



**Spaulding High School
Central Vermont Career Center
Barre City Elementary and Middle School
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School**

Chris Hennessey, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

A rock solid education for a lifetime of discovery

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **Barre Unified Union School District Special Facilities and Transportation Committee**
Giuliano Cecchinelli II - Chair, Terry Reil - V. Chair, Sarah Pregent, Andy McMichael, Mary Jane Ainsworth

DATE: January 3, 2024

RE: Barre Unified Union School District Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting
January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
In-Person: Spaulding High School Library, 155 Ayers St., Barre
Remote: Meeting ID: meet.google.com/yva-xigt-dmj
Phone Number: (US)+1 240-292-8164 PIN: 644 880 341#

Please Note: If you attend the meeting remotely you must state your name for the record to satisfy the Open Meeting Law

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Additions/Changes to Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 4.1. Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting December 4, 2023
5. New Business
 - 5.1. Facilities Director Report
 - 5.2. Review Central Office Building Assessment Reports
 - 5.3. BUUSD Transportation Discussion
6. Old Business
7. Items for Future Agenda
8. Next Meeting Date: February 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm, SHS Library and via Google Meet.
9. Adjournment

Parking Lot of Future Items

- A. EEI Update Including Financial Aspect [February 2024]
- B. Presentations by Building Maintenance Leads [Added: Mr. Reil - July 2023] [Feb-April 2024]
- C. Athletic Facilities Consultant - Information Gathering [Added: Mr. Reil - April 2023]
- D. Storm Water Run-Off Mitigation Update (ongoing) [Added: Feb 2023]
- E. Building Visionary Lists - known needs or "to do's" at each building - From Maintenance Leads
Next 6 Month Schedule of anticipated/planned work in each building.(ongoing) [Reil 11/14/22]
[Feb-April 2024]
- F. Crisis Response Plan [Added by Committee Aug. 2023]

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETING NORMS

- Keep the best interest of the school and children in mind, while balancing the needs of the taxpayers
- Make decisions based on clear information
- Honor the board's decisions
- Keep meetings short and on time
- Stick to the agenda
- Keep remarks short and to the point
- Everyone gets a chance to talk before people take a second turn
- Respect others and their ideas

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BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet December 4, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Giuliano Cecchinelli, II, Chair – (BC)
Terry Reil, Vice Chair- (BT)
Andrew McMichael (BC Community Member) – arrived at 6:02 p.m.
Sarah Pregent (BC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary Jane Ainsworth (BT Community Member)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leclerc
Paul Malone

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Jamie Evans, Facilities Director

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Cecchinelli, called the Monday, December 4, 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. Organize (Appoint a Vice Chair)

Mrs. Pregent nominated Mr. Reil for the position of Vice Chair. Mr. Reil seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Reil to the position of Vice Chair of the Facilities and Transportation Committee. Mr. McMichael was not present for the vote.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2023 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Reil, seconded by Mrs. Pregent, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2023 BUUSD Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. McMichael was not present for the vote.

6. New Business

6.1 Facilities Director Report

Mr. Evans advised regarding State required radon testing (no issues at SHS. BCEMS and BTMES will be tested over the December break. SEA is not scheduled yet), PCB testing (scheduled for July through September of 2024), a query regarding State funding for PCB remediation (Mr. Hennessey advised that this has not been determined yet), building assessments (information is included in the packet and it was noted that there are some discrepancies in the report), the 5-Year Capital Plan Draft (also included in the packet and is a 'living' document that is expected to change), queries regarding spreading projects out over multiple years, storm water mitigation at SHS (project scope and funding – 80% to 90% grant funding), the FY25 maintenance budget (\$1.00 SF is necessary due to required projects, though Mr. Evans supports a lower amount for the SEA Building based on its age), the BCEMS roof (currently in the last phase of replacement which is estimated to cost approximately \$405,000), and playground equipment replacement (equipment is not ADA compliant – a total of \$200,000 is in the draft budget to cover both BCEMS and BTMES).

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6.2 5-Year Capital Plan Draft

A document titled BUUSD Five-year Capital Improvement Budget – DRAFT – FY 2022 – 2023 through FY 2028 – 2029, was distributed.

Discussion included, but was not limited to; any plans to expand the report to include funding sources etc. (Mr. Evans advised that additional information is available and will be added in the future), the value of the ability to budget and forecast utilizing the Plan, an older version of the Plan is on the District's web site, appreciation for the historical context included in the Plan, a query regarding whether the report will indicate which projects will be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund (vs. the regular construction line item), the need to continue to fund the Capital Improvement Fund, possible funding of some projects by the Spaulding Foundation (indicated on the Plan by "***"), prioritization of 'to be determined' items, the importance of having Capital Improvement Funds to cover emergencies and unfunded State mandates and to make sure that monies are budgeted for this fund, and the balance of the Capital Improvement fund (some funds were reserved and utilized).

6.3 Building Assessment Reports

A document titled 'Facility Condition Assessment' was distributed.

Mr. Hennessey advised that there are some concerns regarding accuracy of some of the numbers in the Reports and that the purpose of the Reports was to advise the State regarding conditions of schools throughout the state. Mr. Evans noted that many school buildings' (throughout the state) had ventilation systems that were found to be insufficient during COVID. It was noted that State Construction Aid was utilized to fund the woodchip boiler at SHS. Discussion included; a suggestion that the Committee discuss one building per meeting, the need to know how to read the Assessment Reports, the unknowns associated with PCB testing (including funding for remediation), acknowledgement that the State's acceptable PCB level is lower than the Federal level, acknowledgement that three of the schools have no immediate need findings, a suggestion that BTMES (which has immediate need findings) be reviewed by the Committee after the Central Office Report discussion, acknowledgement that the District does not need to reply to the AOE regarding any findings, and the belief that safety related findings be prioritized.

7. Old Business

7.1 EEI Update

Mr. Evans lauded EEI for their work, noting that the LED lighting project needs to be completed by the end of December and he has no concerns regarding meeting that deadline. Going forward, work will involve the sprinkler system, ventilation, and electrical upgrades (which can't be completed until the summer of 2025 (due to material shortages), and staff appreciation for the dimmer capability of the new lights.

7.2 Update on Storm Water Mitigation Projects

Mr. Evans advised that 2 of the 3 permits are in hand. He anticipates the third will be approved in the near future. The application for funding through GreenPrint Partners has been submitted and Mr. Evans believes an answer will be received in December. Concern was voiced regarding the upcharge for the SHS project, noting that a number of items have been added. Mr. Evans advised that the SHS plans were ever-evolving to allow them to be practical and meet State standards. It was noted that the removal of Crimson Tide Drive, as part of this project, is very beneficial as it was originally slated for removal when athletic fields were updated. It is anticipated that most of this project will be grant funded (approximately 90%).

8. Items for Future Agendas

- Facilities Director's Report (add as a standing agenda item)
- Review Central Office Building Assessment Report
- Parking Lot Items C through F
- Parking Lot Items A and H (February through April Meetings)
- EEI Update Including Financial Aspect (February Meeting)

Discussion was held regarding making a recommendation to the Finance Committee (related to the BCEMS roof project) as discussed under Agenda Item 6.1 (Facilities Director Report).

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Committee unanimously voted that the Facilities Committee make a recommendation to the Finance Committee that the BCEMS Roof Project be added to the FY25 Budget with funding provided from the Capital Improvement Fund.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

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10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin



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January 2, 2024

Dear BUUSD Facilities Committee,

Stacy Emerson, General Manager of the Vermont office of Student Transportation of America, will be joining us at the January 8 Facilities/Transportation meeting to answer questions with me and provide information on the transportation systems and needs of the BUUSD. For context, our administrative team has compiled some helpful information that I have shared with you below.

The first two charts simply show bus ridership for both BTMES and BCEMS. Following that, we have two sections that address our transportation needs for Special Education students and students who qualify for McKinney-Vento benefits in the district. Finally, we have a thorough report and summary of transportation needs for the SEA program.

We hope this information is helpful, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Chris

Fall/Winter 23-24 Bus Ridership

BTMES			BCEMS		
Bus# & Driver	# of Students who ride		Bus # & DRIVER	# of Students Assigned	# of Students who ride
Armand BUS#1	62		KRISTIN BC # 1	48	44
Jen BUS#2	58		JEN #2	34	32
Craig BUS#3	70		CRAIG #3	44	35
Shannon BUS#4	50		SHANNON #4	46	43
Al BUS#5	33		AL #5	29	28
Heidi BUS#6	73		HEIDI #6	79	77
Missy BUS#8	Bus is at full cap 35		MISSY BC #7	BUS IS FULL	BUS IS FULL
Mariah BUS#9	60		Armand (BC) #8	56	50
Jessa BUS#10	54		MARIAH #9	28	28
Katie BUS#11	67		JESSA #10	54	54
Sherye BUS#12	61		KATIE #11	51	47
Dave BUS#14	59		SHERYE #12	38	37
Rob BUS#15	58		DAVE #14	44	39
Subs			ROB #15	53	46
Merrick					

December 2023 SHS/Special Education Suburban Usage

Suburban #	Frequency	Times	Route	Driver
#14	Daily	7:30-9:00 AM	Maple Hill Drop Off	Joe
#14	Daily	1:45-3:15 PM	Maple Hill Pick Up	Joe
#14	Daily	9:30-10:45 AM	SEA	SEA
#14	Mon,Tu,Fri	12-1:00 PM	CHOICE Pick up	Joe
#15	Daily	7-9:30 AM	Bellcate Drop Off	David
#15	Daily	1:45-4:00 PM	Bellcate Pick Up	David
#15	Daily	9:30AM -1:30PM	Life Skills Outings	Linda S
#16	Daily	8:30-9:30 AM	Life Skills Outings	Brandy L
#16	Daily	1:30 – 2:45 PM	SEA	SEA
#16	As needed	Varies	Work Based Learning	Varies
#16	As Needed	Varies	SHS Athletics	Varies

McKinney-Vento Transportation as of December 2023

- 6 Students are currently being transported by contracts with taxi companies, and we are currently still working to find transportation for 5 students that cannot be addressed by either STA or taxi services. It's important to know that these numbers can fluctuate by the week.

December 2023 SEA Transportation Review

The SEA program serves 27 of its 55 high school students with daily transportation. 19 students receive roundtrip transportation services, 6 are dropped off only, and 2 are picked up only. SEA uses school vehicles for many other purposes including employability support, community connections, travel to and from SHS, and field trips. On Wednesdays, our program features experiential learning which brings students out into the community for learning activities.

Our new split schedule allocates our SEA vehicles better by spreading transportation runs over a wider range of times. Note: Middle School student transportation to and from school is provided through BUUSD's contract with STA. Currently 3 of 7 middle school students access this service.

Vehicles:

The SEA program currently has 2 dedicated vehicles that seat a maximum of 5 and 6 students. Most days we run down to SHS and borrow a Suburban, which gives us a maximum capacity of transporting 15-18 students in school vehicles at one time. SHS suburbans need to be returned for afternoon activities at the high school; note that on a weekly basis we usually have to reconfigure our transportation plans at least once when a suburban is not available to us mid-day. Note: The Suburbans are in use at SHS at the beginning and end of each day so they are only available for our mid-day runs and activities.

Rationale for Transportation Services:

Past experience has demonstrated that many students and families struggle with transportation. When the ACT program began offering transportation many years ago, it saw a dramatic increase in student attendance. While only a few families report that they do not have reliable and/or safe access to their own vehicle, many are not able to work their employment schedules around the hours of our school day.

While 4 SEA students do walk to school, only 6 SEA students live within 1 mile of our building. While 9 additional students live within a 1.5 mile radius, adding 45-60 minutes of walking to their school day would serve as an additional barrier to getting them to attend school.

Schedule:

With our split schedule we run:

*AM Pickup A - 7:45-8:30 - 2 vehicles (often with a 2nd run)

*SHS Support - 8:30-9:40 - 1 vehicle, Support staff to SHS and return with 4 students

*AM Pickup B - 9:30-10:20 - 2-3 vehicles

*Dropoff A - 12:00-12:45 - 3 vehicles

*Dropoff B - 2:00-2:45 - 2-3 vehicles

When our 2 vehicles are in use for pick-up and drop off they are not available for other program needs.

The Challenges of Walking:

For many SEA students—and their families— walking around Barre raises issues of anxiety and concerns around safety. Many SEA students experience high levels of anxiety, some of which is related to their disability. For others their anxiety is trauma-related. A warm, friendly ride provided by a SEA staff member eases students into their day and encourages their attendance.

Observation reveals that many of the students we transport do not have access to raincoats, winter coats, and/or warm, waterproof footwear. As much as we try to promote being outdoors and being active, being wet and/or cold is a very real disincentive for the majority of our students.

Food, job, and housing security are issues for many SEA families, and our transportation services provide an essential continuum of support for these families as they work to meet their basic needs. Currently 10% of SEA students meet the criteria for homelessness. Several parents have also voiced concern over the safety of their students walking through downtown Barre.

Additional challenges to students walking to the SEA are the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks on Allen and Prospect Streets. These steep and narrow streets present safety hazards to pedestrians.

Summary:

The SEA's pick-up and drop-off transportation runs are critical to supporting our students' attendance. An additional vehicle and driver would ease the strain on transportation scheduling and our employees who are frequently asked to use personal vehicles and personal insurance liability to support essential SEA offerings. They would also expand the SEA program's capacity to support community-based learning opportunities.