

Addendum
Board Meeting
November 12, 2020

November 1, 2020

To the Barre Town School Board and Administrators,

I live and work in Barre Town. My children have been through our district; in fact I taught them. I began the Spanish program in 1998 and I feel I have given most of my adult life to being the Barre Town Spanish teacher. I have constantly strived to improve my instruction, completed my masters, mentored other teachers and recently, completely changed my teaching approach to acquisition from the traditional memorization of vocab and grammar. It has always been a challenging, rewarding career, and I do it for the relationships I establish with my students over the 4 years I have them, as well as the amazing colleagues I work with. I can honestly say that while I have had some days that have moved me to tears, I have laughed every single day. Teaching is a privilege and I am honored to have spent my adult life doing it.

This year, as you know, is very different. I can no longer interact with my students and colleagues in the same way, in the ways that give me strength and joy. As you are hearing all over the country, teachers are stretched to their limits. In addition to learning to do a job that is completely different, they have worries, as everyone does, about their family, friends and their own mental and physical health.

I had planned to retire last year but with our Covid closure I thought it would be difficult for a new teacher to navigate our new Covid world. I thought a veteran teacher would be better equipped to handle our new normal. I was wrong, at least for me. Since the beginning of the year I have felt as if I were teaching for the very first time. Pacing is different, technology is different, interactions with colleagues and students are different. I feel as if I am treading water and I have never worked harder. I am struggling. In addition to my health, I am also dealing with relatives out of state who are very ill and another who is terminal. I need to do what is best for my health and my family.

While I am only one of many who feel this way, I am in a position to retire, and so I will, on December 31, 2020. I feel it is best for the students to come back from a break to a new teacher and a fresh start rather than having a new one at the start of a new quarter with no break in between.

I am grateful for the years I have had at Barre Town and will miss the students, my colleagues and administrators and the career I have loved for 30 years. I applaud the difficult work that they are all doing now and wish them the very best in the times ahead.

Sincerely,

Barbara P. Shipman

November 9, 2020

Message from the Principal

Our focus remains on safety for our students and school community, while looking at ways we can provide more support for student learning. We continue to make changes in our efforts to improve our systems under the safety and health guidance from the Agency of Education and Department of Health. **This edition of the SHS Newsletter highlights important information about student supports that we have recently implemented, a tentative new schedule and health guidance.** Please feel free to contact Brenda Waterhouse at bwateshs@buusd.org if you have any questions.

Tuesday, November 10th will be the end of Quarter One. We encourage parents/guardians and students to check their Infinite Campus and Google Classroom accounts for progress. Progress checks will be available on November 10th for semester or year long courses; quarter courses will have final grades posted on Monday, November 16th. Please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers and/or school counselors with any questions or concerns.

Wednesday, November 11th is Veterans Day. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served in the military and we, in the SHS community, want to express our gratitude to all our community members and staff that are active, or have served. This day is an in-service day for the SHS teachers and not a student day.

Continue to be safe and well!

Athletics - One Season Closes and a New One Approaches

Our community has been incredibly supportive of our teams and we appreciate all fans adhering to the safety guidelines. Our ticket procedures helped us manage the size of groups, as outlined in the safety guidelines. We were pleased that we were able to have a fall season for Cross Country, Golf, Field Hockey, Football, and Boys and Girls Soccer; showing that Tide Nation remains strong – whether in person or virtual!

High school winter sports guidance was released by the Vermont Agency of Education (AoE) on November 3rd. There will be no Wrestling or Indoor Track, however, Boys and Girls Hockey and Boys and Girls Basketball will have seasons but spectators will not be allowed. Practice may begin on November 30th and competitions will begin on January 11th. We are in the process of securing live-streaming for all home games. We are awaiting further details from the Vermont Principal's Association (VPA) in finalizing our winter season plans.

Please feel free to contact our athletic director, Natalie Soffen, at nsoffshs@buusd.org with any questions.

Recent Changes in Student Supports

Special Education services are scheduled for students requiring direct services after the morning dismissal time. The services are limited to those students that are already in the building on that day. The services are individual or small group (three or under) and arranged by students' case managers. Limiting the services to those already in the building and small groups helps us to keep everyone safe from too many interactions and allows for contact tracing.

School counselor services are scheduled for students requiring social-emotional support after the morning dismissal time. The services will be limited to those students that are already in the building on that day, just as it is for the special education services, and scheduled in advance by the counselors.

EST services are also scheduled after the morning dismissal time for students requiring check-ins based on student plans. The services will be limited to those that are already in the building on that day, just as it is for the special education services, and scheduled in advance by the EST Coordinator.

Teachers are able to schedule individual and small group meetings after the morning dismissal time. This is by appointment only, and must be pre-arranged by the teacher. This check in is limited to those students that are already in the building on that day. Students will need to exit the building as soon as they have finished with the teacher that they have an appointment with. Students will not be able to meet with more than one teacher during this time.

Students that are in need of wifi or technology will be able to sign up to use the library during the hours of 9-11 and 1-3 by appointment only. Students may not access this resource during their in-person class time, and can leave the building upon completion of their work; students are not permitted to "hang out" in the library.

Breakfast will be offered in the cafeteria from 7:55 AM - 8:15 AM. Students will enter at the health screening and go directly to the cafeteria. There, they will get breakfast and sit in an assigned seat which is socially distanced from others. The students will be allowed to remove their masks while eating (and seated) only in the cafeteria. Students will need to remain until the 8:15 bell. The cafeteria will be thoroughly cleaned, following cleaning procedures, after the students exit the cafeteria.

We are continuing to work on next steps. Support for our students is imperative, as is the safety of our school community. Please contact Brenda Waterhouse at bwateshs@buusd.org with any questions or more information about our current steps.

Schedule Change - To Begin November 23

We are anticipating adjusting our current schedule starting on November 23rd, assuming our community does not experience further outbreaks of Covid-19. The modified schedule will allow for all students to see each teacher for in-person instruction two times per week, while still adhering to our social-distancing guidelines.

	M	T	W	T	F
	A-K: In Person (L-Z: Remote)	L-Z: In Person (A-K: Remote)	All students: Remote	A-K: In Person (L-Z: Remote)	L-Z: In Person (A-K: Remote)
7:35-8:15	AM Block	AM Block	7:35-8:45 Independent Work Time	AM Block	AM Block
8:20-9:17	Block 1	Block 1	9:00-9:30: Advisory via Google Meet (attendance required)	Block 1	Block 1
9:20-10:17	Block 2	Block 2		Block 2	Block 2
10:20-11:17	Block 3	Block 3	9:30-11:30 Independent Work Time AND Office Hours by teacher invite or student request	Block 3	Block 3
11:20-12:17	Block 4	Block 4		Block 4	Block 4
12:17-1:25	Lunch/Travel	Lunch/Travel	11:30-12:00 Lunch	Lunch/Travel	Lunch/Travel
1:25-1:55	Block 1 Virtual* - ALL students	Block 3 Virtual ALL students	12:00-3:00 Independent Work Time AND/OR Flexible Pathways Meetings	Block 1 Virtual - ALL students	Block 3 Virtual - ALL students
1:55-2:25	Block 2 Virtual - ALL students	Block 4 Virtual - ALL students		Block 2 Virtual - ALL students	Block 4 Virtual - ALL students
2:25-3:05	Flex Period**	Flex Period		Flex Period	Flex Period

Mornings (7:35-12:17): Classes offered in the morning continue on the hybrid model where students are still grouped by A-K and L-Z for in-person instruction. Students will, however, now see all of their classes on their in-person days. On days that students are part of the remote group--and for students who are fully remote--there will be either independent or synchronous (live via Google Meet) work for that class, as specified in the weekly outline.

***Virtual Time (1:25-2:25):** This time is dedicated time for the identified block. Teachers will inform students about the expectations in the weekly outline, and this will vary by teacher and course need. Students are expected to be available for learning, whether it is whole group, small group, individual office hours, meetings with fully remote students, assessments, reassessments and/or independent learning tasks.

****Flex Period (2:25-3:05):** This time is additional time not dedicated to a particular block/course. Teachers can meet with individuals or groups of students based upon need, such as extended assessment time, reassessments and/or common learning concepts.

Health screenings will continue to start at 7:20 AM for classes that commence at 7:35 AM and at 7:55 AM for classes that commence at 8:20 AM.

Breakfast is available for all students from 7:55 AM - 8:15 AM. Breakfast is free for everyone. Students will be seated individually and must remain in the cafeteria; food must be eaten in the cafeteria.

Keeping Vigilant Regarding COVID

As cases continue to rise in Central Vermont, we want to remind everyone that students need to stay home if they are:

- exhibiting any **symptoms** associated with COVID;
- have **traveled** outside of VT for any nonessential reason (*essential travel includes travel for personal safety, health care, care of others, parental shared custody, for food, beverage or medicine, for students to attend preK-12 school or college, or for work.*); OR
- have concerns that they have been in **contact** with someone who has tested positive, or is awaiting results.

Symptoms of COVID include:

- Fever (100.4 F or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or aches
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Symptoms may start 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. We realize that these symptoms are not isolated to COVID, and can be indicative of colds, flu and/or allergies. Unless the symptoms are those of known/pre-existing allergies or have been affirmed by a medical professional as not COVID, we must regard all symptoms as being reasons for not attending in-person school. If a student is not going to attend for one of the above reasons, please contact Jen Lyon at (802)476- 4145 or jlyonshs@buusd.org.

If you think you or your student has been exposed to someone with COVID, please contact the VT Department of Health before getting tested. They can advise you of the appropriate timing for a test, as well as what type of test to get. Their number is (802)863-7200. Helpful information can be found on the Department of Health's [website](#).

We also know that many of our families are making holiday plans, which may include travel out of state or visitors from out of state. We highly recommend that families review the Department of Health's [website on travel](#). This guidance is frequently updated, and should be consulted regularly, if making plans.

Unfortunately, there is not one answer that fits every situation. Please reach out to Jen Lyon, school nurse and District COVID Coordinator, at jlyonshs@buusd.org with any questions or concerns.

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BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 5, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Farrell, Chair - (BT)
Sonya Spaulding, Vice-Chair - (BC)
Guy Isabelle – (At-Large)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

David Wells, Superintendent
Josh Allen, Communications Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ben Matthews

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Farrell, called the Thursday, November 5, 2020 BUUSD Communications Committee meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Review of BUUSD letterhead will be discussed under Agenda Item 5.2 Communications Tools Update

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2020 BUUSD Communications Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2020 BUUSD Communications Committee meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Meeting Changes: December/January

The Committee will meet on:

December 10, 2020 – the main item for discussion will be Promotion of the Budget.

January 21, 2021 – the main item for discussion will be Promotion of the Budget.

5.2 Communications Tools Update

Mr. Allen reported that since the Committee last met, the BUUSD has acquired the MailChimp application. This app was first used on 10/23/20, and was used for today's update. The app allows the BUUSD to easily send mass e-mails, and e-mails to specific individuals, and allows messages to be sent via phone. The app also has reporting features which provide data relating to how many individuals receive, open, and click on links within e-mails, etc. Important e-mails that have not been opened by recipients can be resent to just those individuals. Some of the e-mail content can also be posted on Facebook. Mr. Allen would like to expand the use of MailChimp out to the schools, and suggested that it be used to send principals' newsletters, a seasonal Athletic Department newsletter, etc. Brief discussion was held regarding differences in the various schools' newsletters, and it was suggested that there be some consistency within newsletters, though it is recognized that some pieces of newsletters are unique to the individual schools and that should not be discouraged. In response to a query regarding distribution of newsletters, it was noted that SHS does not send paper copies, though some paper copies do go out to families at BCEMS and BTMES (parents who don't have e-mail addresses, and possibly to parents of younger students). Mr. Allen anticipates receiving assistance from Mr. Emmons and Mr. Smith if their stipend increases for an expanded workload are approved. Additional assistance provided by these individuals will allow Mr. Allen to focus more time on the most critical tasks, while allowing other work to also be completed.

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Revised Letterhead: There have been comments that the new letterhead is too crowded, and lacks design. It was noted that the letterhead was recently revised to reflect additional personnel. Mr. Allen has not been involved in the letterhead design, but volunteered to take on that work. Mr. Allen will work with Mrs. Gilbert on this re-design project. Brief discussion was held regarding how much information should be included on the letterhead.

6. Old Business

6.1 Budget Promotion

Mr. Allen has been working with Business Manager, Lisa Perreault and the Special Education Team regarding next week's budget presentation (to the Finance Committee and the Board). Mr. Allen has met with the CVCC Digital Media Arts II instructor and class regarding creation of promotional videos. Mr. Allen will be meeting with BCEMS and BTMES administrators regarding filming work and associated safety protocols to be followed while filming. The current plan is to film at BCEMS and BTMES on 11/23/20 and 11/24/20, though it has not been determined which school will be filmed on which day. Mr. Allen plans to limit filming to 2 hours at each building. Next week, Mr. Allen will prepare the film agenda. In response to a query, Mr. Allen advised that planned budget promotion does include sending post cards (as was done last year). Mr. Allen is working with Jet Service to obtain a rough quote. Mr. Allen has also been in contact with Video Vision (Tony Compos), and Mr. Compos has agreed to post the promotional videos before and after Board meetings. Mr. Wells reported that he has reviewed the budget with Mrs. Perreault and it has been suggested that the PowerPoint budget presentation show how the BUUSD is being responsible and providing for students, rather than providing extensive detail regarding changes to budget line items. Mr. Isabelle advised that he received an e-mail from a select board member with concerns regarding the cost of building a new facility for CVCC (an option which is currently being studied). It was reiterated that discussion thus far only relate to financing studies, not funding for a new career center.

6.2 SHS Promotion to Out of District Schools

Mr. Allen advised regarding the recent full feature ad in the Times Argus which contained information on all four schools, and highlighted some of the unique offerings at SHS (the Robotics Program, Forensic Sciences, and the partnership with the Generator Maker Space in Burlington). Ry Hoffman has been giving virtual presentations at other schools, and sending promotional information to schools. Mr. Allen and Mrs. Waterhouse have been researching the school's 'on-line reputation'. SHS is taking ownership of the Spaulding High School 'Niche' page and will be updating it. In response to a query, Mr. Allen noted that it appears other local schools have been updating their Niche pages. The SHS Niche page appears to only have comments posted from individuals who are unhappy about something. SHS should make an effort to correct/update information on the Niche page and encourage individuals to provide some positive feedback on the site. Mr. Allen advised that much positive information will be provided in the Annual Report. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding promoting SHS merchandise in downtown businesses (especially during the holiday season). Mrs. Farrell would like Main Street to reflect the SHS spirit. Mr. Allen advised that he has not had time to be working on the merchandising initiative, but hopes that anticipated expansion of Mr. Emmons and Mr. Smith's roles within the Communication Department will enable him to put more time into this initiative. Mr. Allen advised that the goal is to have Main Street actively reflect the positive spirit of the BUUSD (similar to the June 2020 graduation promotion). Mr. Isabelle suggested asking Thygesen Sports to expand their promotion of Crimson Tide merchandise.

6.3 Mission, Vision, and Strategic Planning Update

Mrs. Farrell has been working with Winton Goodrich on planning for creation of podcasts. On Tuesday, 11/10/20, Mrs. Farrell will be working with Tony Compos to record a one hour Zoom meeting. Mr. Compos will edit the one hour session into 4 fifteen minute podcasts and will forward them to Mr. Allen. In response to a query, Mr. Allen advised that he will research using the free application "Anchor", for posting the podcasts. Additionally, Mr. Allen advised that video versions of the podcasts can be posted on the District's YouTube channel.

7. Other Business

Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the status of surveys for students/families in grades 5 – 8, and 9 – 12. Mr. Allen advised that a survey was conducted at the high school level. Mr. Wells advised that the high school survey was quite extensive and that Mrs. Waterhouse will be providing survey results data in her Principal's Report (which will be distributed at the 11/12/20 Board meeting). Surveys have not been conducted for grades 5 – 8. Mrs. Spaulding reiterated her concern regarding the amount of instruction being provided to students, and she would like to receive input from students and parents on this matter. Mrs. Spaulding advised that parents continue to voice much frustration with the hybrid model, and would like to identify what is working well, and what could be improved upon (while continuing to follow social distancing guidelines from the State). In response to a query, Mr. Allen advised that the BUUSD website contains many links to resources (regional and local), and that the FAQs page has extensive information. It was suggested that informational/resource links be posted to Facebook, and that an e-mail be sent to parents advising of the various resources available to them. Mr. Isabelle queried regarding whether or not a reply was sent to a parent who e-mailed the Board with concerns. It was noted that Mr. Malone has advised that he often responds to e-mails via telephone. Mr. Allen advised that he does not see e-mails sent to Board Members, and queried regarding the possibility of those e-mails being shared with him. Brief discussion was held regarding the sharing of e-mails and the availability of information through the Freedom of Information Act (though confidential information would have to be redacted).

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8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

- Budget Promotion
- SHS Promotion to Out of District Schools
- Mission, Vision, and Strategic Planning Update
- Logo/Branding

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., via video conference.

10. Adjournment

The Committee agreed by consensus to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin

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BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING Via Video Conference – Google Meet November 9, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, Chair - (BC)
Tim Boltin, Vice Chair - (BC)
Guy Isabelle – (At-Large)
Andrew McMichael

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

David Wells, Superintendent
Scott Griggs, CVCC Assistant Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, November 9, 2020 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Delete 5.1 Athletic Entrance at SHS – keep in as placeholder
Add 6.1 Deep Cleaning

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2020 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2020 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

~~5.1 Athletic Entrance at SHS~~

5.2 Keys for Substitutes at BTMES

Mr. Evans has a meeting on 11/10/20 with BTMES principals and Paul Belise to discuss what is in place (for locks) and how to move forward. Keys for teachers and substitutes may or may not be mastered or given out for the purpose of locking doors in emergency situations. Mr. Evans is going to do some research to see how the building is set up for locking and what needs to be done to see that the building is set up similar to BCEMS and SHS (that all doors have push button locks on door handles), and to know that all teachers have a key that gives them access to classrooms, and that substitutes working in the building, also have classroom keys and building access cards for use in the event of an emergency. Mrs. Poulin advised that teaching during COVID requires teachers bring students outside for 'mask breaks' and that instances of substitutes being outside with students (with no other key carrying staff member present) occurs more frequently than during non-COVID times. Card access to the building is more of a procedural change, issuing the cards is not a big issue, but re-keying of doors is more complicated and does have costs associated with it. It is believed that teachers do not have master keys. Teacher keys most likely only open 1 door or a small set of doors within a specified area. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that keys at SHS are proprietary keys that cannot be copied, but he does not believe keys at BCEMS are proprietary, so there may be the possibility that one could get a copy made at a hardware store (not ideal). Mr. Wells advised that the risks to building security (should a teacher or substitute lose their key) should be identified, and that the design to keys should consider minimizing those risks. Conversely, if a teacher has a key that only accesses a certain portion of the building, and they are not in that section when an emergency occurs, that scenario also poses a problem/risk to safety. Mr. Wells suggested that consideration be given to fitting outside doors with locks that require key fobs, as that offers more control. Mr. Isabelle suggested that Mrs. Poulin be an ambassador to assist with this project. Mrs. Poulin advised she would be happy to assist if there is any way she can

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contribute. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding the cost associated with using card access for every lock in the building. Mr. Evans advised he believes the cost would be at a minimum, five figures, and in addition to installation, would also involve manpower to oversee/administer. Mrs. Poulin believes there should be some consistency between the buildings, and advised regarding the key 'check-in/check-out' procedures at SHS and BCEMS. Mr. Evans advised that he will provide follow-up to tomorrow's meeting, including associated costs. This item will be added to the December agenda.

5.3 Air Quality

This item is on the agenda as a result of concerns raised by the PCB issue found at a Burlington school. Mr. Evans has reached out to K&D Associates (who have been utilized for testing in the past). K&D representatives have advised that old style florescent lighting, and old window caulking, are sources of PCBs. Mr. Evans advised that BCEMS is a newer building and there are no concerns relating to PCBs at that property. SHS replaced old windows in the 1990's. BTMES did replace a majority of their older windows, but some remain. K&D has performed testing on windows at BTMES and results are forthcoming. Mr. Evans advised that inspection of the window caulking shows that the caulking is not degraded. The caulking, if intact should not pose a safety threat. All old style florescent lighting has all been replaced at SHS and BTMES. The issues in Burlington were discovered during assessment being performed in preparation for a major renovation project. Mr. Evans advised that it is known that there is no lead paint at BTMES or SHS (or BCEMS which is a newer building). Mr. Wells believes the State is probably looking into PCB testing at schools, and this matter may come up in the next legislative session. The State will most likely come up with a plan for testing and possibly allocate funding for remediation. Mr. Wells advised that it is probably prudent to hold off on any extensive testing until the State takes action. Mr. Evans advised that all of the District's schools have completed testing and remediation relating to lead in drinking water. In addition to testing in the schools, testing has also been completed at the Central Office (including asbestos etc).

Mr. Evans also consulted with K&D Associates regarding any airborne tests to identify COVID-19 contamination. There are currently no such tests in existence.

5.4 Efficiency Upgrades

This item is on the agenda as a result of discussion by the Finance Committee. Mr. Evans advised that most of the construction budget has been spent on projects and that the remaining funds are slated for routine maintenance. Mr. Wells advised that in general, the BUUSD is trying to build up its reserves and doesn't believe there is much in the way of surplus funds. Mr. Wells believes this agenda item might refer to lighting upgrades that may be offered by GMP or Efficiency Vermont. Mr. Evans is not aware of any major efficiency incentives that may be available at the present time. It was noted that a lot of lighting has already been replaced, and the State provided funding relating to air quality upgrades. Mr. Evans advised that lighting was upgraded a number of years ago. The current push is for LED lighting. Most grants to upgrade to LED lighting require a 'match' in funds. It was noted that BTMES needs to replace rooftop air conditioners and vent fan systems. Most of the units at BCEMS could probably be upgraded, but there are extensive costs associated with that. Mr. Evans reiterated that all of the BUUSD buildings are fully functional, well serviced, and well maintained as designed. Mr. Wells suggested researching whether or not GMP is running a program (as it did in the past) involving having a GMP selected engineer review the buildings, and make recommendations for lighting upgrades that could be performed and funded by savings achieved by the upgrades. Mr. Evans advised that approximately a year ago, he met with representatives from GMP and Efficiency Vermont regarding various upgrades. At that time, the upgrades were cost prohibitive.

6. Old Business

6.1 Deep Cleaning

Mr. Isabelle has been receiving inquiries regarding cleaning/deep cleaning, and asking why the schools can't be open for in-person learning on Wednesdays. Inquiries are related to the news that CVCC is moving to 5 days a week of in-person learning. Mr. Evans provided clarification regarding the term 'deep cleaning'. Mr. Evans noted that all buildings are properly cleaned every day and that high touch surfaces (door knobs, hand rails etc.) are cleaned multiple times during each day. On Wednesdays (virtual days), the extra cleaning time has been spent on cleaning/sanitizing bathrooms. The chemicals used to clean during the evening, cannot be used during the day when students and staff are in the building. Mr. Evans reiterated that the work necessary to clean and sanitize the buildings is performed every day. Mr. Evans believes the term 'deep cleaning' has been very confusing to the public, and stressed that the buildings are cleaned/sanitized on a daily basis. Mr. Wells advised that revised guidance from the State (effective 11/16/20), removes the term 'deep cleaning'. Mr. Wells and Mr. Griggs provided clarification that moving to 5 days a week at CVCC is possible due to a lower in-person student population, availability of 'space' (classrooms and labs), and the educational delivery model. Mr. Wells provided clarification that studies relating to renovation/relocation of CVCC are being performed because CVCC does not meet all current standards for safety, lab space, and storage space.

7. Other Business

In response to a query regarding the progress of the cleaning of the granite bollards at SHS, Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he has been working with Mr. Evans on this matter and he is currently waiting for a special tool that will take off the rust. Mr. Cecchinelli believes the tool may arrive as early as next week (sand blasting would most likely have resulted in discoloration of the granite).

Mr. Evans advised he will be performing additional research regarding storm water retention regulations/project financing.

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Mr. Evans advised that the new regulation pertain to any property that has 3 or more acres of impervious surface area, including parking lots and roof tops. All three building will be subject to the new regulations.

It was confirmed that the FY22 budget draft will include funding of \$1 per square foot (the industry standard).

No specific projects have been defined for next year. Known projects that will need to be performed in the future include;

SHS: Auditorium Upgrades

BCMES: Replacement of Roof Sections and Repaving of Parking Lot and Driveways

BTMES: Replacement of Rooftop AC Units and Exhaust Fan Units

8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

- Bus Survey for SHS Families
- Keys for Substitutes at BTMES
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation – Storm Water Run-off Regulations

Committee Members were advised to notify Mr. Cecchinelli of any additional items they would like placed on the agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., via video conference.

10. Adjournment

The Committee agreed by consensus to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin

Superintendent Update on Modes of Instruction During State of Emergency
Due To COVID-19 Pandemic per BUUSD Policy D22

November 12, 2020

BUUSD is following the prudent course of maintaining our current modes of hybrid instruction considering the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the region. The Reopening Team is making plans for a potential increase in in-person instruction starting at the second semester. BUUSD is implementing interim modifications to increase in-person instruction as described below:

- CVCC has moved to a 5 day schedule given their capacity based on enrollment and the square footage of their shop spaces.
- SHS will be modifying their schedule to provide more frequent contact time with teachers starting on November 23, 2020 [Link in SHS Newsletter](#)

The Reopening Team has been meeting weekly with the following goals:

- Researching solutions which would allow more in-person instruction
 - Potential changes to BTMES bus routes to accommodate for the 3 buses with ridership of over 50 students
 - Calculating number of desks which would need to be purchased at BTMES to comply with [Strong and Health Start Guidance](#)
 - Measuring the spacing of desks at BTMES to accommodate 4 foot distance between 20 students. This can be accomplished by moving to a regular seating model. Concern that this does not provide increased spacing as students can reach out and touch each other, etc.
- Advance planning should BUUSD need to shift to 100% remote learning
- Improving remote instruction

The Superintendent's office is taking steps to fill openings needed to fully staff our K-8 Schools

- Posting openings for paraprofessionals
- Posting to fill vacant Literacy Interventionist position at BTMES
- Posting to fill vacant PE position at BTMES

Answers to previous School Board questions:

Q: Why is SHS not moving to full days? Why can't high school students eat in their classrooms like elementary school students?

SHS is modifying its schedule to accommodate two in-person sessions for each weekly class (see above). The shortened daily schedule is required to support remote learning. SHS has 133 SHS students accessing their education remotely on a regular basis. Other hybrid students also access remote education from time to time. +

Having groups of older students talking and socializing in classrooms during lunch without masks presents a higher risk of COVID-19 spread. Staffing limits also prohibit supervising students eating lunch in classrooms while also providing a duty free lunch per the negotiated agreement. The same staffing concerns also prevent the use of the cafeteria which would need five lunch services to adhere to six foot spacing requirements.

Q: What is the plan for BCMES to move forward if they have fewer constraints than BTMES?

BUUSD has put great emphasis on aligning instructional practices between BCMES and BTMES. It is also important to be mindful of keeping equitable work conditions among staff. As mentioned above, steps are being taken to remove barriers to increased in-person instruction.

Q: How is CVCC able to attend 5 days per week? Aren't they dealing with spacing concerns?

CVCC has space for their current enrollments. They have moved students from classrooms into the shop areas which provide more room. The spacing requirements for CTE education meet the same Strong and Healthy School requirements. The maximum number of students for most programs is sixteen.

Q: What is the plan for moving to 100% remote learning if necessary?

The Reopening Team is focusing on this goal. An update will be provided in December.

Q: Have we considered using the open PK room at BTMES (and moving the furniture to the open art space)

The open PK room can be used if it provides more space than a current 1st grade classroom. Additional staffing would be required if we were to split one of the larger 1st grade classes into two.

Q: Is a shortage of substitute teachers preventing us from increasing in-person instruction?

We are experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers with our current hybrid plan. The recent closure of the PK program at BCMES was due to a shortage of substitute teachers. SHS has developed an emergency plan to respond to a shortage of teachers which includes moving individual classes to remote instruction until staffing shortages would move the whole school to remote learning. Other schools across the state are experiencing this as well. We would not

need additional substitute teachers to increase learning to four days since our teachers are already providing four days of in-person teaching each week.

Q: Why do we still have remote learning on Wednesdays?

While the guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education states that regular sanitation routines are sufficient and “deep cleaning” is no longer necessary, BUUSD teachers continue to use remote Wednesdays along with the time in the teacher day after student dismissal to plan remote learning and check-in with students. Remote learning requires a significant amount of additional planning time.

Important Factors to Consider Which Go Beyond Logistics

- Washington County had 66 new COVID-19 cases in the past 14 days [LINK](#)
- Neighboring Orange County had 28 new COVID-19 cases in the past 14 days.
- Times Argus Article from November 6th: [COVID closes Williamstown schools](#)
- BUUSD has been affected by COVID-19 Events in the past three weeks:
 - October 22: Individual at BCMES
 - October 22: Individual at BTMES
 - November 7: Individual at CVCC with contact tracing and quarantines
 - November 11: Two individuals at BTMES
 - November 11: Positive case and many related contacts move district to remote instruction for November 12 and 13.

Emergency Remote Day Plan - BUUSD

An Emergency Remote Day will be used for one or two day events such as inclement weather, mechanical breakdowns, etc. It would take the place of the traditional “snow day.” An Emergency Remote Day would count as a day of school and would not need to be made up at the end of the year.

K-8 Emergency Closure Day Schedule		
Time	Student Schedule	Teacher Schedule
8:00-9:00	****beginning at 8:30 for students Independent Work time -Check Google Classroom - Check SeeSaw -Answer question of the day	8:00-9:00 Planning and pushing out work. -have students check their google classrooms/SeeSaw to see if they have any meetings or what the schedule is for each class.
9:00-9:30	Homeroom/TA Check in *we know that not all students may be able to get online for a google meet, but all teachers will offer this (unless the weather does not allow for internet access)	Homeroom/TA Check in: Go over announcements for the day, checking in with one another, attendance, outline of today's plan, etc.
10:00-11:55	Independent work (google classroom, online platforms, or paper packets) including work from specials teacher. Check-in with teacher(s) if need clarification on assignments.	Office hours: for students needing clarification/guidance
12:00-3:05	Lunch/ independent work time on assigned daily tasks	Lunch, Planning and Meeting 1-1 with kids. Reach out to students you did not see/hear from this morning yet.

SHS Emergency Closure Day Schedule

Time	Student Schedule	Teacher Schedule
7:35-9:30	Independent Work time -Check Google Classroom -Work on current work -Work on any outstanding work	7:35-9:30 Planning and pushing out work.
9:30-10:00	Advisory Check in	Advisory Check in: Go over announcements for the day (take attendance for the day?) -have students check their google classrooms to see if they have any meetings or what the schedule is for each class.
10:00-10:25	Block 1 Google Meet with Teacher	Block 1 Google Meet with class
10:30-10:55	Block 2 Google Meet with Teacher	Block 2 Google Meet with class
11:00-11:25	Block 3 Google Meet with Teacher	Block 3 Google Meet with class
11:30-11:55	Block 4 Google Meet with Teacher	Block 4 Google Meet with class
12-3:05	Lunch/ independent work time on assigned daily tasks	Lunch, Planning, and Meeting 1-1 with kids.

CVCC Emergency Closure Day Schedule		
Time	Student Schedule	Teacher Schedule
9:00-12:00	Check in with teachers Complete Independent Assignments	Check in with students Provide feedback and follow-up

Definitions:

Emergency Closure Days --- As described above. Examples include: bad weather day, broken furnace, or a same day immediate closure due to COVID-19 related reasons.

Remote Days -- Remote learning as currently offered in BUUSD hybrid model. Remote learning can be extended as a planned response to COVID-19 events which require students and staff to stay home from school while instruction continues.

FY22 BUDGETS – DRAFT 1



REVISED NOVEMBER 12, 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

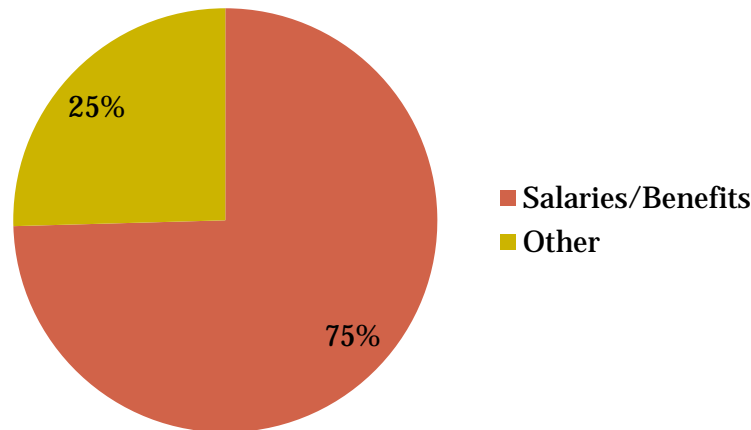


- 1) FICA/MEDICARE - 7.65%, \$2,051,546
 - 2) DENTAL - \$133,680
 - 3) VSTRS HEALTH ASSESSMENT - \$164,400*
 - 4) VMERS - \$125,685
 - 5) 403b - \$123,793
 - 6) TUITION - \$337,500
 - 7) WORKER'S COMP - \$257,966
 - 8) LIFE - \$35,034
 - 9) LTD – \$62,250
- Total estimated cost to district: **\$3,291,854**

* 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.

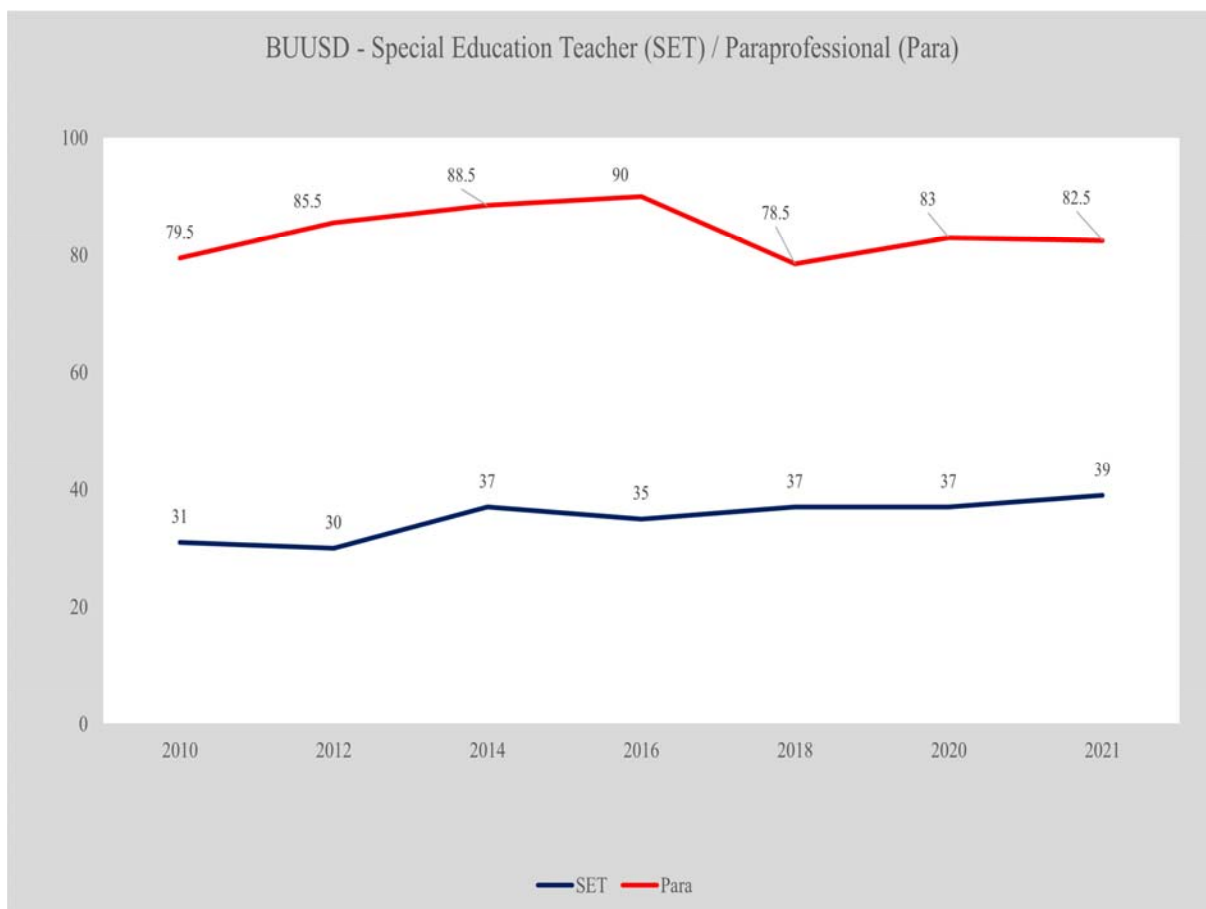
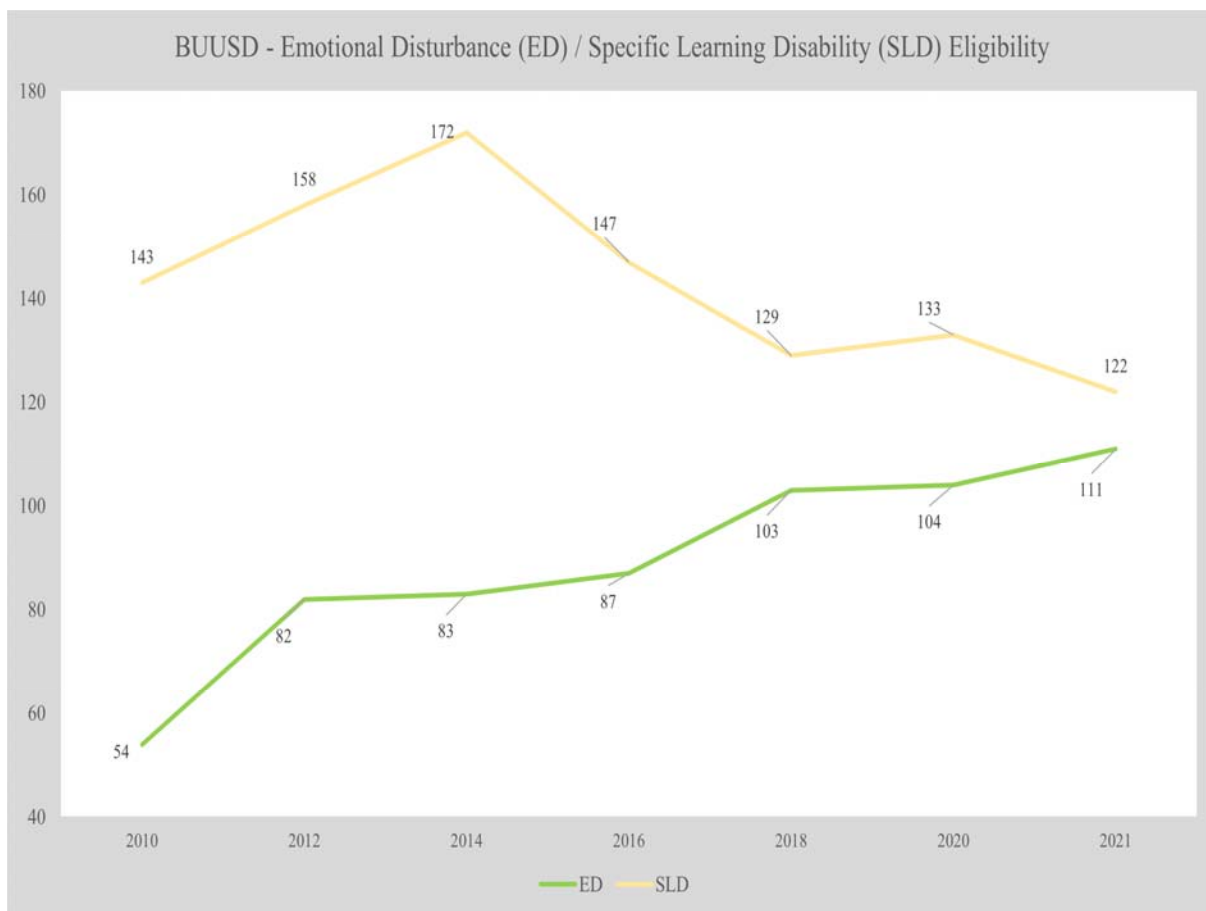
FY22 Proposed Special Education Costs

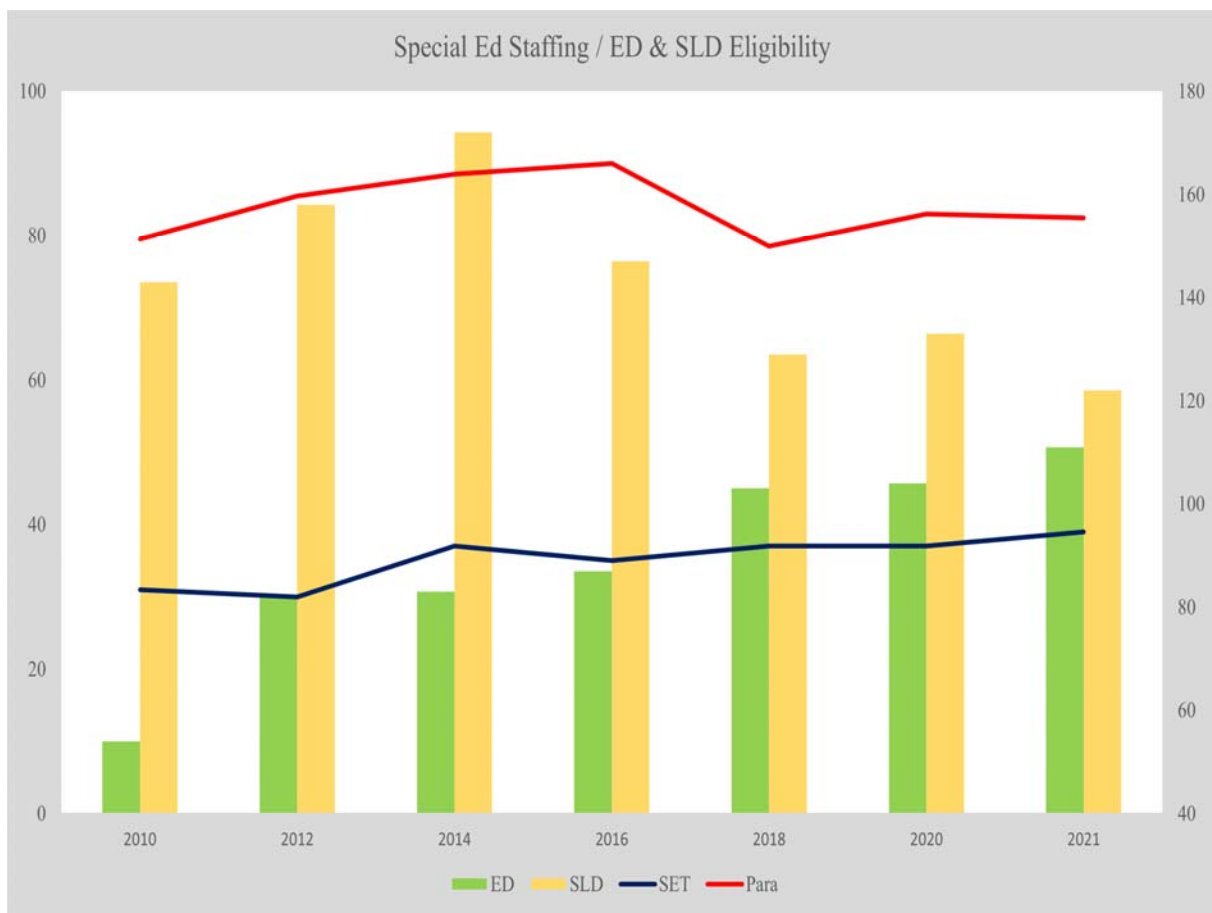
- Total proposed cost included new building/SEA program: \$14,115,927
- Increase of 8.37% -- \$1,090,520

FY20 Budget
\$11,910,917

FY20 Actuals
\$12,253,878

FY21 Budget
\$13,025,425





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

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

"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."**

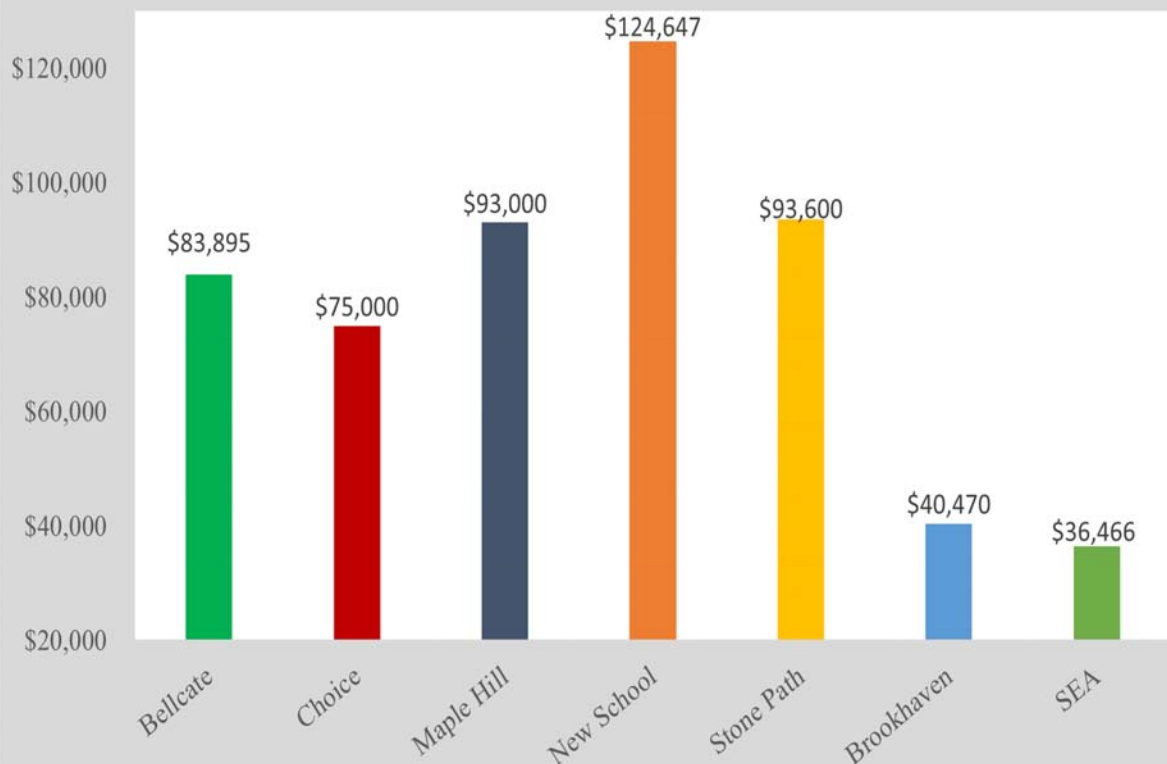
"You had me at music studio"

*"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



Debt



- **SHS Roof Project 2014 – \$3,000,000**
 - 15-year term, balance \$1,399,578, 7 years left 2028, 2.45% interest
- **BCEMS Renovation/Boiler 2017 – \$600,000**
 - 10-year term, balance \$420,000, 6 years left 2026, 2.49% interest
- **Spaulding Educational Alternatives (SEA) 2021 –**
 - 15-year term, balance \$3,750,000, 1.71% (projected) interest on bond

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%	
Equalized Rate to be assessed by city	1.3676	1.4875	
District's CLA	96.37%	96.37%	
Barre City Homestead Rate	1.4191	1.5435	0.12

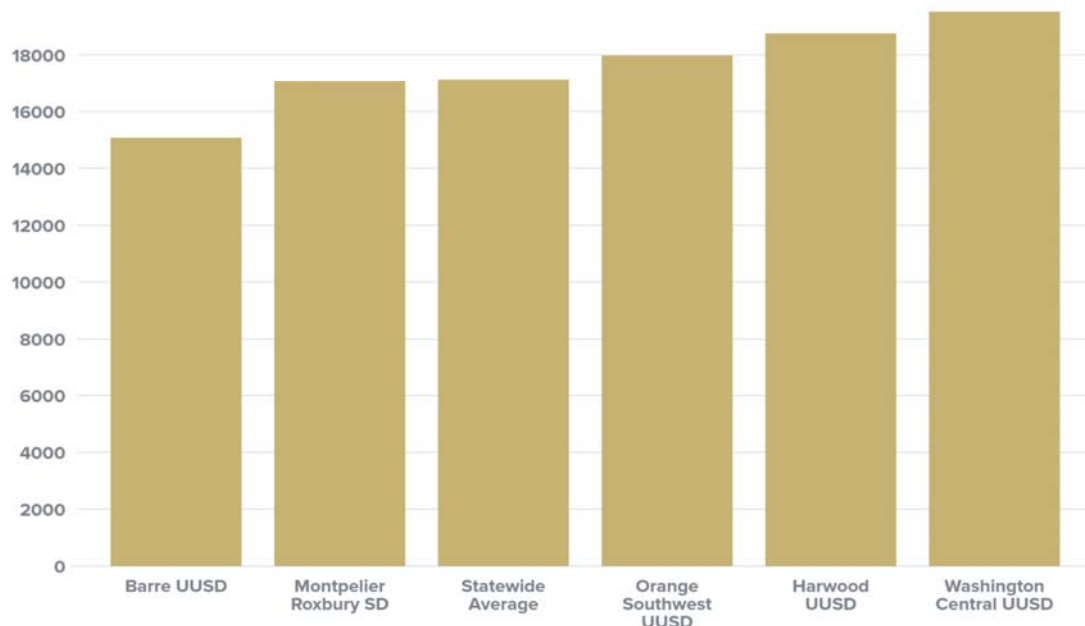
BARRE TOWN	FY2021	FY2022	
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Homestead Equalized Tax Rate (State determined)	1.00	1.00	
Equalized Tax Rate	1.3676	1.4875	
District's Equalized Pupil %	100%	100%	
Equalized Rate to be assessed by town	1.3676	1.4875	
District's CLA	83.48%	100.00%	
Barre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