

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BARRE CITY MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Barre Supervisory Union Conference Room

October 12, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucas Herring – Chair – arrived at 5:32 p.m.

Sonya Spaulding – Vice Chair

Jim Carrien - Clerk

Anita Chadderton

Guiliano Cecchinelli, II – arrived at 5:51 p.m.

Nathan Reigner – arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Anita Ristau

Tyler Smith

Leslie Walz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent

James Taffel, Principal

Sandra Cameron, BSU Early Ed Director

Richard McCraw, M.Ed., Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

Dave Delcore-Times Argus

George Mackey

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Vice-Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, October 12, 2015, Regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Conference Room. The flag salute followed.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

At the suggestion of Mr. Pandolfo, the Board agreed to remove Agenda item 5.5, as this item was resolved at the Tri-Board meeting.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2015 Regular Meeting

Brief discussion was held. Mr. Herring joined the meeting and chaired the remainder of the meeting. On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board voted 5 to 0 to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the September 14, 2015 Regular Meeting. Mrs. Walz abstained.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2015 Emergency Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the October 1, 2015 Emergency Meeting. Mr. Carrien, Mrs. Chadderton, and Mrs. Ristau abstained.

5. New Business

5.1 Resign/Retire/New Hire(s)

None.

5.2 Overview Current Pre-K Program and Act 166 (Pre-Kindergarten Region) – Sandra Cameron

A Document containing screen shots of Ms. Cameron's Power Point presentation were distributed. Ms. Sandra Cameron, SU Early Education Director, addressed the Board regarding the implications of recent legislation pertaining to pre-school. Ms. Cameron gave a Power Point presentation providing an overview of the following areas; Estimated Need for Universal Pre-K, Current Enrollment (including wait list and students in partner centers), Feasibility for BCMES Expansion (no additional transportation costs, as the

current fleet of buses can absorb an additional 30 students), Act 166 Cost of Tuition to Pre-Qualified Private Pre-K Providers, Tax Rate Considerations, Act 166 Requirements for School Expansion (expansion of program is not required), Defining a Prekindergarten Region, implications for families of children with special needs, and the results of the 2015 Family Survey. Lengthy discussion ensued and included discussion of pre-qualified partners, deadlines for submission of paperwork to expand the BCEMS program and/or limit region boundaries, licensure, cost of expansion, tax rate considerations, payment to qualified partners, limitations on capacity, options for students (if not enough capacity at BCEMS – children go on wait list or attend a pre-qualified partner center), the limited number of pre-qualified partner centers (religion based centers do not qualify), and services for students that qualify for Special Education. Ms. Cameron will contact Ms. Perreault regarding calculation methods used to predict a decrease in Special Education costs. Ideas presented included combining all pre-K programs (for both BCEMS and BTMES) into one building and consideration of moving eighth grade students to Spaulding, to free up classroom space. The Board decided not to pursue the option of defining a pre-K region. If a building expansion is given consideration, the State currently has a \$25,000 matching grant available for facility expansions. The Board determined that more information is necessary prior to making a decision on how to proceed.

5.3 Fitz Vogt Report (George Mackey)

A document titled Barre City Elementary/Middle School Food Service Report October 12, 2015 was distributed. Mr. George Mackey, Food Service Director addressed the Board providing an overview of the document, including statistics from the 2014 – 2015 school year, Fitz-Vogt's commitment to the community (Summer Food Service Program, local purchase of products whenever possible, support of the BCEMS garden, the new electronic information screen, assembly breakfasts, and support of school events, including the Walk, Run, Fun event), Fitz-Vogt's commitment to nutrition (fresh fruit/vegetable bars, healthy holiday snack boxes), compliance with State and Federal Competitive Food guidelines, the Community Eligibility Provision (which allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunch), and the current year's statistics (53.9% participation for breakfast / 97.5% participation for lunch). Additionally, Mr. Mackey advised regarding three new serving stations ('Hala Peno', Sizzler Grill, and Self-Serve Pizza), and the fruit/vegetable grant which allows for healthy snacks outside of the regular meal times.

5.4 SBAC Data Presentation (Rick McCraw)

A report titled 'The SBAC Assessment: An Overview of the Test and the 2014 – 15 Results' was distributed. Mr. McCraw addressed the Board utilizing a Power Point presentation to provide an overview of recent test results. The presentation provided information pertaining to differences between NECAP and SBAC (including retirement and release of NECAP questions, the difficulty of SBAC testing, and a state-wide drop in scores and factors that played a part in lower scores), and BCEMS results for Math and ELA (including a comparison with state-wide results). It was noted, that given the poverty level at BCEMS, the results were better than expected. Additional discussion included access to data and reporting (to include reviewing for trends, result breakdown by poverty level, disability, and individual student). It will be possible to track student progress for students who have always attended BCEMS. Though in theory, all students across the state should be receiving the same curriculum, it was noted that this is not the reality.

~~**5.5 Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee - deleted**~~

A document titled 'Getting Started: Pursuing Options and Opportunities Under Act 46' was distributed. No discussion.

5.6 Proposal for City Charter Change Re: Number of School Board Members

A document titled 'Sec. 205 Officers Elected' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the document was drafted after discussion with Carol Dawes. Though the City Council would draft the official wording, Mr. Pandolfo is requesting Board approval regarding the intent. The proposed Charter change would first need to be approved by voters, and then be approved by the Legislature. Discussion included the possible implementation date, and implications relating to Act 46, which may possibly cause confusion to the voting public. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board voted 6 to 2 to move forward with the Charter change to reduce the size of the BCEMS Board. Mrs. Chadderton and Mrs. Spaulding voted against the motion.**

5.7 School Safety Discussion

Mr. Herring queried regarding a recent security/safety event and information that was subsequently sent to parents. Mr. Taffel advised regarding an incident involving a visitor who did not go to the designated area they were supposed to be visiting. The individual did not respond or come forward when requested. A 'clear the halls' order was issued, then, as a precaution the school went into 'lock-down' mode. Once the individual was located, the 'all clear' was announced and classes resumed as normal. It was noted that the lock-down procedure ran very smoothly, and that police response time was swift. A written report is on file. This incident occurred prior to the safety audit. If additional details are needed, it may be appropriate to discuss the matter in Executive Session, so as not to release information that could potentially jeopardize public safety.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated October 5, 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Boiler repairs (on schedule and within budget), a generator issue (power 'droop' during switches from grid to generator), the Act 46

Consolidation Study Committee (the Committee held its first meeting on September 29, 2015, with consultant Peter Clarke in attendance), and Security Protocols (an audit was performed by Mark Moody, with audit results slated to be presented to the heads of the crisis/safety/facility teams/committees. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo provided an update on the boiler project. There may be an additional option that was not listed on the RFP. Mr. Pandolfo will send an e-mail notifying Board members of the dates and times for scheduled site visits. Mr. Taffel advised that the building is currently being heated with propane. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding additional research pertaining to the Solar Agreement, the result being that the Agreement originally signed by the Board Chair, will be the Agreement in place. Construction of the solar project (in Royalton) will begin this month, and is anticipated to go on-line around the beginning of 2016.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated October 2015 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; 'Clear the Halls' and 'Lock-down' drills, 'Math Night' (hosted by math lab personnel), Parent/Teacher conferences (October 8, 2015), Childhood Trauma (Peter Cudney from Northeastern Family Institute is teaching a 7 day/14 hour course), the Positive Behavior program, the Backpack program (implemented through the Vermont Food Bank), the required mailing advising parents of their potential right to apply for supplemental education, the Walk/Run/Fun event (held on October 2, 2015), and the International Walk to School event (held on October 7, 2015). Mr. Taffel advised that a representative (Jenn Hutchinson) from the Food Bank would like to have their organization present at the school two times a month, to allow school parents an opportunity to secure food (fresh fruits and vegetables, with no limitation). It was noted that the funds raised at the Walk/Run/Fun event, are still being tallied. The Walk to School event was a huge success. In the future, this event may be an 'opt-out' event, rather than an opt-in event.

7.3 Committee Reports

Policy – The next meeting will be on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The U61 Policy Committee did meet recently.

Curriculum – There will not be an October meeting. Two meetings will be held in November. The latest information is available on-line.

Facility/Security – Due to a conflict with the Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee, the Facility Committee will reschedule their meeting (normally held on the last Wednesday of each month). Mr. Carrien will send out an e-mail regarding the next meeting. It was decided to have the Facility Committee review and discuss bus related requests/concerns, prior to presentation to the Board.

Finance – A copy of the 'Barre City Elementary and Middle School Budget Status Report (printed 10/05/15) was distributed. The Committee did not meet in October. The next meeting will be held on November 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. and will most likely include a review of the budget. In response to a query from Mrs. Ristau, it was noted that the Quarterly Report with encumbrances and projections (in the agreed upon format) will be coming out soon.

7.4 Financial Report

No additional discussion.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Reigner advised he was sorry to miss Thursday's meeting. He was in Arkansas, at Hot Springs National Park, attending the deputizing of 90 Junior Rangers (4th graders who received their 4th grader, one year National Park Pass). Mr. Reigner reminded the public that all fourth graders are eligible to receive a free one year National Park pass. For information on obtaining the pass, individuals should visit www.everykidinapark.gov.

9. Executive Session

9.1 School Security Matter

Item proposed for discussion in Executive Session was a school safety matter.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously agreed to find that disclosure of the item proposed for discussion, involving school security and/or emergency response measures, could jeopardize public safety, should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin