

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 Wednesday - September 6, 2023

3:30 PM

Central Office Board Room
(1111 N Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin)

Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call – Nubs Ashbeck, Dale Bergman, Paul Proulx (substitution for Kevin Blake), Darryl Frick, Ron Liberty, Shannon Murray and Dr. Kelley Strike

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

Present: Nubs Ashbeck, Dale Bergman, Paul Proulx (sub for Kevin Blake), Ron Liberty and Shannon Murray

Absent: Darryl Frick and Dr. Kelley Strike (arrived at 3:34 p.m.)

Guests: None

- II. Select Chair

Paul Proulx nominated Ron Liberty as Chair. Ron Liberty accepted and was selected as Chair of the Facilities Committee.

- III. Public Comments to the Committee / General Subject Matter Discussion

NOTE: The Committee shall schedule five minutes at the beginning of each regular meeting for members of the public to speak. Speakers will be allotted two minutes to address the Board. If you have a large group, please designate one representative to speak. Committee members may ask clarifying questions during the comment section, but will usually postpone further discussion and/or action until further public input.

There were no public comments made.

- IV. Approval of [May 3, 2023 Facilities Committee Minutes](#)

Motion by Paul Proulx, second by Nubs Ashbeck to approve the May 3, 2023 Facilities Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

V. Replacement of Washington Elementary School Boilers

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

One of the backup boilers at Washington failed last year. Dale Bergman received bids for a replacement which is two additional boilers to what we have in there now as back up. Cost for the two new boilers would be \$53,900. This balance will come out of the maintenance budget.

Paul Proulx asked about details about the boilers and the size of them. Dale Bergman explained that in 2010 we took out the old water tube boilers and replaced them with three new boilers. The two new boilers will be 90% more efficient. The two boilers will be added to the end of the rack.

Ron Liberty asked if one of the three boilers breaks down, can we replace it with one of the new two boilers that we are purchasing? Dale Bergman stated that yes, we would be able to replace it with one like the new two that are being purchased. The three newer boilers should last another 8ish years. The old boiler that failed was from 2002.

Motion by Paul Proulx, second by Nubs Ashbeck to approve the boiler replacement at Washington Elementary to be forwarded to the full Board. Motion carried.

VI. Update on Summer Projects

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

- The roofing at PRMS is completed.
- The asphalt repairs to the large potholes at MHS and Jay Stadium are completed
- The flooring abatement has been done at PRMS in rooms 312, 314 and 320. New LVT flooring has been completed in those rooms. (LVT - luxury vinyl tile - more durable and waterproof)
- A new concrete walkway has been put in at MHS from the student lots along with a crosswalk to keep students safer while crossing the parent pick up line.
- We removed two courses of brick, installed new thru-wall flashing to correct an area that was prone to roof leaks, and subsequently reinstalled the brick.
- We broke ground and did the site work for the fully donated Pond Shelter at the School Forest. The new shelter construction should begin within the month.
- We replaced (2) defective building exhaust fans @ PRMS in the pool locker rooms that were worn beyond repair.
- We relocated a science room at PRMS (tables, and sinks) to be closer to the other science rooms, along with the ability to have 5th grade classrooms in closer proximity.
- We added to the sidewalk on Kyes street to provide a safer student drop off and pick up line.
- We repaired 3 sections of the retaining wall in the MHS courtyard that were tipping over and coming apart.

Paul Proulx asked how much asbestos is left? Dale Bergman stated a lot yet especially in the PRMS. Everything is tagged and identified. Dale Bergman and Bret Byer are certified inspectors. Bret Byer does inspections every six months to be compliant. Dale Bergman stated that Northwest testing does our air testing. Paul also asked if the state

inspectors come in? Dale Bergmans stated, yes we are probably coming due. We were last inspected about 5ish years ago. Areas that are primarily inspected are the wood shops, boiler rooms, and air handler rooms. The state will call and give us a couple week notice of when they will show up.

Shannon Murray asked about the progress on the Jay Stadium brick project. Dale Bergman stated that all the bricks are laid. The FAB LAB will get the bricks engraved. Once the bricks are engraved, we will replace the bricks that are already in with the engraved ones.

VII. Fiscal Year 23 Evacuation Drills

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

The drill logs will be given to the board for review and will need to be signed. Once done they will be submitted to the DOJ (Department of Justice), Act 143 to be compliant. The drill logs will be at the upcoming board meeting for signatures.

Paul Proulx asked do we just time the drills? Dale Bergman stated we need to debrief and we will also keep time. In the debriefing, we talk about what went well and what needs to be worked on. High School is trying to switch their relocation spot from St Francis to the Enrichment Center. This is for Alice which is evacuation drills only. Fire drills we just keep a log as those are done monthly. Dale Bergman stated that summer school should run through fire drills as well, something to implement for upcoming summer school.

Ron Liberty asked if all school drills are done on the same day? Dale Bergman stated that yes we try to coordinate all schools to be done at the same time and that notifications are sent home with students days prior to inform parents of the upcoming drills.

Paul Proulx mentioned that NTC is creating a class for training.

Nubs Ashbeck as if we ever have any surprised drills? Dale Bergman said no, that would scare everyone thinking something is actually happening. Best to notify before a drill takes place. We do this to get consistent practices.

Motion by Paul Proulx, second by Nubs Ashbeck to approve the evacuation drill logs and submit them to the Department of Justice, Office of School Safety to be forwarded to the full Board. Motion carried.

VIII. Merrill High School Baseball Dugout Donation

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

Shawn Schultz had a donor give money to upgrade the dugout at MHS. We have been utilizing it way more for games. Donors are wanting to keep the facility up to date and looking nice.

Ron Liberty asked about a price. Dale Bergman stated it would cost \$5,000. It took a little longer than expected to get the request in as they were deciding on plywood or steel siding. For longevity, steel would last longer and costs less than plywood.

Motion by Nubs Ashbeck, second by Paul Proulx to approve the donation of labor and materials to update the baseball field dugouts at MHS to be forwarded to the full Board. Motion carried.

IX. Facility Assessment Progress

This is on the agenda at the request of a Board member and will be a standing item for updates.

Assessment is all but complete. Shannon Murray is still in communication. A survey is being drafted and sent to the board for review. It will be put on the board agenda in September. Operations questions from Dr Kelley Strike and Shannon Murray are being worked on. Shannon Murray stated that in about ten days an email draft will be sent out.

Dale Bergman will get an electronic copy of the assessment and would like a final document to go along with the survey.

Shannon Murray talked about the PFAS at PRSYL and if we should include that on the survey. Right now it would be adding additional costs. Testing for PFAS will be done quarterly.

X. Standing Agenda Item - Safety Sub-Committee Minutes

A. August 28, 2023 Safety Sub-Committee Minutes

Please see the attached [August 28, 2023 Safety Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes](#).

Dale Bergman explained that he, Josh Klug and Tyler Verhasselt visited the site to better develop the emergency plans for the School Forest. Josh Klug stated he reached out to med flight (Life link3) to find out requirements if we needed to land a med unit out there, what would be the requirements. We recognized that there are communication challenges with radios and cell phones.

Dale Bergman updated the group on the progress. Final proofs have been approved. We are waiting for the company to send the final documents back so we can submit to the DOJ, law enforcement and EMS.

Chief Josh Klug stated there are now AED Cabinets at Jay Stadium and the MARC with hopes of getting more throughout the city. These are in a secure cabinet that you need to get a code from 911 dispatch to open it. The fire department will continue to run supervised fire drills and fire prevention programs in the schools. When fire drills are done, some obstacles are put in to get students and staff to find alternate exit paths. Merrill Fire Department offers CPR classes, there is a small fee for American Heart cards and materials. Stop the Bleed kits are in most places and we are working to get training on those. Josh

stated they will no longer do the mock crash as studies have shown it is not as effective as once thought.

Tyler Verhasselt stated that there has been approval for .5 Mil Next Gen 911 technology. This allows people to text or facetime 911 from any mobile device. Tyler stated that Lincoln County Emergency management is also going to add more training to increase skills for search and rescue.

Pupil service will continue the threat to others for our threat assessment process. Trisha Kubichek is taking over Allie Libby's spot on the safety committee.

Paul Proulx mentioned a repeater tower being installed for the school forest property? Is that an idea to get that installed? Dale Bergman said we have a repeater at the school forest which does help the radios. The antenna isn't high enough above the trees. Would cost tens of thousands to get the tower higher above the trees. We are getting there for improvements. Irma Hill/School Forest/ Maintenance Shop/PRMS /Jefferson/Kate Goodrich all have a repeater.

XI. Items for Next Meeting and Next Meeting Date

A. November 1, 2023

No new items mentioned.

Ron Liberty asked Shannon Murray how the first day of school went. Shannon Murray stated that PRMS and Washington Elementary were very hot. Dale Bergman stated that all Administrators went to each building to watch students come in and greet them on their first day. Busing overall went ok, with a few hiccups.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Nubs Ashbeck, second by Paul Proulx to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.