



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District
<http://www.isone.com/~merrpbc>

March 28, 2005
Minutes

Present: T. Koenig, S. Heinrich, J. Vaillancourt, W. Morrison, F. Rothhaus and School Board liaison E. Coburn

Excused: C. Morrison

Also Present: Business Administrator M. Shevenell, MMS Principal T. Levesque, Transportation Coordinator D. Dumont, Laidlaw Representative B. Ralph

W. Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM and introduced the guests present.

Traffic Conditions at MMS

W. Morrison stated that concerns about the traffic pattern at the new middle school had been brought to the Committee's attention. He noted the main purpose of the meeting was to look at the situation.

T. Levesque and M. Shevenell provided an overview of the parking space at MMS. They noted that the school has a total of 155 parking spaces, including 12 handicapped parking spaces. They did a quick survey today and noted that at 11 AM, basically the only parking lot with empty regular parking spaces was the annex and it was only half full.

Members discussed what signage was present and the consensus was that more signage was needed. S. Heinrich questioned whether the handicapped parking spaces were legally signed as well.

F. Rothhaus noted several issues.

1. He stated he thought the original plans for the school called for a one way traffic flow around the school.
2. He felt the area for busses to drop-off or pick-up students was too narrow.
3. He thought someone was needed to direct cars from the car drop-off/pick-up location back into the traffic pattern.
4. He stated he thought parking was a nightmare. Cars parking in the lot in front of the school have to back out into traffic, blocking on-coming traffic.
5. Finally, he stated the after-school late bus, parking in front of the school, blocks traffic.

J. Vaillancourt stated her concern for T. Levesque getting hit while he is directing traffic.

T. Levesque stated he did not feel in any danger while directing traffic. He said his concern was to create a traffic pattern that would reduce the traffic coming from all directions at the same time. T. Levesque stated that parking for special events is a problem and he contracts for police details to handle traffic for these events.

E. Coburn stated she felt more lighting was needed as well.

F. Rothhaus stated he thought the simple fix was to make traffic one way around the school at all times. D. Dumont said this worked from his perspective.

W. Morrison asked about putting in another parking lot near the front of the property.

M. Shevenell noted that this area has been looked at for future development. He noted that additional lighting would cost around \$13,000.

T. Koenig suggested additional signage and an additional painted crosswalk near the cafeteria door.

Discussion about installing stop signs included where to put them, if any and how many would be needed.

F. Rothhaus also suggested that the District look at enlarging the lot in the front of the building to create a traffic loop.

Discussion ended with members agreeing that better signage, more lights and a permanent one-way traffic flow would help the traffic issues raised.

Approval of Prior Minutes

T. Koenig made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 14, 2005. Second: J. Vaillancourt
The following corrections were made:

Page 1: Upcoming Issues

J. Vaillancourt stated she wanted to immediately assess the traffic conditions at the new middle school. She felt there are some major safety issues there. *F. Rothhaus* suggested one-way traffic around the school instead of the current student/car drop-off situation. *J.*

Vaillancourt stated there appear to be drainage/ice issues in the student drop-off area.

Page 2: ...kindergarten and one did not. IN addition, members noted the issues that the Committee stated needed to be addressed, still have not been addressed. E. Coburn told the Committee that , whatever happens, there will only be two bus runs in the fall. She stated she is still *checking* into the software to plan bus runs.

MOTION PASSED 4 – 0 – 1 (S. Heinrich abstaining)

Other

W. Morrison expressed a concern about the traffic pattern at Mastricola Elementary when the new back parking lot was created. M. Shevenell stated the intention was to have bus drop-off/pick-up in the back, and car drop-off/pick-up in the front.

W. Morrison stated he had talked with Superintendent Chiafery to get corrected Space Utilization Reports. He noted that Committee might want to revise or completely re-do the form currently used. J. Vaillancourt asked what the Committee used the Space Utilization Reports as they were about current use, rather than future planning. W. Morrison stated the Committee actually devised the space utilization report and in the past had used it to track space usage and plan for future space needs.

F. Rothhaus suggested that the Committee should review its meeting day when the new members are elected. Other suggested that the Committee should also plan to tour all schools.

F. Rothhaus noted that this was the last meeting for W. Morrison and T. Koenig. He wanted to thank them for their many years of service on the Committee.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: T. Koenig. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

W. Morrison adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich