



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

September 27, 2004
Minutes

Present: J. Vaillancourt, F. Rothhaus, C. Morrison, W. Morrison, S. Heinrich and School Board liaison E. Coburn

Absent: T. Koenig

W. Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. He told the Committee the School Board had given the following charge:

Complete a study of bus ridership that identifies the resources needed to provide a two-run bus schedule for students in grades R-12, beginning in the 2005-2006 school year. Recommended background information is data and reports prepared by the 2004 bus schedule committee. The targeted date should coincide with the schedule for the 2005-2006 budget preparation.

The Committee viewed a tape of the portion of the September 20th School Board meeting where charge for the Committee was discussed. Members discussed several documents that might be useful in working on the charge.

- ❖ Transportation Survey Report – March 2004
- ❖ Transportation Overview & Proposals
- ❖ Student Ridership Options 2004-05, shown to Committee, 11/03
- ❖ Correspondence to Parent Transition Group on Transportation Plans, 2/04
- ❖ Email from Tina Demember to the Committee
- ❖ Recommendations of the Parent Transition Group, based on Transportation Survey

Members decided that further information and input was needed from Dick Dumont, Matt Shevenell and Bob Ralph. Items to be discussed included current ridership numbers for each route per grade, “First Monday” figures for each school and population projections for next year, current cost and proposed costs for transportation as currently configured and including costs for larger buses.

In addition, members discussed whether to contact parents and administrators to ask what they felt was working, what wasn't and if they had any recommendations or suggestions. There was a lengthy discussion on the social issues involved in bussing different age groups together.

Members questioned what the charge actually entailed, what they wanted to do, and what could be done within the time frames. E. Coburn suggested that the School Board wanted to find out if the District could return to two bus runs without increasing costs. Members discussed doing just that could raise other issues, which would need to be considered. Members also noted that there

are variances between the number of students who live on each route and how many are actually expected to ride - based on grade, and the number who are expected and how many actually ride the buses – based on the time of year.

By consensus, the Committee decided to meet on October 11th if a meeting location could be found. If not, the next meeting would be scheduled for October 4th. Dick Dumont and Bob Ralph will be invited to this meeting and asked to bring information on costs of larger buses, ridership figures per grade, per run and the percentages of students who ride buses per grade, per season.

C. Morrison made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: F. Rothhaus. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich