



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

Minutes
April 14, 2003

Present: C. Morrison, W. Morrison, K. Powell, T. Koenig, F. Rotthaus, School Board liaison P. McGrath

Excused: S. Heinrich

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by W. Morrison. C. Morrison and F. Rotthaus were sworn in by School District Clerk Pat Heinrich.

Committee Reorganization

A motion was made by C. Morrison, seconded by F. Rotthaus, that the current officers continue in their respective positions for another year. The vote was unanimous.

Goals and Objectives

W. Morrison asked committee members to look over various drafts of documents relating to committee annual goals and objectives. He noted that the last time the committee had approved annual goals and objectives was in 1999. He asked members to suggest potential goals for the year.

K. Powell suggested working on parking at the Masticola complex. She suggested working with Dick Dumont, Transportation Coordinator and Bob Ralph of Laidlaw Transit. P. McGrath noted that there would probably be a School Board request on this issue.

W. Morrison reminded the committee about finalizing the long range plan to meet school needs at build-out by coming up with trigger numbers to help determine when and what type of building project the school district would need.

P. McGrath suggested the committee might want to do a demographic study. F. Rotthaus asked what the study would be looking for. P. McGrath suggested the study might look to see if there is any correlation between student shifts and building or construction permits, sizes/types of houses built and/or the business economy in Merrimack. C. Morrison noted that the committee needs to once again receive the Michener projections along with the Superintendent's projections for future enrollments. C. Morrison suggested that Community Development Director Jay Minkareh might be a good resource.

F. Rotthaus suggested that another goal of the committee might be looking at the "beautification" of our schools. He suggested this be given a low priority. C. Morrison noted that the committee might want to work with the various PTO's as well as contact Eileen Pannetier of Comprehensive Environmental Services and research grants for some projects. She noted that this could be part of the new middle school construction.

W. Morrison noted that the CIP would probably come before the committee at some point in June or July.

K. Powell asked about reviewing traffic safety and parking issues at the high school.

She noted that there does not seem to be a wide enough space for buses behind the school and that cars park there. P. McGrath noted that safe parking and driving areas as well as safe entrances to all school buildings might be something the committee should look into.

P. McGrath brought up athletic fields, in particular the concession stand at the back of the high school. He noted the various sport booster clubs would like to do something to improve the current stand. He reminded the committee that representatives of some of the booster clubs had come before the committee to discuss a new concession stand. He thought that the committee might work with Shirley Lemay and the town health department as well as the booster clubs to deal with this issue.

F. Rotthaus asked about a “game plan” for improving the school district athletic fields and parking at them. He thought the district, and particularly the committee, should be looking for properties to develop into appropriate athletic fields. The committee discussed possible uses for the Wright Property, currently owned by the Manchester YMCA which is proposing development of some fields.

T. Koenig suggested that the draft Goal document needed a general update to remove things that have already been accomplished.

P. McGrath noted that the School Board will probably also ask the committee to work on determining potential renovations for the middle school in preparation for it becoming an upper elementary school.

By consensus the committee decided to use a “Goal and Objective” format rather than a “Area of Concern and Task” format.

Announcements

W. Morrison told the committee he had updated the committee website with minutes through the end of December 2002.

P. McGrath noted that a recount of the middle school would be held on April 21st.

Meeting schedule

The committee reviewed a meeting schedule for 2003 - 2004. The committee will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month, with the fourth Monday as the alternate/as needed date. Meetings will start at 7:30 PM and, except for July and August meetings, be scheduled in the first floor conference room at the high school. July and August meeting locations will be determined and announced later. W. Morrison told the committee he will try to have an agenda prepared and available ahead of time on a more regular basis during the year.

On a motion from K Powell, seconded by C. Morrison, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,