



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

Minutes  
July 12, 2010

Present: R. Hendricks, G. Perry, D. Powell, S. Heinrich, L. Rothhaus (arrived late)

Excused: F. Rothhaus

R. Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of June 28, 2010 with corrections.

MOTION PASSED. 3 – 0 – 1 with G. Perry abstaining.

**Combined SAU/SpEd Building**

Members reviewed and revised a chart guesstimating square footage needs for the various office spaces and functions that would be needed in a new SAU/SpEd office building.

R. Hendricks presented a list of questions that he felt the Committee needed to answer in its final report.

1. Why can't we use the old courtroom space? Members noted that the court space was leased by the state from the town. It is town owned. Money for renovation of the space was included in the 2010-11 town budget as the town already has plans of its own for use of that space.

L. Rothhaus arrived at this time.

2. What about other existing lots owned by the town or the School District? The site the Committee is suggesting that an SAU be built in is in the best location. Members suggested that the report reference the list of school properties that S. Heinrich had shared with the Committee. L. Rothhaus mentioned that the town actually gifted the one acre site that the Committee is suggesting using and has sold off most other large parcels that it felt were surplus.

3. How much does the District spend to rent space for training meetings at SERESC in Bedford and how many attend? In addition, what is the Staff Development cost for staff going to out of District trainings, exclusive of the China trip? Most trainings happen during the school day. Teachers need 75 hours in each area they are certified in. Possibly a large conference room available in a new SAU office would reduce this cost and even generate revenue as trainings could be offered to staff in other districts. Members felt these questions need more research.

4. What about existing vacant buildings in Merrimack? Members agreed that the report should use the minutes when D. Barry came to discuss this issue with the Committee. Members also noted that the cost to renovate any space to meet the needs of the offices was money that would

be lost. Further, members felt that it was a good idea to have the superintendent's office near the high school.

5. Why do we need a new SAU/SpEd building? Members listed environmental issues, the age and condition of the building, ADA compliance, and safety issues. They suggested a power point be created showing the seriousness of the various issues. Members wanted to know what year the current SAU office opened. They noted that at the time, even though the Merrimack School District was in an SAU with Bedford School District, there were fewer students in the District and fewer staff in the District offices. Superintendent M. Chiafery has long said that the needs of the students should come first. The SAU/SpEd buildings are now the only District buildings that have not been updated, enlarged or renovated. Other issues raised were

- Sometimes the only space to meet with someone is in the kitchen, which then means that the kitchen and the copier are unavailable for use by anyone else.
  - School Board meetings could be held in a large conference room and the meeting "set-up" would not have to be broken down and/or moved to another location after each meeting.
  - Small group space is needed.
  - Phone conversations, meetings and other business that should be confidential are not.
- There was also a question about the safety and security of all District records.

6. What would a \$1.1 million bond cost over 5 or 10 years? S. Heinrich said the cost of each \$100,000 is approximately 3.4¢ on the tax rate. The total cost of the bond would include the bond and the total interest paid during the life of the bond.

R. Hendricks asked if anyone else had any other questions at the moment and suggested that members should be thinking about what other questions are likely to come up so that these questions can be researched and answered now.

D. Powell said the biggest question at this point is still the viability of renovating space at JMUES. He said that the District has to build something, the question is whether the space built includes SpEd or not.

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

R. Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.