



**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Barre City Elementary and Middle School –Library  
February 13, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonya Spaulding – Chair  
Jim Carrien – Vice Chair  
Tyler Smith - Clerk  
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II  
C. Sedillia Jenkins  
Andrew McMichael

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joe Blakely  
Michael Deering  
Vacant Position

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
James Taffel, Principal

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech                  Dave Delcore-Times Argus                  John Mudgett

**1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, February 13, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., which was held at the Barre City Elementary and Middle School Library. The flag salute followed.

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Delete Agenda Item 5.1 (agenda item will be kept as a place holder, but no discussion will be held).  
Under Executive Session, change 9.1 'Superintendent's Evaluation' to 'Personnel', and add 9.2 Update on Student Matter.  
Correct a numbering issue with Agenda Items 10 and 11.

**3. Visitors and Communications**

None.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2017 Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the January 9, 2017 Regular Meeting.

**4.2 Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2017 Special Meeting**

On a motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2017 Special Meeting.

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Penguin Plunge Team**

No discussion will be held this evening, as members of the team are unable to attend.

**5.2 Board Member Recognitions**

Retiring Board Members Jim Carrien, Sedillia Jenkins, and Andrew McMichael were thanked for their time and effort serving on the Board. It was noted that Mr. McMichael may start a write-in campaign or submit a letter of interest for appointment to the Board (should the seat not be filled). Mr. Pandolfo offered to post write-in campaign information on Front Porch Forum.

### **5.3 Audit Presentation**

A copy of the Audit Report was distributed. John Mudgett of Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. introduced himself to the Board and provided an overview of the recent audit. Mr. Mudgett congratulated the Board on the 'clean' audit, and advised that the Financial Statements represent fairly, there were no findings or identification of mechanical weaknesses. It was noted that the audit went very smoothly and there were no disagreements with management. Brief discussion was held regarding the current year deficit in the General Fund (page 13), and discussion of the liability amount for the State Teachers Retirement Fund. It was noted that the retirement fund liability is not actually an expense of the district. Mr. Mudgett answered questions pertaining to the 'nonspendable' amount found on page 3, and the increase to the Tax Stabilization Fund located on page 6. Mr. Mudgett reported that he has seen a steady improvement over the years and credited the smoothness of this year's audit to Business Manager Lisa Perreault's second year at the SU. Additionally, Mr. Mudgett advised the Board that his firm is available year-round to provide information or answer questions. **On motion by Mr. Carrien, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2016 Audit as presented.**

### **5.4 Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Presentation (PBIS)**

A three page document containing mainly statistical information was distributed. Mr. LaFlamme will attend the March meeting to provide a more in-depth presentation, including information regarding the bulletin board. Mr. Taffel provided a brief overview regarding the document, including how data is being utilized by Educational and Student Support Teams to assist with the determination of the effectiveness of interventions provided. Mr. Taffel also provided an overview of the statistical data which included information on referrals by students and by grade. The report contained yearly comparisons, but it was determined that additional years' worth of data is necessary to provide better assessment. The Board would also like to see a breakdown by referral type. Mr. Smith queried regarding how staff are 'calibrated', to assure that referrals are being made in a consistent manner by all staff. Mr. Taffel will ask Mr. LaFlamme to expand the statistical information to include a total of 4 years' worth of data. A PBIS Presentation will be added to the March Agenda.

### **5.5 First Reading Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (F28)**

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.5 and 5.6 were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided a brief overview of the policy. Mr. Pandolfo noted that the creation of the policy was a collaborative effort involving BCMES, BTMES, and SHS and involved a significant amount of work. The VSBA reviewed the policy and felt it was excellent. Mr. Pandolfo advised that there is currently an initiative underway to form an SU-wide SHAC Committee. Mrs. Spaulding voiced concern regarding implementation of the policy. It was noted that the amount of outside food brought into the school has decreased. The food service provider has been assisting with providing healthy snacks for various celebrations.

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Readings of the Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (F28).**

### **5.6 First Reading Class Size Policy (G14)**

It was noted that this policy very closely resembles the existing policy. **On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reading Class Size Policy (G14).**

### **5.7 Open Board Positions for March Election**

A copy of an e-mail from Carol Dawes to Deb Gibson (dated 01/30/17) was distributed. With regards to the BCMES Board, the document notes that Mr. Blakely is running for the 3 year term, Mrs. Spaulding is running for election of the 2 year term, and three candidates (Jennifer Chioldi, Michael Deering, and Sarah Pregent) are running for the three 1 year terms. Regarding the SHS Union Board, Mr. Blakely is running for the 3 year term and Tim Boltin is running for the 1 year term. Since the document was published, Mr. Blakely, citing time constraints, has withdrawn his petition for the 3 year BCMES seat. Interested parties can work on a write-in campaign. If no write-in candidate is elected, the Board will appoint an interested party to fill the seat.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 FY'18 Budget & Voting Update**

Mr. Taffel advised that a lap top computer is set up in the office for community members to use to register or request an absentee ballot. The voter check list is in the office and individuals can check to see if they are already registered. A letter will be going home to parents on February 14, 2017 to notify them of the voter registration opportunity at the school. Information will also be posted on the web site. Mrs. Spaulding will post information on Front Porch Forum. In response to a query regarding the collection of absentee ballots, Mr. Taffel announced that Carol Dawes (Barre City Clerk) has advised that absentee ballots should not be collected at the school. The annual booklet which provides information on school budgets is being printed and will be distributed in The World. Copies will also be available using the same distribution spots as in previous years.

### **6.2 Act 46 Update**

Voting results from January 31, 2017 were distributed. The vote will be certified in 30 days, at which point the Act 46 Study Committee will cease to exist. Mr. Pandolfo advised that 'next steps' will be discussed at the SU Board Meeting on 02/16/17.

It was noted that the individual Boards will need to make a decision on how they wish to proceed. If the Boards decide against the formation of a new 706 Study Committee, community members could petition to require that one be formed. Mr. Pandolfo recommends not making any quick decisions, but rather waiting to see the results of some of the other consolidation votes. Mrs. Spaulding expressed her disappointment and frustration that the tax savings and incentives can't be realized. Mrs. Spaulding does not believe starting a new 706 Committee would be a worthwhile use of time.

### **6.3 Labor Relations Agreements**

Three documents were distributed; updated Proposal Status Forms for Teachers and Para-educators, and the Wage and Insurance Proposals for BSU Teachers and Paras (dated 02/08/17). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Negotiations Committee has gone to 'Impasse' with the teachers and are looking to schedule a mediator and fact finder. Areas of greatest division are; salaries, benefits, and length of school day. Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Negotiations Committee will be meeting with para-educators on 02/22/17. Mr. Pandolfo reiterated that all information pertaining to negotiations is available on the SU website. It was noted that the Master Bargaining Agreement expires on June 30, 2017. Ms. Jenkins queried regarding the best ways to offer support, and input regarding the best course of action to take.

### **6.4 Second and Final Reading Student Conduct and Discipline Policy (F1)**

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.4 through 6.7 were distributed. Brief discussion was held.

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Readings, of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.4 through 6.7, and agreed to ratify said policies (F1, F7, F21, and F25).**

### **6.5 Second and Final Reading Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy (F7)**

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

### **6.6 Second and Final Reading Firearms Policy (F21)**

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

### **6.7 Second and Final Reading Student Attendance Policy (F25)**

Approved under Agenda Item 6.4.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated February 6, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; the wood chip boiler, Act 46, Act 166 (including the Superintendent's testimony before the House Education Committee), Negotiations, and the Legislative Breakfast (held on 01/30/17). Mr. Pandolfo advised that the wood chip boiler has been running quite smoothly and that AFS has been taking care of any issues. There have been no direct costs for BCEMS resulting from the woodchip boiler issues. BCEMS losses have been limited to lost time of staff and the cost of propane. Regarding Act 166, the draft bill addresses most of the Boards' concerns and Mr. Pandolfo is optimistic that action will be taken during the current legislative session. The Legislators' Breakfast was very successful and Mr. Pandolfo believes legislators were receptive to the Boards' concerns regarding level funding of budgets. Mr. Pandolfo advised that Deb Gibson has retired and recognized her for 33 years of service and support to the SU. Tina Gilbert has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. The Barre Penguin Plunge Team raised \$4230. The donation page is still open for those wishing to donate.

### **7.2 Principals Report**

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated February 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Staff Development Day (02/03/17), the Penguin Plunge fundraiser (held 02/01/17 with over \$4,300 raised by students), Middle School 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning opportunities, grade 4 study of life patterns of owls, and learning related to electricity, upcoming NAEP testing, collaboration with the Northeastern Family Institute (regarding developmental trauma), and the tentative sponsorship of a blood drive. Mr. Taffel advised that 15 students participated in the Penguin Plunge, and raised over \$4000 for Unified Sports. Students were commended for their efforts. On Friday, 02/10/17, students participated in Vermont Write Day, with all students stopping their daily activities and spending 7 minutes writing on a topic of their choice. February is Read/Write month. Reading sessions are being scheduled and Mr. Taffel plans to dress in costume and read to students. Fourth graders attended a very engaging presentation by Vermont Energy Group. Mr. Taffel provided an overview of what Unified Sports is and advised that Brian Burgess (BCEMS SLP) spearheads the Unified Sports Program. The Unified Sports Program is currently looking for more adults to participate as volunteers.

### **7.3 Committee Reports**

**Policy** – The Committee has not met recently. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

**Curriculum** – The Committee met on January 23, 2017. The topic of discussion was Pre-K. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Discussion will center on reading intervention and a review of data.

**Facility/Security** – The Committee met on February 7, 2017 for discussion of the boiler issues, adjustment of thermostats and efforts to achieve more balanced heating within the building. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2017, where discussion will be held regarding an evaluation of the security system, moving of equipment, and the possibility of creating swipe card badges for Board Members. Ms. Jenkins queried regarding lack of security in the building after school hours, when students are accessible (e.g. basketball games). It was noted that most schools do not limit access via security measures during sporting events, though a police officer usually provides security for large events.

**Finance** – Minutes from the January 26, 2017 meeting were distributed. The next meeting will be in March. There is currently a projected deficit of \$17,000 (a conservative projection).

#### **7.4 Financial Report**

The BCMES Expense Budget Report (dated 02/09/17) was distributed. Mr. Taffel advised that administrators are keeping a close eye on the expenses.

### **8. Round Table/Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Carrien expressed his thanks for the opportunity to service the school, community, Superintendent, Administrators, and staff. Mr. Taffel thanked the Members of the Board for their time, energy and commitment to BCEMS.

Mrs. Spaulding thanked the retiring Board Members, as well as the Finance Committee, including Administrators and Business Manager, Lisa Perreault for their efforts to create the proposed budget. Mrs. Spaulding reminded community members of the importance of voting, and advised that any questions relating to the upcoming vote, could be directed to Board Members or Mr. Taffel. Additionally, Mrs. Spaulding advised that the budget summary document would be available in the near future.

Agenda Items for the March Meeting: Board Reorganization and PBIS Presentation.

Policy Committee: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

Curriculum Committee: Monday, February 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

BCEMS Regular Board Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Library.

Facilities Committee: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room.

Finance Committee – The next meeting will be held in March 2017. The date and time will be announced.

### **9. Executive Session**

#### **9.1 Personnel Matter**

#### **9.2 Update on Student Matter**

A Personnel Matter and an Update on a Student Matters were 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 with Mr. Pandolfo and Mr. Taffel in attendance, at 7:17 p.m. under the provisions of 1 VSA section 313 to discuss the items proposed for discussion.**

The remaining information was provided by the Board Clerk.

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.**

### **10. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea Poulin*