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## BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
April 17, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding (BC) – Chair  
Paul Malone (BT) – Vice Chair  
Michelle Hebert  
Ben Moore (BC)  
Emily Reynolds (BT)

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Lyons, Jr.

#### OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli  
Nancy Leclerc  
Chris Parker  
Terry Reil

#### ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent  
Lisa Perreault, Business Manager

#### PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Erica Dolan                      Jan Trepanier                      Rachel Van Vliet

#### **1. Call to Order**

**The Chair, Mrs. Spaulding, called the Monday, April 17, 2023 BUUSD Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.**

#### **2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Add 5.1 Roofing Project

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Moore, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the agenda as amended.**

#### **3. Public Comment**

None.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Meeting Minutes From March 16, 2023**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Moore, the Committee unanimously voted to approve as amended, the Minutes of the March 16, 2023 BUUSD Finance Committee meeting.**

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1 Roofing Project**

Mrs. Perreault advised regarding activity of, and the balance of the Capital Improvements Fund, noting various projects that will be financed by the Fund. Mr. Malone queried regarding the voter approved amount for roofing (\$350,000), and the bid sheet that was recently shared (with various roofing options totaling \$700,000). Mr. Evans will be able to better address/describe the various options presented in the bid. Mrs. Perreault understands that the architects asked for bids for the various remaining roofing areas, so that the District can have a full understanding of work that will need to be done in the future. Mr. Malone reiterated his concern that it was originally thought that the work to be performed would cost approximately \$350,000 and the bid is for \$700,000. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he understands the belief is that the District should consider performing as much of the roof work as possible before

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prices increase. The bid includes 'additional' roof sections, the \$700,000 bid does not reflect an increase in what was originally being planned for work (in summer 2024). Brief discussion was held regarding expected expenses for storm water run-off mitigation. Mr. Reil queried regarding why the additional roof sections have not been discussed from a financial or facilities perspective. Mrs. Leclerc voiced concern that the additional roof sections are not included in the 5-Year Plan.

## 6. Old Business

### 6.1 FY24 Proposed Budget Communication

Four documents were distributed;

BUUSD Proposed FY24 Budget Summary – 03/30/23)

BUUSD Proposed FY24 Expenses/Revenues – 04/11/23

BUUSD Budget 2023-24 – Proposed & Estimated 03/20/23 Comparative Tax Rate Calculations Using \$700,000 Toward Revenue'

Three Prior Years Comparisons – Format as Provided by AOE (Preliminary/Estimates Only) was distributed.

Mrs. Perreault advised that the BUUSD web site has been updated to include the most recent information. In response to a query, Mrs. Perreault advised that an error in the estimated tax calculation sheet has been corrected. Mr. Hennessey advised regarding promotion of the budget, including various social media platforms. There will not be any mailings for the budget revote. There may be a promotional ad in the Times Argus. Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding using The World for additional promotion. It will be important to inform Barre City voters regarding the new voting venue (Labor Hall rather than the Municipal Auditorium). Ms. Hebert advised that Barre City has plans for how to advise voters of the different voting location. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that for this re-vote, Barre City will be hand counting ballots.

### 6.2 FY23 Budget Projections

A document titled 'BUUSD – FY23 Expense/Revenue Year-end Projections Summary Report (Updated 04/17/23)' was distributed. Mrs. Perreault advised that the current projection is a surplus of approximately \$535,000. Mrs. Perreault advised that revenue is pretty much on target, and she feels confident with the projection. Mrs. Perreault answered questions from Committee and Board Members, including queries pertaining to; encumbrance amounts, special education line items, the special education census based block grant, the increase in students who qualify for sped (and changing student needs), changes to the special education funding formula (which does allow for more flexibility), middle school programming at SEA, the Drivers' Education Program (for FY23 and FY24), and Assistant Coach positions (for FY23 and FY24).

### 6.3 Solar Credits

A document titled 'BUUSD Net Metering Credits and Savings 2018 – 2022' was distributed.

Summaries of electric bills and solar credits for Central Office, BCEMS, BTMES, and SHS were distributed.

Mrs. Perreault provided an overview of the information included in the documents and advised that savings are approximately 10% to 15% of electrical costs. Brief discussion was held regarding issues with the BTMES solar system which has had significant maintenance issues and equipment failures, resulting in the District not receiving the proper credits. All solar contracts are audited. There is a reconciliation that is received around 'this time of the year' and the District gets reimbursed. The audit runs on a calendar year, not the District's fiscal year. Mrs. Perreault provided additional information regarding solar credits, fees paid to the solar management firm, loss of efficiency (of equipment - over the years), removal of equipment at the end of the contract, the stacked contract (between BTMES and the Town of Barre), contract length (20 years), budgeting for solar management fees and electrical costs, Central Office solar management fees (in SHS budget), budget-to-actual for electric bills, encumbrances for BCEMS solar management fees (Mrs. Perreault will look into this), possible benefits to 'booking' solar credits, a query regarding the availability of a projection of what the BTMES refund will be, and annual savings (approximately 15%),

## 7. Other Business

None.

## 8. Items for Future Agendas

### May Meeting:

Parking Lot Item C – Budget Cycle Reflection

Parking Lot Item H - ESSER Update

Parking Lot Item D – Marketing to Out of District Students (Sending Districts)

### June Meeting:

Parking Lot Item I - CVCCSD Lease Negotiation

### Delete From Parking Lot:

Parking Lot Item E – ACT 173 (full Board presentation in May)

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## **9. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

## **10. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Moore, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea Poulin*