

**Addendum**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**November 10, 2020**

November 9, 2020

Penny Chamberlin, Director  
Clifton Long, Facilities Committee Chair  
Central Vermont Career Center  
Barre, VT  
Transmitted via email

**Re: CVCC Planning – Next Steps**

Dear Penny and Clifton,

I am writing to summarize our phone conversation of 11/6 regarding our recommendations for next steps in the planning process for a new CVCC Campus.

To date, CVCC has worked with consultants to develop the overall vision for the new facility and prototypical designs for each shop space. This work was completed in September 2020. The prototype work was done remotely by interviewing the education leader for each trade. This work is part of a phase we often call “Visioning”. The completion of the Visioning Phase is the creation of a space needs program, a document which lists each space, its size, and qualities.

In our conversation, we learned that there are several components missing from the Visioning Phase:

- A consolidated Vision statement - Will the program be full day? What grades? How many students?
- Input from Industry on workforce development and training needs
- Space Needs Program – Will there be a Cafeteria? Gymnasium? Library? Auditorium?
- Cost Estimate – What will the cost likely be for a project of this type and size?

Originally, TruexCullins (TXC) was hired to help CVCC create an RFP for Site Selection/Concept Design and assist with public outreach strategy in anticipation of a March 2021 bond vote for funds for the RFP work. At the same time, CVCC leadership would work with state officials and legislative leaders on governance and funding issues.

The challenge with proceeding with Site Selection at this time is that there is no viable way to secure the site that is selected and hold it for an extended period while Concept Design and public outreach is completed. These activities could take the better part of a year. With this approach, CVCC investment would be squandered if the selected site was no longer available once funding was available.

At the same time, we feel that the governance and funding issues are more complex and uncertain and should be tackled first - before a site is secured. Until CVCC has the funds to secure land or property, it makes little sense proceed design.

After reflection, **it is our recommendation that instead, CVCC work with a consultant(s) to complete the Visioning Phase work while at the same time meeting with the Department of Education and key legislators.** Completing the Visioning work will provide CVCC with a cohesive package (pdf, videos) that expresses their vision for the new facility in a compelling and thoughtful way.


To complete the Visioning work, the following consultants and scope of work are necessary:

1. Architect – Facilitate meetings with industry representatives, complete the programming work and provide presentation quality diagrams, drawings and/or 3d renderings as required.
2. Cost Estimator – provide a construction cost opinion for the proposed project based on the Visioning work.
3. Videographer/Graphic Designer/ Copywriter – Assist the Owner in assembling videos and publications (pdf) that describe the needs, opportunities and vision. (We understand that this work is underway)

During our conversation, it was requested that TXC provide a proposal for Items 1 & 2 of this work. We plan on doing that once we have confirmed the scope and timeline for this work.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important project.

Sincerely,



David Epstein, AIA  
Managing Principal

Cc: Cam Featherstonhaugh

# FY22 BUDGETS – DRAFT 1

NOVEMBER 10, 2020



## BUUSD's FY22 Budget Story



### YEAR 3 UNIFIED!

Our primary goal going into the budget development process this year is to provide consistent and stable resources to our education community. COVID-19 has affected each and every one of us in ways we never could have imagined. We do not know the impact over the long-term.

This budget plan includes what we believe to be the resources and services our students and staff need to succeed. Barre administrators always keep their communities' tax dollars in mind as is evidenced by one of the lowest per pupil spending in Vermont.

*Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.*

## **BUUSD General Fund Expense Budget:**

**\$47,988,828**

**6.57% increase over last year**

## **CVCC Expense Budget:**

**\$3,377,415**

**7.89% increase over last year**

## **Salary/Wage Increases-Many Unknowns**



- 1) Teachers – Expired agreement for FY21/FY22?
- 2) Paraeducators - FY21 agreement ratified, 90¢ increase, expired agreement FY22
- 3) Administrators and non-contracted, 3%
- 4) AFSME – FY22 agreement ratified, 45¢ (.35 plus .10 longevity)
- 5) Salary/Wages cost to district: **\$26,288,841**

# Health Insurance



- 1) New state-wide health plans effective January 1, 2021
  - Increases employer share/tiers for paraeducators
  - Adds HSA w/Silver CDHP
  - HRA - change to employer first dollar/increase utilization from 67% to 80%
- 2) District offers Cash in Lieu to all employees, paras opted out, estimated cost \$120,000
- 3) VEHI (4 plans) with premium increases ranging from 8.3%-18.5%
- 4) Health benefits cost to district: **\$6,132,547**

## OTHER BENEFITS/PAYROLL COSTS



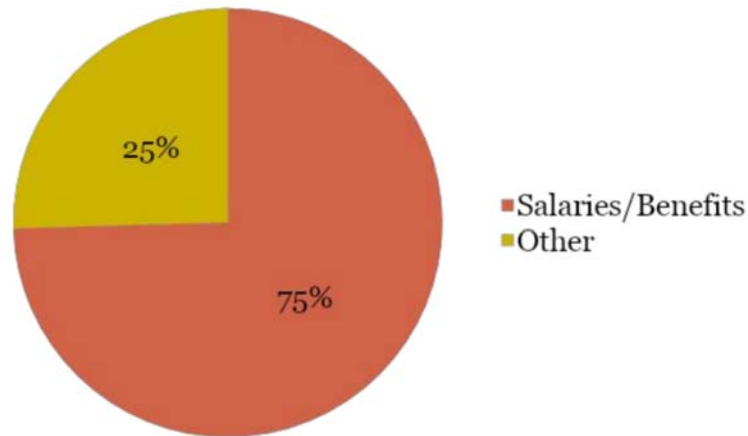
- 1) FICA/MEDICARE - 7.65%, \$2,051,546
- 2) DENTAL - \$133,680
- 3) VSTRS HEALTH ASSESSMENT - \$164,400\*
- 4) VMERS - \$125,685
- 5) 403b - \$123,793
- 6) TUITION - \$337,500
- 7) WORKER'S COMP - \$257,966
- 8) LIFE - \$35,034
- 9) LTD - \$62,250

Total estimated cost to district: **\$3,291,854**

\* Title 16, 1944d. EMPLOYER ANNUAL CHARGE FOR TEACHER HEALTH

The employer of teachers who become members of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont on or after July 1, 2015 shall pay an annual assessment for those teachers' health and medical benefits. The assessment shall be the value, as approved annually by the Board of Trustees based on the actuary's recommendation.

## SALARIES/WAGES & BENEFITS



Salaries/Wages/Benefits make up 5.2% of the overall 6.57% increase.

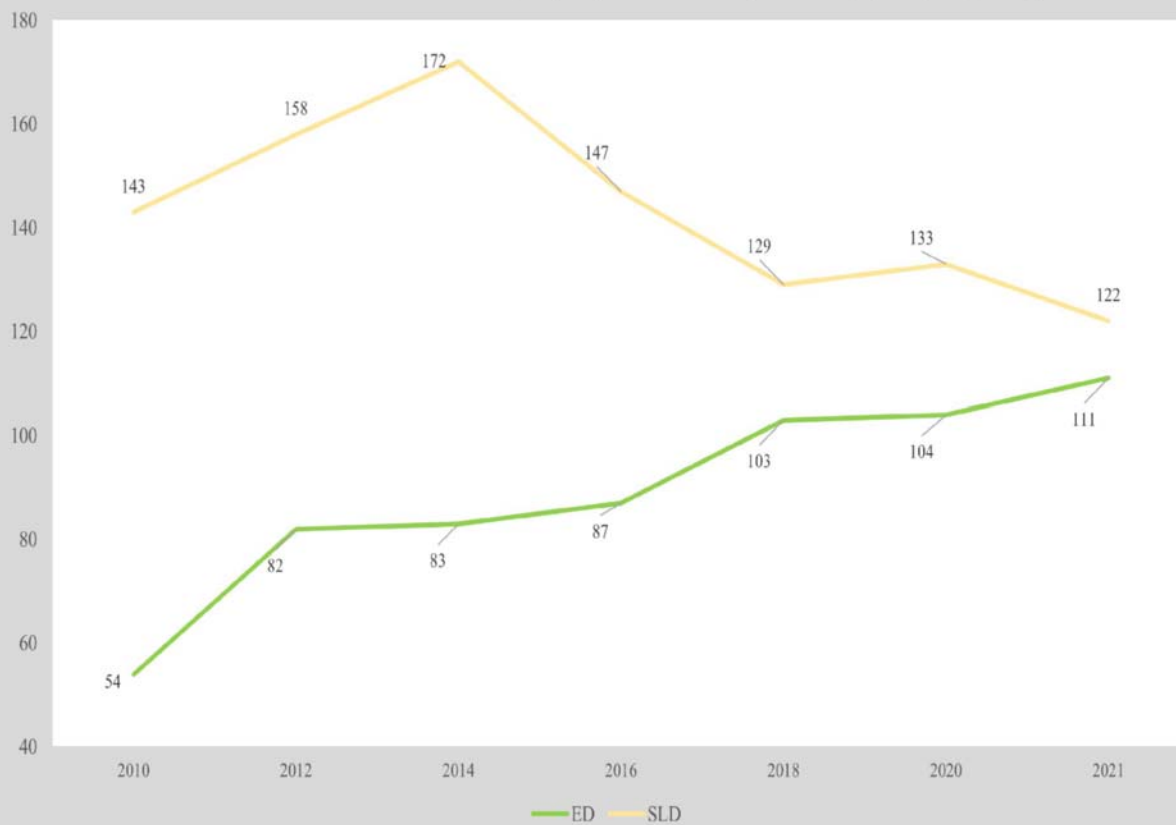
## FY22 Proposed Special Education Costs

- Total proposed cost included new building/SEA program: \$14,115,927
- Increase of 8.37% -- \$1,090,520

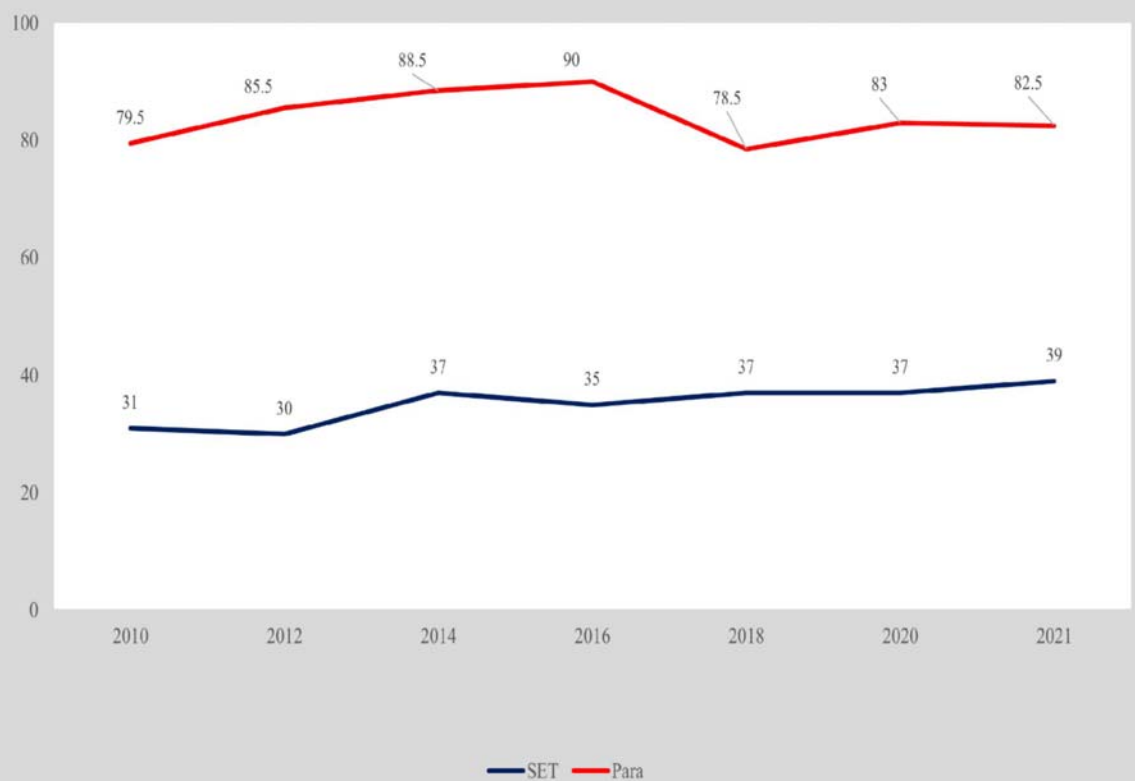
FY20 Budget	FY20 Actuals
\$11,910,917	\$12,253,878

FY21 Budget  
\$13,025,425

BUUSD - Emotional Disturbance (ED) / Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Eligibility

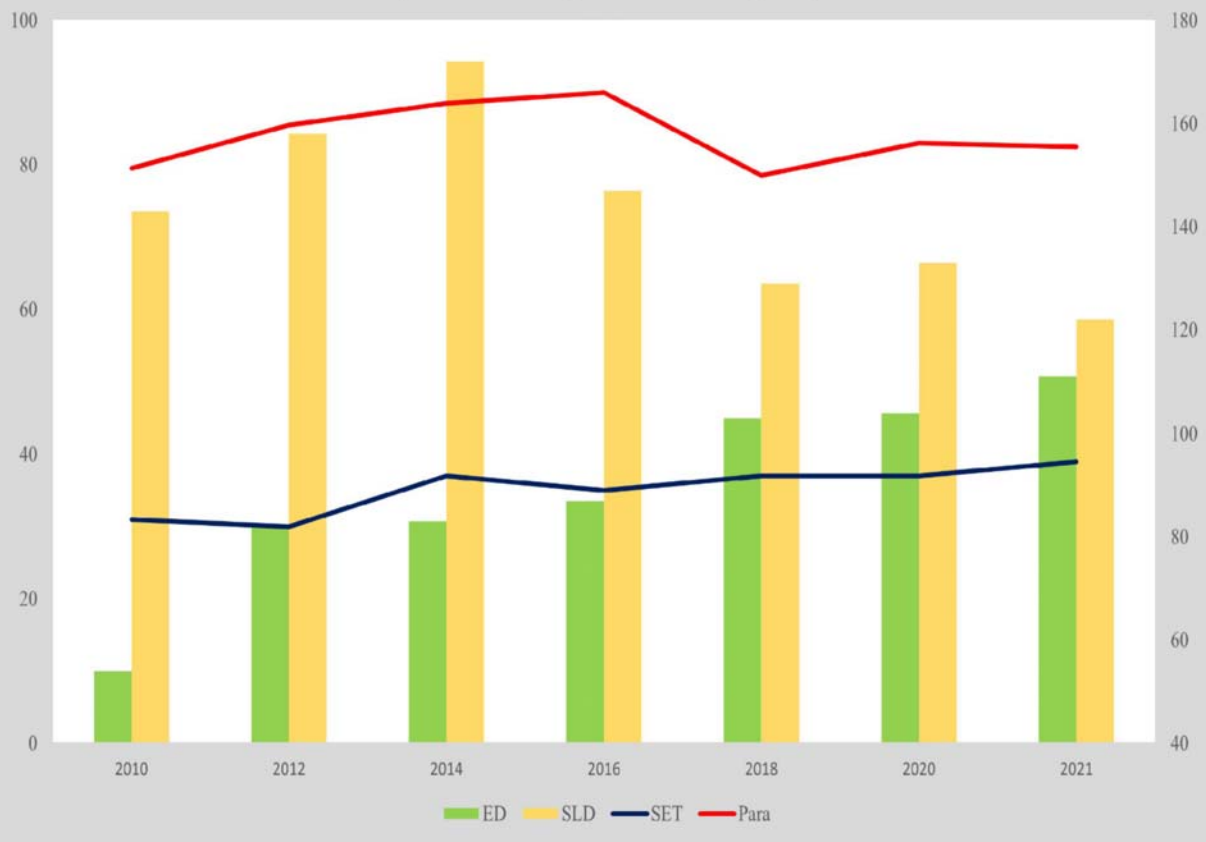


BUUSD - Special Education Teacher (SET) / Paraprofessional (Para)





Special Ed Staffing / ED & SLD Eligibility



## Spaulding Educational Alternatives (SEA)



Building capacity to serve more students in our community in a safe, secure, clean, inviting, and engaging environment

Outdoor space, more opportunity, new state-of-the art ventilation system

Investment

Technology Upgrades for the current year due to COVID-19 will minimize the expenses for the new building

Security-Utilize VSBIT Safety Grant \$7,500 or \$10,000 with audit

Proactive approach to ACT 173





# Student Comments- New Building

*"Looks great, I like the look of the outside of the building and the layout"*

*"It's so cool!  
that's all I'm  
saying..."*

**"New start, clean slate"**

*"I would love to have an outdoors space- maybe we can build a pump track?"*

**"I love working in the shop-  
it's a good creative outlet"**

**"I like the recording studio idea"** **"I can't wait to have an outdoor space"**

**"IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE A SEPARATE 1:1 SPACE, THAT MIGHT HELP ME"**

**"Looks nice!"**

*"Being able to go outside would be beneficial- Fresh air helps me to  
focus or it can help if I need to get away from people for a minute"*

**"It looks so big and has  
everything we need!"**

**"We will have our own space!"**

**"It will take some time to get used to being out of downtown. Less distractions  
may improve attendance. It's not about getting them there, it's about keeping  
them there."**

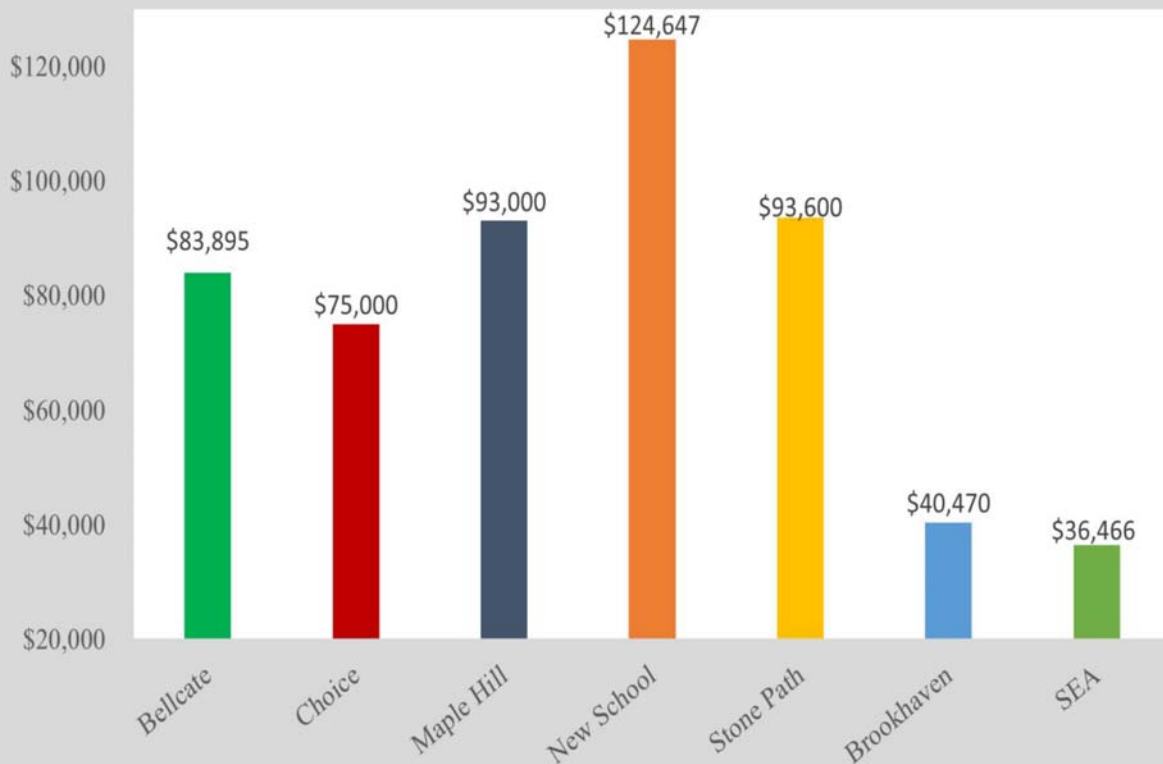
**"You had me at music studio"**

**"It will be better to be in a bigger space that we can do our  
own thing without the other businesses that we have here"**

**"I wish I could be there but I am graduating this year, can I visit?"**

**"I can learn to cook"**

OOD / SEA Cost Comparison

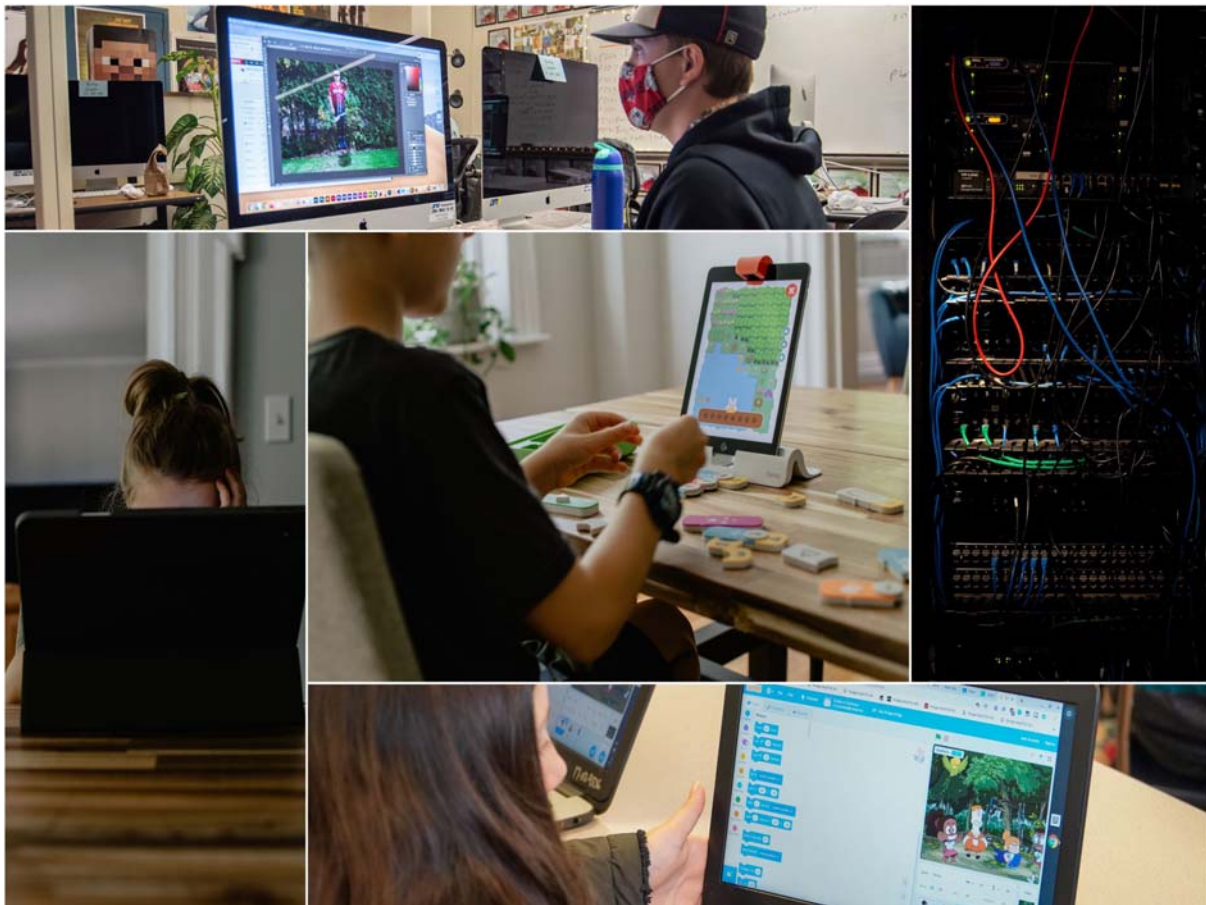




# Technology Investments



- 1) K-12 1:1 Program, the goal is to have technology in all students' and employees' hands
- 2) Expanding use of online learning tools and licenses
- 3) Security audit, closely monitoring our technology systems including student information, business, etc
- 4) Updates to servers, UPS backups, and increasing cloud-based services



## BCEMS FACILITIES - \$1/sq. ft



- Replacement of original roof surface with new PVC membrane
- Replace original carpeting throughout building with VCT tile
- Repave existing original asphalt pavement surrounding school campus
- Redesign/construct the bus loop for a safer drop-off pick-up point-Phase I complete
- Continue implementing safeguards for building safety
- Continue replacement of “Victalic fittings” throughout building
- Replacement of exterior composite siding
- Playground equipment upgrade/replacement
- Lighting upgrade throughout building
- Following industry standards regarding levels of cleanliness

## BTMES FACILITIES - \$1/sq. ft

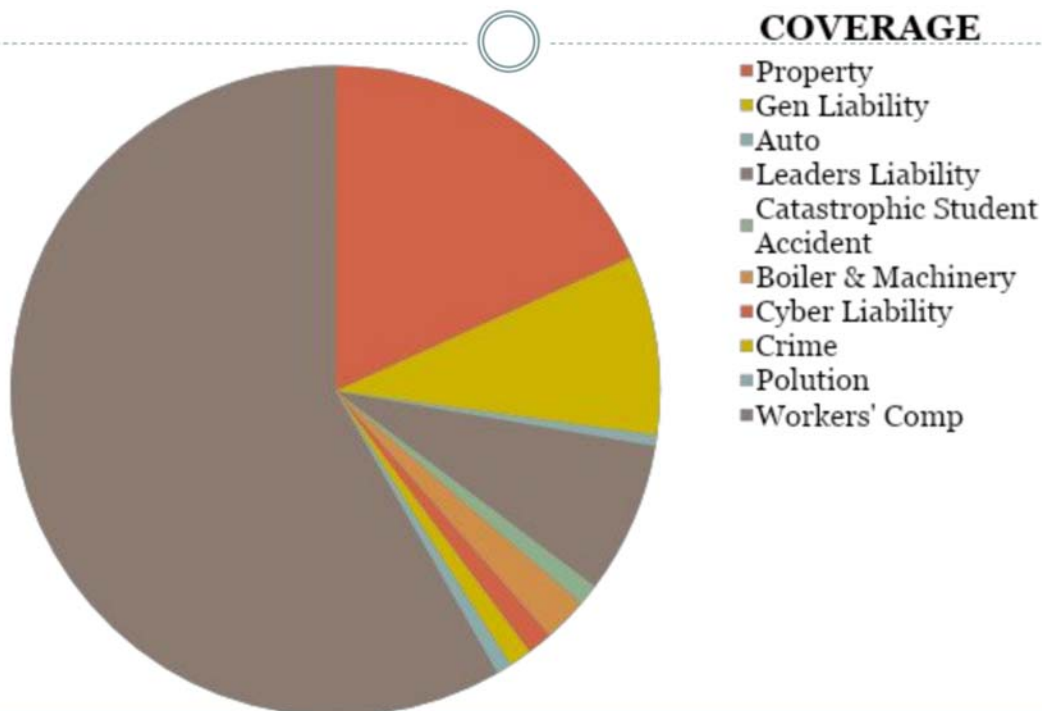


- Replacement of roofing material with new rubber membrane
- Replace carpeting throughout building with VCT tile
- Repair/replace canopy entrance with redesign of bus loop in mind
- Continue implementing safeguards for building safety
- Replacement of original bleachers in gymnasium
- Upgrade of existing clock system throughout building
- Replacement of exterior doors
- Playground equipment upgrade/replacement
- Lighting upgrade throughout building
- Replacement of rooftop AC units throughout building
- Following industry standards regarding levels of cleanliness

## SHS/CVCC FACILITIES - \$1/sq. ft

- Replacement of asbestos floor tiles in classrooms as an on-going project
- Replace all stairwell doors with new fire rated doors
- Replaced all hallways and stairways with new floor tile, removing the existing asbestos tiles in the process
- Upgrade technology in the auditorium, seating, acoustics, lighting, etc.
- Lighting upgrade throughout building
- Redesign athletic fields and out buildings
- Continue implementing safeguards for building safety
- Following industry standards regarding levels of cleanliness

## Protecting Our Assets - Multiline Insurance



# CVCC



- 1) CVCC added a permanent sub
- 2) Pre Tech teacher allows for additional 10-12 students, increases revenue stream and shortens the waitlist for our 10th grade students
- 3) Built in cost of Site Selection process loan vs. using surplus.
- 4) Utilizing \$100,000 of surplus to reduce the increase in tuition.
- 5) Due to increase of the six-semester average, and dropping the lowest semester, we are able to manage a reasonable increase while keeping our tuition increase to a minimum.

## CVCC-New Bake/Culinary Arts Combined









## Debt



- SHS Roof Project 2014 – \$3,000,000
  - 15-year term, balance \$1,399,578, 7 years left 2028
- BCEMS Renovation/Boiler 2017 – \$600,000
  - 10-year term, balance \$420,000, 6 years left 2026
- Spaulding Educational Alternatives (SEA) 2021 - \$2,750,000 + \$1,000,000
  - 15-year term, balance \$3,750,000
- CVCC Phase II – Site Selection (may not seek loan)

## Transportation



- STA has agreed to keep their increase for FY22 within the CPI in accordance with Title 16, statute 559 public bid law. This will allow us to renew the contract.
- The 2 leased Suburbans have proven to be a great benefit saving the districts thousands of dollars in general and special education transportation costs.
- The SEA program will be leasing 2 Suburbans in FY22.
- 2 New electric buses going into service in 2021.

## Food Service



- Barre is fortunate to contract with a Food Service Management Company who is responsive and dedicated to our community.
- Many districts must supplement their food service programs and many have significant deficits year after year. Barre typically has a surplus. The general fund seldom contributes anything to the food service. Business office absorbed all administrative duties. Assigned the senior accountant as food service supervisor.
- FY21 we were awarded grant funds to upgrade equipment in our kitchens.

## State-wide Influences



State-wide Healthcare Bargaining – Settlement runs through 12/31/22.

Health care premium increases – Double digits in FY20, FY21, FY22

H969 – Holds harmless ADM as it relates to equalized pupils. Also protects taxpayers by the education fund deficit not impacting property yield.

## State-wide Influences



Act 46 - Efficiencies/savings in administration and support staff, will have a favorable impact on this budget

CLA - May decrease slightly in BC but will increase in BT due to the reappraisal scheduled to be lodged in April 2021

Act 173 – Delayed until FY22 or 23, changes special education reimbursement formula to census based funding formula, year 1-average over last 3 years (18, 19, 20)? BUUSD MUST BUILD CAPACITY, proactive approach SEA

COVID-19 Funding – It is unknown at this time how our budget will be affected by COVID-19 in FY22. AOE reports districts will be fully reimbursed for expenses incurred in FY21.

## 5 Contributing Factors Affecting Tax Rate



- ▣ **Expenses – This is the only factor you control...**
- ▣ **Revenues**
- ▣ **Equalized Students**
- ▣ **Property Yield**
- ▣ **Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)**

BARRE CITY	FY2021	FY2022	
Total BUUSD Expenses	48,479,968	51,438,828	
Less Local Revenues	12,445,528	12,245,528	
Education Spending	36,034,440	39,193,300	
Equalized Pupils	2,395.72	2,395.72	
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	15,041	16,360	8.77%
State-wide Avg. FY20 \$16,235 - FY21 \$17,133			
EdSpend/\$10,998(property dollar yield)	136.763%	148.752%	
Homestead Equalized Tax Rate (State determined)	1.00	1.00	
Equalized Tax Rate	1.3676	1.4875	
District's Equalized Pupil %	100%	100%	
<b>Equalized Rate to be assessed by city</b>	1.3676	1.4875	
District's CLA	96.37%	96.37%	
Barre City Homestead Rate	1.4191	1.5435	0.12

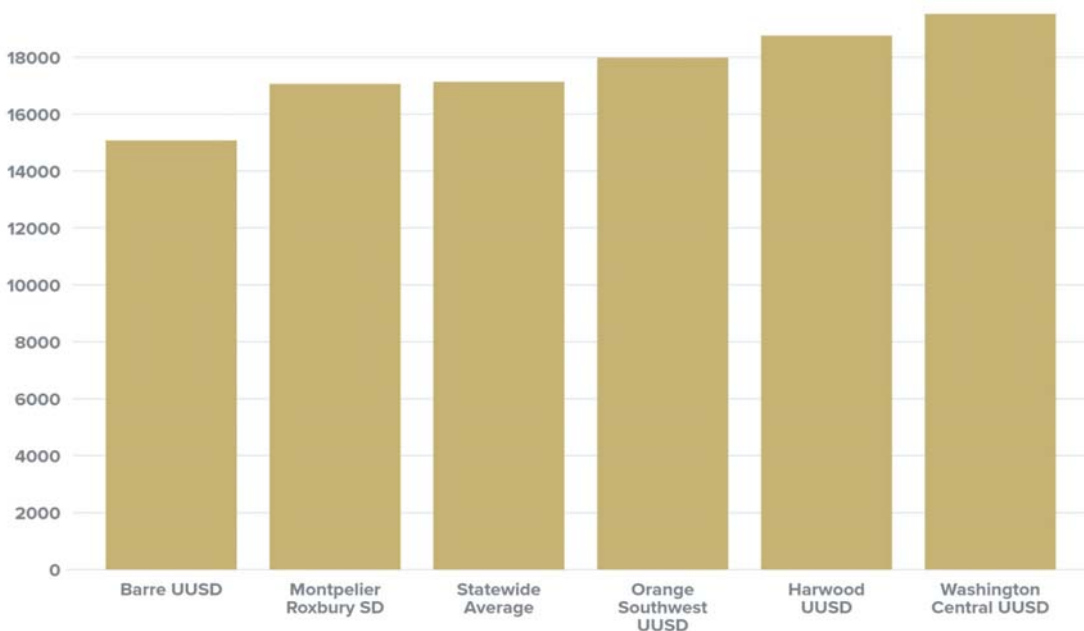
BARRE TOWN	FY2021	FY2022	
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Homestead Equalized Tax Rate (State determined)	1.00	1.00	
Equalized Tax Rate	1.3676	1.4875	
District's Equalized Pupil %	100%	100%	
Equalized Rate to be assessed by town	1.3676	1.4875	
District's CLA	83.48%	100.00%	
Barre Town Homestead Rate	1.6383	1.4875	(0.15)

## CLA



CLA stands for “Common Level of Appraisal.” It is a method of ensuring that each town is paying its fair share of education property tax to the state’s Education Fund.

**Spending Per Equalized Pupil by District**



**Thank you for spending the time to  
learn more about our budget!**



***Please help your friends and neighbors get out to  
vote. Contact Carol Dawes or Donna Kelty to obtain  
an absentee ballot for your convenience.***

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