

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
May 9, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Jim Carrien – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Joe Blakely – arrived at 5:36 p.m.
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II
Anita Chadderton
C. Sedillia Jenkins

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Deering
Vacant Position

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Lucas Herring	Pierre Laflamme	Kai Morse
Matt Morse	Miranda Walbridge	Sonja Walbridge		

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, May 9, 2016, 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.

The Board agreed to have Agenda Item 6.1 (Student Presentations) as the first item of business. Student presentations were given and are documented under Agenda item 6.1.

2. Executive Session

2.1 Assistant Principal Interview

The item proposed for discussion in Executive Session is personnel interviews.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the item proposed for discussion would clearly place Barre City Elementary and Middle School at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 5:41 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 5:59 p.m.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

4. Visitors and Communications

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Student Presentations

- State Spelling Bee

- Trip to Washing DC – Presidential Award for Community Service

Ms. Tolman introduced Miranda Walbridge, advising that she was a recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Ms. Walbridge addressed the Board and advised regarding her trip to Washington DC to receive the award, and provided an overview of the community service she performed, that resulted in her nomination for the award. The Board congratulated Ms. Walbridge on her accomplishments and thanked her for her presentation.

Ms. Tolman introduced Kai Morse. Ms. Morse participated on the BCEMS Spelling Bee Team. Ms. Morse addressed the Board and advised regarding her transfer to BCEMS, recruitment to participate on the Spelling Bee Team, success at the local competition and participation in the state contest. Ms. Morse placed 15th out of 30 in the state level competition. Ms. Morse advised that training for the spelling bee events included learning words from 14 different languages and that her experience on the team, has allowed her to greatly expand her vocabulary. The Board congratulated Ms. Morse and thanked her for representing BCEMS.

6.2 New Board Member Interviews

Letters of interest from Lucas Herring and Paul Flint were distributed. Mr. Herring addressed the Board and advised regarding his experience and interest in serving on the Board. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Herring to the Spaulding High School Board.**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the applicant for the BCEMS Board has withdrawn his application. At this time, there are no additional applicants for the vacant BCEMS position. The vacant seat remains available. Board Members were encouraged to seek additional candidates.

6.3 Resign/Retire/New Hire

Eight documents were distributed; a letter of resignation (retirement) from Sharon Somers, resignation letters from Gabrielle Farmer and Dana LeBlanc, cover letters/resumes/BSU Notification Status forms from Sharon Jacobs (Special Educator), Courtnie Lange (2nd grade classroom teacher), Amelia Abraham (classroom teacher), Karla Eberlein (Special Educator), and Christopher Putney. Brief discussion was held regarding the individuals who have submitted letters of resignation.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to accept, with thanks and well wishes, the resignations of Sharon Somers, Gabrielle Farmer, and Dana LeBlanc. Ms. Somers was recognized for eighteen years of dedicated service.

Brief discussion was held regarding the proposed hires, including a brief overview of each candidate's qualifications and experience.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Sharon Jacobs for the new position at the Granite Academy.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Courtnie Lange for a grade 2 position.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Amelia Abraham for an unspecified grade level classroom teacher.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Karla Eberlein as a middle school Intensive Needs Special Educator.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Christopher Putney for the position of middle school Behavioral Specialist.

6.4 Transportation Bids

A proposal from Student Transportation of America was distributed. A letter from First Student was distributed (they will not be bidding on the current available contract). A document titled 'BSU TRANSPORTATION BID COMPARISON 5/9/16' was

distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the documents and advised that the SU sought 3 bids. One of the vendors declined to submit a bid. One vendor did not submit a bid. It is the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board accept the bid for continued services by STA. Mrs. Perreault advised that she is currently performing additional research and advised that she is working to explore options for a more cost effective way to purchase fuel. Lengthy discussion ensued including discussion of Act 153 requirements, expenses relating to installation of security cameras, age limits on buses, transportation of Special Education students, and options/impact if no contract is signed at the SU level. Mr. Blakely would like to survey 8th grade students/parents regarding their busing needs for next year. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to accept the bid from Student Transportation of America for a 3 year contract for transportation of BCEMS students for the time period 07/01/16 through 06/30/19, with the option to extend for two years.**

6.5 Student Exchange

Mr. Pandolfo advised that, after discussion with the Agency of Education, and learning of a number of identified concerns, it is his recommendation not to move forward with setting up a formal Student Exchange program.

6.6 Act 46 Committee Appointment

A letter of interest from Lucas Herring was distributed. Mr. Herring advised regarding his interest in serving on the Act 46 Committee. **On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Herring as a Barre City Representative to the Act 46 Study Committee.**

7. Old Business

None.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated May 2, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the Act 46 Study Committee, Custodial/Maintenance negotiations, the Facilities Director position, the Tri-Board Retreat (June 21, 2016), VEHI insurance updates, and the Aesop & VeriTime system (absence and substitute management). A medical/pharmacy claims insurance summary report was also distributed. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the SU's health insurance claims information indicates that the SU's usage is in line with the state average. A copy of the invitation for the Act 46 Public Forum was distributed. The invitation has been sent to various 'stakeholders' and is also intended for Board Members. It was noted that the Articles of Agreement, if approved, will require City Charter changes. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Sharon solar project is well underway and that BCEMS should see savings in the near future. Mr. Pandolfo hopes to finalize the board/committee meeting schedule in the near future.

8.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated May 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; community service projects completed by Students On The Move (under the direction of Dawn Poitras), the summer school program (07/05/16 – 07/29/16), interviews for open positions, a Mentor and Volunteer Appreciation Evening (05/19/16 at 6:00 p.m.), the planned parent information meeting on children's brain development (05/10/16 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.), the Memorial Day Program (05/26/16 at 9:15 a.m.), and the eighth grade graduation (Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Barre Auditorium). The Middle School Celebration of Art will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Fifth grade students are participating in a cross-state (Illinois) book project (Andy's Books for Kids). This event was started by Mr. Taffel's sister, in memory of her son. Mr. Taffel commended students for the numerous contributions they have been making to the community. 4th and 8th grade students will be participating in Science NECAP testing next week (Tuesday through Thursday). Many activities will be taking place as the school year comes to a close.

8.3 Committee Reports

Policy – No activity to report.

Curriculum – The Committee met on April 25, 2016. The next meeting will be on May 23, 2016. The agenda will include discussion on the Middlebury Spanish program and homework and attendance policies.

Facility/Security – The Committee met on April 24, 2016. The next meeting will be on June 6, 2016 and will include discussion on the security wall and the swipe card access system. A document titled 'BCEMS Facility Projects Summer 2016 5/9/16' and a copy of sketches for the main floor renovations were distributed. Mr. Carrien provided a detailed overview of numerous projects, including tile installation, roof replacement, boiler work, installation of hot water taps, stack height extension, and heating system controls. Mrs. Perreault will bring loan information to the June meeting. Discussion included the possibility of outfitting additional doors with swipe card units, measures to assure the safety of students utilizing the gym, expedient access into the building (in the event that a lock down is necessary while students are outside), and capacity of the swipe card system.

Finance – The Committee met on May 3, 2016. The next meeting will be on the June 23, 2016. General education expenses were below budget, while special education costs were over budget by \$452,000. The year-end projection is for a deficit of \$38,685. It was noted that \$1,100 was spent for advertisement of board and committee meetings. The budgeted amount is \$3000 (which includes job postings). Mrs. Spaulding will research posting requirements for meetings. RAN (Revenue Anticipation Notes) bid information will be available in the near future.

8.4 Financial Report

The 'Barre City Elementary and Middle School BC EXPENSE BUDGET STATUS REPORT' dated 05/03/16 was distributed. No discussion was held. There were no questions from the Board.

9. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Taffel advised that the literacy team is encouraging summer reading by setting up a 'bingo' type system that will hopefully engage students in literacy.

Mrs. Chadderton advised that students who read a specified number of books are rewarded with signing their name to a racecar.

Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding construction on the baseball field. Details are not known at this time.

Mr. Pandolfo commended the Administrative team on their expedient hiring process.

Mrs. Chadderton queried regarding playground updates and the new buildings located near the playground.

Mr. Taffel advised that the new buildings are for storage of playground equipment. The new Facilities Director will provide an update regarding upgrades to playground structures.

Ms. Tolman advised regarding May Day activities coordinated by Students on the Move.

Future Agenda Items include: Playground upgrades/maintenance and Students on the Move activities.

10. Executive Session

10.1 Personnel

10.2 Student

Items proposed for discussion in Executive Session include Personnel and Student Issues, Negotiations and Contract Issues.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously agreed to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place Barre City Elementary and Middle School 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 7:23p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.

Administrative staff were invited to join Executive Session.

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5 to 1 to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding wage increases on non-contract staff. Ms. Jenkins voted against the motion.

On a motion by Mrs. Chadderton, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Mr. Pierre Laflamme for the Assistant Principal position for a one year contract.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mrs. Chadderton, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin