

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
BUUSD Central Office – First Floor Conference Area  
October 7, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Giuliano Cecchinelli, Chair - (BC)  
Guy Isabelle – (At-Large) – arrived at 5:39 p.m.  
Paul Malone – Ad Hoc Committee Member (BT)  
Andrew McMichael – (BC)  
Victoria Pompei – (BT)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Tim Boltin, Vice Chair - (BC)

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Luke Aither, SHS Assistant Principal  
Hayden Coon, BCEMS Principal  
Jamie Evans – Facilities Director

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Dave Delcore- Times Argus

**1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, October 7, 2019 BUUSD Facilities Committee meeting to order at 5:31p.m., which was held at the BUUSD Central Office in the First Floor Conference Area.**

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

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2019 BUUSD Facilities Committee Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2019 BUUSD Facilities Committee meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 SHS Traffic Pattern**

Mr. Evans advised that the recently installed China Gray granite bollards have been removed. The bollards will be replaced with bollards made of Barre Gray, donated by the Barre Granite Association. Mr. Malone suggested that in lieu of bollards, that a sidewalk and curbing be installed (in the lawn area) at the campus exit in an effort to maintain the ability to alter the traffic pattern in the event that busing is initiated in the future. Mr. Evans cautioned that granite bollards are a much safer alternative to curbing. It was noted that the auditorium entrance is not the main student entrance, and would require substantial safety related modifications in order to be utilized as such. There are no current plans to utilize the auditorium entrance as the main entrance to the building. Mr. Evans noted that the Barre City Fire Department has advised that the granite bollards do not prevent access to the road. Mr. Aither advised that 200 students leave campus and cross by the bollards. There is much foot traffic on the sidewalk of the bridge that leads to student parking. Mr. Aither would like to find out if it would be possible to install a railing on the 'road side' of the sidewalk to prevent students from falling or walking into the roadway section of the bridge. Mr. Aither will contact VTRANS regarding the legality of installing a railing on the sidewalk portion of the bridge. In the past, it has been suggested that a pedestrian bridge (over the river) be constructed, but that option has been deemed cost prohibitive thus far. Approximately 100 students exit the school from the auditorium and walk up the campus exit by the bridge. This area becomes very icy and slippery in the winter, and there are also concerns that cars using that exit during slippery weather are also a safety issue to students. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding possible modifications to the existing sidewalk (in the grass area), to eliminate students walking in the paved area of the exit. It was noted that cars picking up students at the auditorium cause much congestion in that area and also around the back side of the school parallel to the athletic fields. Currently Mr. Ferland and Mr. Aither direct traffic at the end of the school day. With the Assistant Principals directing traffic, traffic is mainly cleared in 15 minutes. Mr. Aither advised regarding a concern that the VSBIT Safety Grant may need to be repaid if the project is not completed. This concern differs from the original concern regarding having to repay the grant amount if the China Gray was replaced with Barre Gray. The latest concern relates to completion of the project rather

than changing the materials used in the project. Mr. Aither will contact VSBIT regarding the most recent concern. Mr. Aither queried regarding the installation of a 'bumpfoot' in the front of the building to prevent student drop-off/pick-ups in front of the building. Mr. Aither advised that the administrators' position rests 100% on student safety, and they are very concerned for student safety given that slippery road conditions will be present in the near future. Administrators want issues to be remedied prior to the impending inclement weather. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding the possible installation of concrete blocks or Jersey barriers, as an interim solution during winter months. If the BGA can't install the new bollards within the next few weeks, are they willing to cover the expense of a temporary solution (installation of Jersey barriers)? Mr. Evans will research the cost associated with three different scenarios; 1. installation of a sidewalk with bollards, 2. installation of bollards, and 3. costs associated with rental of Jersey barriers. It was noted that student safety issues were ignored in an effort to deal with cultural sensitivity issues brought about by the granite industry. Bollards were removed without any plan for immediate remediation of the safety issues caused by their removal. At the present time, it is unknown when the replacement bollards will be available and installed. It was noted that it cost the BUUSD approximately \$5,000 to install the China Gray bollards, and approximately \$1,000 to remove them.

### **5.2 BTMES Generator (for emergency management)**

It is not known if Barre Town representatives were contacted regarding attending a meeting regarding installation of a generator at BTMES. Members of the Select Board and Jack Mitchell will be contacted to attend the next meeting. It was noted that the current generator at BTMES meets the school's needs (lighting and heat). The generator proposed for emergency management would power the entire building. Mr. Evans believes the Town Manager and Select Board want to split the cost of the emergency management generator 50/50. It is not known if it makes sense for BTMES to be an emergency shelter. Mrs. Pompei requested information be presented at the next meeting. Mrs. Pompei would like to review any documentation from the State or Federal government regarding the two current designated shelters (BCEMS and the Barre Auditorium), and whether or not the use of those facilities factored in housing both City and Town residents. Mr. Delcore advised that no Red Cross grant funds would be available for an emergency management generator at BTMES because Town residents could probably use the Auditorium or BCEMS overflow shelter.

### **5.3 BTMES – Removal of Canopy Update**

Mr. Evans advised that canopy removal was postponed until after this winter. The engineers only approved the soundness of the structure for two years. The two year time period expires next summer. Removal is slated for the summer of 2020. Vermont Concrete proposed removing the canopy by cutting it out in sections. Some sidewalk repairs were made this past summer. Revamping the current bus and parent drop-off/pick-up configuration may be possible. Mr. Isabelle queried regarding public sentiment with the existing canopy. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that the decision had been made to remove the canopy rather than replace/repair it. Removal is expected to cost approximately \$70,000, repairs would cost approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Evans noted that for security/safety reasons, the BTMES front office area (near the entrance), will require modifications.

### **5.4 Storm Water Retention Project Update**

The BUUSD is still waiting to hear back from the Friends of the Winooski regarding grant funding for construction costs associated with the BTMES Storm Water Retention Project. It is anticipated that grant funding will be available for the planning phase of Storm Water Retention Projects at BCEMS and SHS. The BUUSD recently received letters from the State regarding required storm water retention mitigation at BCEMS and SHS.

### **5.5 Transportation**

A proposal was made to change the Facilities Committee to a "Facilities and Transportation Committee", with transportation issues added to the agenda on an as needed basis. Mr. Isabelle would like to hold discussion on transportation for high school students. Mr. Aither agrees that facilities and transportation go together, and advised that he believes many truancy issues would be resolved if SHS students had transportation to the school. Mr. Aither advised that Mrs. Waterhouse is looking into a grant related to equity training. Mr. Aither would like to see district wide transportation. Mr. Aither advised that several years ago, it was estimated that transportation for SHS students would cost approximately \$200,000. In response to a query regarding utilizing Green Mountain Transit with reduced fees for students, it was noted that Green Mountain Transit does not currently have any stops specific for use by SHS students. Mrs. Pompei suggested that the issue of changing the committee name/responsibilities be presented to the BUUSD Board.

## **6. Other Business**

Mr. Coon advised that there is a lighting issue in the dirt overflow parking lot at BCEMS. Mr. Coon queried regarding adding lighting to the sheds in that area. Mr. Malone advised that Efficiency Vermont has free LED spot lights available at Barre Electric. Mr. Malone suggested that obtaining free LED spotlights be investigated in an effort to reduce costs of installing lighting in the dirt parking lot area. Mr. Evans will look into this.

Mr. Malone reported that staff members are having difficulty finding time in their schedules to take the training necessary to use the electronic message board.

## **7. Items for Future Agendas**

- Transportation
- Bollard Follow-up

- Generator Follow-up (invite Barre Town Selectmen to attend)

**8. Next Meeting Date**

The November meeting date is to be determined.

**9. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*