

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Via Video Conference – Google Meet
May 24, 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:

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Isabelle, called the Monday, May 24, 2021 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – April 12, 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 April 12, 2021 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. McMichael was not present for the vote.

5. New Business

5.1 Summer Project Updates/Bids

Mr. Evans met with Mrs. Perreault to review the status of project bids. .

SHS Auditorium – The Board previously approved this project/bid, but it was delayed due to COVID. Mrs. Perreault will bring this project back to the Board, with a reminder that it has already been approved.

BTMES Bleacher Project – Bids have been received. The lowest bid is \$55,693. Mrs. Perreault will bring this project to the Board for approval.

BCEMS Roof Project – The lowest bid is \$201,000. Mr. Evans advised that though it is hoped the budget vote passes in June, if it doesn't, Capital Improvement Reserve funds could be used for this project. Mr. Evans wants to lock in a contractor before the prices go up, and believes this roof project needs to be completed. Postponement will risk a price increase, and possible damage to the building. In response to a query, it was noted that the roof work does come with a 20 year guarantee. Mr. Evans believes the balance of the Capital Improvement fund is approximately \$300,000.

BTMES Small Roof Repairs - There is a small section of roofing at BTMES that requires work, but hasn't gone out to bid yet. It will probably cost \$20,000 to \$30,000. It is hoped that this project can be completed before fall.

Mr. Isabelle queried regarding projects that could possibly be postponed if necessary. Mr. Evans advised that the BTMES bleachers could be postponed for another year, but they are needed, and Mr. Evans does not want to defer too much maintenance. Mrs. Pregent did note that the BUUSD has a projected surplus of \$1.4 million dollars, some of which could be moved to the Capital Improvement fund. It was noted that the Facilities budget has already been reduced from \$1 SF to 75¢ SF.

Mr. Evans advised that additional summer work includes routine cleaning and repairs.

5.2 SEA Project Update

Mr. Evans advised that the project is working well and on schedule. The outside of the building was completed some time ago, other than some minor work (seeding etc.). Other trades people are working inside the building (carpenters, plumbers, electricians etc...). It is anticipated that the building will be completed by the end of July, but as it is a new building, there will be many loose ends to wrap up at the end of the project (in August). Mr. Evans lauded the contractor for their continued organization, professionalism, and concern for job safety. Material costs were locked in, so there has been no increase to the cost/bid of this project. Mr. Evans was approached regarding a possible increase for paving, and advised the contractor that the project needed to be completed as bid. The contractor has started the paving early, in anticipation that paving costs will increase over the summer. Any increases to the cost of the project will be the result of unforeseen issues, and should be relatively low (perhaps \$10,000). If individual Committee Members have hardhats and high visibility vests, Mr. Evans can give them a tour.

5.3 Impact of Potential Budget Reductions

The Facilities budget was reduced from \$1 SF to 75¢ SF. In response to a query regarding a reduction in the security line item, Mr. Evans advised that BCEMS had \$5,000 budgeted, but SHS and BTMES were budgeted at \$10,000. SHS and BTMES budgets have been reduced by \$5,000 each. Mr. Evans advised regarding the impact of lowering the square footage budgeted amounts by 25¢ SF. The reduction in the amount budgeted per square foot results in the following budget cuts; SHS \$52,000, BCEMS \$31,250, and BTMES \$39,000. These are substantial cuts, and if they continued in future years, will have a long term negative impact.

6. Old Business

6.1 PBC Updates

Mr. Isabelle advised that he added this agenda item for the benefit of new Committee Members who aren't familiar with this issue, and to discuss any new information that may have become available. Mr. Evans reported that BCEMS is a newer building that does not contain any PCB's. Last fall a consultant was hired to perform testing at SHS and BTMES. It was reported that no PCB's were found. Mr. Isabelle advised that Federal Acceptable Levels are much higher than the State of Vermont Acceptable Levels. Given current discussions relating to PCB's, additional testing may be required by the State. Mr. Evans is not concerned that additional testing will be problematic, and advised that PCB testing is not very costly.

7. Other Business

It was noted that the RFP's requiring approval are not on the agenda for the 05/27/21 Board meeting.

Storm Water Run-off / Retention Project –

Mr. Evans recently met with the BUUSD's engineer and some representatives from the State Agency of Natural Resources, and the next step that needs to happen, is to conduct a feasibility study for BCMES. This is required because when BCMES was built, a storm water permit was necessary. SHS and BTMES properties are not considered as high priority. The State will determine what assessments need to be performed at BCMES, and what possible methods could be used to address this issue. Mr. Evans advised that a storm water run-off project would be a large financial hardship (designs, engineering, permits, constructions...), and ongoing maintenance and inspections of those systems is also costly. Mr. Evans advised that the State may offer a one-time opt-out fee of \$25,000 per acre to opt out of building a system. The feasibility study is costly and Mr. Evans will be looking for possible grant funds to cover the expense of a feasibility study. Mr. Evans advised that BCEMS and SHS do not have enough athletic fields, and it would negatively impact students if some of the existing fields needed to be used for storm water retention. Mr. Evans provided an overview of research/work performed thus far at BTMES. Friends of the Winooski has been assisting with this and all work has been grant funded. The proposed run-off pond at BTMES does not involve athletic fields. It was noted that the Town of Barre also has substantial property that will be subject to the storm water run-off legislation.

BCEMS Bus Loop –

Mr. Evans provided a recap of that project, noting that phase 1 of the project was very successful, and phase 2 is on hold for now.

SHS Property -

There is some property across the river/adjacent to the student parking lot (a large piece of property that contains a shed). The owner of the shed has contacted Mr. Evans regarding BUUSD interest in purchasing the property. Mr. Evans is concerned regarding what types of chemicals and other pollutants are in the existing shed and in the ground. It would be very expensive to remove the structure, though the property, if usable, would be valuable. The owner is asking \$800,000 for the property. Mrs. Waterhouse would like to use the land if possible, to expand outdoor learning, as well as expanding student parking. Mrs. Akley queried regarding whether or not this property could be utilized for CVCC, and should be kept in consideration during the study related to expansion or relocation of CVCC.

Electric Buses –

Weekly meetings are held project. The buses are expected to be delivered in July. The chargers were delivered last week, and the electrical contractor realized that the wrong charges were shipped. The contractor is in the process of returning the chargers.

Mr. Evans is concerned regarding when the correct chargers will be delivered. Mr. Evans will provide an update when information becomes available. It was noted that STA will not take delivery of the buses until the chargers are in place.

Custodial Hiring –

Mr. Evans advised that the BUUSD continues to struggle to find custodians, and advised that BCEMS is very ‘thin’ on custodians. Two custodians were hired recently, but another custodian gave notice this evening. Custodians are feeling burned out and custodial staff is struggling. Mrs. Akley queried regarding utilizing a hiring/staffing agency. Mr. Evans advised that the BUUSD has been utilizing WestStaff, but the pool is very limited. It has been very difficult to hire full time and temporary staff. It was noted that when WestStaff is utilized, those employees are paid the same rate that is paid to summer help, but there is also an administrative fee. It was noted that the BUUSD does not pay Workers’ Compensation insurance on those employees. Mr. Isabelle suggested considering the addition of a hire-on bonus. Mrs. Pregent queried regarding background checks for custodial staff. Mr. Evans advised that all custodial employees (full time and temporary) need to pass background checks.

BCEMS Work for the Outside of the Building:

Mr. Evans advised that work to the exterior siding of the building is on the ‘to do’ list.

8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

- Electric Buses
- SEA Project Update
- Review Summer Projects
- Review Updated List of Deferred and Long Term Maintenance
- SEA Tour (TBD)
- Storm Water Run-off (fall of 2021)

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, June 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin