

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 15, 2018

Present:

Board Members: Brent Abare, Sara Dennis, Paul Hazel, Judy Murray, Julie Oliver, Wade Parker, Kelsey Root-Winchester, Bruce Stevens, Angeline Alley, Chair

Members of the Public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair, who introduced Nicole Mace, Executive Director of the VT School Boards Association
- II. A. Alley reminded everyone that at this time, BMU does not have permission to hire a Supt.
 - A. We need to decide where we would prefer to go to align with another district
 1. This has nothing to do with Act 46
- III. The State Board of Education reached out to two neighboring unions, and they received one very eager response—from OESU
- IV. The State Board sent the same e-mail to OESU, CCSU, and BMU
- V. Nicole Mace: “You will be assigned to a supervisory union. The State Board has decided that BMU needs to be part of a supervisory union and share the services of a Superintendent.”
- VI. A. This will increase efficiency and facilitate K-12 curriculum and instruction
- VII. N. Mace: We understand that BMU is interested in preserving its PreK-12 district
- VIII. N. Mace: It is likely that the State Board will look at the fact that your Supt. and Business Manager has moved to OESU and has familiarity with BMU
- IX. N. Mace: 3-6 months from now there will be action around district governance
- X. A. Alley: We would still be a stand-alone district regardless of which Supervisory union we are assigned to
- XI. B. Abare: We will be bill payers if we go to OESU, but if we go to CCSU, we will not be bill payers
- XII. Bobbi Beck: We need a Supt. and a Business Manager. Being assigned to a Supervisory Union does not mean that we will be bill payers. Why not go to a Supervisory Union with a Superintendent and Business Manager who know us and care about us?
- XIII. A. Alley (to B. Abare): Are you going to defend the AGS proposal?
 - A. B. Abare: I will do what the community wants.
- XIV. A. Alley: We need to make a decision tonight what we want to do July 1. We need to know what to tell the State Board tomorrow
- XV. B. Abare: We voted unanimously to align with CCSU.
 - A. W. Parker: They did not respond in the affirmative
- XVI. N. Mace: The voters don’t have a say in this assignment. This is the State Board’s decision
- XVII. N. Mace: I think it will bear on the State Board’s decision that CCSU has not responded to their e-mail and that you have a month before you need the services of a Supt. and a Business Manager
- XVIII. J. Oliver: It makes sense right now to go to OESU.

- XIX. A. Alley: We will be aligned as a district under a supervisory union. We will be a district. We will continue to have our Board.
- XX. Amy Emerson: If we can keep our Board and keep our budget, maybe when the map is drawn, we can show that this is working.
- XXI. K. Root-Winchester: Every conversation we had with Danville was around education and not around money
- XXII. N. Mace: If you're a part of a Supervisory Union, the other members of the Supervisory Union can't dictate what happens in your district. Within a Supervisory Union, every district sends 3 members to a Supervisory Board. That Board makes decisions on the things that affect the entire Supervisory Union, for example: Transportation, Special Education, the Superintendent, Business Manager. The Supervisory Union has no role in whether there is a high school or in the use of buildings. It is unlikely that there will be a "supervisory district" in this area, because structures do not lend themselves to be in a merged supervisory district. BMU voters would still approve their budget the way they do now. There would be a line item in the budget to cover BMU's share of Supervisory Union expenses.
- XXIII. N. Mace: Where you are assigned now will be where you'll be until July 1, 2019
- XXIV. Richard Roderick: I hope after this is done that we will "aggressively" pursue our AGS
A. Mr. Roderick then hand delivered a letter to the Board Chair, sharing his thoughts and reasons, which he asked to be shared with the Board members
- XXV. The Board was polled as to their preference as to with whom BMU would be aligned.
A. The results: OESU—5, CCSU—2, Undecided—2
- XXVI. A. Alley: Supporting Information has been sent to the State Board with information from the AGS regarding BMU being aligned with OESU as well as information regarding BMU being aligned with CCSU
- XXVII. A. Alley: If Act 46 comes up, the Board members will say to the State Board tomorrow that we stand by our AGS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk