



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District

<https://www.sau26.org/domain/23>

Minutes

May 8, 2024

Present: G. Perry, S. Albuquerque, F. Rothhaus, A. Santoriello, K. Bernier and
School Board Liaison L. Rothhaus

Excused: T. Groff

G. Perry called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. He welcomed everyone and introduced A. Santoriello and K. Bernier, the two new members.

Reorganization

After a brief discussion, F. Rothhaus nominated S. Albuquerque for Chair and G. Perry for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. G. Perry called for a roll call vote: S. Albuquerque and G. Perry were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

G. Perry nominated F. Rothhaus for Secretary. There were no other nominations. G. Perry called for a roll call vote: F. Rothhaus was unanimously elected as Secretary of the Committee.

L. Rothhaus requested that the Committee discuss the possibility of amending the Committee By-laws to include having a School Board liaison who would be a voting member of the Committee. By consensus, it was agreed that some research is needed and that this issue would be an agenda item later in the year.

Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Albuquerque made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 29, 2023 as written. Second: K. Bernier. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Albuquerque made a MOTION to approve the minutes of December 20, 2023 as written. Second: K. Bernier. MOTION PASSED 4 - 0 - 1. (G. Perry abstained.)

S. Albuquerque made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024 as written. Second: K. Bernier. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Review of Election Results

A discussion of the recent election results was held.

Member comments included:

- Communication was a major problem.
- The School District Website needs to be updated to provide easily accessed, complete and current information.
- The School Board will be putting a new SAU on the ballot next year and will write a charge about the SAU project to give the Committee.
- Old reports on the website need to be updated.
- What was cut from the original project to reduce the square footage to 8,000 square feet?
- The District needs the fire inspection report.
- The District worked with an architect and contractors to draw up the building plans and get price estimates.
- Do we need a new Ad Hoc Committee?
- The Master Plan
 - There isn't an approved Master Plan
 - When will parking, sidewalks and traffic patterns be addressed?
 - Possibly the plan should cover/consider the entire District.

Members also shared comments they have heard from the public:

- Voters do not believe the proposal is a need. Saying "It would be nice" indicates a want, not a need.
- Eleven thousand square feet is too big.
- Why does the building cost so much?

- Entrance security issues in both current buildings need to be better explained.

Upcoming Meeting Plans and Schedule

Members discussed moving the meeting day back to Monday but by consensus decided to continue meeting on the 2nd, and possibly the 4th, Wednesday of each month.

G. Perry said the next Committee meetings would be on May 22nd and June 12th. He suggested the Committee could discuss summer meeting dates after getting the School Board charge.

F. Rothhaus asked that M. Shevenell be invited to attend the May 22nd meeting.

K. Bernier made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: A. Santoriello

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

G. Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich