



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

August 1, 2005

Present: F. Rothhaus, L. Rothhaus, S. Barnes, J. Vaillancourt, S. Heinrich and School Board liaison G. Markwell

Excused: C. Morrison

Also Present: M. Chiafery, M. Shevenell

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. He introduced and welcomed George Markwell as the new School Board liaison to the Committee.

Review of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

M. Shevenell shared a proposed CIP with the Committee and requested Committee suggestions. He explained that a “capital improvement” is something that costs over \$100,000 and has a life span of greater than 10 years. He also shared copies of the list of renovations for the current upper elementary school that the Committee created in 2002.

The first item in the CIP is Mastricola complex sprinklers in 2006-2007. M. Shevenell told the Committee that the District has a letter of agreement with the Fire Chief that no renovations will be done at the upper elementary school until a sprinkler system is installed. Part of the renovation will include lighting. M. Chiafery stated this was the only capital item the Administration plans for 2006-2007 as the support staff contract will be on the ballot as well. M. Shevenell stated the District has \$400,000 of the projected \$650,000 cost. He anticipated the District would ask for the remaining amount as an appropriation rather than from surplus. S. Barnes suggested that the remaining \$250,000 be put in the operating budget. M. Shevenell stated the District needs voter permission to spend what is currently in the Renovation Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) as the School Board is not the agent to expend, so a warrant article is necessary in any case. .

The additional renovations at the upper elementary school have been spread out over 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. M. Chiafery would like the Committee to work with the upper elementary principal and assistant principal to determine which renovations should be proposed in which year. It is tentatively planned to move the office location and work on the HVAC in the first year and finish the remaining items in the second year. J. Vaillancourt suggested that the MUES team might have other suggested renovations since they have now had a year's experience in the building. It was suggested that this work start after the budget work for 2006-2007 is completed and be completed by the end of the school year.

Consolidation of the SAU/SpEd offices in 2009-2010 was the third item in the plan. M. Shevenell noted the need for more office space, a conference room, a proper vault and an equipment room. L. Rothhaus asked why this was delayed until 2009-2010. She suggested that the District start a CRF for this and stated that she thought the District should start putting together a plan now. Members discussed location options, for example: JMUES, new wing at MHS, shared space at town hall, Our Lady of Mercy, current library, other pieces of District owned property or Town owned property. Members noted that “in-house” planning had resulted in a fairly low cost, but high quality building for Maintenance, which passed on the first try. They suggested that planning and saving start now.

The fourth item was Additional MHS Parking along O’Gara Drive in 2007-2008. Members asked why this was not being put forth in 2006-2007 and funded from surplus. Other discussion included the rationale for not doing this when the MES parking was done, the size of the upcoming Senior class, safety issues with the current lot configuration. J. Vaillancourt stated there is no right answer.

The last item in the CIP was roof replacement at Reed Ferry. There is already \$250,000 in a CRF to cover this expenditure. This is the first roof up for replacement as part of the replacement schedule that was put in place when the roof CRF was first started. The next roof on the schedule is Mastricola Elementary in 2011-2012.

G. Markwell had several questions for the Committee. He asked how many school buildings the Committee envisioned, why the new middle school was only two stories, and how much Merrimack land would be swallowed by schools. Member’s replies included

- The plan for another elementary on the back of the Buker property,
- The need for “small” neighborhood elementary schools,
- What the taxpayers will approve is not necessarily what is needed or the best plan.

J. Vaillancourt made a MOTION to recommend the CIP as it was presented. Second: S. Barnes.

L. Rothhaus made a MOTION TO AMEND the recommendation by moving \$150,000 for parking to 2006-2007. Second: S. Barnes.

The AMENDMENT PASSED: 4 – 1 – 0. (F. Rothhaus opposed.)

The AMENDED MOTION PASSED: 5 – 0 – 0.

L. Rothhaus made a MOTION to move \$1,000,000 for consolidation of the SAU/SpEd offices to 2007-2008. Second: S. Barnes. L. Rothhaus stated this was the next most needed item in the District. J. Vaillancourt stated that it was a better idea to finish the upper elementary school renovations first. S. Heinrich suggested that the Committee recommend, or possibly sponsor, a warrant article to establish a CRF for this. He also suggested that the Committee and Administration revisit this item next year. MOTION FAILED: 1 – 4 – 0.

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S. Barnes made a MOTION to include \$100,000 for the Masticola roof in 2011-2012. Second: S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED 5 – 0 – 0.

L. Rothhaus made a MOTION to recommend that the School Board establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the consolidation of the SAU/SpEd offices. Second: S. Barnes. MOTION PASSED 5 – 0 – 0.

The next meeting of the Committee will consist of tours of the middle and high schools the week before school starts. The clerk will make arrangements and notify members.

J. Vaillancourt made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: F. Rothhaus. MOTION PASSED unanimously. S. Heinrich thanked all present and adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich