

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
January 11, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucas Herring - Chair
Sonya Spaulding – Vice Chair
Jim Carrien - Clerk
Anita Chadderton
Anita Ristau
Tyler Smith
Leslie Walz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Guiliano Cecchinelli, II
Nathan Reigner

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Herring, called the Monday, January 16, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 5:40 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

Three items need to be added for Executive Session; a Personnel Matter, a Student Matter, and a Resignation.

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting. Mrs. Chadderton abstained.

5. Old Business

5.1 FY '17 Budget

Several documents were distributed; BCEMS Comparative Tax Rate Calculations – Budget Years 2016-2017, Three Prior Years Comparisons – Format as Provided by AOE, a printout of a Power Point Budget Presentation dated January 11, 2016, and the BCEMS FY17 Budget – V2, 1-11-16. Ms. Perreault provided an overview of the documents, advising that the total expenses in the proposed budget are \$13,989,665. Mr. Herring highlighted the increase, which is .0014%. The Actual Homestead Rate Due to UHS (SHS) is .03955. The Cost Per Equalized Pupil is \$11,805.15, which is well below the threshold amount of \$11,920. No penalties will be incurred. The Tax Rate is 1.19. The Board agreed to approve the budget under Agenda item 6.1, Approval of Warning. Mr. Herring thanked Ms. Perreault, Administrators, and the Finance Committee for their efforts in creating the budget.

5.2 Bond/Loan Proposal

A document titled 'Barre City Elementary & Middle School Bond/Loan Proposal – January 2016 was distributed. Project budget estimates and proposals from the follow entities were distributed; David Laurin, AIA, HI-Tech Electrical Systems, LLC, and

Temperature Controls of Vermont. Mr. Pandolfo advised that fitting replacement is not what is really needed. All of the piping may need to be replaced. The project is more involved than initially thought. It appears that some of the proposed work cannot be done at this time. Mr. Pandolfo recommends continuing to operate the system with the existing fittings. Mr. Pandolfo's recommendation also includes the creation of a 5 or 10 year plan, bidding the additional 'pieces' separately, over time, with expenses budgeted as part of the regular budget. Replacement of fittings at this point, is outside the scope of the planned project. Mr. Herring advised regarding loan terms that have been presented to him. The terms have been submitted based on both 10 and 15 year terms. It was noted that a loan of \$600,000 over ten years would result in yearly costs of approximately \$65,000 plus interest. For a 15 year term, the yearly expense would be approximately \$50,000 plus interest. **Mrs. Chadderton moved to approve borrowing \$600,000 from the Bond Bank, for a term of 10 years, at an interest rate of 2.235%.** Discussion ensued which included concern that it was premature to approve borrowing funds without first obtaining voter approval. Additionally, Ms. Perreault advised that interest rates may fluctuate between now and when voter approval may be received. **Mrs. Chadderton withdrew the motion. On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to approve seeking voter approval to borrow no more than \$600,000 at the most competitive rate, for a term of ten years, for heating system and security system upgrades.** Mrs. Ristau recommends advising the public regarding the necessity of boiler replacement, and upgrades to assure student safety/security concerns are addressed.

5.3 Second and Final Reading of Curriculum Development & Coordination BSU Policy (G1)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Walz advised that no changes had been made since the first reading. **On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Curriculum Development & Coordination BSU Policy (G1).** Mrs. Ristau advised that it would not be possible to evaluate all programs within the curriculum on an annual basis, and recommends that the Curriculum Director create a list/plan of what will be evaluated over a given period of time. Mr. Pandolfo will ask the Curriculum Director to meet with Administration to devise a schedule of program evaluation.

5.4 Second and Final Reading of Professional Development BSU Policy (D2)

A copy of the policy was distributed. In response to a query from Mrs. Walz, it was confirmed that the SU Board approved the Second and Final Reading of this policy at its November 12, 2015 meeting. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Professional Development BSU Policy (D2).**

5.5 Act 46 Committee Membership

Mrs. Spaulding advised that there is currently a Barre City (SHS) representative that is unable to attend Act 46 Committee meetings. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the possibility of withdrawing the current member and appointing a new individual. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she has not been able to establish communication with the Committee Member. Mr. Herring advised that he would like to ascertain the Member's intentions prior to taking action. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the last Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee meeting will be held on January 21, 2016 (the current grant expires on January 31, 2016). Mr. Pandolfo is currently working on submitting an application for 706 grant monies. In February, the BCEMS and BTMES Boards will review and approve the Act 46 Committee Report and most likely approve proceeding with a 706 Committee to conduct more extensive research and analysis. At that point, the Boards may appoint members to the 706 Committee. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the Act 46 Public Forum being held at Spaulding High School on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The Committee greatly welcomes input from the public and it is hoped that there will be a large turnout for this meeting. The objective of the meeting is to inform the public regarding Act 46, including the consolidation of district Boards, policies etc., and to advise of the identified opportunities and challenges. The public is encouraged to attend to provide input and ask questions. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the numerous ways the meeting has been publicized, including mailings to students' parents, printed ads, and various on-line forums. Act 46 information can be accessed via a link on the SU web site (Act 46 – Unification). This link provides access to general resources, videos of meetings, agendas, minutes meeting documents, etc.

6. New Business

6.1 Warning for March 1, 2016

A copy of the draft Warning for the Barre City School District Warning for March 1, 2016 Vote was distributed. Brief discussion was held regarding the draft Warning. Items for Article I which need to be finalized are: Education Expenditures of **\$13,989,665**, Education Spending of **\$11,805.15** per equalized pupil, and projected spending per equalized pupil **2.7% higher** than spending for the current year. In response to a query from Mrs. Spaulding, it was noted that the Vermont School Board Association has confirmed that the wording of the Article is valid as stated on the draft. **On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Barre City School District Warning for March 1, 2016 Vote.**

6.2 School Board Member Elections

Mr. Herring advised that there will be five open Board Member seats to be presented on the ballot. Community members are encouraged to run for Board positions. Interested individuals should contact the Barre City Clerk for petitions. The deadline for submission of petitions is January 25, 2016. Each candidate is required to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters. Candidates are encouraged to collect 5 to 10 additional signatures to assure their petition contains the required number of registered voters. It was

noted that Mr. Herring, Mrs. Ristau, and Mrs. Walz are not running for re-election. Mr. Smith will be running for re-election. It is not known if Mr. Cecchinelli will be seeking re-election. Mr. Taffel will post the open positions on the BCEMS Facebook page, including what procedures need to be followed, and the deadline for submission of petitions (01/25/16).

6.3 School Board Member Stipend Payment Schedule

Mr. Pandolfo addressed the Board advising of a requested change to the stipend payment schedule. The goal is to create one schedule that will be used by all of the Boards. The ideal schedule will include 2 bi-annual payments (6 months apart), with payments being made after Board service is rendered. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to approve a bi-annual Board Member Stipend Payment Schedule, with 2 payments being issued 6 months apart, with each payment occurring after completion of service. The date of the first payment will be determined by the Business Office.**

6.4 FY '17 Tuition Rate

A document titled 'FY17 Announced Tuition-BCEMS' was distributed. Ms. Perreault provided a brief overview of how the tuition amounts are calculated. **On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve an Announced Tuition Rate of \$10,344 for grades K-6, and \$10,383 for grades 7 and 8.**

6.5 Deletion of Curriculum Development Policy (IF)

A copy of the policy was distributed. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to authorize deletion of the Curriculum Development Policy (IF).**

6.6 Deletion of Professional Development Policy (GCL)

A copy of the policy was distributed. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to authorize deletion of the Professional Development Policy (GCL).**

6.7 First Reading of Board Member Conflict of Interest BSU Policy (B3)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Walz advised that this policy was ratified by the SU in November 2014. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Board Member Conflict of Interest BSU Policy (B3).** It was noted that after the Second and Final Reading is approved, the local policy will be rescinded.

6.8 First Reading of Notice of Non-Discrimination BSU Policy (B6)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Walz advised that this policy was also approved at the SU quite some time ago. The local policy will be rescinded after approval of the Second and Final Reading. Mr. Carrien queried regarding the Boy Scout 'call out'. It was noted that this is required by statute. **On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the Notice of Non-Discrimination BSU Policy (B6)**

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated January 4, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee (public forum will be held on January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Spaulding High School), the upcoming Legislative Breakfast (January 25, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Lunchbox at SHS/CVCC), the upcoming Administrative Winter Retreat (January 27, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.), a copy of the VSBIT memorandum pertaining to documents which fall under the Public Records Act, and the PATH grant (the grant was not received, as grants were awarded to those with a higher need). A copy of the Act 46 Public Forum Agenda was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview, highlighting the Act 46 Public hearing, the Legislative Breakfast, and the Winter Retreat. Mr. Pandolfo distributed copies of the legislative report to those requesting a copy. As all Board members receive the report via e-mail, Mr. Pandolfo will no longer print copies unless requested to do so. It was noted that new Board member e-mail accounts will need to be created and the list of new accounts will need to be forwarded to VSBA. Mr. Pandolfo distributed a copy of a letter from Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe. Ms. Holcombe advises that the plan outlined in the progress report dated November 6, 2015 is acceptable. The final cost study and the SU's plan for compliance needs to be submitted to Ms. Holcombe no later than June 1, 2016. Mr. Pandolfo advised that he met with custodial staff regarding upcoming negotiations. Mr. Pandolfo advised custodial staff regarding changes mandated by Act 153 and advised that he is currently proposing two contracts; BTMES, and a combined BCEMS/SHS contract. Mr. Pandolfo will be testifying before the Senate Education Committee on January 12, 2016 at 2:30 p.m., regarding the impact of Act 46 and the Allowable Growth Thresholds. It should be noted that the thresholds are the main concern at this point. No other provisions of Act 46 are currently under legislative review.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated January 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Literacy Assessments, the December 17, 2015 bands/chorus performances, third grade students' visits to the Berlin Mall and local nursing homes to sing to the public and residents, the upcoming (January 18, 2016) Staff Development Day, the Young Rembrandts after-school art program, the application for a grant to enable the after-school program spearheaded by Maureen Boufard, and student

counts by grade. The total number of students is 905. It was noted that actual student counts and the Equalized Pupil Count will never agree, as the Equalized Pupil Count is calculated, with students 'weighted' differently depending on various factors, including age and disabilities. Mr. Taffel reported a smooth transition back to school after the December break. Additionally, Mr. Taffel advised that replacement of the 'No Child Left Behind Act' with the 'Every Student Succeeds Act', will have an impact on student testing. SBAC testing will continue at this point. The State will be determining education quality reviews. BCEMS is not currently part of any testing/quality pilot programs, but may be in the future.

7.3 Committee Reports

Policy – A copy of the Minutes from the December 16, 2015 Policy Committee meeting were distributed for review. In response to a query regarding Warrant Policy discussion, it was noted that the Warrant Policy will be at the SU level. Once the SU approves the policy, the BCMS Board can adopt it and rescind the existing policy.

Curriculum – A copy of the Minutes from the January 4, 2016 Curriculum Committee meeting were distributed. Additionally, a copy of a letter from Spanish teacher Julia Blatchford was distributed. In her document, Ms. Blatchford has identified some ongoing issues with the program, and presents some possible solutions. Discussion at the next meeting will include 'Enrichment'.

Facility/Security – The Committee did not meet in December.

Finance – Minutes to the December 2, 2015 and December 23, 2015 meetings were distributed. The Committee has been focusing on creation of the budget. Mrs. Spaulding thanked Ms. Perreault, Mr. Pandolfo, and BCMS Administration for their efforts in drafting a very reasonable budget.

7.4 Financial Report

The BCMS Expense Budget Report was distributed. Mr. Herring advised that the report indicates the possibility of a small surplus. Mrs. Spaulding cautioned that it is early in the fiscal year to predict a surplus. Mrs. Ristau queried regarding quarterly financial reports. Mr. Herring advised that financial reporting is being discussed at the SU level. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the goal for financial reporting is for all districts to use the same common format. Ms. Perreault may be able to create a report template for review. Ms. Perreault may be able to have a financial projection available for Finance Committee review in February. The Finance Committee will report to the Board. Mr. Carrien requested a more simplified report, noting the repetition of Function Codes in the Expense Budget Report. It was noted that although the auditors usually present their audit for approval at the January meeting, this year, it will be presented at the February meeting. In lieu of an approved audit, Mr. Herring is in favor of using draft numbers for the budget promotion materials. It was noted that the auditors do not expect any of the numbers to change.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Anderson queried regarding having Administrative personnel provide an update regarding the two new Behavioral Specialists, and possibly GAM. The response was positive. This will be added to the agenda. Additionally, Mrs. Anderson advised that the Unified Sports team (snowshoe team) has started practicing. There are three coaches this year. The competition will be held in March. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Thus far, 2 of the 3 coaches are registered for the Penguin Plunge.

Mrs. Chadderton requested a report that documents the number of students with disabilities, and would like the count broken down (if possible) by the type of disability. It is understood that no information can be provided if it would identify an individual student. Mrs. Chadderton would like the report to compare the current year to past years to determine if the number of students with disabilities is increasing or decreasing.

Mr. Pandolfo reminded folks of the Penguin Plunge which is being held on February 6, 2016. Mr. Herring advised that he is registered for the event. Mrs. Spaulding is also registered, and advised of issues finding team members on the Penguin Plunge web site.

Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the availability of more detailed SBAC result information. Mr. Taffel will follow-up with this information.

Mr. Herring promoted the vacant Board seats and encouraged interested individuals to contact Board members with any questions they may have. Additionally, Mr. Herring advised that the public will soon receive a packet of budget information. The packet will contain budget information for all of the proposed budgets. Mr. Herring encouraged Board Members to conduct public outreach for budget promotion.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Personnel Matter

9.2 Student Matter

9.3 Resignation

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include a Personnel Matter, a Student Matter, and a Resignation.

On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, 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 Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:06 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, and Mrs. Anderson were invited to join Executive Session.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Spaulding, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Assistant Principal, Rick Myers.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin