day. Mr. Mackey will be scheduled to address the Board at the October meeting. Mr. Taffel highlighted the success of the school garden and recognized students and staff for their efforts with this program. The TV screen has been installed and will be connected soon, enabling viewing of the menu, weather, and school activities. The Walk Run Fun event is scheduled for October 2, 2015. Student enrollment was reviewed. Mrs. Ristau queried regarding the number of students in each class. Mr. Taffel advised that the new Assistant Principal is working well, dealing with students and parents. It was noted that administrative changes have worked very smoothly.

7.3 Committee Reports

Policy – The Committee met recently and will present policies for deletion at the October meeting.

Curriculum – Minutes from the June 15, 2015 and August 24, 2015 meetings were distributed. It was noted that the Committee is setting some ambitious goals.

Busing/Security&Safety – Minutes from the August 26, 2015 meeting were distributed. Mr. Carrien advised that he is looking forward to the report from the security audit. The Committee is focused on the reconfiguration of the entrance to the building.

Finance/Facilities – Minutes from the September 3, 2015 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding commended Ms. Perreault for the thorough and detailed presentation at the last committee meeting. Mr. Herring advised that he would like a current financial status report at the November meeting.

7.4 Financial Report

A financial report dated September 3, 2015 was distributed. The numbers on the report are unaudited. Projected Operating Surplus is \$275,380. The balance of the Capital Fund as of June 30, 2015 is \$211,178.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Ms. Tolman advised that the Middle School has a blog on the web-site which they update weekly.

Ms. Ferland reiterated the success of the new hires and advised she is pleased with the very high quality of the staff. There is currently one position that wasn't filled. A retired special educator is assisting with evaluations.

Mr. Reigner is looking forward to reviewing wellness data at a future meeting.

Mrs. Chadderton reported that she spent time at the school at the beginning of the year and believes the children are very happy to be back at school.

Mr. Pandolfo advised there will be information and a link (to an Act 166 survey) on Front Porch Forum for parents of next year's incoming 3, 4, and 5 year olds.

Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding the Walk, Run, Fun event. Fund raising begins on September 18, 2015. Donations can now be made on-line. The on-line donation feature will allow students to solicit donations from individuals living outside of this area.

Mr. Taffel advised regarding two additional plaques, created by Guiliano Cecchinelli, II, which will be installed outside the gym.

Mrs. Ristau queried regarding placement of the granite clock. Mrs. Ristau would like it placed in a more visible area.

Mr. Meyers advised that he is enjoying his position very much and feels that BCEMS has a very upbeat attitude. He feels all is working very smoothly.

Future agenda items should include: SBAC test results, a PTO presentation (slated for November), and student presentations.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Student Matter

9.2 Personnel Matter

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Student matter and a Personnel matter.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, 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. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, Ms. Tolman, and Ms. Ferland were invited to join Executive Session.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

No action taken.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin