

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 14, 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 (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc Sonya Spaulding

GUESTS PRESENT:

Eric Lafayette (EEI)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, November 14, 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

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – October 11, 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 October 11, 2022 and October 25, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meetings.

4.2 Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2022 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting

Approved under Agenda Item 4.1.

5. New Business

5.1 Transportation Alternatives for SEA

Mr. Reil requested this agenda item based on his review of warrants that indicate a high need for transportation, and the associated costs. It was noted that much is paid for mileage for employees to transport students. The SEA Program currently has 2 vehicles and has requested a third. Mr. Reil would like to explore alternatives that may be more efficient. Student schedules do have an impact on how transportation is provided. Mr. Aither advised that the District should avoid as much as possible, staff members transporting students (liability issues). Mr. Aither cautioned that the more vehicles the SEA Program has, the more drivers that are needed. Mr. Reil is concerned that while staff members are providing transportation, if they are instructional or interventional type staff, they are not in the school performing their regular duties. Mr. Reil supports the need and the goal to transport students, but he believes it is worth holding discussion to determine if there are more efficient ways to provide transportation. Mr. Aither advised that if outside individuals perform transportation (e.g. Uber), those drivers would need to pass a background check. Mr. Evans advised that the vehicles are also used to transport students to outside activities during the day.

5.2 Procedures for Outside Contractors

Mr. Evans noted the importance of having written procedures, advised that he and Mrs. Perreault have been finalizing these procedures and that the procedures will be added to the web site in the near future. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding procedures for each of the schools regarding outside vendors accessing those buildings. Mr. Evans will find out where all of the other buildings' procedures are posted and will report back next month. It was noted that all procedures should be posted on the web site in one central location.

5.3 Building "To Do" Visionary List

Mr. Evans advised that he does not believe administrators have had time to create Visionary Lists. This item will be added to the Parking Lot. Mr. Aither advised that SHS administrators have started a list, but the list will be a fluid document that is updated as items are identified. It was suggested that the lists be 'shared' documents that are available for viewing on line.

5.4 Capital Project Reserves Fund/Asbestos Tile Discussion

A copy of a letter to Jamie Evans from KD Associates, Inc. (dated 11/02/22) was distributed.

Mr. Evans provided a brief overview, advising that EEI hired an outside contractor to perform various testing. In April 1987, test results indicated that there was 0% asbestos in the ceiling tiles at SHS. Recent testing indicates a 2.5% asbestos level in ceiling tiles. The building has been inventoried to identify all rooms with the older ceiling tiles that contain asbestos. Mr. Evans advised that there are funds available to cover the cost of remediation, but noted that choices will need to be made regarding what to move forward with. Mr. Lafayette addressed the Committee, advising that he was surprised by the test results, but noted that the plan did include replacing a lot of the ceiling tiles (so some of the cost is already figured into the project), but noted that demolition of the existing tiles (that contain asbestos) is more costly. The cost for abatement is approximately \$100,000 and is covered by the project contingency (approximately \$250,000). The areas of more concern are the areas where ceiling tile replacement was not planned for (e.g. sprinkler installation). One alternative would be to install sprinkler piping on the walls rather than on the ceilings. Mr. Lafayette and Mr. Evans have documented all of the areas that would require abatement and the total cost for all of the areas is approximately \$450,000 (excluding the stage area in the auditorium). Mr. Lafayette has a 'map' of the work that would need to be performed for 100% abatement. The lighting project will need to be modified if it is determined that abatement will not be performed.

Mr. Lafayette provided an overview of three options. In response to a query regarding availability of additional of ESSER funds, it was noted that Mrs. Perreault has reached out to the AOE and they have advised that there are no additional ESSER funds available. Mr. Evans advised that it would be more cost effective and efficient to complete all abatement at one time to assure that other future maintenance (installation of phone jacks, etc) can be performed quickly without the need for special permits and the abatement processes. Mr. Evans spoke with the company that performed the testing and they have provided a letter that can be sent out to the community advising that there are no safety concerns at this time, as long as the tiles are not disturbed (the same as the floor tiles). Mr. Evans is working with the Communications Department regarding distribution of the letter. Mr. Evans advised that there is approximately \$225,000 of ESSER funds (in-house) that could be used for this abatement project. Mr. Evans suggested that during the budget process, if the square foot allowance is increased from 75¢ to \$1.00, SHS would have \$175,000 - \$210,000 that could be put towards this project. Given the magnitude of the sprinkler and lighting/ventilation projects it is doubtful that other projects would be worked on during the next two years. Mr. Reil cautioned that discussion was held regarding use of Capital Improvement Funds for the lighting project, and use of those funds would require a review and prioritization of other projects (that would need to be postponed). Use of additional Capital Improvement funds for asbestos remediation will further impact/delay other projects. Mr. Reil requested a copy of the documentation that breaks down various components/costs. Mr. Evans advised that the stage area (in the auditorium) was purposefully left out of this project, as it is expected that the stage area will be part of a separate project. Mr. Evans will forward a copy of the documentation to Committee Members and Mrs. Poulin. In response to a query, Mr. Lafayette advised that he plans to mobilize on site shortly after Christmas, with abatement starting on January 2, 2023. It was confirmed that the additional \$450,000 in expenses it for abatement that is outside of the 'HVAC' area. In response to a query, Mr. Lafayette advised that he hasn't totally 'phased out' the plan for the sprinkler and lighting components. Mr. Lafayette advised that most of the quotes are based on performing work outside of the summer break timeframe. Brief discussion was held regarding the need to plan for abatement in areas of the school that are not part of the HVAC/Lighting projects. Mr. Cecchinelli queried regarding why asbestos abatement does not fall within the parameters of qualifying for additional ESSER funding. Mr. Evans has not been advised regarding the reasons, but noted that in earlier talks with the AOE, they advised that issues discovered during the project would be covered by ESSER funds. Next steps include; discussion by the Finance Committee, the Board, and additional discussion by the Facilities Committee.

6. Old Business

6.1 Updated Figures for Lighting Leases

A copy of a letter to Santander Bank, N.A. from Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Manitsky, P.C. (dated 10/31/22) was distributed.

A copy of a letter to Lisa Perreault from Efficiency Vermont (dated 10/28/22) was distributed.

Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of the documents. It was noted that the lighting project will 'pay for itself' in approximately ten years and afterward, the savings in electricity will be true savings. Mr. Evans advised he hopes to perform lighting upgrades at BCEMS and BTMES in the next few years. Lights removed from SHS can be saved for use in other buildings, until such time as they are converted to LED. Mr. Evans advised that given the recent age of the BCEMS building, that building might be a good candidate for retrofitting (of lighting).

7. Other Business

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he will be stepping down as Chair after this meeting, but he will continue to serve on the Committee. Mr. Cecchinelli believes that Vice Chair, Mr. Reil will fulfill the role of Chair. Mr. Cecchinelli was thanked for his years of service.

8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

- Update on 5-Year Plan
- Transition Discussion (10-Year Plan)
- EEI Update
- Asbestos Remediation Update
- SEA Transportation (with Jason Derner)

Parking Lot:

- Building Visionary Lists (Mr. Reil 11/14/22)

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, December 12, 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 Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin