



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District
<http://www.isone.com/~merrpbc>

Minutes
June 23, 2003

Present: S. Heinrich, T. Koenig, C. Morrison, W. Morrison, Business Administrator M. Shevenell

Excused: K. Powell

Absent: F. Rothhaus

The meeting was called order at 7:35 PM by W. Morrison.

Middle School Renovations

W. Morrison passed out copies of a Preliminary Renovation Request for the middle school from Shirley Lemay. He noted the list did not include wiring for computers. He told the committee that Superintendent Chiafery will discuss with the School Board extending the deadline for the project. He also noted that the administration is working on bus scheduling plans for the new school.

The committee discussed prioritizing renovations as “Must,” “Need” or “Should” be done. They felt they needed to address life safely issues as “Must” issues. They would like to meet with both the architect and with Mike Currier, the town fire marshall to discuss what issues should be considered safety issues . They also felt that if as part of the renovations, the entire school should be brought up to current code.

The committee reviewed the renovation list. They noted that asbestos removal would cost about \$300,000 and should be done during the first summer. The committee assigned a “Must” priority to this.

The committee added sprinklers to the list and assigned a “Must” priority to them as well.

Before the committee can determine renovations and/or classroom usage, the committee felt it needed to know if the administration is still planning to use the Grade 5/6 model it suggested in the past: two 3 person teams, each teacher having a regular sized classroom and sharing a large classroom OR if the administration would be using an straight elementary school model or a middle school model.

Another item on the list was chalkboards. M. Shevenell told the committee that the new school would have all white boards, instead of chalkboards.

Other issues on the list:

Ventilation/AC - Need

Heat in old section of building - Need

Lockers in old section of building - Should
Classroom doors swinging wrong way - Must
Girls Bathroom near Room 146 - Need
Install paddle type faucets in all Bathroom Sinks - Must
Install Lever Lock door handle sets throughout school - Must
Replace sagging ceiling tiles - was not assigned a priority.

There was a discussion about the location of a secure main entrance. The goal is a vestibule with a window and an air lock. C. Morrison wanted to be sure that there was an adequate sized nurses office, near the main office. Suggestions were to ensure that there was an electrical update to the teachers/equipment room as well as adequate lighting in hallways and public areas.

New School Plans

M. Shevenell shared the diagrams of the new school. He noted the design had been modified both from the original Keyes design and the design presented at School District Meeting. He also noted the architect had reviewed the design with the administration as well as the various middle school departments.

Committee members liked the overall design concept but had several concerns including

- 1.The need for 8 science classrooms as 8 clusters are likely to be needed when the school opens
- 2.Access/egress to the outside playing fields for P.E. classes both now and even more so, when the future addition would be added.
- 3.Two vs. three floors. Three floors will reduce the initial footprint as well as provide more potential space for the future addition and/or parking.
- 4.How to limit access to the rest of the building when gymnasium and/or cafetorium was used after hours.
- 5.Adequate number and location of bathrooms on the first floor. There should be bathrooms easily available to classrooms on the first floor, near the gymnasium and near the cafetorium.

The committee noted that they would have liked to have met with the architect during the preliminary design phase. They asked to have their concerns shared with the architect to see if any could be easily addressed.

On a motion from C. Morrison, seconded by S. Heinrich, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

