

**Monadnock Regional School District
Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes
Mt. Caesar School Walk-Through
August 31, 2021 (Not Yet Approved)
Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Betty Tatro and Colleen Toomey. **Absent:** Winston Wright, Dan LeClair and Karen Wheeler.

Other Board Members Present: Kristen Noonan, Michelle Connor.

Administration Present: Janel Morin, Business Administrator and Tony Breen, Director of Building and Grounds

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Sheldon

Also Present: Kyle Barker of Barker Associates and Laura Aivaliotis. MRSD Recording Secretary.

1. **Meeting Called to order at 7:00 PM.**
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Mt. Caesar Tour begins:** K. Barker explained there are rules to keep in mind while analyzing the building. There are life safety issues in each building that need to be met. Items are no longer grandfathered in. There are also ADA issues that are not grandfathered in. ADA compliance is a civil rights law. The safety and ADA issues were used to create the list along with the CIP list. He explained Mt. Caesar is in better shape than the rest of the elementary schools in the district due to the renovation. Look and familiarize yourself with the level of quality. We want each student to have the same level of quality in their school as the students at Mt. Caesar.

The front entrance of the building does have a locked vestibule with a window in order to be checked into the building. This window stands alone. It is suggested to have the offices at the entrance. This will allow more than one person to see who is entering.

The Multipurpose Room is small and also serves as the cafeteria. The ceiling height is not appropriate for the motor skills of the students. There have been a lot of improvements such as ceiling tiles and mechanical systems. It is not perfect but better than other schools.

K. Barker mentioned that there are student's personal effects in the hallway. This is not allowed. There should be lockers for the student's belongings. The problem is the items might fall and trip someone and they might get hurt.

The group entered the kindergarten classroom. K. Barker said it is a typical Kindergarten classroom. There is an exit to the outside and it is 1000 sq.ft. He is not sure why the other Kindergarten classroom is smaller with the same program. He mentioned there are some classrooms that do not have exits to the outside. It is not a State requirement but it is suggested to have a separate toilet for the kindergarten students. Also each classroom should have a sink not required but suggested.

The library is 800 square feet and the State Dept. recommends 1200 square feet. K. Barker said the typical classroom at MTC is in better condition than a classroom at Troy.

As the group went down the ramp toward the offices K. Barker mentioned the hallway is not to code. The ramp is too steep and cuts off the maintenance door. There needs to be a 6'8" clearance throughout and that is not happening in the hallway. He said this is not an easy fix. It will be tough to solve.

He said the offices in the original part of the building are awfully small and functionality is obsolete due to lack of space. This is the only school in the District that has its own Marker Space.

The Preschool does not have a direct way out; it needs a second escape route. The classrooms connect but there is no second escape and are not up to code. A lot of work has been done to Mt.C but there is still more work needed.

The new addition is what all schools can look like if done this way. They are all up to code, bigger classrooms and bigger windows as well.

The way the roof drains were done is not anything K. Barker would have done. Every corner of the school is different because of the additions and the age of the school.

Closing Cutler and doubling the size of the building is a totally different structure. There is not much room to add in the front or on the side. The addition will have to be on the side of the ballfields and then the ballfields will have to be moved.

The new main office entrance will be where the playground is along with the new cafeteria and gym. This will also allow the buses and cars to be separate. The gym will be able to be locked off but not the school. This is another level of safety. The playground will be moved. K. Barker would like to hear from the community before a hardline plan.

The baseline to fix the code issues and the CIP list is the bond vote. There is a plan in place to correct all of these things. E. Sheldon commented fixing the issues over time would be a higher expense. K. Barker mentioned the bond rate is 1.69% and inflation is at 3%. Pay as you go and double the price. In this economy it is much less expensive to get it done with the bond. Each room is different looking with the bond they will look the same. J. Morin commented you will never catch up with piecemeal. K. Barker said the piecemeal list is not small. The District would have to have a warrant article for 2 million dollars plus each year. If the data, we provide is accurate the voters will agree. **K. Noonan is Live Streaming the walk through.** K. Barker suggested a Cutler Walk-through to show the need for moving the kids.

**4. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at
MRSD Recording Secretary**