

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
December 12, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Jim Carrien – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Joe Blakely – arrived at 6:21 p.m.
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II
C. Sedillia Jenkins
Andrew McMichael – arrived at 5:32 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Deering
Vacant Position

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	Isabella Cecchinelli	Samantha Dean
Karen Heath	Mark Kalat	Craig Locarno	Kris Pavek
BCEMS Students: Bella, Elias, Emily Grace, Evelyn, and Samantha			

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, December 12, 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.

2. New Board Member Interview

No action taken.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 6.12 Open Board Seats for March 2017 Election

4. Visitors and Communications

No action taken. All visitors were present for specific agenda items.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the November 14, 2016 Regular Meeting.

5.2 Approval of Minutes – October 13, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Summer Reading Program (Karen Heath)

A document titled ‘Summer Reading Highlights BCEMS 2016’ was distributed. Literacy Coordinator Karen Heath addressed the

Board and advised that the new Summer Reading Program was implemented in an effort to engage students and families. The new program more actively involves students in choices of books and activities, and provides incentives for those who actively participate. The program was created with input from teachers and students and included the addition of younger grades. Younger students used a 'bingo' type system, while grades 5 through 8 participated in book groups, and selected books from a variety of chosen titles. Incentives included prizes and celebrations. The PTO generously donated \$600 towards prizes. Ms. Heath advised that staff enjoyed participating in the book groups. Students; Evelyn, Elias, Bella, Emily Grace, and Samantha advised the Board regarding their positive experiences with this program. Students enjoyed the challenges, interaction, and incentives. One student advised that though she was not able to select her 'first choice' (due to lack of interest from other students), she did enjoy the program. Mrs. Spaulding suggested continuing the incentive program throughout the school year, in an effort to encourage reading. It was noted that book groups generally consist of approximately 10 students. Ms. Heath advised that out of approximately 350 book group participants, only 20 students were not able to read their first choice book. A parent addressed the Board advising that she very much appreciated the celebrations, letter, trophy, and that reading was being celebrated. Mr. Taffel advised he was proud of the students for all their reading, and for those who were speaking publicly tonight.

6.2 Fitz-Vogt Presentation

Craig Locarno addressed the Board to advise regarding enhancements to the food service programs at BCEMS and SHS. Modifications are being made with the goal of serving more whole/fresh/local produce and meats. Less processed food is being served, breads are being baked in-house, and staff are cooking more 'scratch' meals. It is hoped that the change in food products will encourage students to eat a healthy diet and reduce the amount of food wasted. Some of the changes include using fresh hamburger, whole eggs, real maple syrup, and cutting fresh fruit in-house. Utilizing fresh foods, and in-house cooked food products, though labor intensive, should reduce overall costs. Mr. Locarno provided an overview of the menu selections/variety, and advised that he would like to make improvements to the breakfast program. It was noted that there is a 'share' table, where students can leave unwanted food (mainly fruit and milk) to help reduce the amount of 'wasted' food. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding ideas to encourage students to eat more fruit, e.g., serving sliced apples. In response to a query from Mr. Cecchinelli, Mr. Locarno advised that printing and distribution of menus had fallen behind, but he believes that issue has been resolved.

6.3 New Hire

The resume and BSU Notification of Employment Status form for Tamara A. Jones was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of Ms. Jones breadth of knowledge and experience. Ms. Jones is being presented for the position of FACS teacher.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Tamara Jones.

6.4 First Reading Substitute Teachers Policy (D6)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.4 through 6.11, were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised that these policies were recently approved by the SU Board.

On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as presented, the First Readings of the policies listed under Agenda Items 5.1 through 5.8; D6, D7, F5, F19, F23, F27, C23, and G13.

Mr. Carrien queried regarding 'local' policies that will need to be rescinded. It was noted that this information will need to be researched, and identified policies will be presented to the Board for rescinding after the SU wide policies are ratified.

6.5 First Reading Volunteers and Work Study Students Policy (D7)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.6 First Reading Education Records Policy (F5)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.7 First Reading Limited English Proficiency Students Policy (F19)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.8 First Reading Participation of Home Study Students Policy (F23)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.9 First Reading Pupil Privacy Rights Policy (F27)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.10 First Reading Use of Restraint and Seclusion Policy (C23)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.11 First Reading Animal Dissection Policy (G13)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.12 Open Board Seats for March 2017 Election

Regardless of the outcome of the upcoming Act 46 vote, there will be vacant board seats that will need to be filled. At a minimum, the Board will remain active until at least June 30, 2017 (if Act 46 passes). Board Members were polled regarding whether or not they were running for re-election. Mr. Carrien and Ms. Jenkins, advised they would not be seeking re-election. Mrs. Spaulding and Mr. McMichael are undecided. Mr. Blakely will run for re-election. It was noted that the Board will be reduced from 9 members to 7 members in March 2017. Seats held by Mr. Cecchinelli and Mr. Smith are not up for re-election. Mrs. Spaulding announced a total of 5 vacant positions.

7. Old Business

7.1 FY '18 Budget Development

Two documents were distributed; A memorandum from The State of Vermont Department of Taxes (dated 12/01/16), relating to the FY2018 forecasted education tax yield, and a copy of a letter from the State of Vermont, Department of Taxes, also dated 12/01/16, relating to general information pertaining to the calculation of the education tax yield. Mrs. Perreault distributed two additional documents; 'BCEMS Chromebooks and iPads', and the BCEMS FY18 Budget Considerations 11/30/16 document (revised 12/12/16). Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the revised Budget Considerations document, and advised that the 'Developmental Design' will be funded by a recently received School Improvement grant. The increase in draft 1, includes projected salary increases, principle and interest payments for the new boiler, the possible addition of one elementary teacher, pre-k tuition, and the addition of a Maintenance Assistant. It is anticipated that the new Maintenance position will result in a reduction in overtime and use of substitute custodians. It was noted that salary increases, and the VSTRS Health Assessment, are costs that Administrators have no control over. Brief discussion was held regarding the education tax yield and rate. It was noted that these numbers are not controlled by the Board. The projected yield is \$10,076. This amount will be in existence until the legislature sets the final rate. Brief discussion was held regarding the education yield documents contained in the board packet. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the various scenarios being presented for the purchase of education technology equipment. Discussion included the importance of providing students with adequate access to up-to-date technology, including the possibility of the creation of a 5 year plan. It was noted that the budget needs to be approved by the Board in January. The Supervisory Union will be meeting on December 15, 2016. Discussion will include budget development. SU assessments will impact the BCEMS budget. The next BCEMS Board Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2017. If an additional meeting is required, the Board will plan to meet on January 16, 2017.

7.2 Act 46 Update

Two documents were distributed; a copy of the approved Warning for 'Vote for Reconsideration of the November 8, 2016 Vote on the Formation of the Barre Unified Union School District', and a copy of the 'CERTIFICATION OF FINAL VOTE' for the Barre City Article I Act 46, November 8, 2016 vote. The revote in Barre Town is warned for January 31, 2017. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the margin of votes to approve Act 46 consolidation is 333+. Barre Town community members are trying to help educate additional community members regarding the impact of Act 46. The Act 46 Committee met on December 8, 2016 and has tentatively scheduled meetings for January 12, 2017 and February 9, 2017. The Committee would like a positive push (to pass Act 46) by community members, rather than by the Committee

7.3 Labor Relation Agreements

A document outlining the proposal status for teachers and para-educators was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided a status update regarding negotiations, including an overview of the proposal status document. Mr. Pandolfo advised that negotiations are taking place in open sessions and advised that all information is public. All information pertaining to negotiations can be found on a web site via a link from the Supervisory Union web page. Progress is being made in negotiations. Future meetings are scheduled.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated December 7, 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the status of Act 46 (set for revote on 01/31/17) and future actions relating to the revote, the Solar Agreement, and Negotiations (including a new website containing pertinent information). A copy of a letter from the VSBA dated November 18, 2016 (relating to the increase in VSBA dues) was also distributed. VSBA dues will be increasing from \$7869.74 to \$8,387.51. Mr. Pandolfo advised that VSBA dues covers costs associated with training and support, policy development, professional development, and advocacy with legislature for school board related issues. Mr. Pandolfo noted that the process for receiving credits (under the Solar Agreement) is being finalized.

8.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated December 2016 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; literacy assessments (for grades K – 2), progress relating to units of study in reading (K – 5), alignment of literacy and math, to Common Core State Standards (for all grade levels), the Holiday Concerts (12/14/16 for grade 3, and 12/20/16 for middle school – both begin at 6:00 p.m.), and the upcoming pre-kindergarten "math event" in the multi-purpose room (12/13/16 from 3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.). Mr. Taffel highlighted upcoming testing in literacy and math, as well as the upcoming winter concerts. Mr. Taffel reminded the Board that BCEMS has been selected for NEAP Assessments. Mr. Taffel announced the staff breakfast (put on by Administrators) on Friday, December 16, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Board Members are welcome to join or assist at this event.

8.3 Committee Reports

Policy – The Committee met briefly recently and continued with comparing and contrasting local policies with SU policies. The next meeting will be on December 21, 2016.

Curriculum – No meeting in December.

Facility/Security – The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Finance – Minutes from the December 6, 2016 meeting were distributed.

The next regular meeting will be on January 3, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. And additional meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2017.

Negotiation Committee – Reported under Agenda Item 7.3 and the Superintendent's report.

8.4 Financial Report

A copy of the BCMES Expense Budget Status Report (dated 12/07/16) was distributed. The deficit of \$489,000 is mainly for Special Education, which is budgeted at the SU level. More accurate projections will be available shortly after budget season.

9. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Unified Sports Team will begin practice after the winter break. The competition will be held on March 3, 2017 at Suicide Six. The Penguin Plunge will occur in 2017. Staff involvement is being organized.

Mr. Taffel advised that the woodchip furnace is operational and so far, things have gone smoothly.

Mr. Cecchinelli highlighted the PBIS bulletin board in the hallway, and requested that a PBIS presentation be given to the Board at a future meeting.

Future Meetings:

SU Policy Committee – Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. at the Supervisory Union

Facilities Committee – Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Policy Committee – Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Curriculum Committee – Monday, January 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Finance Committee – Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

Tuesday, January 26, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

10. Executive Session

No items were proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Smith, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin