



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

Minutes
July 12, 2004

Present: T. Koenig, C. Morrison, W. Morrison, S. Heinrich, and School Board liaison E. Coburn
Excused: J. Vaillancourt

Absent: F. Rothhaus

Also Participating: Superintendent M. Chiafery and Business Administrator M. Shevenell

W. Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

M. Chiafery and M. Shevenell shared a draft CIP proposal with the Committee. They discussed changes in the plan since the passage of the new middle school. Renovations at the MUES will be spread over several years, with the sprinkler installation scheduled for this coming year. As part of sprinkler installation, ceiling tiles will be replaced and new lighting will be installed. After sprinklers, the next step would be the relocation of the main office.

M. Shevenell told the Committee the Administration is using the PBC prioritized list of suggested renovations. He indicated that some of the suggested renovations would be done within the operating budget.

M. Chiafery told the Committee the School Board is concerned that there will be many issues before the voters next spring including funding kindergarten, a new teacher's contract and the first full year on the new school bond.

W. Morrison and S. Heinrich stated they felt the renovations were too spread out. They suggested a three-year plan, with \$650,000 for sprinklers in 2005-06, and \$500,000 in both 2006-07 and 2007-08. They wondered if the District could get state aid for some of the proposed renovations. Members suggested that all renovations at MUES must be finished before the District attempts any additional major CIP projects. In addition, it was suggested that the list of renovations and order of importance might need to be revised once the upper elementary school opens.

Members asked when roof replacement should start appearing in the CIP. M. Shevenell told them that Reeds Ferry would be the first school "on the list" and suggested \$200,000 in 2008-09.

Members also suggested that acquisition of land should appear on the CIP before building a new school. They noted that an elementary school could be built on either Buker or Timmins, but they felt it looked better to purchase land before suggesting building.

M. Chiafery told the Committee she planned to ask them to work on planning the SAU consolidation. Members suggested that there is space available at MUES that could immediately be used for the Special Education offices and that the SAU could then use the SpEd building.

MES Parking

W. Morrison will be attending the School Board meeting where the proposed parking lot behind MES was presented. The additional parking lots along O’Gara Drive will be mentioned but are not part of the plan. He noted the Committee had never officially voted on the plan.

T. Koenig made a MOTION to endorse the concept of the parking rearrangement at MES.
Second: C. Morrison. The MOTION PASSED 4 – 0 – 0.

MUES Playground

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to recommend to the School Board that they don’t discuss or consider eliminating the softball field in order to build a playground at MUES. S. Heinrich and C. Morrison agreed to CHANGE the MOTION to “The PBC does not recommend eliminating the softball field.” After discussion, the MOTION and second were WITHDRAWN.

Additional discussion was held and J. Vaillancourt’s emailed comments were shared with members. Discussion points included the need for “girls” fields, the lack of standards for school playgrounds, safety, needs vs. wants, the difference between 6th grade extra-curricular activities in a middle school and in an upper elementary school, and esthetics – including fencing.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to recommend the MUES playground be put in front of the school along Baboosic Lake Road. Second: C. Morrison. Discussion on the motion included the fact that this will now eliminate Committee earlier suggestions of a bus loop in that location. Members stated there is no good solution, but they felt this was the best solution available.

W. Morrison proposed adding the following language to the motion: That the playground should not extend to the sidewalk along Baboosic Road, possibly stopping before the trees. S. Heinrich and C. Morrison accepted the additional language. The MOTION PASSED 4 – 0 – 0.

New School

M. Shevenell reported that the street lights are being put in, paving will begin soon and the fields will not be ready until next spring.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: C. Morrison. W. Morrison declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich