

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Spaulding High School – ROTC Room #4 and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
June 5, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II, Chair – (BC)
Mary Jane Ainsworth (BT Community Member)
Terry Reil, - (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Andrew McMichael (BC Community Member)
Ben Moore, Vice Chair - (BC)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Paul Malone
Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Luke Aither, SHS Co-Principal
Derek Cipriano – Athletic Director
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Christopher Rivet – Dubois & King

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, June 5, 2023 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Special Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at Spaulding High School – ROTC Room #4 and via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Agenda Item 5.2 will be taken out of order.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – May 1, 2023 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 May 1, 2023 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Storm Water Mitigation (BCEMS & BTMES)

Mr. Evans advised that he reached out to Watershed (storm water mitigation designers), and they advised that final permits have been applied for and are currently in the two week public comment period. Once that timeframe has ended, the permits will be in hand and construction documents can be finalized and projects can go out to bid. The District has been paying the permit fees.

5.2 Updated Presentation from Dubois & King for SHS Storm Water Project

A document titled SHS Storm Water Treatment Design for 3-Acre Permit (60% Design Drawings – May 2023), was distributed. Christopher Rivet, from Dubois & King addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the 60% Design Drawings. The drawings were displayed on screen during the presentation. Mr. Rivet advised of changes to the plans that were made based on discussion at the last meeting. It was noted that Dubois & King have not performed test pits/beds on the parking lot area. Changes requested at the last meeting, lessen the amount of impervious surface, and will reduce the cost of the permit. Brief discussion was held regarding fencing requirements (none are required for storm water mitigation), but may be wanted to reduce unwanted access to athletic fields. Additional discussion was held regarding funding, and it was noted that Greenprint (fund manager) is continuing to work on the roll-out of financing requirements (a funding match may be required). The 60% ‘opinion of cost’ (including a 15% contingency and engineering services) is approximately \$290,000. It is anticipated that financing requirements will be available in late summer or early fall. Mr. Rivet will be contacting Greenprint regarding a possible extension to the submission deadline. After

permits are issued, the District will have 5 years to complete construction. Mr. Evans will also contact Greenprint regarding the District's interest in receiving grant funding for the storm water mitigation projects.

5.3 Athletic Ball Field Discussion with Athletic Director (Derek Cipriano)

Mr. Evans provided historical information regarding the 2011 study regarding upgrades to the SHS athletic fields, noting that the ball fields were built in the 60's and are desperately in need of an update, including installation of artificial turf for the football field and a rubberized track. Mr. Cipriano provided an overview of current issues with Pendo Field, including possible liability factors associated with the poor condition of the fields. Currently some teams (field hockey and soccer) have to practice off-site due to constraints. Mr. Cipriano also advised that measures should be taken to minimize field access for vehicles (prevent vandalism), but allow easy egress for teams and spectators (utilize guard rails in place of fencing). Lengthy discussion was held regarding how to finance the necessary upgrades, and the possibility of performing the work in phases. Mr. Reil believes some discussion should be held pertaining to possible consolidation of schools/sports. Mr. Aither advised of frustration relating to transporting students off-site for practices and games, as well as confusion to spectators who arrive at SHS for home games and have to be directed to another campus (where games are being held). Mr. Aither advised that the SHS Foundation recently approached the Barre City Council, requesting some of the City's ARPA funds for a study. The Town of Barre will also be asked to contribute ARPA funds to assist with the study. Concern was raised that this project wasn't put before the Board prior to the request for ARPA funds. It was clarified that the request for ARPA funds was a request from the SHS Foundation (not the Board or the District), and that the funds would be used to hire an engineer to create construction plans (including costs) that would then be presented to the Board. Mr. Evans provided some historical information regarding the engineering work that was performed (conceptual drawings) in 2011, noting that construction documents were not created at that time. It is estimated that construction ready documents (with estimates) will cost between \$28,000 - \$40,000. Mr. Aither stressed that the SHS Foundation is a separate entity, not part of the BUUSD, and that the funds requested by the Foundation are for a study so that accurate numbers can be presented to the Board. Mr. Reil suggested that it would be beneficial to review the 2011 'plans' as a place to start. Ms. Ainsworth believes that the request for ARPA funds, does involve 'asking' community members to contribute towards creation of plans, and that plans are necessary for the Board to make any decisions. Mr. Malone noted the lack of progress since 2011 and believes that if the SHS Foundation cannot raise enough money (Capital Campaign), the District will not be able to fund the project without going for a bond. Mr. Aither advised regarding current SHS Foundation funded work at SHS (that occurs outside of the normal budget process). It was noted that Mr. Rouse did present SHS Foundation information to the Board in October 2022.

5.4 Committee Charge, Mission, and Purpose

Mr. Cecchinelli advised that this item was put on the agenda for a quick discussion about the Committee's purpose and to possibly develop a mission statement. Mr. Cecchinelli would then present the Committee's work (definition of mission statement, charge, or purpose) to the Board. Mr. Evans advised that he sees the Committee as an arena to discuss the bigger projects of the District, which are then presented to the Board. Mr. Reil advised that he has reviewed a number of similar documents from other high schools and colleges, and advised regarding some of what he has found in his research.

6. Old Business

6.1 EEI Updates

Mr. Evans advised that Phase 2 is close to wrapping up. Furniture is being returned to math classrooms. Weekly construction meetings continue to be held.

6.2 Granite Structures at SHS

Mr. Evans advised Mr. Girardi that the installation areas are being cleared, and will be ready for structure installation in the near future. Some concrete slabs will need to be poured. Mr. Evans is confident that the structures will be installed prior to the start of the 2023/2024 school year.

6.3 Building Visionary Lists

Mr. Evans advised that this is a work in progress and he will compile a list once he receives more information from custodial staff. Mr. Reil advised that the idea was a to-do list (small to big) as well as visionary items. Ms. Ainsworth requested that a list of some of the summer work be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Evans advised that summer work is normally shared with the Committee and he can share that information at the July meeting.

7. Other Business

Mr. Reil voiced concern that the meeting was warned as a Special meeting, though that had not been discussed with the entire Committee. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that he believes it was changed to a Special meeting because of the change in venue (location within the building), and the information had not been put out earlier.

In response to a query, Mr. Evans advised regarding paving going on at the SEA property, which addresses a safety concern and provides additional outdoor space for activities. A small area of paving is also being performed to address snow/water issues.

Electrical work is being performed to the barn to allow it to be utilized as a learning space. Work is being performed utilizing funds in the FY23 budget. Mr. Evans advised that the barn area will also require a sprinkler/fire alarm system as well as additional lighting and signage. Until life-safety equipment is installed, students are only allowed in the barn building for a very limited amount of time. Mr. Evans lauded maintenance technician/custodian Keith, for the stellar work he performs maintaining the building, grounds and equipment at SEA.

Mrs. Leclerc requested to speak. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that this agenda item is only for committee member input. Mr. Reil called point of order, advising that exclusion of public input for this, or any agenda item, is a violation of Robert's Rules/Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Reil queried regarding when the transportation contract is up for renewal and advised he would like to have STA representatives at a future meeting to provide information regarding transportation. Mr. Evans will contact the Business Manager (Mrs. Perreault) regarding this matter.

Mr. Reil requested that 'maintenance leads' attend future meetings to provide overviews of their buildings. Mr. Evans lauded BCEMS Maintenance Technician John Walker for consistently going above and beyond, especially during COVID, when he was the lone maintenance individual at BCEMS.

8. Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

- Update on Barre City and Barre Town ARPA Fund Requests

9. Next Meeting Date

The July 3, 2023 meeting is cancelled.

The next meeting is Monday, July 31, 2023 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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin