



## PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District

<http://www.sau26.org/PBC/>

### Minutes

December 20, 2023

Present: S. Albuquerque, T. Groff, R. Hendricks, F. Rothhaus (late), M. Alukonis and School Board liaison L. Rothhaus

Absent: G. Perry

Also Present: Chief Educational Officer B. Olsen (late), Business Administrator M. Shevenell, Sue Sheridan

R. Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to move the Central Office proposal forward.

M. Shevenell shared plans, cost specifics and bond costs. He said there is no more school building aid from the state. He also said that due to cost considerations this might need to be a design-build project. He said the biggest issue is the tax rate increase due to the reduction in commercial property values.

#### Discussion included:

- This is a critical need, not a want.
- Do the bids received include demolition of the current Admin and Special Services buildings?
  - The cost to Brentwood was \$56,000.
  - The estimated cost to demo both buildings would be \$125,000.
- Is there any negotiation room in the estimates received?
- Building costs are not going down.
- The bond bank interest rate is 4%.
- The administration is concerned about what would happen in the event of an emergency during which the buildings would have to be evacuated.
- Nick Lavalley is going to help edit or re-do the videos. Hopefully they will be ready in three weeks.
- The District has not yet received the fire inspection report.
  - Members do not want to complete the video without the report.

- This building is not covered by OSHA standards.
- The District could contact the NH Department of Labor for an inspection.

R. Hendricks made a MOTION to recommend to the School Board \$6.9 million dollars should be the preliminary target cost to be proposed for constructing a new Central Office. Second: S. Albuquerque.

Discussion included:

- M. Shevenell said he would propose a 15-year bond.
- The highest annual cost would be \$740,000 in the first full year of the bond, which is less than what we paid annually for the middle school.
- The current town tax increase is not due to the school budget or this project.
- The School District lost \$1 million dollars in state aid this year.
- Maybe there should be a second video explaining the “money.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Hendricks tentatively suggested January 22<sup>nd</sup> as the next meeting date of the Committee.

T. Groff made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: S. Albuquerque.

R. Hendricks declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich