

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**
Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 12, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Guy Isabelle, Chair – (At-Large)
Gina Akley, Vice Chair - (BT)
Sarah Pregent - (BC)
Andrew McMichael

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Hayden Coon, BCEMS Principal
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Scott Griggs, CVCC Assistant Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

Mr. Allen called the Monday, April 12, 2021 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Organize

Mrs. Akley nominated Mr. Isabelle for the position of Committee Chair. Mrs. Pregent seconded the motion.

There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Committee unanimously voted to appoint Guy Isabelle as Chair of the Facilities and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Isabelle chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs. Pregent nominated Mrs. Akley for the position of Committee Vice Chair. Mr. Isabelle seconded the motion.

There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Isabelle, the Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Akley as Vice Chair of the Facilities and Transportation Committee.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add 6.1 General Facilities Report
Add 6.2 CVCC Update

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2021 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2021 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 General Facilities Update

Mr. Evans advised that cleaning and sanitizing is ongoing work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Custodial staff are working to see that students and staff are as safe as possible. Transmission of COVID within the schools is very rare.

Mr. Evans advised that a custodian/grounds keeper position opened up at the end of last week and will be posted in-house. If no one in-house applies, the position will be posted publicly. This opening is the result of a resignation. Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of the responsibilities of the position.

Mr. Evans advised regarding projects that will be completed at SHS over the April break, including; replacement of the control panel for the woodchip boiler system (proactive maintenance/budgeted) and repairing a storm drain failure.

Mr. Evans advised that the generator at BTMES is scheduled to be completed (at no cost to the BUUSD) over April vacation. All of the preliminary work has been completed (piping, electrical room work...). It is expected that the installation will be completed by the end of April break. Mr. Evans lauded Jack Mitchell who has spearheaded this project.

The following are summer projects that, if the budget passes, are slated for completion this summer;

SHS: Technology upgrades in the auditorium (last year's quote is being updated)

BCEMS: Round 3 of roof replacement (the 3rd of 3 sections). Once completed, the majority of all of the flat roof areas will have been replaced. There are reserve funds (approximately \$300,000) that can be utilized if necessary. Surplus funds may also be available if necessary. Roofing bids have been received, and given the projected budget, an additional \$100,000 will be necessary (from reserve funds). It is hoped that victallic fitting replacement can continue. This is an ongoing project that has been going on for years, and involves replacing victallic fittings with welded pipe. Thus far, approximately 25% of the fittings have been replaced. Mr. Evans advised that victallic fitting replacement is charged to the repair and maintenance portion of the budget. In an effort to avoid the bidding process, yearly victallic fitting replacements are kept at just under \$15,000 per year. Rather than painting classrooms, the plan is to remodel some of the student restrooms, replacing metal stalls with plastic/resin type stalls.

Mr. Evans stressed the importance of maintaining the roofs and buildings. The buildings are currently in good shape and well taken care of and it is important not to have too much deferred maintenance. Brief discussion was held regarding recent budget cuts that lowered the square footage allowance from \$1.00 SF to 75¢ SF. This cut results in a reduction of \$30,000 for BCEMS.

BTMES: Replacement of a section of the roof, and installation of new bleaches in the gymnasium. The old bleachers were removed last year. Mr. Evans is in the process of obtaining bids. Once all bids are received, the project will be presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Evans advised regarding a recent quote that will be held until the end of April. Mr. Evans anticipates bids may go up after that. Mrs. Akley queried regarding the possibility of deferring bleacher replacement. Mr. Evans advised that the construction line item in the budget was 'earmarked' this year for bleacher replacement. If that project is deferred, another project will need to be identified. Mr. Evans recommends staying with bleacher replacement.

Other Projects:

Central Office: Some updates have been made to the restrooms.

Electric Buses: The wiring has all been installed. We are currently waiting for the chargers to be installed (in May), and the buses are scheduled to be delivered in June. There are 2 buses, one for BTMES and one for BCEMS. Due to the lifespan of the batteries, it is best to house them at BTMES rather than where STA normally houses their buses.

Storm-water Run-off Project: There has been no news from the State regarding when the mandate will be enforced. One issue with this project is funding, and we haven't been advised of grants yet. Mr. Evans is aware of an opt out fee and he is advocating for this, but needs to gather more information. The opt-out fee is a one-time fee that facilities would pay in lieu of completing a storm water run-off project. Facilities would need to apply to see if they qualify. Mr. Evans is leery of the project, because he believes ongoing maintenance would be a financial burden to the District. Friends of the Winooski used grant funding to assess BTMES and completed some preliminary drawings. There may be grant funding for full plans and there may be funding available for the construction phase. Mr. Evans believes construction of the project at BTMES will run into six figures. Mr. Isabelle questioned whether or not COVID Relief funds could be used for this project.

Bus Survey: Mr. Evans reported that Mr. Aither has not been able to connect with STA regarding possible routes, and has not sent out the survey to high school families. Mr. Evans was recently advised that ESSER Funds can be used to transport SHS students (who live more than 1 mile from SHS). The transportation is for student dismissal time only (students are dismissed early because of the schedule implemented during the COVID pandemic). Parents will need to register their students for this service. Transportation is slated to begin after April vacation and run for the remainder of this academic year. Mrs. Akley would like some considerations/accommodations for students whose parents don't have access to the internet or phone service (to schedule transportation). Mr. Isabelle would like to further explore utilizing Green Mountain Transit to provide transportation for SHS students, possibly using a voucher system. Mr. Evans will share comments, questions, and concerns with Mr. Aither. Mr. Isabelle is concerned that transportation isn't provided to the school, citing truancy issues that are tied to lack of transportation. It was clarified

that the dismissal transportation is COVID related, where-as transportation to the school at the regular time would not be related to COVID.

Mr. Coon advised that the bus loop work at BCEMS was planned to be performed in two phases. Phase one was completed last summer. Since phase 1, things have been working smoothly and there isn't an issue with visitor parking. Mr. Coon believes phase 2 does not need to be completed, though some cosmetic work should be completed. Mr. Coon advised that though the elimination of phase 2 saves a lot of money, the funds will be utilized for other necessary projects, so won't really appear as savings in the budget. Mr. Isabelle advised that given the age of our buildings, he is always amazed at how well they are maintained. Mr. Isabelle thanked Mr. Evans and past Facilities Committees for their efforts to see that our buildings, including CVCC, are well maintained.

6.2 CVCC Update

Mr. Griggs advised that CVCC is well positioned at this time and has an opportunity to invest in the facility. Mr. Griggs and Mr. Evans will be meeting with the Culinary Instructors to discuss replacement of the walk-in cooler/freezer that is in need of replacement. Replacing the cooler and the kitchen floor will cost more than \$15,000 and will be subject to the bidding process. Mr. Griggs advised regarding statute relating to how excess technical center funds can be used, or be returned to sending districts. Mr. Griggs advised that there is an anticipated significant increase in student counts (for next year) and administrators would like to renovate the cosmetology area by expanding it and splitting it into 2 classrooms and 2 salons. The projects introduced this evening, though not crisis items, will not cause an increase in next year's budget and could be accomplished with this year's surplus funds. In response to a query, Mr. Griggs confirmed that CVCC plans to continue keeping Culinary Arts and Baking Arts combined.

8. Old Business

It was noted that some 'Old Business' was discussed under Mr. Evans Report in Agenda Item 6.1.

In response to a query Mr. Evans advised that he has not received any additional information relating to the proposed change to the entrance of the Athletic fields. This item was last discussed in December 2020. Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of some of the past discussion.

In response to a query regarding upgrades to the SHS Auditorium, Mr. Evans advised that to begin the renovations, he plans to make technology upgrades this summer. Other items that need to be addressed include; acoustics, sound system, seating, lighting, etc...Upgrades to the auditorium will benefit those using the auditorium for performing arts, academics, and other types of presentations.

SEA Project: The building is up, the roof is on, windows and doors are installed, the interior concrete floor is poured, the parking lot is getting some final grading, drainage around the building is installed, trades people are starting work inside the building, including the installation of duct work (heating/cooling system), plumbers and electricians are installing their mainlines. Much is happening and happening quickly on the inside. Mr. Evans invited folks to drive by to see the progress. Mr. Evans advised that contractor Peak, CM runs a very organized, neat, clean, safe job site and he is very impressed with their work. Mr. Evans has no complaints at all thus far and is very impressed with this contractor.

7. Other Business

Mrs. Poulin provided clarification that New Business and Old Business are categories, and that actual items for discussion need to be listed (numbered) under those categories.

9. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

Mr. Evans will have some quote information for the May meeting and hopes that the budget passes and is finalized by then.

- Summer Project Updates (including bids)
- SEA Project Update

10. Next Meeting Date

The Monday, May 10, 2021 meeting is cancelled as it conflicts with the Budget Informational Meeting. The next meeting is Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via video conference.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Akley, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin