

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
October 10, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II
Michael Deering – attended via telephone
C. Sedillia Jenkins
Andrew McMichael

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Carrien – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Joe Blakely
Vacant Position

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, October 10, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 5:44 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

2. New Board Member Interview

There were no prospective candidates in attendance.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no changes to the Agenda.

4. Visitors and Communications

There were no visitors.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Update from Finance on Budget for Bond Funds

Two documents were distributed; 'BCEMS Capital Fund Activity 9/22/16' and a document from Merchants Bank outlining payment schedules for both 5 and 10 year terms. Mr. Pandolfo read a portion of an e-mail between Business Manager, Lisa Perreault, and an employee of Merchants Bank. It was noted that the bond vote was not properly warned, thus preventing a loan term longer than 5 years. BCEMS will enter into a loan with a 5 year term. The 10 year term can be properly warned for voting in March 2017, at which time, the loan can be converted from a 5 year, to a 10 year note. Voters will need to be clearly informed that the vote for a 10 year note is on the ballot for the purpose of changing the terms of the previously approved loan. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the BCEMS Capital Fund Activity Report. There were no questions from the Board. Mrs. Spaulding and Mr. Cecchinelli agreed that in the future, the Board should consider raising the dollar amount that is requested for the Capital Improvement Fund.

7. Old Business

7.1 Act 46 Update

Five documents were distributed; the Agenda from the October 6, 2016 Act 46 Committee Meeting, Minutes from the September 22, 2016 Act 46 Committee Meeting, 'Barre Act 46 Frequently Asked Questions' (dated September 2016), results from Survey #2, and a copy of the 'Official Ballot Annual City and School District Meeting City of Barre, Vermont – November 8, 2016'. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the documents and advised that he is still waiting for written approval from the AOE. The State Board of Education will review the Final Report at their meeting on October 18, 2016. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Pandolfo and Committee Chairs Ms. Farrell and Mr. Walz are slated to present the Final Report at 11:05 a.m. (though they may be asked to present earlier). The presentation will include providing highlights of the report (a Power Point presentation will be used), and being prepared to answer questions from the Board. There are no anticipated issues. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised that Minutes from the October 6, 2016 Committee Meeting will be available on-line within the next few days. It was noted that the ballot does not contain the names of individuals running for Unified Board seats, as those petitions have not been finalized and submitted to the City/Town Clerks. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Committee found the ballot to be confusing (it does not reference Act 46) and that steps will be taken to educate community members regarding Article 1, as presented on the ballot. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the survey results. In response to a query, it was noted that the reasons why some respondents don't support consolidation are unknown. Mrs. Spaulding proceeded to advise regarding some of the reasons she has heard from community members. It is hoped that the FAQs informational sheet will provide additional information to community members and assist with gaining support for consolidation. The last Public Forum will be held on October 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Chorus Room.

7.2 FY '18 Budget Development

Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the current status, including distribution of the budget schedule to all boards, and the initial round of meetings between Lisa Perreault and Administrative staff. Mr. Taffel advised that administrators are currently reviewing staffing needs for second grade, as the current kindergarten and first grade classes have 6 teachers (as opposed to 5 second grade teachers). Additional areas currently being considered for increases are technology and developmental design. Additional meetings between administrative staff and the business manager will be scheduled. Additional work will need to be performed to begin assessing what a combined budget may look like. Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Perreault and Mr. Pandolfo recently attended training pertaining to building a single budget (from the multiple budgets that are now in existence). Mrs. Spaulding reported that the training provided valuable guidance. It was noted that the training did not encompass the details ('nuts and bolts') of creating a consolidated budget. It was noted that it will be important to set up an accounting system that consolidates the four budgets, while still allowing data to be pulled on a building by building basis.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated October 3, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; activity of the Act 46 Committee, upcoming VSBA/VSA Conferences (10/19/16 & 10/20/16 – 10/21/16), and the Food Service program. The VSA Draft Work Plan document was omitted from the Board packet. Mr. Pandolfo will see that Board Members receive a copy. Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board of the upcoming Joint Training for School Board Chairs and Superintendents (October 19, 2016), and the VSBA/VSA Conference (October 20th and 21st). Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the requirement that multi-year food service contracts be approved annually by the SU Board (this will take place at the Tri-Board Meeting on 10/13/16), and advised that if the Act 46 Consolidation is approved by voters, the food service contract will need to go back out to bid, though a change to a single food service provider is not required. Mr. Pandolfo provided a detailed overview of how the Charter change (reducing Board size from 9 to 7) will impact those running for Board seats.

8.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated October 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Staff Development (focusing on effective teaching strategies), Parent/Teacher Conferences, the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) system, the Backpack Program (sponsored by the Vermont Food Bank), assisting students by providing food for the weekends, the annual PTO fundraiser (Walk/Run/Fun event) held on September 30, 2016, Free Breakfast/Lunch Program, and the third annual 'Walk to School' event (held on October 5, 2016). Mr. Taffel provided an overview of the report and advised that an excellent staff development day was held. Staff development included trauma informed teaching training, proficiency based learning and standards based report cards. Mr. Taffel advised that in addition to the Backpack Program, the Vermont Food Bank is present at the school two times a month, supplying fresh produce to any family that wants to partake (130 – 140 families are using this program). It was also noted that the free breakfast and lunch programs are well received, with approximately 800 students receiving lunch and approximately 340 students receiving breakfast. In response to a query, it was noted that some middle school grades are beginning to use a grading structure that is a combination of both the current grading scheme and proficiency based grading.

8.3 Committee Reports

Policy – The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

Curriculum – The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

Facility/Security – The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

Finance – The Committee met on September 22, 2016. Minutes from the meeting were distributed. The next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room. Additional meetings have been scheduled for December 6, 2016 and January 3, 2017. The regular meeting schedule will resume on January 26, 2017.

8.4 Financial Report

The BCEMS Expense Budget Status Report and the BSU Budget – FY17 Report, were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a brief overview and advised that the large overages (for para educators) are due to budgeting at the SU level.

9. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

- Karen Heath Presentation – follow up on Reading Programs
- Student Presentations (Mr. Taffel will create a list of student presentation ideas to be used in the future)
- SBAC Results (information should be distributed early to allow for Board Member review and questions)
- Act 46 Update

The Tri-Board Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., in the SHS Library.

Policy Committee - October 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Curriculum Committee - October 24, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Finance Committee – November 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room. Additional meetings have been scheduled for December 6, 2016, and January 3, 2017. The regular meeting schedule will resume on January 26, 2017.

Facility/Security – November 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

10. Executive Session

10.1 Labor Relations Agreements

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

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, 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. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 6:45 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 Chair.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin