



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District
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Minutes
January 6, 2003

Present: S. Heinrich, W. Morrison, C. Morrison, School Board Liaison P. McGrath

Excused: T. Koenig, K. Powell

Guests: Architect P. Marinace, Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent S. Tracey,
Business Administrator M. Shevenell.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM. W. Morrison reminded the committee this was a brief meeting to discuss proposed school construction ideas.

P. Marinace shared ideas regarding the proposed new school. He noted that the foot print of the school was limited due to wetland issues and would be basically the same as had been proposed in the past. He suggested that it would be better to add a two story addition in the back rather than add on top of existing classroom when an addition became necessary.

P. McGrath asked whether a contingency amount was needed in the building budget and, if so, was 5% sufficient. Both P. Marinace and M. Shevenell felt strongly that a contingency was needed, especially during design development and that 5% should be sufficient.

S. Heinrich asked about the possibility of a three floor school to reduce the initial footprint and to provide more space to expand.

W. Morrison asked about the possibility of having two new school building articles on the ballot: one for a smaller school and one for the additional funds needed to make the school a 1,000 student school. He was concerned about how much change to the plan the public would accept. He also felt the district should clearly make public, and address, the population declines. He indicated that the committee felt that a 5/6 school should not be considered.

M. Chiafery shared that the administration is considering “elongating” the building plans.

Year 1: Approve a new school on Buker and approve the kindergarten grant.

Year 2: Open new school for two grades. Approve renovations for Mastricola Middle School and keep one grade at Mastricola Middle school while renovations are being completed.

Year 3: Move grade 5 to the now upper elementary school and implement kindergarten in the available space at the elementary schools, possibly redistricting.

P. McGrath stated that the School Board’s first priority is to build something on Buker and keep the project cost under \$20 million dollars. He also noted that the kindergarten grant ends and probably won’t be renewed.

W. Morrison was concerned about pushing the renovations out a year. S. Heinrich responded that after the new school is passed, the renovations may be proposed in a variety of ways which may make passage easier: through Capital Reserve Funds, broken up as separate warrant articles, etc. M. Shevenell was not sure if renovations would be covered under building aid. (M. Chiafery, and S. Tracey left the meeting at this time.)

M. Shevenell shared the revised population projections with the committee. He had corrected the spread sheet errors. Though there is a population decline, it is not as significant as originally thought. The committee briefly discussed the projection changes and whether the new school should be for 875 students or the original 1,000 students. By consensus, the committee decided that the further review and discussion was needed.

On a motion from S. Heinrich, seconded by C. Morrison, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to the School Board meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,