



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE
Merrimack School District
<http://www.merrimack.k12.nh.us/PBC/>

Minutes
June 28, 2010

Present: D. Powell, S. Heinrich, R. Hendricks, F. Rothhaus, and L. Rothhaus

Excused: G. Perry

Also present: Business Administrator M. Shevenell and School Board Chair J. Vaillancourt.

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

Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of June 14, 2010 with corrections. Second: L. Rothhaus. MOTION PASSED: 4 – 0 – 1 with F. Rothhaus abstaining.

R. Hendricks reported he had toured Mastricola Upper Elementary School with a M. Shevenell and a representative from Marinace Architects, Tybor Farkus. The purpose of the tour was to discuss needed renovations and potential codes issues if space at this school was converted for use by the SpEd department. R. Hendricks reported that Mr. Farkus had the following observations and suggestions:

- Outside:
 - The hard top playground area would have to be eliminated to allow access to the building and parking spaces for SpEd staff and visitors.
 - The playground areas outside the windows would have to be re-located so that students at play would not distract SpEd testing or services.
- Code Concerns
 - The SpEd office areas would need to be sealed off from the rest of the building – which would result need for additional outside door for fire escape.
 - Staircase near Room 142 is not wide enough and might not be easily fixable.
 - There would be a dead end hallway, which would impact student traffic flow throughout the building.
 - Bathroom in the SpEd area would have to be made handicapped accessible and additional bathrooms would have to be added on the first floor for the JMES students.

M. Shevenell said that Mr. Farkus would write a report, which is expected to be ready in about 3 weeks, detailing his concerns, observations, recommendations and estimated costs for renovations. M. Shevenell noted that during the tour, it was suggested that possibly SpEd could take over the first grade wing at Mastricola Elementary, moving the fourth grade there to space in the Upper Elementary School. He said the first grade wing had outside access and parking and could easily be sealed off from the rest of the elementary school. However, doing this would result in the loss of the kindergarten classrooms, the money for which would then have to be repaid to the state, plus new kindergarten classrooms would have to be created. He noted that it

seemed that each time an issue of concern was raised, the solution to the concern created another problem to be addressed.

During the ensuing discussion, members noted the following:

- A new SAU building has to be built. The question is what will it contain and where it will be located.
- The Committee wants to compare cost of renovating JMUES for SpEd usage to costs of including JMUES in a new SAU office building.
- The cost of ventilation upgrades in JMUES alone is \$300,000.
- The SAU office does not have to be built to “school codes.”
- The next step is to review with Marinace exactly what sized spaces and which offices the Administration want to be located in the SAU office so that Marinace can develop a schematic that could be used for construction quotes.
- The Committee was involved in the decision to put the JMUES playground where it is and there really is no other place for it.
- The fire department will not allow the courtyard to be used for “large group activities or “playground/recess.”
- Julia Gower, the network administrator is currently located at the high school. She has indicated that she wants to be with the servers, which are also located at the high school. Administration wants the Network Administrator to be located in the new SAU building but does not believe it would be a good idea to move or re-locate the servers. Ms. Gower could have desktop remote control and camera access to the server room in an office in the SAU building.
- Several cost projections were discussed: Marinace quoted \$1.8 million dollars for the Keene SAU; Hutter Construction suggests \$1.4 million for 10,000 sq. feet.
- Mr. Tybor needs to review the concept of using the current SpEd building space.
- It appears that the term “emergency” to be considered for state aid involves a condition that endangers the welfare of a child. There is a need to have Ed Murtagh tour the current SAU building for a firmer grasp on whether or not this project would qualify for state building aid.
- There is a need for a civil engineer to review the site to propose a cost for site work.
- A solid marketing plan is needed (website, coffees, informational meetings, photographs, power point presentation, tours, cable program, etc) as well as going before the Planning Board.

J. Vaillancourt told the Committee that the School Board knows the SAU office needs to be replaced with or with/out state aid, but it wants to be sure that every alternative, especially use of existing school space, has been thoroughly explored, so that the resulting recommendation is thoroughly justified and that there is an answer for the anticipated questions. She said that this building project would be an integral part of the upcoming budget. She suggested that the School Board needs a final report from the Committee by mid-October, early November at the latest.

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Members agreed to meet on July 12th, starting at 7 PM, to prepare a specific space needs list for the SAU office and that Marinace Architects would be invited to a meeting on July 26th, also starting at 7 PM, to discuss the space needs list and other concerns that the Committee has.

D. Powell made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: L. Rothhaus and S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED.

R. Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.