

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
October 11, 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 (Barre Town Board Rep)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Michael Davey (EEI) Josh Howard Ed Rousse Jan Trepanier

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, October 11, 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

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – September 12, 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 September 12, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 SHS Athletic Fields & Track / Auditorium Upgrades/Storm Water Mitigation

A picture of an aerial view of SHS, including athletic fields was distributed.

A document titled ‘SHS Auditorium Renovation Report’ (by Patricia L. Meriam – Revised 04/19/16) was distributed.

Mr. Evans provided an overview of the athletic fields’ conceptual drawing from 2010, noting that some of the fields are not regulation size. Mr. Evans advised that the track would be upgraded from gravel to rubber and needs to be expanded from 6 lanes to 8 lanes.

The plan also includes a footpath around the fields, and there has been discussion of installation of a concession stand and rest rooms.

New lighting on Pendo Field was funded by donations, in-kind services, and the District. There is currently no estimate for the total project. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that recent estimates at another district (Montpelier) were \$1.8 million for a new track and \$1.7 million for new turf. Mr. Evans noted that rubber tracks are faster and safer. Mr. Reil queried regarding preliminary discussions that would place storm water mitigation somewhere on the athletic fields. Brief discussion was held and it was noted that if the storm water mitigation was underneath the fields, it would not be problematic. Mr. Aither cautioned regarding flood plain regulations that put restrictions on work performed on Crimson Tide Way. Mr. Reil queried regarding whether these projects should be the catalyst for looking at the entirety of all BUUSD facilities/grounds, including the SEA building (a 10-year plan). Mr. Rousse advised that initial discussion of the project included use of artificial turf for a multi-use field for use for all sports (field hockey, lacrosse, and football) and would include permanent lines for those sports. Mr. Rousse advised that he is in attendance representing the Spaulding High School Foundation, which is a 501(c) (3) organization whose purpose is to raise funds for items outside of the school budget.

When or if the school decides to move forward on something of this nature and scope, that would give the Foundation the impetus to go out to their constituents to raise monies to off-set any local costs, bond costs, or school budget costs associated with such projects. Mr. Rousse is hoping that this discussion will result in a decision. There is much to be considered for these projects, including storm water mitigation requirements. Mr. Rousse noted that it has been many years since SHS has invested in improvements to athletic fields and the auditorium. Brief discussion was held regarding the complications/regulations involved in installing a bridge to the student parking lot. It was noted that the storm water mitigation feasibility study is currently on-going. Brief discussion was held regarding the new storm water mitigation regulations and the possible impact to renovations. Discussion began on auditorium renovations. Mr. Evans advised regarding the comprehensive study prepared by Patricia Meriam in 2016. Mr. Evans advised regarding a few small improvements that have been made to the auditorium (that was originally built in 1964). Mr. Evans noted that over the years, many renovations and much money has been spent to make upgrades throughout the building, but the auditorium and athletic fields have had basically nothing. It was noted that lighting in the auditorium was not included in the upcoming LED lighting upgrades. Mr. Hennessey will reach out to Patricia Meriam to see if she is willing to update her 2016 report. Mr. Rousse advised that if the school is committed to upgrading the auditorium, the SHS Foundation, with community members that are passionate about visual and performing arts, could start a capital campaign. Mr. Evans reiterated that the academic classroom areas have already been addressed extensively and it is time to start focusing on performing arts and athletics that have been financially neglected over the years. Mr. Rousse expressed his belief that performing arts and athletics are part of a well-rounded educational system. Mr. Rousse queried regarding what steps would be necessary to bring these projects to the Board and identify how to move forward. With regards to a 10-year plan for all schools and grounds, it was noted that the BTMES athletic fields were deeded over to the Town prior to the Act 46 merger (and would not be included in a 10-year plan). Mr. Hennessey reiterated that the District's facilities are in very good shape, much better shape than a lot of other districts who have much deferred maintenance. Mr. Reil believes community members would be comforted to see a 10-year plan. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that only the auditorium and athletic fields were warned for discussion and the Committee should return to limiting discussion to those topics. Mr. Hennessey agreed to reach out to Patricia Meriam within the next week (regarding an updated plan). If Ms. Meriam is not interested in undertaking a revision to the plan, she may have a suggestion as to who might be willing to perform that work. Regarding how to move forward with athletic facility upgrades, discussion was held regarding contacting a consultant to provide more updated plans and figures. Mr. Rousse advised that he would be willing to assist with identifying a consultant to provide assistance. Brief discussion was held regarding in-kind donations from local grass-roots organizations and businesses. In-kind donations should be considered when determining new estimates. It was agreed that the two projects should have separate compartmentalized estimates. Mr. Aither would like academics included in discussion of upgrades. It was suggested that a breakdown of 'wants' by school would be beneficial. Mr. Reil would like the full Board to weigh in on how to proceed. Brief discussion was held regarding availability of an 'inventory of 'elements of an effective school' that could be used to breakdown the various components to assist staff etc. with focusing on specific areas. Mr. Aither will look into finding an 'inventory of elements of an effective school' list.

5.2 Spaulding Educational Alternatives Program (SEA) Sidewalks

Mr. Evans has been in contact with the Barre City Engineer, who has advised that it is well known that sidewalks are needed in that area and that installation of sidewalks is in the Master Plan, though not in this year's plan. The City Engineer will be summarizing, in an email to Mr. Evans, the District's request for sidewalks and what is planned by the City.

5.3 Budget Priorities

No discussion.

6. Old Business

6.1 HVAC Project Update

A document titled 'Spaulding High School Ventilation Upgrade' (from EEI) was distributed.

This agenda item was taken out of order, immediately following agenda item 4.1.

Mr. Davey advised of the October milestones, which have been completed; design drawings prepared for AOE approval (electrical drawings, structural engineering drawings, mechanical drawings, and a complete sprinkler design). Mr. Davey displayed copies of the drawings and provided an overview of each. Final approval of the drawings is not needed today, but they do need to be sent on to the AOE. EEI went out for preliminary bids and created a schedule of values, which will also be sent on to the AOE. The project total is approximately \$7,400,000 Mr. Davey reported that Mrs. Perreault advised that the District was trying to get the project to come in at approximately \$7,000,000. Mr. Davey advised regarding two portions that were not originally part of the main intent of the project; the Cafeteria Unit (\$271,000) and the administrative wing (\$179,000). It was noted that the administrative wing already has cooling and ventilation and there is no immediate need to upgrade that area other than to see that it was updated and everything was of the same vintage. Mr. Davey advised that he does not believe it is possible to upgrade the cafeteria within the original budget. Mr. Davey advised that he believes it will take the AOE two weeks to grant approval and the earliest the projects could start would be Christmas break. Mr. Reil queried regarding cutting out other square footage to allow for upgrades to the cafeteria. Mr. Davey noted that one option would be to eliminate some (8) of the second floor classrooms. Mr. Cecchinelli suggested that one option might be to leave the plan as is, with the District funding the overage. Mr. Davey would need to perform additional analysis to confirm numbers. Mr. Evans voiced concern that though both areas are valuable, trading off classrooms for the cafeteria, which most likely is less heavily used, is a 'tricky' discussion. Mr. Aither advised that during the pandemic, loss of use of part of the cafeteria contributed to having to dismiss students early. Mr. Davey advised that he has enough information to move forward with the AOE, and that a final

decision will need to be made (by the full Board) prior to entering into a contract. **It was agreed that the Committee hold a short meeting on 10/25/22 and present the final findings to the Board on 10/27/22.** In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey advised that he does not believe the Finance Committee needs to be involved in these discussions. Mr. Aither advised that a preliminary spreadsheet for logistical reorganization (during construction) has been drafted. Each phase of the project displaces approximately 8 classrooms.

7. Other Business

Mr. Reil queried regarding transportation for SEA students, and whether the most cost efficient method is being utilized to transport students and if staff are pulled from educational duties to transport students.

8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

- Transportation Alternatives For SEA
- Procedures for Outside Contractors
- Building 'To' Do Visionary List - (do monthly, one school at a time)
- Updated Figures For Lighting Leases

Mr. Aither advised that busing for all SHS students was investigated and that there is not enough interest to make it feasible, but he believes something needs to be done to accommodate students who can't get to school reliably when the school does not provide busing. In response to a query regarding busing for out of district (tuition paying) students, Mr. Aither advised that the bus is no longer running because there were too few riders.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Meeting time and place (possibly video conference only) is to be announced at a later date.

The next regular meeting is Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin