

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
March 14, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II, Chair – (BC)  
Terry Reil, Vice Chair - (BT)  
Renee Badeau (BT)  
Tim Boltin - (BC)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonya Spaulding

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent  
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Jeff Blow                      Andrew McMichael

**1. Call to Order**

**The Superintendent, Mr. Hennessey, called the Monday, March 14, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held via video conference.**

**2. Organize**

**2.1 Elect Chair**

Mr. Hennessey asked for nominations for the position of Committee Chair.  
Mr. Cecchinelli nominated himself for the position of Committee Chair. Ms. Badeau seconded the motion.  
There were no additional nominations.

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to elect Mr. Cecchinelli as Chair of the BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee.**

Mr. Cecchinelli facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

**2.2 Elect Vice Chair**

Mr. Cecchinelli asked for nominations for the position of Committee Vice Chair.  
Mr. Cecchinelli nominated Mr. Reil for the position of Committee Vice Chair. Ms. Badeau seconded the motion.  
There were no additional nominations.

**On a motion by Mr. Cecchinelli, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to elect Mr. Reil as Vice Chair of the BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee.**

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

Add 7.4 Update on HVAC/Sprinkler Systems Upgrades

**4. Public Comment**

None.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**5.1 Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting**

Mr. Evans requested a correction to the section labeled 5.3 (Storm Water Run-off Update). It is believed that the minutes are correct as written. Clarification of this item can be provided this evening under Agenda Item 7.3.

**On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to approve, as submitted, the Minutes of the January 10, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.**

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Conceptual Facilities Plan for Next Year**

Mr. Evans provided an overview of the usual annual summer projects as well as some additional projects;

Replacement of flooring at all 3 schools

SHS – upgrades to restrooms (creation of a fully accessible/family restroom, and modernization of staff restrooms)

BCEMS – replacement of victallic fittings and repair of asphalt in the parking lot. No roofing will be performed this summer due to unavailability of materials.

BTMES – replacement of a large section of roofing.

The larger ESSER funded projects will most likely not be performed this year as most of the contractors are already booked.

Mr. Reil queried regarding the Five Year Plan. Mr. Evans will send a revised current plan via email. Mr. Evans will be updating the Five Year Plan to include planned ESSER projects and will present that version at the next meeting.

Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding the location of summer programming. Mr. Evans advised that if summer school were held at BTMES, roofing work could still be completed. Mr. Hennessey advised that the District does plan to hold summer school at BTMES. Mr. Hennessey advised that the location of the summer program may need to be changed to BCEMS due to an issue with the food service program. The location of summer school is subject to change.

Mr. Reil queried regarding how the potential relocation of CVCC will impact facilities work at SHS, and how this impacts plans to upgrade the current heating and ventilation system. Mr. Hennessey anticipates that CVCC will continue renting space for at least a couple of years. Mr. Evans believes it will be four or five years before the tech center could relocate.

## **7. Old Business**

### **7.1 PCB Testing Update**

Mr. Evans advised that the District will be awarded an inspector to inspect each of the three schools. Any suspect material will be sent out for testing. If PCBs are found a mitigation plan will be presented. The State is funding the testing, but if PCBs are found and mitigation is necessary, the District will be liable for remediation costs. At this time, there is no known grant/State funding for remediation. Previously, the District did have some testing performed at BTMES and nothing of concern was found during that inspection. No testing has been performed at SHS, but Mr. Evans is hopeful that previous upgrades to lighting and caulking may have already addressed this issue. BCEMS was built in 1995 and it is believed that there should not be any issue at the BCEMS campus. In response to a query, Mr. Evans speculated that the State may lower the allowable threshold limit for schools.

### **7.2 Electric Bus Update**

Mr. Evans advised that buses are on site. The chargers were installed, but were installed in the wrong location. This issue has been taken care of. There is still an issue with the buses not charging. Some testing was performed Friday, but Mr. Evans has not been advised of any findings. As soon as the charging issue is resolved, the buses will be put in service. Last Friday, the buses were brought to a charging site in Barre and they did take charges. Trouble shooting is being performed to determine why the buses don't charge at BTMES. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that the District has not contacted local fire departments regarding the electric buses/charging stations, but did reach out to VSBIT regarding any concerns they might have regarding buses being charged/parked near the BTMES building. VSBIT has no concerns. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that he would consult with local fire departments regarding protocols for handling any 'fire' issues that may occur when the buses are on the road. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that there are a couple of municipalities or schools that use these same buses.

### **7.3 Storm Water Run-off Update**

Mr. Evans reported that all three schools have been awarded funding for an engineering firm to perform a feasibility study. There is 100% funding for the feasibility study and design. There is no known funding for construction. Engineering firms are in the process of filing storm water permits and are in the process of performing feasibility studies (preliminary virtual meetings have been held). Once a design suggestion is provided, Mr. Evans believes it will be presented to him, the Business Manager and the Superintendent. Mr. Evans is aware of two styles of storm water run-off collection (holding pond (expensive to build and maintain) and a system that is similar to a septic system (less expensive to install and maintain). The septic system type of design, presented to the District by Bill Ahern has been shared with the engineers. Mr. Evans advised that the District has the option to deny or dispute the type of system the engineers suggest. Mr. Evans does not prefer the holding pond style as it is more expensive and utilizes 'usable' property. The septic type system is all underground and would result in less loss of usable surface property. Mr. Evans would prefer that the District pay an opt-out fee and not install any system though he believes the State will require that some type of system be installed. It was originally announced that the-opt out fee would be a one-time payment, but that may be subject to change. The opt-out option is only

available to entities that do not have the space to install a system. Discussions with engineers did include future upgrades planned for the schools (e.g. SHS athletic fields)

#### **7.4 Update on HVAC/Sprinkler Systems Upgrades**

Mr. Evans and Mrs. Perreault have been working on the ESSER grant (separate applications for each school). Mr. Evans provided an overview of the projects planned for each school. Projects include more advanced filters to filter outside air, as well as installation of air conditioning in classrooms and common areas (at SHS and BCEMS). The proposed filters do nothing to combat COVID, but rather are filtering outside air, mixing it with the heat. Exhaust fans remove air from the classrooms. There are two methods for filtering viruses (bipolar ionization – which can be installed inside each heater at SHS), and UV lighting. The UV lighting option is much more expensive to install, maintain, and operate. The District has received conceptual approval for the work proposed at each of the schools. Work at BCEMS involves replacement of the rooftop heating units, and installation of air-conditioning units in classrooms and common areas. Air-conditioning proposed at BCEMS does not involve window mounted units, but rather units are wall mounted, with several classrooms utilizing one centralized condensing unit. BTMES already has air-conditioning. Changes proposed for BTMES involve upgrading rooftop equipment (5 penthouses), replacing or upgrading approximately 20 rooftop condensing units and one air handling unit (within the building). Mr. Evans provided an overview of what conceptual approval means. Conceptual approval allows the District to go out to bid, but the District cannot move forward (no money can be spent) on projects until final approval has been granted. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that the District's schools have been and continue to be fully functioning and the District did not require emergency funding for ventilation issues during COVID. Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of MERV rating (Minimum Efficiency Rating Value) for filters. As the buildings' systems could not handle higher rated filters (as recommended by the State), the District has been changing filters more often. In response to a query, it was noted that these projects will most likely take multiple years to complete, and it is not known if the projects can be modified if newer technology is discovered. Mr. Evans noted that once RFPs are approved and bids awarded, contractors will most likely begin ordering materials, so it is unlikely that the plans could be changed. It is not known if these upgrades will necessitate changing the location of summer school. All of these grant funded projects must be completed by September of 2024. Mr. Evans believes the State may need to extend the deadline for completion of projects. It was noted that there are a limited number of contractors who can perform the work. Mr. Reil asked that the District be cognizant that contractors may request additional funds if projects are bid well in advance of when construction is taking place (price increases and unavailability of materials originally quoted). Mr. Evans advised that ESSER funding is Federal funding and that he anticipates contractors will build contingencies into their bids. It was noted that the SHS project, which involves installation of sprinklers will most likely need to be performed over multiple years. Mrs. Perreault will be sending out RFPs to performance contractors (contractors who can perform all aspects of the projects). There are 4 such contractors in the state. Projects for each school will be bid separately. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that each contractor will have a project manager, and he is not sure if the District will need a Clerk of the Works for each project.

#### **8. Other Business**

None.

#### **9. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas**

- PCB Testing Update
- Electric Bus Update
- Storm Water Run-off Update
- HVAC/Sprinkler Upgrades Update
- Review Revised Five-Year Plan

#### **10. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*