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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 27

Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052

September 11, 2007

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

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

1) Call to Order

Ms. Caprioglio called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes –

Minutes for July 31, 2007

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

Minutes for August 14, 2007

Mr. Franck made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Boschi seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting Notes for September 5, 2007

The meeting of September 5, 2007 of the Building Committee was not an official meeting as there was no quorum. The minutes from this meeting were labeled 'meeting notes' and did not need approval. Building Committee members not present at the September 5 meeting will review the meeting notes and comment at the next meeting on September 18.

3) Review and discuss Harriman estimates mailed out to committee members

4) Review and discuss timeline for recommendation to School Board

Ms. Caprioglio reviewed the information that Mr. Cecil of Harriman Associates presented at the September 5 meeting. She updated Committee members that were not present at that meeting on discussions that occurred in their absence. Ms. Caprioglio indicated that it was suggested that the Committee encourage citizens' to establish a publicity committee in order to publicize the Building Committee's recommendation for GMS when it is presented and approved by the School Board. She cautioned Committee members that if a member wishes to participate in a publicity committee, they must do so as a private citizen and not as a Building Committee member. She added that the District's funds cannot be spent on publicity urging a yes vote, however, factual information may be given.

Ms. Caprioglio mentioned that the information that was presented at the last meeting was mailed to those Committee members who were not present at the meeting. She asked for questions and/or comments on that information. Mrs. Couture commented that Committee members should keep in mind that all cost

estimates for the options that Mr. Cecil presented are “ball park” estimates. After a decision is made by the Committee these numbers can be reduced as they go through the items included in the option(s). Mrs. Couture indicated, for example, that the technology line items were taken out of the CHS bond and included in the following year’s operating budget and library books were taken out of the CHS bond and included in future operating budgets.

Ms. Caprioglio referred to previous new school proposal warrant articles asking for an idea of the amount of reductions made to the building cost estimates. Mrs. Couture noted that items were removed from the cost estimates, but drastic cost cutting did not work for the high school project. Mr. Schlichter indicated that when opening the middle school costs had to be whittled down by removing some items and recycling furniture and equipment to save money. Mr. Martin indicated that there are opportunities to reduce the square footage in some areas and that the Committee will have several meetings to work on those costs while arriving at a bond cost.

Ms. Caprioglio expressed her personal concern with recommending options she feels the Budget Committee and the voters will not approve because of the cost. Mrs. Couture pointed out that that the Committee should be prepared to defend their recommendation. Ms. Hamblett indicated Committee members should keep in mind that some towns that constructed new schools went over their project budget and had to place the amount of the increase in their operating budgets or request permission to use the interest earned. She added that there are costs that cannot be predicted.

Committee members discussed their concerns with proposing a recommendation with a competing project proposal in the town (a new fire station). Options for proposing warrant articles were discussed as well.

Ms. Caprioglio presented a potential schedule for a timeline for a recommendation to be presented to the Board. The Committee needs to make a recommendation to the Board no later than September 26 and, if the recommendation is accepted by the Board, a final proposal on October 17. Ms. Hamblett noted that in the weeks between making their recommendation to the Board and presenting the final proposal, the Committee can work on refining costs. Ms. Caprioglio indicated that the Committee will make their presentation to the Budget Committee during the week of October 22, subject to Budget Committee scheduling.

Mr. Boschi commented that when looking at Option E [renovating GMS for current PreK, current Kindergarten, and the SAU offices and a new grades 1-5 school on the LMS site], less than half of what is renovated will be used, which in his mind renders the option unfeasible.

Ms. Caprioglio asked Committee members if a new school is recommended what do we suggest be done with GMS. Mr. Franck suggested Committee members should review the options presented by Mr. Cecil and return with input on advantages and disadvantages of the options and proposing a new school.

Committee members discussed their concerns with the cost of a new school, focusing on the preliminary estimates presented at the last meeting and expressed that a lower number would be more appropriate to bring to the voters. Ms. Caprioglio commented on the new middle school in Weare. She indicated that it was voted on and approved in 2005 and opened this year; that the bond was for \$18M, but the final cost was \$18.9M. There are issues with the building and cost savings included a wood roof, vinyl siding, and sheetrock for the walls in the offices, to name a few. Mr. Martin, who provided the information on the new Weare middle school, noted that the school was built into the side of a hill [making half the building a one-story construction] on the same site as the original building. The current student population is 600 students with a build out core for 922. He added that expansion will be less expensive because of the size of the core.

Mr. Boschi commented that when making a recommendation there is a cost that must be presented. The people in this town will look at the cost of a school built in another town [which may be lower] and that is the number they will base their decision on. This Committee needs to get the cost of a new school option down. Mr. Martin suggested placing the full size gym on a separate warrant article. Mr. Boschi asked if there is a way to reduce the square footage in the café so that seating for the gym could be built into the café space. If the café needs to be expanded, the seating for the gym could be moved. Committee members discussed how the café could be used when it is not being used for lunch.

Mrs. Couture indicated that Committee members can discuss creative ways to use space when reducing square footage of an option. Ms. Caprioglio agreed, noting that using space creatively could be an answer to lowering the cost of a new school option. She added that the Committee needs to discuss this in more detail.

Ms. Caprioglio reminded Committee members to review the project comparison sheets [pages 77/78] in the original 11 x 17 handout from Harriman. Ms. Hamblett distributed copies of a list of construction projects in NH towns from the NH DOE. Ms. Caprioglio suggested that reviewing the square footage on some of the school buildings on the project sheet may help us in reducing costs of the options we are considering.

5) Review and discuss future responsibilities for the Building Committee

Ms. Caprioglio indicated that the Committee's homework is to look at the options that were presented by Mr. Cecil at the last meeting more thoroughly. The Committee needs to make a decision and will meet each week toward that purpose. Once the Board approves our recommendation it will be the Committee's responsibility to work with Mr. Cecil and make reductions, etc. It is our responsibility to go before the Budget Committee as a group with our final proposal.

6) Review any updates on communication to the community

Ms. Caprioglio asked Committee members to think of people who would be interested in joining a publicity committee. Ms. Caprioglio will contact Doug Orlando for help and contact community members that attended the July 31 meeting and the September 5 meeting. Mr. Martin indicated that we have files from the Lite 2006 website on CD for those interested in serving on a publicity committee. Mrs. Couture commented that there are copies of the GMS tour that was played on the local Cable channel two years ago and a program done with the Superintendent as well. Ms. Caprioglio mentioned that Ms. Hamblett informed her that the Nashua Telegraph would like to photograph GMS and write a story about the problems with the building. The Committee members discussed briefly the advantages and timing of the Telegraph's request. Committee members agreed that it should be done in early October and run in the paper the second week in October.

7) Determine next steps for the Building Committee

Ms. Caprioglio reminded the Committee to review the information presented at the last meeting and at this meeting and come back with questions, thoughts, theories, opinions or ideas. The next meeting of the Building Committee will be on September 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele E. Flynn, Secretary