

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
July 25, 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:

Vacant Position

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Luke Aither, SHS Principal
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager
Brenda Waterhouse, BCEMS Principal

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mike Davey (EEI) Paul Malone Patrick Perreault (EEI)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, July 25, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held in the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

The Committee agreed to take Agenda Item 6.2 out of order.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – June 13, 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 June 13, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

None.

6. Old Business

6.1 HVAC Update

A document (from EEI) outlining proposed work at SHS was distributed. The document will be forwarded to Mrs. Gilbert for posting as an addendum. Mr. Davey advised that EEI's work has focused on SHS and that proposed work for other schools will be researched at a later date. Mr. Davey provided an overview of the document/projects, noting that ESSER funds must be spent by a defined deadline in 2024, and that there is currently a significant wait time for materials. Mr. Davey advised that work for the summer of 2023 would need to be finalized by the fall of 2022 in order for materials to be available. The proposed project involves upgrades to electrical service (approximately \$761,000), installation of new controls (for 2nd and 3rd floor classrooms) (approximately \$400,000), and adding dehumidification of the 3rd floor and part of the 2nd floor (approximately \$3,900,000). The document contains a 'map' of flooring sections and advises regarding where dehumidification is proposed (classrooms only, no hallways). Mr. Davey advised regarding the various components involved in each project. EEI focused mainly on upper floor classrooms (the hottest areas). Additionally, EEI proposes installation of fire suppression (sprinkler systems), which would be installed over a two year period. This phase would provide fire suppression for the remainder of the building that is not currently sprinkled. Mr. Davey advised that the total proposal, including the required Payment and Performance Bond, is approximately \$6, 338,000. The PPB insures that if EEI went out

of business during the course of the project, an insurance company would step in and insure that the projects were completed. Additional items for consideration include; a 20 year lighting lease (\$778,000), replacing the fire alarm system (\$1,055,000), and HVAC controls for the remainder of the building (\$850,000). The proposed fire alarm system is an addressable system, which identifies issues on a room by room basis. Mrs. Perreault confirmed that the District anticipates ESSER funds in the amount of \$6.5 to \$6.75 million dollars. In response to a query, Mrs. Perreault advised that the period of performance (deadline) for use of ESSER funds is currently 09/30/2024. Though there has been some discussion of extending the deadline, no extension has been granted at this time. In response to queries, Mr. Davey provided more detailed information regarding installation and equipment, and explained the difference between dehumidification and air conditioning. Mr. Davey advised that the goal is to provide comfortable classrooms during the school year, rather than providing air conditioning to cool the building during summer months. Mr. Davey noted that normally, it is optimal to replace windows, but given the low cost heating system in place, energy savings payback would take 300 years. In response to a query from Mr. Malone, Mr. Davey advised that it would cost approximately 30% more to air condition (rather than just perform dehumidification). Mr. Davey advised that given the number of mechanical pieces being added to the building, it is necessary to upgrade the electrical system (the current system is at the cusp of what it can accommodate). Mr. Reil noted that at last month's meeting, the Committee was advised that it would be presented with a complete packet, outlining all of the options (for all schools), including energy audit results, and he finds it problematic that only SHS work is included in the presentation. Mr. Reil believes it will be difficult for the Committee to make choices on how to spend the limited funds, when only some of the projects are being presented.

It will be a challenge for the Committee to meet on 08/01/22 and make an informed recommendation to the Board (given the limited information provided this evening). Mr. Davey agrees that there are missing pieces, advised that EEI did perform walk-throughs at each building, but given the limited timeframe, could not perform detailed analysis prior to this meeting. Discussions with Mr. Evans concluded that given the timeframe and based on need, it would be best for EEI to focus on SHS. Mr. Davey advised that the documentation does not include all work that could/should be done at SHS (the whole picture), but those numbers can be provided in the future. It was noted that ventilation systems for the technical center would be much different than systems utilized in regular classrooms. Ms. Ainsworth believes it would be beneficial to review of timeline of how/when the various steps would be worked on and completed. Mr. Davey advised that there is insufficient manpower in Vermont to allow for all of the work to be completed in two summers. Mr. Davey advised that EEI is looking for a consensus on which ESSER funded projects to move forward with. The next step is the design phase (this step takes approximately 2 months and designs need to be provided to the AOE). A possible timeframe would be Board approval in August, design phase completed in September, AOE approval by October or November, and the earliest timeframe for work to begin is November 2022. Mr. Davey noted that some of the work will need to be performed during the school year, which will require that sections of classrooms be temporarily relocated. In response to a query from Mr. Malone regarding funding for lighting upgrades, Mr. Davey advised that with lighting projects, there is usually a substantial rebate from Efficiency Vermont (to reduce the overall cost), and the balance is typically done with a lease payment. EEI calculates the energy savings, then structures the terms of the lease so that there is no budget impact. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding the impact of a four day power outage, including the impact to IT services if servers are without power. Mr. Aither believes a back-up power source will need to be used. The four day power outage will need to occur during the summer. In response to a query regarding the bid process, Mr. Evans advised that the project went out to bid; 2 contractors declined to bid, and EEI was the only entity that bid. It was confirmed that the lighting portion of the project is for the entire building, not just the areas receiving ventilation changes. It was confirmed that the proposed project will result in a higher MERV rating (MERV 13) and there will be fewer filters to replace. The current univentilators will remain in place and will be used for heating purposes only. It was noted that the gymnasiums are good candidates for new systems, but the cost is approximately \$800,000 per room. In response to a query from Mrs. Leclerc, Mr. Davey advised regarding other EEI customers, noted that this 'reference' information was included in the RFP, and contact information was provided. EEI does not recommend changes to CVCC electrical service at this time. It was noted that CVCC has its own electrical service (located in the automotive shop). The proposed projects are focusing on what needs to be done. Mr. Perreault advised that the project has been designed to accommodate future expansion of dehumidification to other sections of the building, (e.g., the auditorium, gym...). Mr. Perreault provided a brief overview of the proposed fire alarm system which includes a voice evacuation system, and replaces all existing heat, smoke, and CO2 detectors, as well as sprinkler system monitoring. The system is not proprietary, and is easier to maintain. In response to a query regarding the system's ability to detect loud noises (gun shots), Mr. Perreault advised he will need to perform additional research on that matter, noting that he does not know if Code allows that feature on fire alarm systems. Mr. Evans supports the project which will improve ventilation in most of the core classrooms in the building, and cautioned that given the limited timeframe in which ESSER funds need to be spent, it will be important to move forward as soon as reasonably possible. Mr. Malone queried regarding when the sprinkler waiver 'went away'. It was noted that the waiver did not go away, but the scope of the work is most likely what is triggering the installation of sprinklers throughout the remainder of the building. Mr. Reil reiterated his concern that the committee does not have a lot to review/consider in the next week because what is being presented is less than what was agreed to by EEI at the 07/25/22 meeting (nothing in the packet for BCEMS or BTMES). Mr. Reil advised that it is inappropriate if administrators gave EEI instructions that contradict what the Committee agreed to. Mr. Davey advised that he will compile a list by 08/01/22. Mr. Malone and Ms. Ainsworth requested that more detailed information (on the current proposals) be provided prior to the 08/01/22 meeting (to allow committee members time to review the data). Mrs. Perreault advised that given the limited resources, and timeframe, she believes the proposed upgrades to SHS are the most beneficial, and would like to see the projects moving forward, lest the District risk losing ESSER funds if projects are delayed for too long. Mr. Reil agrees that the projects proposed are the right ones to move forward with, but reiterated that a month ago, the District was told that it would receive a much bigger document (with projects for all buildings), and that he believes the Board needs to be looking down the road at the strategic Capital Plan, and he believes some of the items that were anticipated to be on the list, will be part of that planning. Mr. Reil thinks it would be beneficial

to see how future projects might be impacted by the current projects, and to plan for future projects including the impact to tax payers. Mr. Davey believes it will be a 6 to 8 month project to analyze the other two schools, and advised that he has been focusing on the immediate path of how to spend the ESSER funds. Mr. Aither advised that the cafeteria has been problematic, not from a temperature aspect, but because students need to remove masks in the cafeteria, and because of that, not enough students could use the cafeteria during lunch time. Mr. Aither is concerned that if there is another pandemic, the cafeteria requires better ventilation. Mr. Davey advised that the cafeteria has two issues; ventilation and temperature/humidity, and advised that the cost to remediate the cafeteria would be approximately \$600,000. To improve ventilation only would be approximately \$400,000. Mrs. Spaulding thanked EEI for attending the meeting, and voiced concern regarding increasing temperatures, and queried regarding the cost to install air conditioning (rather than just dehumidification). Mr. Davey will provide that information at a future meeting. This evening's documents, as well as future documents will be forwarded to the entire Board.

6.2 Bus Update – Electric and Diesel

The two electric buses are fully operational. STA is working to hire a contractor for installation of the underground charging station. STA hopes to have the installation completed prior to the start of school. In response to a query regarding bus routes for the upcoming year, Mr. Evans advised that he is not involved in setting up bus routes. Bus routes will be added to a future agenda

7. Other Business

Mrs. Poulin noted the number of individuals who did not have copies of the documents being discussed this evening and provided a reminder that all documents being discussed at meetings are to be included in Agenda packets or sent out as an addendum no later than two days prior to meetings. Additionally, it was noted that the standard protocol is for presentations to also be in electronic format and to be shared on screen during the meetings (to allow equal access for those attending remotely). Mr. Evans will forward this evening's documents to Mrs. Gilbert, who will post an addendum.

8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

As the next meeting is a Special Meeting for discussion of ESSER funded projects, no additional discussion was held.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, August 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference. The August 8, 2022 meeting is cancelled.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin