

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).

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.

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