

BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library
January 9, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding – Chair
Jim Carrien – Vice Chair
Tyler Smith - Clerk
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II
Michael Deering – arrived at 5:40 p.m.
C. Sedillia Jenkins
Andrew McMichael

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joe Blakely
Vacant Position

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
James Taffel, Principal
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services

GUESTS PRESENT:

Video Vision Tech Dave Delcore-Times Argus Lorraine Morris

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, January 9, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:33 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

2. New Board Member Interview

No candidates were present. No action taken.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Change to discussion order. Agenda Item 7.1 will be discussed prior to Agenda Item 6.8.

4. Visitors and Communications

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 White Board Presentation

Lorraine Morris (3rd/4th grade teacher), addressed the Board to present information relating to the use of Chrome Books in the classroom. Mrs. Morris's classroom has a cart of Chrome Books for full time use. Mrs. Morris was interesting in identifying advantages of students having full time use of Chrome Books in the classroom and lobbied to allow her students to have full time access. The students have had full access to Chromebooks for approximately one and a half academic years. Mrs. Morris presented a Power Point presentation relating to the benefits of daily exposure to Chrome Book access. The presentation included the benefits of improved keyboarding skills, typing stamina, improved navigation skills, fluency, use of available sites, including; Google Classroom, Google Docs, ReadWorks Digital, Extra Math, Multiplication.com, and Ten Marks. Statistics gathered thus far show an improvement in test scores, resulting from improved skills. Use of Chrome Books seems to be very engaging for students, and their use has proved to be very motivational. Students appear to be more enthusiastic when working on 'written' assignments. In response to queries from

the Board, Mrs. Morris reported that thus far, there have not been any issues with the physical computers, computers are used 75% – 80% of the day, and have not required much support from the Technology Integrationist. Mr. Taffel advised that Mrs. Morris has been very involved with technology at BCEMS, and has been assisting staff and teaching classes on the use of promethium boards. Mrs. Morris would like to begin holding classes on the use of Google Classroom.

6.2 FY '18 Tuition Rate

A document titled 'FY18 Announced Tuition-BCEMS' was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo led the discussion, with proposed tuition rates of \$10,344 for students in grades K-6, and \$10,383 for grades 7 and 8. It was noted that the tuition rate for K-6 remains the same as in FY17, and is slightly lower than the \$10,480 rate for FY16. The 7 and 8 grade tuition is also the same as FY17, and is significantly lower than the FY16 rate of \$11,400. It was noted that there are currently no tuition paying students at BCEMS. **On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the annual tuition rates as proposed (K-6 \$10,344 and 7/8 \$10,383).**

6.3 Open Board Positions

A document titled 'BC Board Seats for March 2017:' was distributed. Discussion was held regarding the reduction of the Board size. The 2017 Board have two fewer seats, changing the Board make-up from 9 members to 7 members. There will be 5 open seats for the March 2017 election. Mr. Blakely, Mr. Deering, Mr. McMichael, and Mrs. Spaulding are all seeking re-election. It is unknown if there are individuals interested in running for the seat vacated by Mrs. Chadderton. It was noted that regardless of the results of the Act 46 re-vote, the Board will need to remain active until at least July 2017. In response to a query from Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Pandolfo read the language in the Charter change that defines how the transition from a 9 member board to a 7 member board will occur. Mr. Pandolfo expressed his appreciation for those willing to run for re-election, as well as those who are interested in running for the seat vacated by Mrs. Chadderton.

6.4 First Reading Student Conduct and Discipline Policy (F1)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.4 through 6.7 were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview of the VSBA policies and advised that the policies have been approved by the Supervisory Board.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.4 through 6.7 (F1, F7, F21, and F25)

6.5 First Reading Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy (F7)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.6 First Reading Firearms Policy (F21)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.7 First Reading Student Attendance Policy (F25)

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

6.8 Warning for March 7, 2017 Vote

This Agenda Item was discussed after discussion of Agenda Item 7.1 (FY18 Budget). A copy of the 'Barre City School District Warning for March 7, 2017 Vote', was distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she would like to increase the number of parents who vote. Mrs. Spaulding has been in contact with Barre City Clerk, Carol Dawes for suggestions. Ms. Dawes has suggested that a copy of the voter check list be obtained and reviewed. Ms. Dawes advised that secure boxes can be placed at the school for collection of voter registration forms and completed absentee ballots. Lengthy discussion was held regarding strategies to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting. The Board agreed to obtain a copy of the voter check list, promote voter registration, and promote the use of absentee ballots. Mr. Taffel agreed to assist with the project to increase parental voting, and will meet with office staff regarding placement of materials, as well as assist with creation of a post card for absentee ballot requests.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Warning titled 'Barre City School District Warning for March 7, 2017 Vote'.

7. Old Business

7.1 FY '18 Budget

Six documents were distributed; the BCEMS FY18 Budget Considerations document (revised 01/04/17), the BCEMS Comparative Tax Rate Calculations for Budget Years 2017-2018 document, the 'Three Prior Years Comparisons – Format as Provided by AOE' report, 2 Power Point Presentation screen shots (Proposed Expense Budget and 2017 Comparison of Education Spending/Equalized Pupils in Neighboring/Comparable Schools), and the 'BCEMS FY18 BUDGET DRAFT 1/4/17-NO ADDITIONS' document. Mr. Carrien provided information from the draft Power Point presentation. The Proposed budget for FY18 includes \$13,986,184 and an additional \$700,000 in grant funded expenditures, for a total expenditure budget of \$14,686,515 (a 5.04% increase). Mr. Carrien provided a breakdown, including use of \$250,000 from the Tax Stabilization Fund, and advised regarding the cost per equalized pupil.

Information was also provided regarding the CLA, historical budget data (2013 – 2017), the increase to the tax rate, ballot language, the definition of the equalized pupil calculation, contributing factors that affect the tax rate (expenses, revenue, equalized pupils, yield amounts, and CLAs), BCEMS spending per pupil (considerably below the state average), budget goals (including fiscal responsibility and targeted investments), and Special Articles (reorganization of the Building Improvement Note and \$50,000 for the Capital Improvement Fund). Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the document showing comparisons of education spending with neighboring/comparable schools. Mrs. Spaulding advised that some of the increase in the proposed budget is due to the threshold limits imposed last year. **On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously agreed to approve an expenditure budget of \$13,986,184 for FY18 for BCEMS.**

7.2 Act 46

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the revote in Barre Town is warned for January 31, 2017. Mr. Pandolfo advised of active participation in the Town, from supporters and from those who oppose Article I. It was noted that if Article I passes, there will be a significant decrease in the tax rate (approximately 6¢). Clarification has been provided regarding the number of votes required to pass Article I. For the Article to pass, the majority of votes must be in favor of the Act, and there must be a minimum of 1406 votes in favor. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Legislature is focusing its efforts on Act 166 issues (Universal Pre-k), and that no substantial changes are currently being proposed to Act 46.

7.3 Labor Relations

Mr. Pandolfo distributed a revised copy of the ‘Proposal Status’ report for teachers. Mr. Pandolfo reminded Board Members that ‘TA’d’ refers to items that have been tentatively agreed to. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the last meeting with teachers was on 12/14/16, and that the next negotiation meeting with teachers is scheduled for January 17, 2017. The biggest issues are health insurance and salaries. The Negotiation Committee met with para-educators on December 5, 2016, and plan to meet again on January 11, 2017. The Negotiation Committee has been in contact with custodial/maintenance personnel, and will be scheduling meetings for late January or early February 2017.

7.4 Second and Final Reading Substitute Teachers Policy (D6)

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 7.4 through 7.11 were distributed. Brief discussion was held regarding these policies which were previously approved (in December 2016) as First Readings, and are being presented as Second and Final Readings, for approval and ratification. It was noted that the BCEMS Policy Committee needs to review and delete existing policies that are superseded by the newly approved policies. The Policy Committee is asked to compile a list of obsolete policies for presentation at the February meeting. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Pam Wark will be notified to update the policies to reflect the dates of approval of the second reading and ratification, and that the Web Master would be contacted to upload the newly ratified policies.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Readings of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 7.4 through 7.11, and agreed to ratify said policies; D6, D7, F5, F19, F23, F27, C23, and G13.

7.5 Second and Final Reading Volunteers and Work Study Students Policy (D7)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

7.6 Second and Final Reading Education Records Policy (F5)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

7.7 Second and Final Reading Limited English Proficiency Students Policy (F19)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

7.8 Second and Final Reading Participation of Home Study Students Policy (F23)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

7.9 Second and Final Reading Pupil Privacy Rights Policy (F27)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

7.10 Second and Final Reading Use of Restraint and Seclusion Policy (C23)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

7.11 Second and Final Reading Animal Dissection Policy (G13)

Approved under Agenda Item 7.4.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Superintendent

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated January 3, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the wood chip boiler, Act 46, Negotiations, and an upcoming Legislative Breakfast. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the wood chip boiler is being started up this evening. Technicians from AFS are in the building and will remain nearby to monitor the system and identify any newly arising issues. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of what steps were taken to remedy the original issue, advised regarding the State inspection, and advised that expense to the school was limited to the cost of propane and the loss of man hours. Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board and community members that Act 46 information remains available on-line for those wishing to obtain additional information. Negotiation information is also available via the SU web-site. Mr. Pandolfo is working on scheduling the Legislative Breakfast for 01/23/17, 01/30/17, or 02/06/17.

8.2 Principals Report

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated January 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Early Literacy Assessments, mid-year literacy and math assessments for students in grades K-8, winter concerts and choral performances, the upcoming Staff Development Day (January 16, 2017), the Young Rembrandts program, and current enrollment (905, including students in approved community centers). Mr. Taffel highlighted the great performances in the winter concerts and performances, and advised regarding a smooth transition back to school after the winter break. NAEP testing will occur at the end of February for grades 4 and 8. Mr. Taffel reported that 80% of this year's NAEP testing, will occur on tablets (provided by NAEP), and that the remaining 20% of the testing will involve use of paper/pencils. Discussion was held regarding the recent evacuation process due to the furnace malfunction. It was noted that students and staff were very supportive and cooperative, and Mr. Taffel advised he was very impressed by how everyone worked together. It was noted that the Barre Fire Department and the busing company were very quick to respond. The evacuation process is being reviewed to identify areas that may be improved in future evacuations (including communication and communication protocol). Mr. Taffel advised that Outright Vermont will be presenting at the upcoming Staff Development Day. Outright Vermont will provide information pertaining to sexual identity issues.

8.3 Committee Reports

Policy – The Committee has not met recently. The next meeting will involve identification of policies that need to be rescinded.

Curriculum – The Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Facility/Security – The Committee has not met recently. The next meeting will tentatively be held the week of January 16th.

Finance – The Committee met on January 3, 2017. Draft Minutes will be going out soon. The next meeting will be on January 26, 2017 at 5:30. The Agenda will include a review of the FY17 budget.

8.4 Financial Report

The BCEMS and BSU Expense Budget Status Reports were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that the reports showed a 'snap shot' of the currently financial status. No discussion was held.

9. Round Table/Future Agenda Items

Mr. Pandolfo advised that a PBIS presentation will be scheduled for the February Board Meeting. The presentation should include information pertaining to the bulletin board, the system, and data (including previous years' data and up-to-date information for the current academic year).

Mrs. Spaulding advised that the BCEMS Budget will be presented to the Barre City Council on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. The presentation is slated for approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. Pandolfo, Mr. Taffel, and Mrs. Spaulding will be giving the presentation. All Board Members are encouraged to attend and support the budget.

Mrs. Spaulding advised that she is attempting to get more students involved in the Penguin Plunge. Information is available on the BCMES Facebook page, which can be accessed via the school web-site.

Upcoming Meetings:

Facilities Committee – To be announced. The meeting will probably occur the week of January 16th.

Policy Committee – To be announced.

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

Finance Committee – Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 5:30 in the BCEMS Conference Room

10. Executive Session

10.1 Superintendent's Evaluation

The Superintendent's Evaluation was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Carrien, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 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 Clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin