



## PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

June 20, 2006  
Minutes

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

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

S. Heinrich announced the sole topic on the agenda was parking issues at Merrimack High School. He stated that he had emailed a list of questions based on the Committee's earlier meeting to Principal Ken Johnson and, after receiving some responses, had emailed several follow-up questions. He noted the information sheet sent to the members was a compilation of these questions and responses. He stated he had called Business Administrator Matt Shevenell for information on several questions for which the high school had answered "N/A." He further noted that Principal Johnson had been invited to attend this meeting, but had replied he was unable to attend and that Assistant Principal Zampieri would have the information the Committee was requesting.

S. Barnes stated she was distressed that the high school administration did not know how many tickets had been issued or had been paid.

R. Hendricks suggested that the high school consider issuing different color permit, for example: Blue for regular permits and Red for those having an unpaid parking ticket.

L. Rothhaus stated that, given time, the administration would be able to answer all Committee questions, but there is no time.

R. Hendricks suggested that the high school institute a policy that tickets must be paid within a certain number of days.

S. Barnes suggested the Committee have a workshop with the School Board to open a dialogue.

F. Rothhaus stated that timing is the issue. The matter has to be resolved before the start of school and the School Board is only planning to meet twice during the summer.

Members discussed why the parking lot attendants were cut from the budget and the concerns raised by numerous parents and students in the interim.

L. Rothhaus suggested the Committee come up with a plan and present it to the School Board at its July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. She suggested the Committee again invite representatives from the high school administration to attend a Committee meeting.

S. Barnes stated she was disappointed with the lack of respect the high school administration seemed to be showing toward the Committee.

F. Rothhaus stated he felt the Committee should come up with a plan, justify the need for the parking attendants and then show how they would be funded. He further stated that any plan must include strict enforcement of parking regulations. He reminded the Committee that the police had recommended that towing.

R. Hendricks stated that the cost of two part-time parking lot attendants at \$9 an hour to cover the school year is about \$13,000. He suggested that the permit fee might be increased to cover this cost. He also suggested that an increased fee might reduce the number of people who purchase the permit "just in case" they get the opportunity to drive a car to school.

L. Rothhaus brought up a concern about those underclassmen who need transportation for fall sports practice fields away from the high school. These students may take high school busses that eventually go to Reeds Ferry, but this makes starting practice problematic for the coaches due to differing arrival times of these busses.

R. Hendricks suggested the possibility of giving fall athletes a green colored seasonal permit, but wasn't sure where space for seasonal permits would be found. L. Rothhaus suggested there might be space in the JMUES lot.

By consensus, it was agreed that the parking report issued by the Committee should be in two parts: a recommendation on the parking lot attendants given now and recommendations on other high school parking issues to be given later.

F. Rothhaus brought up student parking along the road and at the tennis courts. He stated he didn't mind that students parked there, but he thought that guardrails should be installed to provide for one method of access and egress.

S. Barnes stated she did not think the District should build additional parking lots until the current parking regulations are perfected.

S. Heinrich stated that signage has been an issue at all the schools and that more signage is needed. He also stated that the high school administration must enforce its own rules.

L. Rothhaus shared the Nashua School System parking policies:

1. To be eligible for a parking permit
  - a. Students must have enough credits to be classified a Senior
  - b. Students must have a C- average, and no F's the prior quarter.
2. No tickets are given. Car in violation are towed for the first offense and towing fees are not reimbursed.

3. If a permit is rescinded, no refunds are given.

Members agreed that they wanted to make some policy suggestions and statements as part of the recommendation to re-instate the parking lot attendants.

- Enforcement is the key to the parking issues.
- To get a permit, students should have a C- average and no F's the prior quarter.
- Students have 14 calendar days to pay any fines or the car will be towed. Possibly the outstanding ticket would be listed on the student's record in Power School.
- Use color-coded flags, rather than stickers.
- Those who lose their permit, and want a new one, will be included in a lottery - along with everyone else who wants a permit – anytime a parking space opens up.

Members felt that issues to be included the second report would include the following:

- Potential traffic flow changes
  - No cars in the "bowl" at dismissal
  - Parking lots exits blocked until the busses move
  - One way loop O'Gara to McElwain
- Administrators presence outside the building at dismissal
- Guard rails at the tennis courts
- Seasonal parking passes for student athletes
- Timing of late busses with ending of after-school activities.

By consensus, it was decided have the clerk draft and disseminate a report summarizing the issues discussed which the Committee would revise as needed and approve at a meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> and that members of the high school administration would be invited to attend this meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich