

# Merrill Area Public Schools

*MAPS Mission Statement: Merrill Area Public Schools, in partnership with the Merrill Community and our families, will empower students to be lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and productive community members.*

## Facilities Committee Meeting

September 7, 2022

3:30 PM

Central Office Board Room

(1111 N Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin)

## Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call –

Ron Liberty called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Dale Bergman, Darryl Frick, Ron Liberty, Shannon Murray, and Linda Yingling

Absent: Kevin Blake, Kelley Strike

Others present: Maria Volpe

II. Approval of [August 3, 2022 Special Facilities Committee Minutes](#)

Motion by Linda Yingling to approve the August 3, 2022 Special Facilities Committee Minutes, seconded by Ron Liberty. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Washington Elementary School Parent Pick-up Concept

**Please see the attached [topic summary sheet](#) from Dale Bergman.**

Safe ways to get kids picked up, more so in the winter time when snow is piled up. Possibly create another avenue by the school but keep the playground area. Most parents don't want children walking anymore and pick up has become more. Right now kids are staged outside of the fence along the road on Kyes St. Possibly changing the parent pick up and the bus pick up? Having the city put NO PARKING signs up on Kyes St. Will have to talk to Rod, City Engineer. Linda Yingling thought maybe looking into staff parking at the Fairgrounds and then utilizing the parking lot for pick up. Maria Volpe thought to start talking with the city and seeing what the cost would be. Right now the city does "in house" fixing for sidewalks which would be cheaper. Dale Bergman thought about bussing/shuttling kids over to the expo center for parent pick up. Maria Volpe thought maybe letting the kids out at different times, with bussing and picking up.

IV. Kate Goodrich Elementary School Project Update

**Please see the attached [topic summary sheet](#) from Dale Bergman.**

The project is finished. Staff mentioned small parking spaces and it's hard to get doors open to get things in and out. Darryl Frick mentioned changing the parking stalls to angled parking. If parking spots are angled, it would lose parking spots. Dale has not received the final cost yet until the punch list comes back. Right now it is under cost.

V. Prairie River Middle School Steamers

**Please see the attached [topic summary sheet](#) from Dale Bergman.**

**I recommend a motion to forward to the full Board the approval of the replacement of the PRMS steamers.**

Darryl Frick started up the steamer at the PRMS and there was a lot of leaking. Equipment is over 20 plus years old. Dale Bergman reviewed costs of all different kinds of steamers. Approve the cost of the steamers does NOT exceed \$63,560.00

Motion by Linda Yingling to approve the purchase of new steamers for PRMS not to exceed \$35,000.00 seconded by Maria Volpe. Motion carried.

VI. Natural Gas Market Update

**Please see the attached [topic summary sheet](#) from Dale Bergman.**

Pre-Purchased natural gas agreement expires in October. Current market price is in the topic summary sheet. It could possibly lower but nothing below \$7. Still less than what was paid in 2012. Expenses will increase about 8-10%. Last rate lock was 5 years. Time before was a 3-year lock. We do about 60% natural gas pre-buy. We use Consolation Energy through our brokers not right through WPS which is a better cost.

VII. Transportation Update

**Discussion only**

Transportation has been going excellent. Started Ride 360 this year which more parents are starting to sign up for. Very positive feedback from parents. We will need to do better communication for families with children that go from 4k to kindergarten and how they might have door to door service then not the following year.

9/6/22 There was a bus accident in front of West Side Market. A truck ran into the back of the bus. Very minimal damage to the bus. Families were not notified as everyone was alright. We need to adjust our policy in informing parents of when

accidents happen, even small fender benders. Kids went onto another bus and were transported to school. Traversa gives us the ability to email and update families of an accident, but it will be delivered to ALL families for that specific bus when maybe not all students are on the bus that it would affect. One discipline letter sent in so far. Last year, at this time we had at least 4. The cameras that were installed seem to be helping.

VIII. Future of Jefferson School

**This is on the agenda at the request of a Board member and was tabled at the August 3, 2022 Facilities Committee meeting.**

**Discussion only**

Shannon Murray talked about the needs at the PRSYL building and possibly needing more space. Right now, there is plenty of space at PRSYL for now and the future. Shannon asked Dale about the building age in general at Pine River. Some newer updates have been put into PRSYL already. This will be a continued discussion for now and in the future.

Maria Volpe mentioned possibly moving all admin to Jefferson building and also maintenance. How much is it costing us to have Jefferson sit for a year? Dale mentioned possibly less than \$20,000 a year. We do still utilize the Jefferson building with larger meetings. The structure is great with the building but the mechanical equipment would all need to be updated. We wouldn't get a good gain on investment if we did sell it. Right now, there are just some small vandalism costs.

Linda Yingling mentioned possibly moving Washington employees/students to Jefferson if we need more room for staff parking and student pick up. All depending on the building structure. Jefferson is actually a little smaller than Washington. Washington is more updated on some items than Jefferson is. It was also brought up as an EAST and WEST school using the old Jefferson building.

Ron Liberty brought up looking up costs for the Central Office, maintenance garage, and NAC buildings. Possibly consider moving all the staff from these buildings to the Jefferson building. Dale said that sometimes that is a hard decision as parents/community members don't want money spent on administrators and want the money spent on the children.

One thing that would need to be done is getting the information out there for parents/community members to know. Somehow start to get people invited into this conversation.

IX. Standing Agenda Item - Safety Sub-Committee Minutes

A. August 29, 2022 Safety Sub-Committee Minutes

**Please see the attached draft [August 29, 2022 Safety Committee Minutes](#).**

Reference minutes attached.

- X. Standing Agenda Item for Review of Safety Policies and Policy Review by Facilities Committee

**Please see the attached [main index](#) for Committee review of policies. At this point, the Facilities Committee is up-to-date on their policy updates.**

Everything is up to date.

- XI. Items for Next Meeting and Next Meeting Date

- A. November 2, 2022

Have a discussion about January 2nd with bussing and the city being closed. With the city being closed there is no Merrill-Go-Round bussing for in town children.

- XII. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Yingling to adjourn, seconded by Maria Volpe. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.