

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

Via Video Conference – Google Meet
October 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)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Andrew McMichael (BC Community Member)
Vacant Position

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Paul Malone
Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Eric Lafayette (EEI)

1. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair, Mr. Reil, called the Tuesday, October 25, 2022 Special BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., which was held via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Current Business

4.1 SHS Ventilation Project

A document titled ‘Spaulding High School Schedule of Values 10-11-22’ was distributed.

A document titled ‘Spaulding High School Schedule of Values 10-25-22’ was displayed on screen during the meeting.

Mr. Evans advised that the Schedule of Values (including a breakdown of the components) was emailed this morning. Adding the cafeteria (\$271,000) and the administrative offices (\$179,000) brought the project total to approximately \$7,446,000. Mr. Evans provided an overview of discussion held at the 10/11/22 Facilities meeting regarding these additional items, that if included, will cause the project to be over the \$7,000,000 threshold for this project. The purpose of today’s discussion is to determine what should be removed from the proposal (if anything) and make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Evans recommends keeping the cafeteria renovations and eliminating the administrative offices portion, which will result in a total cost of approximately \$7,267,150. Mr. Reil advised that the previous discussion included additional research by EEI regarding other modifications that could be made to the proposal to lower the overall cost (including the possible elimination of renovations to some classrooms), as well as Mr. Reil’s questions/concerns related to why heating panels were added to the project (as these were not included in what was approved by the Board). Mr. Malone advised that a ‘menu’ was already prepared for the Board’s review, and the Board approved items 1A, 2A, 3A, 3F, and 4 (totaling \$6,695,625) and the performance bond of \$66,956, for a grand total of \$ 6,762,581. Mr. Malone is concerned that items not approved by the Board are included in the latest proposal. Mr. Malone is concerned that the proposal includes items outside of the scope of what was approved by the Board. Mr. Lafayette advised that the drawings are now 100% complete and they have reached out to subcontractors around the state. The numbers provided on the latest schedule are accurate. Mr. Lafayette advised regarding removal of the administrative offices area (\$179,000), and additional alternatives (removal of the cafeteria unit (\$271,000),

removal of the addition of installation of radiant heat (\$105,000 per year), and removal of ductwork, dehumidification, and heat for the 2nd floor science wing (\$376,000). Mr. Lafayette advised that keeping the unit ventilators would result in an additional \$10,000 per year for electricity. Mr. Lafayette will email the revised proposal to Mr. Evans so that it can be shared. Mrs. Perreault queried regarding equipment lead time, given the parameters of the grant. Mr. Lafayette advised that lead time for rooftop energy recovery units is approximately 30 weeks (equipment arriving by the end of summer 2023) and there is a lead time of approximately 1 year for electrical service equipment (work would occur in the summer of 2024). Mr. Lafayette is very confident that work can be completed by the end of summer 2024 (prior to the September 2024 grant requirement). Mr. Lafayette advised regarding the overall schedule for various phases of the project (the bulk of the work would be done by the end of 2023). Mr. Malone reiterated his concern that radiant heaters and the work in the administrative offices were never presented to the Board or approved by the Board. Mr. Evans advised that the original numbers presented to the Board were preliminary, and that the project evolved during planning. There is concern that continued use of unit ventilators is costly (electricity and filters). Mr. Reil polled the Committee and there was informal agreement that the administrative offices should be deducted from the project, but the cafeteria section should remain. Mr. Reil agrees with Mr. Malone's assertion that addition of heating panels was never discussed, presented, or approved by the Board. It was noted that the actual quotes are higher than the estimates, and that the cafeteria section was approved by the Board. Mr. Malone queried regarding where additional funding will come from (any amount in excess of the \$7,000,000 ESSER grant). Mr. Reil queried regarding the deadline for Board approval (to keep the project within the schedule outlined by EEI). Mr. Lafayette advised that the drop-dead deadline is 11/25/22, but that date would push out the start of the project. Mr. Boltin is concerned regarding the budget impact if additional monies (above the grant amount) are necessary. In response to a query from Ms. Ainsworth, Mr. Lafayette advised that the amounts listed are official (set) bids from subcontractors and are good for thirty days from when they were received by EEI. In response to a query, Mr. Lafayette advised regarding how the estimated energy costs were derived (\$10,000 annually if keeping unit ventilators). Mr. Evans advised that if the cafeteria unit was deducted, the project would be well within the \$7,000,000 grant amount. Mr. Evans went on record to advise that ESSER funds are to be used to make the building healthier and though he believes the cafeteria is important, if a reduction needs to be made, he would advocate for deducting the cafeteria portion and keeping all of the classrooms. In response to a query, it was noted that the radiant heating panels would utilize the existing heating system (woodchip boiler). In response to a query from Mrs. Spaulding, Mr. Lafayette confirmed that the numbers on the proposal are hard/fixed numbers and will not change. Additional discussion was held, including details related to replacement of unit ventilators, the Capital Projects Reserve Fund (currently has over \$800,000), reorganizing/reprioritizing other Capital projects, and a recap of the afternoon's discussion, including various options for reducing the overall project cost (to stay under \$7,000,000). Mr. Malone requested that prior to presenting a recommendation to the Board, there be confirmation that the numbers are solid and will not change. Mr. Reil polled the Committee and it was agreed that the recommendation currently being considered as favorable is to remove the administrative offices portion of the project and keep the cafeteria unit in the project, for a total budget of \$7,267,150. Mr. Evans advised that Capital Projects funds could be used, and funds to cover upcoming BCEMS roofing expenses would still be available. It was clarified that there will most likely be a need to review and prioritize other Capital projects. Mr. Lafayette advised that Board project approval must be obtained as soon as possible in order to meet project deadlines. Mr. Lafayette will provide an updated Schedule of Values.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mr. Cecchinelli, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board that they accept EEI's proposal as discussed on 10/25/22, for a total amount of \$7,267,150.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin