

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18  
MAJOR CAPITAL APPLICATION COMMITTEE**

**March 31, 2010  
Minutes**

The meeting of the Major Capital Application Committee began at 6:34 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at Central Office in Oakland.

Members Present: Kelly Archer, Larry Brown, Glen Davis, Elwood Ellis, Ramona Freeman, Robert Garrett, Linda Laughlin, Connie Packard, Larry Rancourt, Gary N. Smith and Mike Tracy

Members Absent: Donna Doucette, Lora Downing, Conrad Shaw and Jeffrey Sheive

Others in Attendance: Becky Seel

Superintendent Smith noted that the District received authorization from the Board to submit Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) applications to the Maine Department of Education (MDOE). The District submitted an application for site renovations at Messalonskee High School and Messalonskee Middle School. If the Board decides to go forward with renovations at Williams Elementary School, then the District would submit an application for that as well. If the District's application were approved, it would receive tax credits from the federal government in lieu of interest payments. The District would be responsible for repayment of only the bond principal. Also, as the District has been completing this work, the State has announced that there is \$10 million in Revolving Renovation Fund (RRF) money. The District has three projects which would qualify for RRF monies. The District will submit an application for the James H. Bean School to replace the septic system. Tonight a traffic flow plan for Belgrade Central School will be presented to the Committee, and that would be the second application. The third application would be for a secondary egress for emergency vehicle access to China Primary School. All of those applications are due to the MDOE June 30.

Tonight the Committee will review current versions of plans for changes to Williams Elementary School, the proposal for the James H. Bean School septic system, the proposal for site work at Belgrade Central School, and the proposal for the bus loop turnaround for Messalonskee High School, as well as the overall site drawing for the High School. As the District moves forward with these plans, discussions are also occurring regarding a major application for the China Schools. For the May 5 Board meeting a recommendation will be made to the Board in terms of what major capital applications will be submitted to the State. At this time the China School may be the only school for which the District may be eligible.

#### **Overall Site Plan for Messalonskee Campus**

The plan is to create a new parent drop off for Messalonskee Middle School and a new bus only traffic lane with bus turnaround at Messalonskee High School, which is currently a parking area. The new bus loop would have parking in the center for 45 staff parking spaces and additional 12 staff parking spaces along the staff roadway. The current entrance for parent drop off would be the lobby area for parent drop off. The Athletic Director and health offices would need to be relocated, with minimal renovation costs. This would allow two exits for students. The theory is to keep buses on internal routes on campus, allowing roads and intersections to not be crowded with buses. Pedestrian traffic would flow around and down to Messalonskee Middle School, and there would be a new sidewalk and fence to separate student traffic from vehicle traffic.

### **Belgrade Central School Site Plan**

The big issue is trying to solve problems in terms of the current entrance and how to do parent/ bus drop off. The bus loop is designed as a bus lane only, which has a fence and cross walk. There is space for 18 visitor parking spaces and seven parent drop off parking spaces in a separate vehicle track. In terms of the need for additional parking, the proposal is to extend the current parking area with 36 new spaces wrapping around the building and relocating some of the playground area.

### **Williams Elementary School**

The biggest changes are the sizes of the rooms and having bathrooms for the first grade classrooms. The Title I room is now gone, making first grade classrooms larger and adding bathrooms for each of those rooms. Title I has been moved into the staff/conference room, which has been relocated to the administrative area. As a result of making these changes there was opportunity to create storage space for nursing supplies.

### **James H. Bean School**

The recommendation to the Board was to move District 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to Messalonskee Middle School for the 2011-12 school year. If the 5<sup>th</sup> grade moves to the Middle School, that would provide the School with three classrooms per grade level, with a K/1 wing, and areas for Title I, a resource room, pre-K room, computer lab, speech, gifted/talented, occupational therapy/ physical therapy, psych suite, library media center, guidance area, staff lounge, grades 3 and 4, gym and cafeteria. With the 5<sup>th</sup> grade move, the School would be very close to having all instructional areas in the building.

Assistant Superintendent Laughlin noted that with all of these plans there will be storage area in the portable classrooms, and instructional space will not need to be used to create a closet. One of the reasons for the recommendation for moving 5<sup>th</sup> grade is that the School is space constrained with special services right now. By developing this plan for a pre-k-4 building, the students receive more appropriate space. With Title I stimulus monies there would be an opportunity to have a couple laptops in each classroom, providing integration of computers.

### **Tapley Building**

The proposal is to have the technology staff move into the building, providing additional space for students at the Middle School. Ms. Laughlin noted that the District would be able to obtain a Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) program at Messalonskee Middle School at no cost for the next five years. Currently there are JMG programs at the High School and at China Middle School. Through funding from the Alford Center and Race to the Top, JMG is putting programs into middle schools statewide. Superintendent Smith noted that as China Middle School has an established JMG program, and with a program currently in place at the High School, it could be a draw for China students to attend MHS.

By the next meeting the District should have a concept for China.

At this time the District has a plan for the next 10-15 years. Taking this comprehensive facility master plan with a five-year capital plan, the District is in good shape.

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After discussions and review of plans, Committee members reached consensus that the only major capital application to be submitted to the State will be for the China project.

**Plans for Future Meetings**

China Vision  
Messalonskee High School Site Plan  
Budget Information  
Status Report for key activities, budget, and recommendation on major capital application

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office. Committee members will review and approve a status report regarding key activities, budget and make a recommendation for a major capital application.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary N. Smith  
Superintendent of Schools