

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Jim Carrien – Vice Chair
Joe Blakely
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II
Michael Deering

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tyler Smith - Clerk
Anita Chadderton
C. Sedillia Jenkins
Vacant Position

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Jackie Tolman, Principal
Bob Goudreau, Assistant to the Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Jason Fleury Andrew McMichael Dawn Poitras

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, August 8, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 5:56 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

2. New Board Member Interview

A letter of interest from Andrew J. McMichael was distributed. The Board interviewed Mr. McMichael, who responded to their questions, including his interest in serving on the Board. It was noted that this position runs until March 2017. **On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. McMichael to fill the vacant Board Seat until the March 2017 election.** Mr. McMichael was advised to see the City Clerk (Carol Dawes) to be sworn in.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Substitute Pay Raise – Mrs. Spaulding requested that this item be added to the Agenda, noting that no action would be taken, as this item was not warned.

4. Visitors and Communications

Bob Goudreau was introduced to the Board. Mr. Goudreau has joined the staff as an administrator to assist Ms. Tolman. Mr. Goudreau provided an overview of his experience, including teacher and administrator roles, and work with the Agency of Education.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2016 Regular Meeting.

5.2 Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the June 21, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting.

The Board proceeded to Agenda Item 6.4, and then returned to follow the remainder of the Agenda in the posted order.

6. New Business

6.1 Resign/Retire/New Hire

Resumes and BCEMS Notification of Employment Status Forms for Judith Watt and Spencer Horchler were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of each candidate.

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Judith Watt.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Spencer Horchler for the position of Speech Language Pathologist.

It was noted that the Speech/Language Pathologist position, was the last professional position that needed to be filled.

6.2 VEHI Petition

A letter from Rick Scott pertaining to a request to change VEHI Board structure bylaws was distributed. A corresponding petition form was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided background information including the lack of VSBA representation on the current Board, and advised that he recommends that the Board authorize him to sign the petition for both Medical and Dental and vote for that change at the upcoming meeting. **On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Superintendent to sign on the District's behalf, the petition to change the bylaws to change the structure of the VEHI Board and to vote to support the change.**

6.3 Food Service Forgiveness Request

A copy of the 'Completed Budgeted Financial Forms – Barre City – Elem/Mid' form and a document titled 'BCEMS Contribution' were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that a representative from Fitz Vogt has asked him to address the Board and request forgiveness on an unspecified amount of their contribution to the school. A similar request was presented to the SHS Board. It is Mr. Pandolfo's recommendation to let the contract stand 'as is' and not grant forgiveness. After extensive discussion, the Board declined to grant forgiveness and agreed not to put forth a motion to pertaining to the matter. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she would like the Board to be advised regarding the amount that was being requested for forgiveness.

6.4 VT Fish and Wildlife Class (Dawn Poitras)

A document titled 'Vermont Fish & Wildlife Hunting and Bow Education Class' was distributed. Ms. Poitras and Mr. Fleury addressed the Board and provided information pertaining to the program, including; student requests, need, Mr. Fleury's extensive experience teaching the program (13 years), the schedule (classes are slated to be held in the cafeteria for 4 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., beginning on 09/06/16), age restrictions (none), cost (none – all instructors are volunteers and most are law enforcement personnel), and course material (hunter education/ethics, and first aid knowledge). The course includes many 'what if' scenarios to allow participants to plan/learn how to react under different circumstances (lost = build shelter). Ms. Poitras advised that she will be attending each class. It was noted that there is no live ammunition shooting involved in the course. It was suggested that live firing might be beneficial, and if included with the course, would need to be performed at a different venue. **On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Fish and Wildlife Hunting and Bow Education Class.** It was noted that if there is enough interest, additional courses could be planned for the future.

6.5 First Reading of BSU Role and Adoption of School Board Policies Policy (A1)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the SU wide policy. A copy of the 'Barre Supervisory Union Policy Manual Index' was also distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview of the extensive research performed to-date. The district level policy committees have not been meeting. The new VSBA site has been reviewed to identify a list of required policies. It was noted that there are some policies that exist at the district level, but not at the SU level. District policies need to be aligned with SU policies. If Act 46 consolidation is approved, district policies will be obsolete as of July 1, 2017.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Role and Adoption of School Board Policies Policy (A1).

6.6 First Reading of BSU Grade Advancement: Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students Policy (G9)

A copy of the policy was distributed. Mrs. Spaulding voiced concern regarding how this SU policy aligns with the recently adopted BCEMS policy which includes parental input. Brief discussion was held and it was noted that the proposed BSU policy does not prohibit parental involvement and that parental involvement would continue to be part of the procedures document.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading of the BSU Grade Advancement: Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students Policy (G9).

6.7 Rescind Obsolete SU Policies: DCA, DDA, DF, DFAA, DFA, DIB, DJ, DJG, DJH, DK, DL, GBCC, GBCD, and GBK. Copies of the policies were not distributed. Mr. Pandolfo read the policy names and advised as to why the policies were being presented for rescindment. **On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to rescind BSU policies: DCA, DDA, DF, DFAA, DFA, DIB, DJ, DJG, DJH, DK, DL, GBCC, GBCD, and GBK.**

6.8 Athletic Field Discussion

Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding discussion at the last Act 46 meeting, pertaining to the possibility of BTMES ceding their athletic fields to the Town of Barre. The Town currently maintains the school's fields. The Act 46 Committee asked Mrs. Spaulding to present the possibility of a similar action with the BCEMS fields. It was noted that BCEMS currently maintains and schedules their own fields, so the scenario for BCEMS is similar, but not equal. After brief discussion, it was agreed that the Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee should research further and that additional discussion would be necessary at a later date.

6.9 Substitute Pay Raise

A document titled 'Vermont Sub Rates' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the document and proposed rates and advised that the proposal was slated for presentation to the SU Board at their August 18, 2016 meeting. In response to a query from Mr. Deering, it was noted that historical data was not known at this time. Data may be difficult to track as not all substitute activity may be represented in the Substitute line item in the budget. A quick review of the data from the 2015/2016 budget indicates that there are approximately 20 substitutes in the school per day. It was noted that substitute pay has not been increased in at least 10 years. The Board was polled regarding their opinion on this matter. It was the consensus of the Board that substitute pay should be increased. Mr. Deering advised that given the length of time since the last raise, he feels that substitutes are radically underpaid. Mr. Carrien advised that he feels the action being taken is a good start, and believes more work should be done. In addition to comparing sub rates to other districts, more research should be performed relative job responsibility and the proposed increase to minimum wage.

7. Old Business

None.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated August 2, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; The Act 46 Study Committee, facilities work, the Custodial/Maintenance Agreement (now in effect), and the Board and Committee Meeting Schedule (a copy was distributed). Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the progress of the Act 46 Committee and advised that the next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday (August 11, 2016). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the draft of the final report will be reviewed at Thursday's meeting and that most of the report needs to be completed. The report will need to be approved at a September meeting and will need to be submitted to the Agency of Education for approval. A second survey is currently being drafted. Mr. Pandolfo will give an Act 46 presentation to the Rotary Club the week of August 15th. It was noted that due to Act 46 activity, there will need to be some revisions to the board meeting schedule.

8.2 Principals Report

Mr. Taffel advised that the summer programs were very successful, with 75 – 80 students involved. Various summer programs include the CLIF program, Barre Buds, Science Camp, Extended School Year Services, and a 4 week program for students with academic needs. It was noted that funding was not available for the pre-school/after-school program, thus, the program will not be instituted this year.

8.3 Committee Reports

Policy – Mr. Deering is the new Chair of this Committee. There is currently no action to report.

Curriculum – Mr. Smith is the Chair of this Committee. It was noted that there is not normally much activity for this Committee during the summer.

Facility/Security – Mr. Cecchinelli advised that changes to the front entrance are proceeding nicely. The Committee is slated to meet on the first Monday in September (09/05/16).

Finance – Minutes from the June 23, 2016 meeting were distributed. Mr. Carrien provided an overview of the document distributed under Agenda Item 8.4. There is currently an unaudited deficit amount of \$44,449. Mr. Carrien advised that additional detail pertaining to the deficit will be forthcoming. It was noted that the deficit amount amounts to only a very small percentage of the budget.

8.4 Financial Report

A copy of the BCEMS FY 16 Expenditures/Year-end Projection report dated July 29, 2016 was distributed. There is currently a projected deficit of \$44,449.00. Discussion was held under 8.3 (Committee Reports).

9. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Taffel thanked Mr. McMichael for his interest on serving on the Board and serving the school.

Mr. Carrien advised that a review of the Curriculum Committee Minutes indicates that the next Curriculum meeting is slated for August 22, 2016.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Act 46 timeline will be updated to reflect that the BCEMS Board will perform their official review and comment at their September 12, 2016 meeting. The goal of the Act 46 Committee, will be to distribute the report to the Board and the community early enough to allow sufficient time for comments to be submitted (no motion for approval will be necessary). The report will then be sent to the Agency of Education for approval, then on to the State Board of Education prior to being presented to the voters on November 8, 2016.

10. Executive Session

10.1 Labor Relations Agreement

The item proposed for discussion in Executive Session was Labor Relations Agreements.

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, 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 Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, inviting Mr. Pandolfo and Mr. McMichael, at 7:58 p.m., under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the item proposed for discussion.

The remaining information was provided by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Blakely, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Spaulding as the BCEMS representative to the BSU Negotiation Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to support conducting contract negotiations in open session.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin