

MINUTES OF THE
BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No.96
held on Wednesday, July 22, 2009
in the District Administration Office
North Riverside, Illinois

Committee chair Giles McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mr. Giles McCarthy and Mrs. Mary Stimming

Absent: Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Also Present: Board Member Mrs. Mary Ellen Meindl; Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; interested citizens and District 96 parents Terry Lynne Culloden, Aberdeen Ozga, Nancy Hopkins, and Lisa Marciniak; and concerned Riverside resident Don Spatny.

Mrs. Stimming read to the Committee an email from fellow Board Member Mrs. Jennifer Leimberer who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. In her email, Mrs. Leimberer acknowledged that "Riverside residents value and have vision for its public spaces including those that are property of District 96." She further expressed her hope that those in attendance could provide the Committee with suggestions that will help District 96 re-design the Hauser Hardscape /Landscape Plan to "better match the community's vision."

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss:

- a. Citizen's Committee Proposal – Hauser School Hardscape/Landscape Alternative Preparation.

Mr. McCarthy introduced himself to those in attendance as the newly appointed chair of the Building Committee, noting that he previously served on the Board's Finance Committee. Being new to this Committee, Mr. McCarthy asked Supt. Lamberson to summarize the Building Committee's recent activities in regards to the development of a Hardscape/Landscape plan for Hauser.

Dr. Lamberson noted that three years ago the Building Committee recognized a need to address hardscape and landscape issues District-wide. Improvements were needed to enhance the appearance of the schools' main entrances, and to ease congestion in these areas allowing students and parents easier access to the schools. Ultimately the Committee approached Concept 3 Architects to undertake the project. Architects Mark Miller and Chris English worked with the Committee for several months developing plans for Ames and Hauser, with the designs for the work at Central and Hollywood Schools to be developed in the next phase of the project.

The Hardscape/Landscape Plans for Ames and Hauser were presented to the Village of Riverside for approval in April 2009. The Hauser design was not approved. The Ames plan was approved and the District put this work out to bid in late April. The Ames project was awarded to J. Andersen Construction (Brockway Landscaping), the lowest responsible bidder. Work is currently underway and project completion is expected prior to the start of the 2009-10 school year.

Mr. McCarthy reiterated that the goal of tonight's meeting was to hold an open conversation with the Citizens' Committee to gather community input regarding how the Hauser plan could be modified to obtain Village approval. As a means of moving forward, he suggested that the Committee might consider dividing the Hauser project into a "school property phase" and a "Village property phase."

Discussion took place regarding the need for additional hardscape in front of Hauser.

The pro's and con's of relocating the student drop-off/pick-up zone to Hauser's back parking lot were discussed. It was suggested that the Hauser parking lot (existing hardscape) be used for student drop-off/pick-up thereby eliminating the need for additional new hardscape in front of the building. It was stated that perhaps relocation to the back of the building might prove safer for students due to the congestion that occurs on Woodside Road during drop-off/pick-up times.

Alternatively, it was noted that drop-off/pick-up behind Hauser might not be a suitable option for Central School students. It was also noted that Hauser's parking lot is utilized by District 96 staff, and that street parking would be the only alternative for employees if this area was designated for student drop-off/pick-up.

It was also suggested that the District create a student drop-off/pick-up "loop" at the back end of Hauser's parking lot between the two driveway entrances off Akenside Road.

Mrs. Stimming commented that congestion during drop-off/pick-up times at Ames School had reduced significantly since the school, in cooperation with the PTA and local police, began enforcement of the District's traffic safety plan. A District-wide traffic safety study was conducted in 2007 to examine the causes and to identify solutions to dangerous traffic bottlenecks occurring at the schools during drop-off/pick-up times. Dr. Lamberson noted that a widened sidewalk along Woodside Road was one of the recommendations as a result of the study "to allow all parties to navigate without entering the street." Mrs. Meindl remarked that congestion in front of Central School during these times could be minimized with greater attention given to enforcement of the school's traffic safety plan and Village enforcement.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that another Building Committee meeting be convened after the school year begins to continue the discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the Building Committee meeting be adjourned.

The time was 8:45 p.m.

Susan Moorhead, Board Secretary

Giles McCarthy, Chair