



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

May 22, 2006
Minutes

Present: S. Barnes, R. Hendricks, L. Rothhaus, S. Heinrich, F. Rothhaus

Also Present: Landscape Architect Doug Miller, MMS Assistant Principal John House-Meyers and Student Council Officers: Ron Johnson, Ethan Underhill, Ashley Barrow, Ann Stern and Emma Finlay

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

S. Heinrich announced this was a special meeting. He stated the MMS Student Council would like to build a memorial garden near the entrance of the school and the School Board requested that the Committee review their proposal.

The Student Council Officers each gave a short presentation on the rationale behind the garden and the plans for raising funds, constructing and maintaining it. They led the Committee on a tour of the proposed site.

The Student Council members told the Committee that most of the funds have already been raised and there was a plan to raise the remaining funds needed. They said the Student Council by-laws would be amended to mandate future upkeep of the garden. The garden will have a time capsule beneath it with items from each team and each school department. They hope to gain approval for the project so that the garden can be completed before the end of school.

Committee members discussed the impact of the proposed location for the garden on future expansion of the school library. The students explained the site selected has water access and presents a better “welcome” to the school. D. Miller noted that the garden was designed around the flagpole and current lighting that is already in place. He stated that the flagpole could be moved to the other side of the entrance, but to do so would require increase the cost.

Committee members also suggested that the students publicize the proposal before construction as there may be people who would be willing to donate funds to defray the cost of the project and, that should more than the amount needed for construction be raised, the remaining funds could be put into a fund for future maintenance of the garden.

Members discussed the possibility of selling “engraved” bricks, but the students stated while the idea for the garden was in reaction to the deaths of Linda Kempf and Katie Retelle, the students stated they wanted the garden to be in memory of all, rather than for specific people. D. Miller stated there would be a plaque to indicate this sentiment. J. House-Myer told the Committee that

Mrs. Kempf's husband has offered to purchase a granite bench in honor of his wife, but the teachers in her "team" have insisted that they purchase it.

L. Rothhaus suggested that members of the Committee might consider donating to the plan.

F. Rothhaus stated it was a great idea.

S. Heinrich stated that any possible expansion of the school was at least 10 years away and shouldn't preclude this garden from going forward.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION that the Committee recommend this project to the School Board as presented. Second: Everyone. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The Committee led those present in a standing ovation for the students.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich