



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District

<http://www.merrimack.k12.nh.us/PBC/>

Minutes

October 26, 2009

Present: D. Powell, R. Hendricks, G. Perry, S. Heinrich, F. Rothhaus and School Board liaison
R. Swonger

Excused: L. Rothhaus

R. Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Approval of Prior Minutes

D. Powell made a MOTION to approve the minutes of August 24, 2009 with corrections.

Second: S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 28, 2009. Second: D. Powell. MOTION PASSED.

Combined SAU/SpEd Building

R. Hendricks updated the members with information obtained when he had spoke with Ed Murtough of the Department of Education and learned the following:

- State aid for building construction would be 40%.
- Aid could be for new construction or renovation.
- Applications are due in February
- First payment of state aid would be the October following the project approval.

R. Hendricks also reminded the members that a building housing the SAU offices would be an office building and not have to be built to meet school building standards.

R. Hendricks said he had spoken with Superintendent Chiafery who indicated the Committee should take the time needed to do a complete and thorough report. She also told him that she wanted the Library Services Department Head located in the SAU office, rather than at the high school. Members asked if the Homeless Coordinator and the Truant Officer/Bus Coordinator should also be housed in the SAU office rather than with the SpEd offices.

R. Hendricks said that School Board Chair Vaillancourt was concerned about proposing anything additional in next year's budget. He said there is a possibility that some funds for architectural and engineering (A & E) fees for design of an SAU/SpEd building might be included in the proposed School District operating budget. R. Swonger confirmed the School Board's concern over the effect of reduced state aid to the town and how that will impact the proposed town and school budgets.

D. Powell said the biggest unknown on the table is JMUES. He said the Committee needs to find out more about space that might be available in the old section of the building, what renovations

PBC Minutes, 10/26/09, continued

would need to be done and what they would cost, including an HVAC upgrade. He said that people know there is space available and will want justification about why the Committee would propose building new space, rather than using available space at JMUES. He suggested that, if some part of JMUES was renovated for SpEd offices, that JMUES would need to reconfigure how it used remaining spaces and that internal traffic patterns would need to be altered so that students were not walking to the playground through the is space.

G. Perry suggested relocating the playground to the inside courtyard. He also suggested that the Committee look seriously at adding an addition to the current SpEd building. He thought gutting and redesigning the current space, in combination with an addition, might provide sufficient space for the SAU offices and at a lower cost. He suggested slab for the addition and using the current building basement for storage and vault space.

R. Hendricks stated that it appears that turnkey construction costs could be as low as \$94 a square foot, and he wondered why the new SAU office building is costing approximately \$124 a square foot.

Members reviewed the draft of the format for their final report. R. Hendricks noted that the Committee actually first started talking about a new SAU office in July 2006 as part of that year's C.I.P review. F. Rothhaus suggested that the report should not make any recommendations, but simply provide all the data the Committee has assembled and let the final decision of what to do be the School Board's.

By consensus, members agreed that each could draft a section of the report and send it to the clerk for compilation into the next draft of the report. The work was divided as follows:

R. Hendricks	Current Status/Situation/Usage at each building
D. Powell	Current Need/Problem areas at each building
L. Rothhaus	Enrollment Trends & review of Population Projections
F. Rothhaus	Impact on new Court on Town Hall/Mastricola complex
G. Perry	Purchasing land
S. Heinrich	Building on currently owned land
R. Swonger	Cost of HVAC update and bringing space to current code at JMUES

Members suggested that information about leasing land could be taken directly from the July 27th meeting minutes.

Next Meeting

By consensus, the members decided to cancel their meeting scheduled on November 9th and next meet on November 23rd because the Town Council and the School Board are holding a joint meeting on November 9th.

G. Perry made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED unanimously, School Board liaison position: in favor. R. Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 9 PM.