



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

Minutes
September 24, 2007

Present: S. Barnes, S. Heinrich, R. Hendricks, G. Perry, F. Rothhaus, L. Rothhaus and School Board member J. Vaillancourt

Also Present: Business Administrator M. Shevenell and representatives from Honeywell – Wally Howe, Jim Lucie and Mike Hastings.

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Meeting with Honeywell Representatives on Air Quality – Ventilation

M. Shevenell reported that Honeywell had provided a more finite list of cost estimates for the various suggested air quality/ventilation projects that were noted in the original energy proposal. He said Honeywell had gone back to review the suggested projects and had made some additional suggestions as well.

J. Lucie presented the Committee with a detailed report of projects needed to bring all occupied spaces in District buildings into compliance with current building codes for ventilation as well as a summary of estimated costs. The report only includes upgrades to “occupied” spaces. Closets, storage and boiler rooms were excluded.

Discussion included the following:
MMS

- This school is currently at 100% compliance with air quality/ventilation codes.

JMUES

- The classrooms in the last addition have ventilation.
- Ventilation in most of the other “occupied” classrooms is being addressed with the additional funds in the energy project.
- Rooms that might potentially become the main office suite (Room 153, 155, 157) are also being upgraded and the design of the upgrade takes this possibility into account and the capability to add air conditioning will be included in this upgrade.
- Currently there are no ventilation or exhaust units in the current APR. When units in APR are installed, they will exhaust through the kitchen area.
- The air handler units in the Smith Gym, library and current main office suite will need to be replaced within 5 years.
- The projected costs indicated are in addition to the \$750,000 that is being spent as part of the current ventilation renovations.

MHS

- Fifty percent of the high school is air conditioned.
- The cafeteria exhaust/air handling system needs immediate attention.
- The air handling units in the gymnasium are 30 years old and should be replaced sooner rather than later. These units also cover much of the “C” wing.
- There are ceiling and rooftops exhaust units for the classrooms in the “E” wing.
- The unit ventilator in D122 needs to be replaced.

MES

- The original classrooms of the school need unit ventilators.
- The APR addition and the Gymnasium + classrooms addition both have ventilators.

TFS & RFS

- These schools are basically mirror images as far as what is needed.
- The air handling units in the APRs are 38 years old and will need to be replaced soon.
- The classrooms in the additions have ventilation units.
- There is a need to retrofit the air handling unit in the “new” gymnasium.

Additional discussion:

- M. Shevenell said the School Board would like input from the Committee on what projects, priority of projects and whether to do one or two projects at time or all together.
- There is a possibility for state building aid for such projects.
- Fuel costs will be higher after completion of the energy project, but the cost will be off-set by efficiencies.
- S. Barnes suggested that the Committee look at the “pros and cons” of doing ventilation projects as well as doing the projects all at once or over several years. She also suggested that the Committee look at each existing unit to determine age, condition and life expectancy before need for replacement.
- The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) research on the tangible educational benefits to improved air quality and ventilation shows a 10 – 20% increase in test scores after air quality improvement projects are completed.
- Studies of the current conditions at each school can be done to measure exhaust, CO² levels, number of sick days per staff and student populations, test scores and other issues that might be suggested. Comparisons of same student performance at different schools and/or comparison of the middle school to other schools were also suggested.
- Maintenance costs are less for central air quality control units than for individual units, but if a central unit fails, more people are affected at a given time.
- The Honeywell employees agreed that, if the proposed plan was to be done in stages, first priority would be MHS Cafeteria, followed by all classrooms and then the gymnasium areas.
- Work on some of the proposed projects could only be done over the summer.

- There were questions about whether Honeywell would have to do all the work or would other vendors be utilized as well as what other options might be possible.
- Members suggested the need to quantify cost and expected benefits.
- The possibility of establishing a “Capital Reserve Fund to Air Quality Improvement Projects” was suggested.

Approval of Prior Minutes

Due to the hour, this item was tabled until the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 22nd.

L. Rothhaus made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: G. Perry. MOTION PASSED. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich