PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District

Minutes
September 25, 2023

Present: R. Hendricks, M. Alukonis, G. Perry, Tim Groff and School Board Liaison L. Rothhaus
Absent: F. Rothhaus and S. Albuquerque
Also Present: Chief Educational Officer B. Olsen and Assistant Superintendent for Business M. Shevenell

R. Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Approval of Prior Minutes

R. Hendricks made a motion to approve the July 24th meeting minutes. Second: G. Perry. MOTION PASSED 3 – 0 – 1. (G. Perry abstained.)

Master Plan

R. Hendricks said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss some priority changes in the master plan.

Laurie Rothhaus told the Committee that the School Board would like to present a new Central Office on the ballot next spring. She said the School Board the current SAU offices are both insufficient and unsafe, and should be replaced sooner rather than later.

M. Shevenell said the District will pay off the middle school bond during this fiscal year so if the District bonds a new project (a new Central Office building), the impact on the budget would remain the same.

M. Shevenell said that due to concerns about the effect of the highway widening on the parking lot and the need to relocate the skate park, building on the Brentwood site might be the best immediate solution. He said four construction companies are currently working on cost proposals for a new Central Office on that site and shared a new draft design plan for an 11,000 square foot building with a 2,300 square foot basement. He indicated that this would mean the parking lot redesign would be put off until building construction and turnpike widening was nearing completion which is expected in 2024-2025.

After discussion, R. Hendricks made a MOTION that the Planning and Building Committee supports and recommends that the School Board pursue the new central office redesign and, further, recommends the project be on the ballot in spring of 2024. Second: G. Perry. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Meeting

G. Perry asked if the Committee could change its meeting day of the week.

After discussion, members agreed by consensus to meet on 2nd and/or 4th Wednesdays of the month.

R. Hendricks stated that the next Committee meetings would be on October 11th and October 25th.

Re-organization

M. Alukonis made a MOTION that R. Hendricks remain Chair. Second: T. Groff. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

M. Alukonis made a MOTION that G. Perry remain Vice Chair. Second: T. Groff. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

After discussion about the need for a Secretary per Committee By-laws, M. Alukonis offered to be Secretary. R. Hendricks made a MOTION to elect M. Alukonis Secretary. Second: T. Groff. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

M. Alukonis made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: G. Perry. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich