

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
February 8, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucas Herring - Chair
Sonya Spaulding – Vice Chair – arrived at 5:37 p.m.
Anita Chadderton
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – arrived at 5:45 p.m.
Nathan Reigner
Anita Ristau
Tyler Smith
Leslie Walz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Carrien - Clerk

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Jackie Tolman, Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services
Richard McCraw, M.Ed., Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus John Mudgett

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mr. Herring, called the Monday, February 8, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 5:35 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 5.5 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant

3. Visitors and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board voted 4 to 0 to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2016 Regular Meeting. Mr. Reigner abstained.

5. Old Business

5.1 FY '17 Budget

Using a Power Point presentation, Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of the proposed budget. The overview included; development considerations, historical information (BCEMS budgets, equalized pupil counts, & spending per equalized pupil), statewide education spending, a map identifying statewide education spending per equalized pupil, historical tax rate information, the estimated tax rate for the proposed FY17 budget, new ballot language, and Special Articles IV, V, and VI. Mrs. Spaulding thanked the community and the Board and encouraged the community to vote for the budget on March 1, 2016. Mrs. Spaulding reminded voters that they may vote by absentee ballot. The Board thanked Mrs. Spaulding for the clear and concise manner in which the budget was presented.

5.2 Second Reading of the Board Member Conflict of Interest BSU Policy (B3)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Walz advised regarding revisions to the format.

On a motion by Mrs. Walz, seconded by Mrs. Ristau, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the Board Member Conflict of Interest BSU Policy (B3).

5.3 Second Reading of Notice of Non-Discrimination BSU Policy (B6)

A copy of the policy was distributed. After brief discussion it was noted that this policy was ratified on 04/13/15. No action is necessary on this agenda item. The old policy will be slated for deletion at the next meeting.

5.4 Act 46 Update

Three documents were distributed; "Act 46 Implementation Project" (Act 46 Implementation Status), "Act 46 Exploratory Study Report, Barre Supervisory Union, dated January 31, 2016", and a color keyed map identifying the status of each SU in the state. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of consolidation activity around the state, as well as the status of the BSU Act 46 Consolidation Study Committee. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the Act 46 Committee's report and advised that the Committee recommends moving to a 706 Study. BTMES recently voted to move forward as recommended by the Committee. Brief discussion was held regarding information contained in Appendix A. Mr. Pandolfo has applied for the \$20,000 3718 grant. Mr. Pandolfo recently received preliminary, verbal approval for the grant. The tentative date for the first 706 meeting is February 18, 2016. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the charge of the 706 Committee, and advised that there is one definite opening on the committee. A second open seat may also be possible. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated that the SU Act 46 site has links to many Act 46 informational documents and videos. **On a motion by Mrs. Ristau, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board voted 6 to 1 to approve moving forward with a 706 Study. Mrs. Chadderton voted against the motion.**

5.5 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant

A copy of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Application was distributed for informational purposes. No action is necessary. The grant application has been submitted. If received, the grant would provide financing for 3 years. After 3 years, BCEMS can reapply. The school hopes to have 160 regular attendees (80 elementary and 80 middle school).

6. New Business

6.1 SBAC Report

Screen prints from a Power Point presentation titled 'The SBAC Assessment / The 2015 Test and Next Steps' were distributed. Curriculum Director, Richard McCraw addressed the Board, providing an overview of SBAC results, utilizing a Power Point presentation. Mr. McCraw provided an overview of SBAC testing and BCEMS results, including comparison to Vermont state-wide results. It was noted that SBAC testing is computer adaptive and the level of difficulty rises or falls (by up to 2 grade levels) dependent on the correctness of answers. SBAC testing is performed utilizing SBAC 'tools and resources'. Students' technology skills level can have an impact on their test results. The results of the recent SBAC testing will not be used for accountability purposes. It was noted that the State is actively investigating the use of SAT or ACT testing, in lieu for SBAC for students in 11th grade. Discussion included a desire to increase the level of proficiency for all students. Raising proficiency will be discussed by the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Spaulding advised she would like to see reporting that breaks out students who have attended BCEMS since kindergarten. Though this type of report may be possible, it is extremely involved and would be very time consuming to create.

6.2 Report from the Auditors

A copy of the draft audit was distributed. John Mudgett addressed the Board advising that the audit went very smoothly and that there were no findings of material weaknesses or internal controls. Mr. Mudgett proceeded to provide an overview of the audit and answered questions from the Board. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Spaulding, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Audit.** In response to a query regarding the unallocated fund amount, it was noted that procedural changes should be implemented in the future to assure that monies allocated to specific funds are documented.

6.3 First Reading BSU Tobacco Prohibition Policy (E8)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.3 through 6.11 were distributed. It was noted that all of the policies have been reviewed at the SU level. All model policies provided by the State have been vetted by an attorney.

On a motion by Mr. Reigner, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.3 through 6.11:

BSU Tobacco Prohibition Policy (E8)

BSU Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance (D13)

BSU Prevention of Employee Harassment Policy (D12)

BSU Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees Policy (D11)

BSU Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy (D8)

BSU Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Policy (H7)

BSU Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F20)

BSU Model Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F-20-1)
BSU Title I Comparability Policy (G12)

6.4 First Reading BSU Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance (D13)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.5 First Reading BSU Prevention of Employee Harassment Policy (D12)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.6 First Reading BSU Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees Policy (D11)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.7 First Reading BSU Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy (D8)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.8 First Reading BSU Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Policy (H7)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.9. First Reading of BSU Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F20)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.10 First Reading of BSU Model Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students Policy (F-20-1)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3

6.11 First Reading BSU Title I Comparability Policy (G12)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3. It was noted that this policy applies to all three schools (BCEMS, SHS, and BTMES), even though BTMES does not received Title I funds. All schools in the district must provide similar/comparable services.

6.12 Student Conduct on Buses Policy (EEAC) for Deletion

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Walz provided a brief overview of the reasons that deletion is proposed.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to approve deletion of the Student Conduct on Buses Policy (EEAC).

6.13 Resignation

A letter of resignation from Grant Fleming, Director of Facilities was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the position of Director of Facilities is a shared position (BCEMS and BTMES). The position will be discussed at the upcoming SU meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Grant Fleming.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated February 1, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Study Committee (update), the Legislative Meeting (tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 6:15 p.m.), the Pre-K – 12 Administrative Winter Retreat (held on January 27, 2016), and preparation of the 2016-2017 BSU Calendar. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the venue for the Legislative Meeting is the Spaulding High School Library.

7.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated February 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; an update on the 21st Century Grant application, receipt of an award from Prevention Works VT, by Dawn Poitras (Student Assistance Provider), Gillian Fuqua's recent selection as a Vita-Learn IGNITE educator, Paula Beaudet and Lorraine Morris's recent acquisition of chromebooks for each of their students, and the resignation of Food Service Director, George Mackey. Mrs. Anderson distributed a report titled '5 Year Disability Count Comparison Report PK – Grade 8'. Mrs. Anderson provided an overview, advising that though students may have multiple disabilities, each disabled student is counted only once in the report, with each student being reported under their primary disability. The percentage of students with disabilities at BCEMS (23%) is higher than the state average (14%). The Agency of Education is currently performing Adverse Effect training. Mr. Taffel advised that Mr. McCraw recently received a grant that will allow for before-school tutoring and also be used to assist students struggling with trauma. Additionally, Mr. Taffel advised that the Vermont Principals Association has named Ms. Tolman as 'one of the most promising principals in Vermont'.

7.3 Committee Reports

Policy – A copy of the Minutes from the January 20, 2016 Policy Committee meeting were distributed for review. The next meeting will be on February 17, 2016.

Curriculum – The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2016. Discussion will include Enrichment and Physical Education. SBAC result follow-up will also be discussed.

Facility/Security – The Committee has not met recently.

Finance – Minutes from the February 4, 2016 meeting were distributed. A copy of the BCEMS Expense Budget Status Report (dated 02/02/16) was distributed. A copy of the BCEMS FY16 Expenditure/Year-end Projection report (dated 02/04/16) was also distributed. At this time, there is an anticipated deficit, though projections will continue to change as the school year progresses.

7.4 Financial Report

Discussion was held under previous agenda items. No additional discussion is necessary.

8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Ms. Tolman advised the Board to watch the newspaper and the news on Tuesday, as some exciting student news was going to be announced.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has Mrs. Walz's list of policy information.

Mrs. Spaulding announced that her daughter enjoyed participating in the Penguin Plunge. Mr. Herring and Mr. Pandolfo also participated in this event. Mrs. Spaulding reminded the community to vote in person on March 1, 2016, or submit an absentee ballot if they were not available on March 1st. Mrs. Spaulding extended her thanks to 'retiring' BCEMS Board Members Leslie Walz, Anita Ristau, and Lucas Herring.

Mrs. Walz expressed her gratitude to the Board and advised that she has enjoyed the 6 years she has served on the Board.

Mrs. Ristau expressed her admiration of BCEMS Administration and staff, and advised that it has been a privilege for her to serve on the Board.

Mr. Herring thanked the Board and the community and advised that he has enjoyed his time spent on the Board. Mr. Herring reminded the community of the three open seats and encourages interested individuals to serve on the Board.

Mr. Taffel expressed his gratitude to the retiring Board Members and thanked each one for the unique 'talents' they brought to the Board.

9. Executive Session

9.1 Student Matter

A Student Matter was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item 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. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

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

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mrs. Walz, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin