

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
June 13, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II, Chair – (BC)
Terry Reil, Vice Chair - (BT)
Mary Jane Ainsworth (BT Community Member)
Tim Boltin - (BC)
Andrew McMichael (BC Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Renee Badeau (BT)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Michael Deering, II Josh Howard Eric Lafayette (EEI – Energy Efficient Investments, Inc.)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, June 13, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., which was held in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Agenda item 6.2 HVAC Update will be taken out of order (after agenda item 6.3)

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Agenda as amended.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Granite Benches and Planters

Mr. Evans provided historical information regarding the pre-covid decision to install granite benches and planters utilizing safety grant funds. Mr. Evans reported that grant funds were used to purchase granite benches and planters for use as a barrier in the SHS cafeteria courtyard area. Due to community member concerns regarding where the granite came from and the type of granite used, a local granite shed agreed to construct ‘bigger and better’ benches and planters. The original benches and planters were removed, and the project has been ‘on hold’ for a while. Mr. Evans has been in contact with the granite shed representative and has been advised that the new benches and planters will be built and installed before the start of school in August. Next week, Mr. Evans will meet with one of the granite shed representatives to review the plans so that work can begin. The cement blocks currently serving as a barriers were purchased by the District and will be moved or stored.

6. Old Business

6.1 Five-Year Plan with Estimated Figures

Mr. Evans advised that there is no update on figures at this time.

6.2 HVAC Update

Eric Lafayette addressed the Board last week and does not have a lot to add at this time. It is EEI's goal to have ECM measures (line item, by school) prepared by the end of July, and to allow the Board to choose specific projects during August. Mr. Lafayette suggested that he meet with the Committee sometime later in July. Information would be provided to the Committee a few days prior to the meeting. Mr. Lafayette suggested meeting again with the Committee in early August, so that the Committee can further discuss the proposed projects and make a recommendation to the Board. Once projects are chosen, the design phase will begin in late September or early October. EEI will go out for quotes in late October, or early November. It is anticipated that quotes will be provided in late November or early December. Mr. Lafayette advised that Mike Davey will be heavily involved in the process and will most likely be giving all future presentations. In addition to HVAC and sprinkler systems, the review will include electrical systems, transformer replacement, building 'envelopes', and other energy measures. The current focus will be limited to the items listed in the RFP. Information provided in July will pertain to energy savings at all schools and will include; ventilation systems, controls, lighting, and electrical upgrades (all schools), dehumidification (SHS and BCEMS), and sprinkler system (SHS). Additional information that will most likely be presented at a later time includes; life safety, ADA compliance, and Code review. EEI also works to identify operational savings and will be available to provide assistance in that area sometime in the future. Mr. Evans queried regarding whether or not savings will cover the cost of upgrades at BCEMS and BTMES (if the SHS projects utilize all of the ESSER funds). Mr. Lafayette noted that installation of dehumidification and or cooling systems adds to energy costs. EEI will look for ways to offset those increased costs by identifying where savings can be achieved in; lighting, control systems, etc. In response to a query, Mr. Lafayette advised that EEI does not issue change orders unless the 'unknowns' are outside of the scope of the project. Change orders that fall within the scope of the projects are EEI's responsibility. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that the original RFP advertised by the District is on file at the Central Office, but does not contain specifics. In response to a query, Mr. Lafayette advised that building occupancy does not impact EEI's ability to perform energy audits. EEI has completed transformer audits while buildings were fully occupied. Utility bills will be collected and lighting usage is calculated based on formulas. Mr. Lafayette requested that a Committee meeting be scheduled for the last week in July (to review findings/proposed projects). Mr. Lafayette advised that multiple meetings, including possible site visits (within and outside of the District), might be necessary prior to presenting a recommendation to the Board.

6.3 Electric Bus Update

The buses are on site and both are up and running. The buses are in more of an experimental phase at this time and will be tested further in the fall and winter (hills and snowy conditions). Electric buses are in a pilot phase throughout the state. If at some time in the future the entire fleet is changed to electric buses, the buses will need to be stored/charged off-site. In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised that he will be in contact with other districts to obtain data/feedback on their experiences utilizing electric buses. Mr. Evans is scheduling a meeting with STA to review any electric bus issues and to plan for fall routes. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding the 'old' Barre Town buses and when they might be replaced. STA purchased the Barre Town buses as part of the contract. Mr. Evans advised that the contract does have a clause relating to the 'age' of buses and when they must be replaced.

7. Other Business

Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of projects and inspections planned for the summer of 2022.

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he met with Mr. Evans regarding the charge of the Committee. The Committee is a 'sounding board' for the Facilities Director and has been very beneficial. Mr. Cecchinelli believes that the Facilities/Transportation Committee is valuable and should remain as a standing committee.

8. Items For Future Agendas

- HVAC Update
- Bus Update – Electric and Diesel

9. Next Meeting Date

The Regular Meeting on July 11, 2022 is cancelled.

A Special Meeting will be held on July 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

A Special Meeting will be held on August 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

The Regular Meeting scheduled for August 8, 2022 is cancelled.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin