



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

Minutes
May 14, 2007

Present: S. Barnes, S. Heinrich, R. Hendricks, G. Perry, F. Rothhaus, L. Rothhaus, and School Board liaison J. Vaillancourt

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Introductions

S. Heinrich welcomed G. Perry to the Committee and requested that members introduce themselves.

Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Barnes made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 12, 2007. Second: R. Hendricks. MOTION PASSED: 4 – 0 – 2. (L. Rothhaus and G. Perry abstained.)

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

R. Hendricks expressed frustration that the Committee had not met regularly since December. He felt the Committee had important work to do. He said that elected officials should make the Committee a priority and a commitment to attend meetings. S. Heinrich stated that, since the Committee was advisory only, other things often take priority with some members, thus making a quorum difficult to obtain. S. Barnes stated she felt that members shouldn't have run for the Committee if they couldn't make a commitment to the Committee. F. Rothhaus stated that, often, his absences were related to his children's athletic competition schedules – something he had no control over. L. Rothhaus stated that a past "overlapping relationship" with the Budget Committee led to fewer meetings scheduled in December and January, but the new School Budget Committee elections have reduced that overlap. In addition, she noted that, in the last two years, two Committee backed warrant articles had passed and that members had worked together to find a way to hold meetings needed to prepare for presentation of these warrant articles.

S. Barnes made a MOTION that the Committee meet every month and that if a firm date, with a quorum confirmed, is not scheduled by the 15th of any month, an alternate meeting date be scheduled. Second: R. Hendricks. S. Barnes said she wanted regular meeting dates with a back-up plan. L. Rothhaus stated she agreed with the motion but noted that there may be a month where the Committee decides not to meet or a quorum is impossible to achieve. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Members decided to stay with the 2nd and 4th Monday as the Committee meeting day. Meetings will start at 7:30 PM and will be held in the High School First Floor conference room, although

alternate locations for summer meetings may be needed. The following dates were scheduled:

2007 - May 29th, June 11th, June 25th, July 9th, August 27th, September 10th, September 24th, October 22nd, November 26th and December 10th.

2008 - January 28th, February 11th and March 24th.

The following were named as back-up and/or additional meeting possibilities:

July 23rd, August 13th, a day during the week of October 9th, a day during the week of November 13th, February 25th, and March 10th.

School Board Charge

S. Heinrich presented members with copy of a charge from the School Board. The School Board is requesting that the Committee make a recommendation about how to use approximately \$750,000 in funds from the energy efficiency warrant article that are not specifically associated with energy initiatives. The School Board charge states the funds are to be used for air quality and building infrastructure improvements.

J. Vaillancourt stated the School Board wants the Committee recommendation for its first meeting in July. She also stated that the School Board has suggested that representatives from Honeywell meet with the Committee and said she would arrange for each Committee member to receive a copy of the full report that Honeywell generated. She stated that \$750,000 is not enough to do all the other projects recommended in the Honeywell Plan, but the School Board wants the Committee to look at the various projects and come up with a proposal for this money and a prioritized plan for listing these other projects in the C.I.P.

S. Heinrich stated that Business Administrator Shevenell would like to see the funds used for air quality issues at Masticola Upper Elementary School (JMUES). S. Barnes noted that the Ferry schools had poorer air quality than JMUES. R. Hendricks wondered whether other projects might be “more important” and whether about the effect of the energy initiatives on some of these projects – should some be done in conjunction with or before the energy renovations? F. Rothhaus asked if improving air quality meant installing air conditioning. He was told it didn’t. L. Rothhaus asked if school safety was still a major concern. G. Perry asked what was deficient about the air quality: the volume of air moved or the exchange rate of air? Members agreed that definitions for terms used were essential.

Members agreed to ask representatives from Honeywell to attend the meeting on May 29th. Members also requested copies of the current C.I.P. in addition to the Honeywell report.

Reorganization

F. Rothhaus nominated S. Heinrich for the position of Chair. There were no other nominations. S. Heinrich was elected Chair.

S. Heinrich nominated R. Hendricks for the position of Vice Chair. L. Rothhaus nominated S. Barnes for the position of Vice Chair. S. Heinrich offered both candidates an opportunity to speak. After S. Barnes spoke, R. Hendricks withdrew his name from consideration. S. Barnes was elected Vice Chair.

L. Rothhaus nominated R. Hendricks for the position of Secretary. There were no other nominations. R. Hendricks was elected Secretary.

Other

R. Hendricks noted that the Committee needs to find out what happened with the Meaghan Healey design project for the Administrative Offices and Special Education building.

S. Heinrich noted that, though money had been approved for the Paving Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, the fact that there were no paving projects identified in the C.I.P. was one of the issues raised as a reason against the warrant article requesting these funds. He suggested the Committee might want to recommend paving projects for inclusion in the C.I.P.

R. Hendricks noted that another issue raised during the recent elections was school capacities. He wanted the Committee to review and possibly revise school capacity figures based on the School Space Usage Inventories and the population projection figures.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

L. Rothhaus made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: S. Barnes. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich