



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

Minutes
August 27, 2012

Present: R. Hendricks, S. Heinrich, G. Perry, L. Rothhaus, and R. Rothhaus

Excused: S. Sheridan

Also Present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Business Administrator M. Shevenell, Maintenance Director T. Tousseau and School Board Member D. Powell

R. Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Track and Field Update

R. Hendricks told the Committee that S. Sheridan had forwarded to him a copy of the report on turf fields that she had mentioned at the last meeting. He brought up the issue of mid-day field temperature during hot weather and methods used to cool the field.

R. Hendricks indicated that he had spoken with Eric Hughes from Field Turf Company about turf fields, specifically maintenance costs and installation issues. He reported that the cost to install a turf field would be about \$850,000 - \$900,000 and the cost includes a “sweeper” machine that is used for maintenance of the field. He also indicated that Mr. Hughes said that replacing the track and installing a turf field do not necessarily have to be done simultaneously. Mr. Hughes is willing to come and meet with the Committee or the School Board. After discussion, members agreed that Mr. Hughes should meet with the Committee and the information he provides can be included in the Committee’s next report to the School Board. R. Hendricks will invite him to attend an upcoming Committee meeting.

Central Office Update

R. Hendricks told the Committee that he hoped the Committee could find ways to keep the cost of a new Central Office at or below \$1.5 million dollars. Suggestions discussed included energy initiatives that would reduce operating costs and applying for energy rebates.

Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.)

M. Chiafery told the Committee that the three capital projects in the current budget: asbestos removal at the high school, Mastricola Elementary School roof and Reeds Ferry School parking lot/Lyons Road had been accomplished over the summer.

M. Chiafery told the Committee that the strategy was to try to keep the total amount proposed per year at a fairly level amount. T. Tousseau and M. Shevenell provided handouts to explain the projects in the proposed C.I.P. The project categories included Roofing, Asbestos Removal,

Paving, Central Office Consolidation, MUES Drainage and Entrance/Office Upgrade, MHS Track/Field Upgrade and Technology Infrastructure Upgrade.

M. Chiafery said she did not know if the individual projects would be put in the operating budget or placed in warrant articles. She also that Administration has decided to put the track and field project in FY 14-15 ahead of a new Central Office because of their wish to put needs of the children first.

L Rothhaus pointed out that the Committee viewed the Central Office as safety issue and stated she felt it should not be ahead of a track and field project. D. Powell said he viewed the track as a “need” and a new field as a “want.”

M. Chiafery told the Committee that the deadline for the proposed C.I.P. to be at the Planning Board is September 20th and she wanted the Committee to provide an estimated cost for the track and field project. She said she was hoping to present the C.I.P to the School Board on September 17th; however, she was willing to request an extension from the Planning Board and present the C.I.P to the School Board at its October 1st meeting.

R. Hendricks said the Committee could not offer a definite figure for the field project until it meets with Mr. Hughes. He suggested that he could invite Mr. Hughes to the September 10th meeting and that the Committee would meet September 24th to finalize its recommendations about the C.I.P., which he would relay to M. Chiafery.

By consensus, everyone present agreed with this plan.

Space Utilization Inventory

R. Hendricks told the Committee that it has been suggested that the fifth and sixth grades could be moved out of the upper elementary school, thus opening up sufficient space for the Central Offices. He suggested that the Committee needs to review current school utilization to determine whether this is a possibility. He said the Inventory document was developed by the Committee and is in need of some revision before it can be given to the principals to update the student numbers.

M. Shevenell will work with Committee members to update the basic inventory document. M. Chiafery offered to ask NESDEC to do a demographic study as well. It was her opinion that the District needed a long-range snapshot of student numbers in addition to the current year’s utilization figures.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: G. Perry. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich