

# BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## MINUTES

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonya Spaulding – Chair  
Giuliano Cecchinelli, II – Vice Chair  
Tyler Smith - Clerk  
Jennifer Chioldi  
Sarah Pregent

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michael Deering  
Andrew McMichael

### **ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

John Pandolfo, Superintendent  
James Taffel, Principal  
Jackie Tolman, Principal  
Pierre Laflamme, Assistant Principal  
Stacy Anderson, Director of Special Services

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Video Vision Tech	Dave Delcore-Times Argus	Brian Burgess	Samantha Dean	Jon Pierce
Nick Pierce	Emily Grace Spaulding	Max Spaulding	Miranda Walbridge	

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

The Superintendent, Mr. Pandolfo, called the Monday, March 13, 2017, Regular meeting to order at 5:39 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 McMichael was distributed. It was noted that Mr. McMichael was on the Board recently, but was not able to commit to running for the 3 year seat. Mr. McMichael is interested in being appointed for a term of one year. Mr. McMichael is not available for interviewing this evening. **On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Andrew McMichael to fill the vacant Board seat for a term of one year.**

#### **3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Agenda Item 6.1 Board Reorganization – will be discussed out of order. Discussion will occur after Agenda Item 4 (Visitors).

#### **4. Visitors and Communications**

Brian Burgess addressed the Board and presented a slide show of students and staff participating in the Penguin Plunge. The team from BCEMS raised over \$4000 for Special Olympics, of which approximately \$400 will be returned to BCEMS for use in the Unified Sports Program. Students provided brief overviews of their enjoyment and experience participating in this event. It is hoped that in future years the number of participants can be increased. Mr. Burgess and the students answered questions from the Board. It was noted that participants and spectators enjoyed the ‘energy’ of this fund raising event.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

##### **5.1 Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board that individuals who were not in attendance at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, are still eligible to vote. **On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting.**

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Board Reorganization**

VSBA Board Re-organization documentation was distributed. It was confirmed that all Board Members have taken the oath of office. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding Board re-organization, provided an overview of the slides contained in the documentation, including a review of the Oath of Office document, advised of the Essential Work of School Boards Workshop meetings (one of which will be held locally on 04/06/17), and requested nominations for the position of Board Chair.

**Mr. Cecchinelli nominated Sonya Spaulding for the position of Board Chair, seconded by Mr. Smith.** There were no additional nominations. **The Board unanimously voted to elect Mrs. Spaulding as Board Chair.** Mrs. Spaulding chaired the remainder of the meeting.

**Mr. Smith nominated Giuliano Cecchinelli, II for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi.** There were no additional nominations. **The Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Cecchinelli as Vice Chair.**

**Mr. Cecchinelli nominated Tyler Smith for the position of Clerk, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi.** There were no additional nominations. **The Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Smith as Clerk.**

**The Board appointed Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Cecchinelli, and Mr. Smith as Representatives to the Barre Supervisory Union Board.**

There will be a meeting of the Tri-Board on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School Library. All Board Members are asked to attend this meeting. The Board Chair and new Board Members are asked to arrive at 5:00 p.m. to attend the New Board Member Orientation Meeting.

Mr. Pandolfo recommends the formation of Curriculum, and Policy committees at the SU level, with elimination of these committees at the district level. The Negotiations Committee is currently an SU level committee. The recommendation to form SU level Finance and Facilities Committees is not feasible at this time as not all Boards are agreeable to this change. **Mrs. Spaulding will work on committee assignments and e-mail Board Members regarding her proposed assignment for each committee.**

**The Board was agreeable to SU level Curriculum and Policy Committees.**

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Board Chair to sign Teacher Contracts and other contracts, as approved by the Board.**

**The Board agreed to hold Board meetings on the second Monday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. at the BCEMS Library, and to reserve the fourth Monday of each month for an additional Board Meeting (when necessary).**

**The Board agreed that the date of the 2017 Board Retreat will be discussed at the Tri-Board Meeting.**

**The Board agreed to post Agendas and Minutes at Barre City Elementary and Middle School, the Supervisory Union, the Barre City Clerk's Office, and on the BCEMS web site.**

**The Board agreed to use Roberts Rules.**

**Board Members reviewed and signed copies of the 'Code of Ethics For Vermont School Board Members' document.** Mr. Pandolfo will follow up with Mr. Deering and Mr. McMichael.

**The Board reviewed communication practices, Board development opportunities, and Board advocacy.** Mrs. Spaulding reiterated the importance of Board Chairs and new or newly appointed Board Members attending the 5:00 p.m. Board Orientation Meeting on March 23, 2017. The meeting will be held in the SHS Library and the Tri-Board meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m. The Board was advised that information shared as a discussion (verbally, electronically or written), outside of board meetings, violates the Open Meeting Law. Board Members were cautioned that use of personal e-mail accounts for Board business, can result in personal e-mail accounts being subject to review under a public records request. Discussion also included emphasis on using the proper chain of command for communication and/or resolution of concerns/complaints. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of items that can be discussed in Executive Session and distributed laminated copies of the 'Open Meeting Law 1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314' document to new Board Members. Board Members were also advised regarding development and advocacy opportunities such as VSBA meetings and Legislative Breakfasts.

**The Board agreed to designate the Times Argus and The World as the newspaper publications to be utilized for meeting notices, warnings and employment advertisements. Chief spokespersons for the Board are the Board Chair and the Superintendent.**

## **6.2 Update: Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Presentation (PBIS)**

Pierre LaFlamme distributed a document titled 'How are we using data to inform our practice?' The document contained information pertaining to student referrals for behavior support. The report contained breakdowns of information by student counts and counts for various problem behaviors. Mr. LaFlamme began the presentation with a 'tour' of the elementary and middle school bulletin boards located in the first floor hallway. Mr. LaFlamme provided an overview of the posted information including discussion of 'Handle with Care' training and procedures (for the use of restraint and seclusion). The Board returned to the library, where Mr. LaFlamme led a discussion providing an overview of the data contained in the distributed document, and advised that the data assists with making better allocations of staff. Review of data as a whole and by individual students, helps determine patterns, identify possible triggers for behavior and identify students who are in crisis. Mr. LaFlamme answered questions from the Board and provided information, including use of data to assess effectiveness of interventions, staff meetings, an increase in 'defiance' issues, and scenarios of progressions for students not benefiting from interventions being employed.

## **6.3 First Reading Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources & the Internet (G11)**

Copies of policies in Agenda Items 6.3 through 6.5 were distributed. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of these BSU policies, which were approved some time ago by the BSU Board.

**On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Readings of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 6.3 through 6.5. (G11, G15, and G20)**

## **6.4 First Reading Special Education (G15)**

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3.

## **6.5 First Reading Proficiency-Based Learning (G20)**

Approved under Agenda Item 6.3.

## **6.6 FY18 Budget Revote**

A document titled 'Email Response to interview questions posed by the Montpelier Bridge – March 10, 2017' was distributed. Mrs. Spaulding advised that the BCEMS budget did not pass and that it needed to be reviewed and revised. It was noted that it would be good to align the vote date with the Barre Town Municipal Vote on May 9, 2017. To accomplish a vote on that date requires that a new budget be warned by March 30, 2017. It was noted that Barre City does not have to use the same date as Barre Town. It was noted that the cost per equalized pupil (\$12,564) brings down the Elementary School's portion of the tax rate. It was noted that the % increase listed, as required on the ballot, is misleading and does not truly represent the budget increase. The Board agreed to have administrators review the budget and make suggestions for reductions. The Board will try to meet next week to review/approve the proposed changes, and hope to have the Board vote on a revised budget at the March 23, 2017 Tri-Board Meeting. Information pertaining to the re-vote of the budget will be posted on Front Porch Forum and Face Book. Mrs. Spaulding will contact Carol Dawes regarding an updated voter check list and information regarding absentee voting.

## **7. Old Business**

### **7.1 Second and Final Reading Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy (F28)**

Copies of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 7.1 and 7.2 were distributed. Mrs. Spaulding provided an overview of these BSU level policies which have been approved by the BSU Board.

**On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Readings of the policies referenced in Agenda Items 7.1 and 7.2 (F28 and G14), and agreed to ratify said policies.**

### **7.2 Second and Final Reading Class Size Policy (G14)**

Approved under Agenda Item 7.2.

### **7.3 Labor Relations Agreements**

Mr. Pandolfo advised that negotiations with teachers has reached impasse. Mediation with the teachers is scheduled for April 27, 2017. Mr. Pandolfo is obtaining clarification regarding whether or not mediation is to be held in Executive Session. Though the Negotiations Committee feels that Mediated Fact Finding would be more efficient and is a preferred way to proceed, the Teachers Association will not agree to Mediated Fact Finding at this time. The February 22, 2017 meeting with para-educators resulted in minimal progress. The next meeting with para-educators is being scheduled (waiting to hear back from the para-educators). Negotiations with Custodial/Maintenance staff (represented by AFSCME- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) have not started. Mr. Pandolfo met with the new bargainer. Four meetings have been scheduled; 03/29/17, 04/03/17, 04/11/17, and 04/25/17. The March 29, 2017 meeting will include an insurance presentation. Meetings will be held at Spaulding High School; beginning at 6:00 p.m., and are open meetings.

## **8. Board Reports**

### **8.1 Superintendent**

A copy of the Superintendent's report dated March 6, 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; Negotiations, Health Care (transitioning to the new VEHI plans in January 2018), SU Office renovations, and the Tri-Board Meeting which is scheduled for March 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. (new Board Member Orientation will take place at 5:00 p.m.). A memorandum from Rebecca Holcombe, Ed.D., Secretary of Education (dated 02/28/17) was distributed. The document pertains to 'Our Responsibility for the Learning of our Students'. Mr. Pandolfo had nothing to add to the written report, but encouraged Board Members to read the comprehensive and informative memorandum from Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe. Mr. Pandolfo reminded the Board of the Tri-Board Meeting on March 23, 2017. The Board Chair and new Board Members should attend the session beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Tri-Board Meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. and requires of quorum (minimum of 4) BCEMS Board Members.

### **8.2 Principals Report**

A copy of the Co-Principals' report dated March 2017 was distributed. The report included information pertaining to; administration of required WIDA ACCESS tests, NAEP testing, a literacy night (held on 02/16/17), SBAC Testing (which begins on 03/27/17 and ends during the week of 05/23/17), a comprehensive program for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students transitioning to Spaulding High School, the Girls on the Run program, and the district's joint music program which will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spaulding High School gymnasium. Mr. Taffel highlighted the Art Show now on exhibit at the Aldrich Library and encouraged Board Members to view the fabulous display of artwork. NAEP Assessments have been completed. The 'outside' NAEP proctors/monitors commented on the preparedness of teachers and student cooperation. Ms. Tolman advised of the many 8<sup>th</sup> grade-to-high school transition events and announced that BCEMS has secured 30 spots at the Boston Red Sox Science/Technology Workshop Day to be held on 04/06/17. Ms. Tolman advised that she believes attendance at this event will be 100% grant funded.

### **8.3 Committee Reports**

**Policy** – The Policy Committee has not met recently. The next BSU Policy Committee Meeting will be on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Office (this meeting may be rescheduled, as it falls on the week of April vacation).

**Curriculum** – The Committee met on 02/20/17 for discussion of Reading Intervention and chronic absences. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017. Items slated for discussion include; Math Lab, Summer School, and Truancy.

**Facility/Security** – The Committee has not met recently. The next meeting will be scheduled after committee assignments are finalized.

**Finance** – There will not be a February meeting. The next meeting date is to be announced. Discussion will include end of year financial information.

### **8.4 Financial Report**

The BCEMS Expense Budget Status Report (dated 03/01/17) was distributed. It was noted that the report does not include revenue or the BSU portion for Special Education and Transportation. Mr. Pandolfo will be working with Business Manager, Lisa Perreault regarding creation of a report that provides additional information.

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

Mr. Taffel welcomed new Board Members; Jennifer Chioldi and Sarah Pregent.

Mrs. Chioldi and Mrs. Pregent advised they are pleased to be on the Board.

Mrs. Anderson spoke highly of the Penguin Plunge. Due to the timing of the February vacation, the Unified Sports Team did not participate in the snowshoeing competition at Suicide Six, but were taken on a field trip to Millstone Trails. The next Unified Sport will be bocce. Bocce practices will begin in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Tolman announced that it is great to be returning to Board Meetings. Fuel Up To Play 60 and Girls on the Run are holding a fund raising event this week; Breakfast for Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30p.m.

Mrs. Spaulding welcomed the new Board Members.

Curriculum Committee – Monday, March 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the BCEMS Conference Room

**BSU Policy Committee** - Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the BSU Office (this meeting may be rescheduled, as it falls on the week of April vacation).

Facilities Committee – To be announced.

Finance Committee – To be announced.

**10. Executive Session**

**10.1 Personnel**

A Personnel Item was proposed for discussion in Executive Session.

**On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session, with Mr. Pandolfo in attendance, at 7:55 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. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.**

**11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*