



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District
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Minutes
May 29, 2007

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

Also present: Business Administrator M. Shevenell; Honeywell representatives: Russ Martin, Jim Lucy and Wally Howe.

S. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. She stated the purpose of the meeting was to meet with the representatives from Honeywell to discuss potential projects to recommend relative to the recent School Board charge.

J. Lucy explained several components of the approved energy efficiency project, noting that the project upgrades temperature control systems, eliminates using electricity for heat and hot water, contains a comprehensive lighting program and has other mechanical component improvements. He told the Committee that the project is totally self-funded and includes approximately an additional \$750,000 over the next two years which could be utilized for projects that were not part of the energy saving project, but were noted as observations or deficiencies that should be considered for future projects.

J. Vaillancourt told the Committee that the School Board had targeted improved ventilation in the schools as a main priority, but that \$750,000 would not take care of all the schools.

F. Rothhaus asked if introducing outside air to all classrooms would sufficiently improve ventilation and if tightening the building envelopes was creating poor ventilation. J. Vaillancourt stated that the air quality is currently not up to code and tightening the building envelopes to save energy will make bad situations worse.

S. Heinrich asked if the committee could come up with a comprehensive plan for all schools. He also asked about the potential for state aid to cover the remaining school areas that could not be addressed using the \$750,000. M. Shevenell told him that state aid was not available for ventilation projects unless the project met a cost threshold (more than 25% of the cost to build a new school) – which it would not.

M. Shevenell said that the School Board and Honeywell need to know what the \$750,000 will be used for so that renovation plans and schedules can be efficiently organized. He also said that after discussion with the Honeywell representatives, he was suggesting that the monies be spent to address ventilation in several areas at the upper elementary school.

S. Barnes asked if the renovation plans and schedules took into account the possibility of moving

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the current main office. J. Lucy stated that the proposed ventilation work focused on classrooms and that the whole program took into account the various renovations suggested for JMUES, including moving the main office so that work would not have to be re-done or torn up.

G. Perry asked if all the new systems would be controlled from a central location. J. Lucy told him while there would be controls in each building, the main controls would be in the Maintenance Office.

F. Rothhaus asked how many ventilation units were being proposed for JMUES and the approximate cost for each. W. Howe said that the plan was for 32 – 34 units, which would cost about \$22,000 each. He stated that project did not cover the entire school, but shared a map showing which classrooms would receive the units.

G. Perry asked if one large unit in some rooms would be more cost effective than two smaller units. W. Howe told him that it was possible and would be considered.

R. Hendricks asked if eliminating the various code violations noted by Honeywell and/or dealing with safety issues (like moving the main office) were more important than ventilation. J. Lucy stated that the areas in question were minimal, many could be corrected by simple, inexpensive measures and all areas were “in-code” when they were built.

M. Shevenell stated that other energy issues were going to be addressed by policy revisions – such as use of small appliances in classrooms and turning off computers and monitors every day.

L. Rothhaus stated she had a problem spending any money on either the Superintendent’s Office or the SpEd Building as both would be replaced soon.

F. Rothhaus asked for an explanation of the ventilation problems at each building and a rationale for choosing JMUES over other buildings. He was told that 50% of the high school has ventilation issues; all the “old” classrooms at the elementary schools and most JMUES had ventilation concerns. The funds available will not completely deal with the issues at any one educational level and JMUES would have a “town-wide impact” as opposed to picking one elementary over the others. Those present felt it was not a good use of resources to deal with 1 – 2 grades at all elementary schools either.

S. Barnes requested a study to measure air quality and to quantify the educational effects of better ventilation on the students. L. Rothhaus stated that the current state testing might provide some data that could be used for educational comparisons. M. Shevenell stated that regular tests of air quality are part of the program.

S. Barnes made a MOTION to recommend that the available \$750,000 be used to deal with air quality/ventilation issues at JMUES. Second: L. Rothhaus. MOTION PASSED 6 – 0 – 0.

Members asked if, how and when the ventilation issues at the other schools would be addressed. J. Vaillancourt stated that the Committee might consider looking through the Honeywell project

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book and work with M. Shevenell to recommend what projects might be part of the Capital Improvement Plan and when. Members suggested that the School Board might consider establishing a Ventilation Capital Trust or Capital Reserve Fund funded with surplus funds.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich