

**Monadnock Regional School District
Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes
Emerson Elementary Walk-Through
Sept. 14, 2021 (Not Yet Approved)
Emerson Elementary, Fitzwilliam, NH**

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

Other Board Members Present: K. Noonan

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

Budget Committee Members Present: No members present.

Also Present: Kyle Barker of Barker Associates, Lori Stephens, Principal and 3 Emerson Teachers and Laura Aivaliotis, MRSD Recording secretary.

1. **Meeting Called to order at 7:00 PM. K. Noonan is Live Streaming the tour.**
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Fitzwilliam Tour Begins:** K. Barker explained he was hired to assess all of the elementary schools as well as the MRMHS. We are going to discuss the needs of the building. The Life Safety Codes are not grandfathered. The ADA Act is not a building code but a Civil Rights Law. The items in question should have been done in 1992. If a person is handicapped, you cannot say you can only use this bathroom. They should be able to use every part of the school like everyone else. He will be giving his overall opinion. The maintenance, staff and teachers do an outstanding job with the facility given.

K. Barker would like to start the tour outside. He said the sight itself is large with a parking lot for buses and cars. It could be improved but the pavement is better than other schools. The school like others has had multiple additions. There is a lot that does not make sense because of so many additions. Homeland Security requires a secure entrance. It is not secure. There are cameras but once the person comes into the school that person could go anywhere. There is no greeter. You walk into the school and there are two ways to go. He spoke about Sandy Hook and the fact the person walked right to the Kindergarten students and at Emerson the first stop would be the Pre-K. This really needs to be a secure facility. He mentioned the pipes out of the

ceiling and the heaters sticking out in the hallway and said this is not a level of quality you would want.

K. Barker commented about the Library being on the bottom floor. It has an open staircase which is a violation and the basement corridors are narrow. The Library is the nerve center of the school. It should be in the center of the school and should be available to all not in the basement, program wise.

The office is not in bad shape, size is reasonable. It was one big room at one time and the walls could come down.

The Preschool is undersized, it is bright, has heat cover issues, windows are very old, not energy efficient and the lights are yellow. The sprinkler system is not necessary because the room is not over 1000 sq. ft. but a Preschool classroom should be.

The computer closet ventilation is in the hallway. This is not a good situation, what if there is a spark from the computers and smoke were to fill the hallways. This needs to change.

One of the hallways has very low head room. The room was once a stage. The paint ok, ceiling ok but the floors need to be redone. The exit doors on this side of the building have a long walk down. K. Barker mentioned the doors are in pockets. If you were in a wheelchair you would not be able to open the door, it would hit your feet. To fix this part of the wall should be gone. This issue needs to be fixed.

The bathrooms in this section are not handicapped accessible and they all need to be. The drinking fountains in the hallways are not good.

The Kindergarten is over 1000 sq feet and has two doors to exit. This is okay even if they both go to the corridor. There is an issue because if the heat is off the ventilation is off, otherwise it is a nice room.

The 1-2 Classroom is a newer room. It is big in size, nice cabinets, cubbies and bookcases. We want to see this as a standard for the district. This is a good classroom. There are no drop ceilings which help with the sound and hiding of wiring.

There are metal gates in the hallway which are used to separate the school from the gym. K. Barker explained you always need 2 ways out. Code does not allow the gates, only swinging doors.

The gym is nice, good ceiling height and is impressive.

K. Noonan asked if there is any thought about expanding, we need space. K. Barker said the Library in the basement is an issue. K. Barker had an idea about moving the main offices and the library. There is no conclusion.

There is a problem in the attic. The mechanical system, air handling unit needs to be accessed. There is a small catwalk with a need to walk over the duct work. It could use some care. The unit is 21 years old and he does not believe there have been any upgrades and it does not meet code. The units should be replaced and separate heat from air ventilation. It was commented that the school is cold in the winter and hot in the summer. The Preschool has to open the windows in the winter. The Preschool is right over the boiler which is located in the basement. K. Barker said there is a solution. K. Noonan asked K. Barker to explain radiant heat. The goal is to have all of the elementary schools have the same upgrades as MTC.

4. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM
Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary