

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 6, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vacant Position - (BC)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Paul Malone

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

Sarah Helman

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, November 6, 2023 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

Add 6.1 Update on Storm Water Cost Estimate
Add 6.2 Update on 5-Year Capital Plan
Add 5.3 Update on AOE Building Assessment Reports

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Agenda as amended.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – October 2, 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 October 2, 2023 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Transportation Discussion

Mr. Hennessey advised that he and administrators will be meeting with Stacy Emerson (STA) and will be putting together an audit of transportation needs (including; ridership, Suburban use, use of personal vehicles and use of outside services for outplacement). The purpose is to get a handle on the transportation needs of the District and identify efficiencies. Discussion will also include the current structure of using one Transportation Coordinator for both BCEMS and BTMES, which is showing to be much more work than anticipated. Ms. Emerson and principals will present at the January 24, 2024 meeting. Additional discussion included; current use of Suburbans, transportation for SEA students (transportation requirements vs transportation the District would like to provide), the impact transportation has on attendance for SEA students, transportation regulations (legal and insurance related), confirmation that routing efficiencies will be studied, budgeting for FY25 (transportation has been over budget the past 2 years), a query regarding a written plan for planned research, and confirmation that there are no documents for presentation this evening (relating to transportation and air conditioning). Discussion this evening is informational only; to provide an update on planned work.

5.2 BCEMS and BTMES Air Conditioning

Mr. Evans advised this agenda item is in response to queries regarding air conditioning for BCEMS and BTMES, as the District is currently installing AC in a portion of SHS. It was clarified that AC at SHS is actually installation of dehumidification units (smaller scale than traditional AC). Addition of air conditioning for BCEMS and BTMES is a 'big ask', and is something to be discussed further down the road. There are no current plans (at least for the current fiscal year), to seriously discuss and research AC at the elementary/middle schools. Mr. Evans noted that healthy discussion will need to be held prior to considering budgetary considerations (nothing will be done in the FY25 budget). It was confirmed that the majority of BTMES is currently air conditioned (exceptions being; cafeteria, gymnasium, and multi-purpose rooms). BCEMS has never had air conditioning. It was reiterated that this is a very early point of discussion and this item should be added to the Parking Lot for future discussion. AC for BCEMS and BTMES is not currently in the 5-Year Plan and most likely won't be until healthy discussion has been held. Ms. Ainsworth suggested that a plan be created to map out what needs to be done to perform an analysis of this item. Mr. Evans recommends finishing the project at SHS and then 'see' what was learned from that project. Work being performed at SHS is classified as dehumidification, which is the same as air conditioning, but on a smaller scale. BCEMS does have a centralized duct work system, which might be conducive to installation of air conditioning. Mr. Malone noted that the work at SHS was ESSER funded, and if AC work is performed at other schools, it might have to be performed over multiple years (for budgetary considerations). Mr. Reil believes it's important to note that though someone from BTMES attended a meeting and expressed concerns over AC, BTMES does have air conditioning and it was in the process of being upgraded and improved (it didn't fail). It was suggested that a feasibility study be performed (over the entire District). Additional discussion included maintenance and replacement of rooftop units at BTMES, and acknowledgement that monies are usually budgeted for routine maintenance and replacement of AC units at BTMES.

5.3 Update on AOE Building Assessment Reports

Mr. Evans advised that the District received four Building Assessment Reports (one for each school and Central Office). Those performing the audit spent approximately one week at each building and everything was reviewed. The reports are quite extensive. Mr. Evans attended a webinar that assists with explaining/understanding the reports. Individuals from AOE were also present at the webinar. Mr. Evans advised that a cursory review of the reports does not raise any red flags or identify any immediate needs. Mr. Evans advised that most areas were ranked as good or fair. Fair is defined as operating at today's standards and in good shape. Life expectancy is also part of the report. The SEA building was not audited due to its relatively new age. Mr. Malone requested a copy of the reports (for his examination). It is not known if construction costs are included in the report. Administrators will be taking a more in-depth look at the reports and they will be shared with the entire Board.

6. Old Business

6.1 Update on Storm Water Cost Estimate

Mr. Evans reported that the report was shared by the vendor shortly after the last meeting, and Mr. Evans forwarded the information on to Committee Members. Mr. Evans will resend the documentation. Mr. Evans advised that permits are in hand for BCEMS and BTMES, and the SHS permit application is currently under review. Given the status of the permits, the District is allowed to apply for Phase 2 construction funding. All funding applications have been submitted and results are expected in mid-December. It is currently believed that funding will be provided at 90%, with the District responsible for 10% of costs. If additional information becomes available, it will be shared at the next meeting. Mr. Cecchinelli advised that while driving through Boynton Street, he noticed that it appears that one of the daylight pipes (for water), has been knocked out. Mr. Cecchinelli advised Mr. Evans of the pipe location so that he may investigate.

6.2 Update on 5-Year Capital Plan

Mr. Evans reported that he and the Business Office have been updating the Plan and it is now much more robust. Prior year expenses have been added to the Plan. Mr. Evans would like to incorporate the Assessment Reports into the Plan (after reports have been thoroughly reviewed). Mr. Evans would prefer to enter additional information prior to posting the Plan on-line. Mr. Hennessey noted that it has been helpful for Mr. Malone and Mrs. Spaulding to provide input as part of the budget process. Mr. Evans advised that the 5-Year Plan is always a work in progress and items change based on various circumstances and variables.

Mr. Evans will share with Committee Members (via email), the Facilities Directors Report and the Opinion of Probable Costs for the SHS Storm Water Remediation Project.

7. Items for Future Agendas

- Facilities Director Report
- 5-Year Capital Plan Draft
- AOE Building Assessments (TBD)
- EEI Update
- Updates on Storm Water Mitigation Projects (Including Funding)

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference. The January 1, 2024 meeting is cancelled.

The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Ms. Ainsworth, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin