



## PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

Minutes  
June 9, 2003

Present: F. Rothhaus, S. Heinrich, C. Morrison, W. Morrison, K. Powell (arrived late) and  
School Board Liaison P. McGrath

Absent: T. Koenig

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by W. Morrison. He announced the Administration was not ready to meet with the committee to discuss the specifics of the upcoming School Board Charge. While he had an email of the proposed charge, it had not been approved by the School Board yet. He further announced that a decision on bussing regarding the new school would be made by the end of summer.

S. Heinrich asked to have school signage included as part of all school plans.

W. Morrison stated that he understood the design for the new school was almost complete and he hoped that the committee would have an opportunity to review it before it is finalized.

P. McGrath told the committee that the new school was now a full square, rather than a "U". He said the gymnasium was bigger than the first plans. S. Heinrich and W. Morrison asked where the expected future addition would be built and how it would be connected to the rest of the building. P. McGrath noted that it would be built toward the playing fields at the end of the building.

P. McGrath noted that S. Lemay and T. Levesque have been asked to provide the committee with prioritized lists of suggested renovations to the current middle school. He noted that their ideas on priority may be different. He stated he would like the committee to assign a priority to each suggested renovation.

F. Rothhaus asked what criteria the committee would use to determine priority of proposed renovations. W. Morrison felt that life safety issues would rate highest priority. For example; sprinklers, asbestos removal and electrical issues rated high. F. Rothhaus asked why asbestos is an issue. He was told that if any encapsulated areas are affected by any renovation work they would have to be removed and that S. Lemay has noted that some asbestos tiles are currently showing wear and it might just be better to replace all of them as part of this major renovation.

W. Morrison requested that each committee member receive copies of the prior work on suggested renovations that the committee has done. It was noted that there will be state aid (30% reimbursement) for the renovations. In answer to a question raised at an earlier meeting, it was reported that the computer labs do have extra wiring and electrical capacity than regular

classrooms.

C. Morrison noted that if the current ISAC room is to be utilized for ISAC at the upper elementary level, it should be sound-proofed. This raised the question of whether the administration still plans on using three person teaching pods and would prefer to have one large classroom as part of the pod as opposed to each pod having three regular classrooms and a shared large classroom.

Bussing district wide was discussed. S. Heinrich suggested that when the new school opens there may be a need to bus the children in three “waves”: Elementary, upper elementary and middle, and then high school. He suggested a need to talk to Bob Ralph of Laidlaw Transit. Other issues discussed included staff parking behind the high school, whether there was adequate bus turning/drop-off space at the new middle school, and where and how much staff parking will be available at the new middle school and how that will impact the buses. It was noted that F. Rothhaus needs a copy of the original parking and traffic report that was done by the committee. (K. Powell arrived during this discussion.)

P. McGrath gave a summary of the original School Board charge on this issue: The committee has been asked to review bus traffic at the Mastricola complex. They had suggested a potential bus pick-up/drop off behind Mastricola Elementary, a bus loop on Baboosic Lake Road for the middle school and a reconfiguration of the parking lot where the current main entrances for both schools is located. There was discussion about ways to reduce or eliminate traffic on Bishop Street.

C. Morrison suggested buses enter and exit onto Baboosic Lake Road. P McGrath suggested that the School District might pay for redesigning and rebuilding the Church parking lot.

The White Pines trees in the back of the middle school were also brought up. Committee members wondered whether the district would still be participating in the project with those trees once the new middle school was built.

C. Morrison also reminded the committee that a parking lot , near the tennis courts and across the street from the current elementary school back parking lot had been suggested in the past as well.

W.. Morrison told the committee the next meeting would be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at which time the administration should be present to discuss the School Board charge. He further noted that approval of minutes and the Annual Goals and Objectives would also be on the agenda.

On a motion from S. Heinrich, seconded by K. Powell, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,