

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 27

Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052

May 1, 2007

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Ms. Tracy Caprioglio, Building Committee Chair
Mr. Mike Boschi, Building Committee Member
Mr. Jack Scheiner, Building Committee Member
Mr. Shawn Egan, Building Committee Member
Mr. Karl Franck, Building Committee Member
Mrs. Cindy Couture, School Board Representative
Ms. Catherine Hamblett, Superintendent
Mr. Martin Schlichter, Principal, GMS
Mrs. Michele E. Flynn, School Board Secretary

1) Call to Order -

Ms. Caprioglio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes -

Minutes of April 17, 2007

Mr. Franck made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Egan seconded. The motion passed.

3) Review the dewatering of the Library site

Mr. Scheiner reported that he spoke with the Library Trustees with regard to the drainage project that was done to alleviate their water problem. He indicated that the Trustees replied that they have had no water in the Library basement since the dewatering was completed and the drainage was run under Route 3A. He added that Quantum Construction Consultants completed the project in the fall of 2005 prior to the May 2006 flood.

Ms. Hamblett reported that she spoke with Mr. Bergeron about the Library drainage project and he agreed there has been no problem since the project was completed. Mr. Bergeron indicated that the drainage was done by directional boring along the pipelines; a manhole was created so the water would flow through to the pipe that was placed under Route 3A. Ms. Hamblett noted that Mr. Bergeron indicated that the cost was expensive and that the Library site is a smaller scale compared to GMS. She added that he thought permitting may still be a problem on Route 3A at GMS.

Ms. Caprioglio asked for a comparison of the water problems at the Library and GMS. Mr. Scheiner commented that the Library had more water in the basement. Ms. Hamblett clarified that the groundwater problem was the same at the Library and GMS. The difference is that the Library has a basement and GMS has a slab.

Mrs. Couture asked Mr. Scheiner if the Library has the drainage plans. Mr. Scheiner indicated that he was not sure, but we can ask the Trustees if they have the plans. Mrs. Couture commented that the SAU Office can research the plans.

4) Review Comparative Evaluation Selections

a) Options - Renovate and expand GMS or Build a smaller, new school

Ms. Caprioglio asked how the Committee arrived at their selection options. Mr. Boschi explained that after Committee members discussed options to present to the Board, they decided on two options that they felt the voters would consider: 1) renovate GMS and add on; 2) a proposed new school smaller than the proposed school on the 2006 ballot.

b) Review of Selection Criteria

Ms. Caprioglio asked Committee members to review the tasks discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Boschi indicated that the Committee was asked to review the selection criteria that was provided as a guide when considering options. Mrs. Couture explained that the criteria is generic and are items to consider when deciding on building options.

Mr. Boschi noted that he reviewed the selection criteria and had no changes as he felt that everything listed is reasonable to consider. Ms. Caprioglio asked if other Committee members had any input on the list. Mr. Scheiner wanted to know if GMS is modified, what will happen to the scrap metal removed from the building, if it would be disposed of, or if it will be sold. Ms. Hamblett suggested making it an addition to the selection criteria.

Ms. Hamblett suggested the Committee may want to consider a green school, however building costs are higher initially while long-term savings are realized from greater efficiency. She added that green schools are environmentally sound and there are grants available for construction. Committee members briefly discussed considering green schools, but felt voters would not support it because of the cost.

Ms. Caprioglio asked the Committee for additions to the selection criteria. She proposed the addition of scrap metal return value to offset the cost of renovations or construction to the criteria. The Committee agreed. Mr. Scheiner proposed adding a bowed roof [not flat] to the criteria. Mr. Franck indicated that we could look into a roof design that would allow us to make an efficient roof structure, improve insulation, and improve the moisture problem. SAU space will also be added to the selection criteria. Kindergarten will remain an optional addition to either plan.

5) Review of New Alternative Plans

a) GMS with Addition

Committee members discussed Mr. Scheiner's plan for an addition to GMS. Copies of the drawing were distributed to Committee members as the discussion continued. Mr. Schiener laid the drawing over a floor plan of the existing school and explained how the addition would affect the building. The plans consisted of two possible options for additions: option 1 would add 11 classrooms and option 2 would add 7 classrooms.

Committee members discussed briefly what the next step would be. Mrs. Couture explained that the next step would be to send the plan to Harriman to make a design schematic as well as a design for the smaller school version. The Building Committee then would get a cost estimate for the design work and make their recommendation to the Board. The School Board will need to find the money in the budget for the cost estimate or request Impact Fees from the Selectmen as soon as possible. Mr. Franck suggested asking Harriman if the autocad file is available as he could work with it himself, which would cut costs.

Ms. Caprioglio asked Committee members which option they felt strongly about. Mr. Boschi indicated that it depends upon the number of classrooms needed and the relocation of the SAU Offices. Ms. Hamblett reminded the Committee that any recommendation to the Board would have to include Kindergarten space needs as the Board has indicated in their charge to the Committee as an optional addition.

Ms. Caprioglio commented that she was under the impression that Harriman would be returning with a two grade school option and that the options the Building Committee decided upon could change what we are currently asking Harriman to do. Mr. Boschi indicated that the classroom sizes and structure of the building were not changing. Ms. Hamblett indicated that the plans could change if the Committee modifies GMS to use the renovated areas for grade one. Mr. Boschi asked why the Committee is bothering with plans for a two grade school. Ms. Hamblett reminded him that is what the School Board requested. She added that Committee members would have to seek the Board's agreement in changing the scope of renovation work to adapt it to an addition. Ms. Hamblett will check with Harriman about the possibility of revising the scope of work and any additional cost.

Mrs. Couture suggested that we get clarification from Harriman if they committed to a two grade school design and costing. Mr. Schlichter indicated that he met with Harriman on a two grade school design. Mr. Boschi suggested that, since we now have three options, we eliminate the current two grade option and include the renovation and addition, and the new smaller school. Ms. Hamblett suggested that she speak with Mr. Cecil regarding Mr. Boschi's suggestion. [Mr. Cecil will cost out the two grade options proceeding early in June with the additional two options should the School Board approve funding the cost of design.]

b) Scaled-down New Elementary School

Mr. Boschi explained that he reviewed the floor plans for the 725 student school and suggested eliminating two wings of the building design. He is estimating six classrooms per grade and reducing the number of rooms for specialties. He added that in the future the school could be expanded with an addition(s) or convert the computer lab to a classroom and partition the library to accommodate the computer lab.

Mr. Schlichter indicated that he met briefly with Mr. Boschi and reviewed the educational spaces. He suggested eliminating a classroom at each grade level and reducing the number of art and music rooms to one each for the opening of the school. He added that small office space could be eliminated as well. Mr. Schlichter and Mr. Boschi will continue to work on the floor plans.

Committee members also discussed the use of a steel building for the gym as an option. Ms. Caprioglio wanted to know if the Committee should ask Harriman for costs for a steel building. Mrs. Couture indicated that the Committee can ask Harriman or call Maple Leaf [a steel building contractor].

Ms. Caprioglio reviewed the tasks the Committee will be asking of Harriman - design and provide cost estimates for: renovations for GMS with no specific grade levels; renovation with small addition; a large addition; a scaled down version of the 2006 proposed school with a possible option for a steel gym. Mr. Boschi asked if there were any specific differences between what is needed for grade one and grade five. Mr. Schlichter indicated that the difference is direct bathroom accessibility for grade one.

Mr. Boschi and Ms. Caprioglio asked about space for Kindergarten. Ms. Hamblett explained that the District has specific addition plans for public Kindergarten at the State level. This would be a new construction addition. Mr. Egan wanted clarification that the four rooms for Kindergarten would be a separate addition. Ms. Hamblett confirmed that was the case, however, the building construction aid is an immediate 75% reimbursement of funds. She added that whether the Building Committee decides to include the Kindergarten rooms in the plans they are proposing or propose a separate addition to the voters, the actual 2008 warrant must state an implementation date for Kindergarten.

6) Next Meeting

Ms. Hamblett reported that Harriman would like to deliver their report on May 22 and would like to meet on May 29 for an hour long summary with costs. The Committee agreed to meet on May 15 and May 29, and on June 12.

a) New agenda items

Agenda items for the next meeting will include: a review Mr. Boschi's floor plans, and a review what Harriman is doing for the Committee.

Mrs. Couture indicated that the Board would appreciate a recommendation for a location for the SAU. Mr. Scheiner commented that the Committee would have to review the designs [plans] for the additions to GMS before deciding on a recommendation for the relocation of the SAU. Ms. Caprioglio suggested adding the SAU space needs to the selection criteria.

7) Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele E. Flynn
Secretary