

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **Bradford Academy & Graded School District Board of Trustees**

Bradford Elementary School

Bradford, VT 05033

Location: Bradford Elementary School

\*\*\*\* Draft Minutes \*\*\*\* January 21, 2019

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#### **Present**

Board Members: Kim Frydman, Lucas Barrett, Angela Colbeth, Emily Shipman

Administrators: Bruce Williams, Kate Paxton

Guests: Heidi Allen, Faith Beaudin, Patrick Peters, Allison Morrow, School Counselor, Oxbow students

#### **Call to Order**

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

#### **Agenda Review**

Move Project Based Learning Integration to after public comment.

#### **Approve Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded (Emily Shipman/Angela Colbeth) to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes as presented. Approved 4-0.

#### **Correspondence**

None

#### **Contracts**

None

#### **Board Orders**

A motion was made and seconded (Emily Shipman/Angela Colbeth) to approve the board orders as presented. Approved 4-0.

#### **Other**

None

#### **Public Comment**

Happy School Board Appreciation month.

#### **Project Based Learning Integration**

Third grade teachers, Patrick Peters and Faith Beaudin presented a project based learning unit they completed on marble runs. A slide show was emailed to the board.

#### **Act 46 Update**

Bruce Williams reviewed the final determination of the State Board of Education, the merging of Bradford Academy & Graded School District, Newbury Elementary and Oxbow High School to form the Oxbow Unified Union School District. Newbury Elementary has joined the lawsuit opposing the merger due to not wanting to lose their local school board and budget. The case has not been heard yet and legislature is seriously considering their own stay for one school year. Budget wise things will be moving more progressively over the next few weeks. The school will either have its own budget or if the merger moves forward the three schools will have one joint budget. The special meeting for the merged school district is set for February 25, 2019. It is not clear if the meeting will take place or be postponed again. Lucas Barrett asked if we have received the equalized pupil rate yet. Bruce stated the business office has not received that information but has received figures to make estimations. Kim Frydman asked if it makes sense to promote the February 25 meeting if it might end up postponed. The board could get language from

Emilie Knisley to put out to the community making them aware of the meeting and the current situation regarding Act 46. Emily Shipman and Emily Knisley met and discussed ways to put information out to the community.

**Budget Planning** Bruce Williams would like to have a process that starts in November with a goal that the board will really comprehend all aspects of the budget. At the next board meeting a draft budget will be presented, there may be a need for an additional meeting next month to complete the process. Lucas Barrett noted that during negotiations it has come up that professional development hasn't been properly budgeted for. Kate Paxton asked for direction from the board regarding the budget. Lucas Barrett asked for a few scenarios - status quo, as well as a budget that includes one to two initiatives. Emily Shipman noted that if the merger does go through to look across the district to utilize resources. The question was raised whether shift in staffing or curriculum would be presented in a staff meeting or board meeting. Bruce Williams believes it makes sense to consult faculty. Kate Paxton notes it is imperative to her to inform and get input from staff and is committed to doing so. Emily Shipman shared that it is important for the board to know what needs and direction of the school are, they might not all be able to be met but could know of other resources available.

**Trust Funds Update** Bruce Williams is working on a document for the board that includes guidelines and restrictions for use of the trust funds to the next meeting. A legal opinion was made and stated that the purpose of the trust funds is how they need to be utilized; a new board cannot change that. Some of the purposes of the trust funds could be clearer. Lucas Barrett would like to know how much can be spent besides the dividend checks. Lucas suggested setting a reserve amount in a point in time and earnings going forward can be spent. Emily Shipman would like to see policy work done on the trust funds as well as a member of the board overseeing them more closely. Lucas Barrett doesn't want to see trust funds used to reduce taxes but as something that could be used toward a one-time purchase. Staff has stated there isn't good communication regarding what may be available to them. Kate Paxton would like to see a process developed to access the trust funds that includes transparency.

**Principal's Report** Kate Paxton distributed and reviewed the principal's report. There will be a lot of work done revising the master schedule this spring. The 45 minute intervention block will be closely looked at. A team will be attending the BEST institute this summer. At the OESU meeting it was put out for a board member to attend. Emily Shipman is interested in going.

**Community Engagement** It is unclear when would be best to share information about Act 46 due to the uncertainty if the meeting in February will take place. The board plans to put more information on the website, advertise in local papers and on the school Facebook page. Emily Shipman will meet with Emilie Knisley to work on a document to be distributed. Kim Frydman noted we can engage the public on topics other than Act 46. Bruce Williams suggested PBL and will bring essential questions to the next meeting. Lucas Barrett suggested a rotating schedule for a board member to be available to answer questions at a local venue once per month. Emily Shipman will follow up with possible venues for a board social.

**Executive Session** A motion was made and seconded (Lucas Barrett/Angela Colbeth) to enter into executive session at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of non-disclosure of student records, student appeal. Approved 4-0.

Exited executive session at 8:15 p.m. A motion was made and seconded (Lucas Barrett/Angela Colbeth) to deny the waiver of tuition on the basis of the State's appeal decision and BES Policy F13 and F14, and authorize the Board Chair to meet with the Superintendent to prepare a response. Approved 4-0.

A motion was made and seconded (Lucas Barrett/Angela Colbeth) to enter into executive session at 8:16 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations update.

Exited executive session at 8:50 p.m. No action taken

**Adjournment** A motion was made and seconded (Lucas Barrett/Angela Colbeth) to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Approved 4 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz Kingsbury, Clerk

**These minutes are approved by the Board**