

**REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF
THE PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY COMMITTEE**

TO

THE PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD

JUNE 8, 2004

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Motion

The Portsmouth School Board authorize the formation of a Portsmouth Middle School building and facilities committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding new construction, improved construction, and/or renovation plans for the Portsmouth Middle School. Included in this motion:

- 1) The committee composition shall include three (3) Portsmouth School Board members, one (1) Newington School Board member, one (1) Portsmouth City Councilor, five (5) members at large from the Portsmouth Middle School community, to include the Portsmouth Middle School Principal, John Stokel, and four (4) others to be appointed by the Chair, and a Central Office administrator, specifically the Business Administrator.
- 2) The committee will include in its work a complete middle school educational needs assessment and physical space needs assessment.
- 3) The committee is authorized to hire professional assistance such as architectural and engineering to gain a full understanding of the building and facilities requirements of a quality middle school educational program.
- 4) The committee may expend an amount not to exceed \$112,000 for professional assistance and for incidental operational expenses. This amount is to be taken from previously encumbered School Board funds set aside for school building purposes.
- 5) The committee shall provide the Board with regular informational updates and shall make its final report with all findings no later than May 31, 2004.

(Amended motion unanimously approved in a roll call vote 9-23-03.)

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHARGE TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

October 29, 2003

In addressing the School Board's goal to complement the elementary and high school construction projects with an additional commitment to "expand its examination and assessment of the middle school facilities," the Board, at its regular meeting of September 23, 2003, voted unanimously to form a Portsmouth Middle School building and facilities committee. The charge of the Committee is "to make recommendations to the Board regarding new construction, improved construction, and/or renovation plans for the Portsmouth Middle School." Subsequently, Chair Kent LaPage appointed the following:

Portsmouth School Board Members (3)	Nansi Craig Nancy Novelline Clayburgh Clay Hayward Raimond Bowles (alternate)
Newington School Board member (1)	Helen G. Maldini
Portsmouth City Councilor (1)	Steve Marchand
Portsmouth Middle School Community (5 members at large, to include Principal)	John Stokel, Principal Thomas Bolko (Grade 6 teacher) Laura Barone (Gr. 7 Science) Kenneth Hawkins(Gr.8 Science) Carl Diemer (Parent)
Business Administrator (Central Office)	W. Peter Torrey

Included in the motion are the following charges:

1. The Committee will include in its work a complete middle school educational needs assessment and physical space needs assessment of the current middle school building on Parrott Avenue;
2. The Committee is authorized to hire professional assistance, such as architectural and engineering services to gain a full understanding of the building and facilities requirements of a quality middle school educational program;
3. The Committee may expend an amount not to exceed \$112,000 for professional assistance and for incidental operational expenses. This amount is to be taken from previously encumbered School Board funds set aside for school building purposes; and

4. The Committee shall provide the Board with regular informational updates and shall make its final report with all findings no later than May 31, 2004.

In conclusion, it is imperative that the Committee approach this study by first considering the philosophy of a middle school, the Portsmouth Schools mission statement, community input, and what we believe about educating middle school students. Further, the Committee is charged to first define the educational narrative as if no facility currently exists; later, the educational programs will drive the Committee's recommendations for actual renovations, improvements, and/or new construction.

**Final Approval:
October 29, 2003**

Nancy Novelline Clayburgh, Co-Chair
John Stokel, Co-Chair

Portsmouth Middle School Building & Facilities Committee

1. *Middle School Educational Needs Assessment – Visioning*
 - a. Core Instructional Programs
 - b. Teaching & Learning
 - c. Pupil Support
 - d. Other Related Educational Programs & Activities
2. *Physical Space Needs Assessment*
 - a. Current Building Educational Feasibility
 - b. Current Building Physical, Structural, Codes, and Other Requirements
 - c. Alternatives (if necessary)
3. Produce A Conceptual Facility Plan
 - a. Responds To Educational Program Needs
 - b. Responds To Physical Space Needs
4. Cost Information
5. Other Goals & Information Necessary
6. Final Report Back To The Board – May 31, 2004

What Is A Middle School?

In a Doctoral Dissertation submitted by Ashby Caroline Kilgore to the faculty of The George Washington University (1997) she concludes "The evolution of middle school is a history of searching for more effective ways to educate adolescents. The earliest middle schools were established in the 1960's to meet external demands. Districts had to reorganize to satisfy desegregation orders, population shifts, or building overcrowding (Alexander & McEwin 1989, p. 11)."

George and Shewey (1994) attest to the unique quality of the middle school movement as one educational change that has sustained its evolution and its impact. In the last three decades, the middle school movement has gained increasing momentum, in a period when other educational innovations became less viable, disappeared, or became increasingly conservative in nature. The continued existence of the middle school concept and movement is an exception to the rule. (p.115-116)

The essential attributes that shape the core processes of middle school include:

- Interdisciplinary team organization, creating small communities for learning;
- A core curriculum for all students, emphasizing exploration and interdisciplinary connections;
- A flexible schedule which allows a variety of student grouping patterns and learning models;
- A classroom-based advisory program to meet the affective needs of adolescents; and
- Learning opportunities and strategies that are congruent with the developmental needs of adolescents, such as cooperative learning and active, hands-on project learning. (Carnegie Council on Adolescent Behavior, 1989, p. 9; George & Shewey, 1994, p. 5; George, et. al., 1992, p. 49; Polite, 1995, p. 4)

New England League of Middle Schools Facilities and Programming Recommendations

Dr. Spear, Executive Director, of the New England League of Middle Schools was invited to talk to our committee about the characteristics of adolescents and the physical environment that best fits for adolescent education. He spoke about the history of junior high schools and the change to middle schools.

Best characteristics of middle school:

- Teams of teachers and students are the heart of a middle school
- Team Leaders for each team
- Minutes of team meetings on file with team
- Common team planning time for faculty
- Team planning areas in each cluster of rooms for parent conferences and team planning
- Guidance counselors situated in the area of the teams they are responsible for, not all housed in the administrative area
- Clusters of classrooms for teams-this cuts down on the amount of distractions
- Special Educators should be members of the team of teachers
- Teams able to set their own schedules for the needs of the curriculum
- Good soundproofing-adolescents tend to be noisy
- Flexibility in the classroom space-tables and chairs that can be moved easily depending on the activity
- Water source in every classroom –cuts down on the need to leave the room for drinks of water
- Bathrooms situated in every cluster of rooms-cuts down on time needed to travel to different areas of the building
- Automatic flush on all bathroom units
- Phone lines and e-mail access in each classroom for communication with parents
- White boards in classrooms instead of blackboard-eliminates allergies to chalk dust
- Media/library in central location so all teams have easy access
- Wide corridors for student movement
- Round tables in cafeteria for socialization
- Playgrounds and recess if possible
- Computers available in each classroom-adolescents are very much hands-on
- Active hands-on activities require large space
- Life is interdisciplinary, so middle school must be also
- Unified Arts classes (art, music, tech.ed. family and consumer science, computer ed.) must be active, fun, hands-on, and required for all students

Don't skimp on adolescent building needs; wide corridors, bathrooms in each cluster of team rooms, cubbies in each cluster of team rooms (not lockers), flexibility of rooms. Nancy Clayburgh asked if it is important to have an auditorium? Dr. Spear felt it was, but it usually get cut because of cost. Nancy Clayburgh felt if the community had the use of the auditorium it would have community support. Dr. Spear will be available to meet with us again if we feel we need him. Dr. Spear was asked if there was one middle school he would recommend we visit. He felt the middle school in East Lime, Ct. has an excellent program and a building designed to meet the needs of the program.

Consensus From PMS Faculty

Items That Would Facilitate Current Middle School Programming

Classrooms

- Plenty of windows with shades for natural light and ventilation
- Large room for different learning areas
- Moveable furniture
- Sink and water fountain
- Good Acoustics
- Open storage, closed storage, and moveable storage carts
- Hard wired classrooms for teachers and student computer use
- Perimeter lab stations

Team area

- Student lockers to be in the team community area
- Bathrooms designed around adolescents with unobtrusive monitoring.
- Maintain a feeling of community by close physical proximity of teams.
- Team meeting area for whole group activities: (presentations, speakers, group projects)
- Support service offices within the team community.

Additional Education Programs/Staff

- Large welcoming library/Media center
- More choices in Unified Arts to help capture the interests of more students.

**Middle School Facilities Committee
Schedule for School Visitations**

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Meet at Portsmouth Middle School at 9:15am

Arrive at York, ME Middle School at 10:00am

Nancy Clayburgh, Nansi Craig, Raimond Bowles, Jim Delisle, Wes Bonney

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Arrive at Stratham Cooperative Middle School at 1:00 pm

Nancy Clayburgh, Nansi Craig, Raimond Bowles, Steve Marchand, Jim Delisle,
Dan Bisson

Thursday, February 19, 2004

Meet at Portsmouth Middle School at 8:15 am

Arrive at Dover Middle School at 9:00 am

Nancy Clayburgh, Raimond Bowles, John Stokel, Peter Torrey, Steve Marchand,
Dan Bisson

Monday, February 23, 2004

Meet at Portsmouth Middle School at 7:00 am

Arrive at East Lyme (Conn.) Middle School at 10:00 am

John Stokel, Clay Hayward, Laura Barone, Steve Marchand, Raimond Bowles,
Dan Bisson

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Meet at Portsmouth Middle School at 8:00 am

Arrive at Ipswich (MA) Middle School at 9:00 am

Raimond Bowles, John Stokel, Ken Hawkins, Anne Swainbank, Wes Bonney

**Minutes of Meeting
October 29, 2003
Portsmouth Middle School Needs Assessment Study Committee**

Members Present: Laura Barone, Tom Bolko, Raimond Bowles, Nancy Clayburgh, Nansi Craig, Carl Diemer, Ken Hawkins, Clay Hayward, Helen Maldini, John Stokel, Peter Torrey.

Participating: Mr. Kent LaPage- School Board Chair, Dr. Lyonel Tracy-Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Torrey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Torrey gave a brief history of the Portsmouth School Board's decision to explore the Middle School facility this year.

Chairman LaPage defined the composition of the committee at the September 2003 School Board meeting.

Dr. Tracy explained the charge to the committee. The committee is charged with writing the narrative, the architects will do the drawing.

Mr. Bowles made a motion that Nancy Clayburgh and John Stokel serve as co-chairs of the committee. Clay Hayward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Craig asked that notebooks/binder be provided to all committee members. The notebooks should include: Charge to the committee, minutes of meetings, mission of the school, staffing, grouping, middle school concept, educational offerings, and population projections. Mr. Torrey will make the PDT report that was completed a few years ago available to the committee. This report gives population projections and demographic information, which may be helpful to the committee.

Chairman LaPage felt it was important that community input was included in the charge to the committee. The committee decided to add "community input" in the last paragraph of the charge. The committee felt that student input would be important. John Stokel will speak with the student council about a representative serving on the committee. The amended charge was accepted unanimously by the committee.

Mr. Bowles made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hayward that the name of the committee be Portsmouth Middle School Needs Assessment Study Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting schedule: November 19, 2003, December 17, 2003, and January 21, 2004. All meetings will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude by 8:30 PM. Meetings will be held at the Middle School library.

Notebooks will be available for committee members by Friday, November 14, 2003, at the Middle School.

**Minutes of Meeting
November 19, 2003
Portsmouth Middle School Needs Assessment Study Committee**

7:10 meeting called to order

Present: Nancy Clayburgh, Peter Torrey, Clay Hayward, Laura Barone, Ken Hawkins, Raimond Bowles, Helen Maldini, John Stokel

Amended minutes to say that Clay Hayward seconded the motion that nominated John Stokel and Nancy Clayburgh as co-chairs.

Clay Hayward made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 29th meeting, second by Helen Maldini. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee members received their notebooks. The Middle School Concept includes the covenant & mission from the T&L team.

We are waiting for "Turning Points" to come in. John will mail it to members when it arrives.

Interdisciplinary studies are like Exchange City, which the entire sixth grade works on. Sometimes one or two classes will work on a similar theme. Teams make it easier to work like this because students are together and the team moves together. It keeps the students together and does not affect other classes.

The team approach must be kept in mind when looking at the facility.

In a middle school it is important to have the team's classrooms in a cluster. For example, you would have a science lab in every cluster, that way students don't move throughout the entire building. We can only do it with our sixth grade because of the way the building happens to be laid out.

When reviewing student schedules we saw how the various blocks are set-up and the teams again work together. Even study periods are designed so that the team and its teachers are together. So, our building design will definitely continue this team philosophy. We need to make the middle school concept our first priority when reviewing the building needs.

The middle school has used a team approach since 1976. True teams were established in 1990 when the sixth grade moved to the middle school.

All teams have a team leader, a guidance counselor, special needs teacher and paraprofessional. They visit every 5th grade teacher the spring before the 6th graders come. Teams are built by the sixth grade faculty.

Minutes of November 19, 2003, meeting-page 2

It might be a good idea to find out what Greenland & Rye do in their middle school. Do they have teams? Newington added a language in 6th grade, so that they would not be behind when they come to PMS.

From 6th to 10th grade, we have high mobility, but those that are with us since 6th grade, do very well & improve steadily on our testing scores.

We interviewed the staff. Excellent groups of people working with our kids! We talked about how educational space has changed today. We need computer labs, rooms for special needs teachers, and conference areas for meetings.

Peter Torrey reviewed the PDT report, we (PMS) are on approximately 1.5 acres and have 101,000sq. ft. of space. A middle school classroom should be 900 sq.ft. According to the state standards.

In 1998 PDT performed a population projection that seems to be very accurate. We have not changed much from that prediction. The population is pretty flat. Conclusion: PMS is in need of a major renovation.

We can probably surmise that our population will probably not increase that much. There is just not that much space left to build. Newington has a few big classes coming, but then it seems to go down again.

Peter Torrey suggested that we need to get more info from the PMS Staff about organization and curriculum, which has a relationship to space. John suggested we get input from all the various types of teachers. John feels we should do that by the next meeting.

Dr. Robert Spear, Executive Director of the New England League of Middle Schools, might come and talk to us about what should be happening in middle schools.

Ray Bowles suggested that perhaps we use study circles in a modified version. Should we have parents who have elementary kids now in a study circle type of forum, since their kids would be the ones to benefit from a new facility? John suggested we have our January PAC meeting devoted to this topic.

Should we make a request to have a new population projection? Peter Torrey will investigate that and see how much it would help.

Minutes of November 19, 2003, meeting-page 3

Next meeting is 12/17 at 7:00 pm. Helen Maldini brought up the point of possibly extending the school day and the extra-curricula activities. In reality have a longer day with all the after-school activities that are available, but not all students take advantage of the activities.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Novelline Clayburgh

Portsmouth Middle School
Building Facilities Committee
Minutes of Meeting on December 18, 2003

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by chairperson Nancy Clayburgh.

Present at meeting: Nancy Clayburgh, John M. Stokel, Carol Diemer, Nansi Craig, Steve Marchand, Clay Hayard, Peter Torrey, Laura Barone, Ken Hawkins, Tom Bolko.

Absent: Helen Maldini, Raimond Bowles

Guest: Dr. Robert Spear, Executive Director of the New England League of Middle Schools.

The minutes of the November 11, 2003, meeting were amended to read in paragraph five" will work on a similar theme". Minutes approved with amendment.

Dr.Spear was invited to the meeting to talk about the characteristics of adolescents and the physical environment that best fits for adolescent education. He spoke about the history of junior high schools and the change to middle schools.

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- Wide corridors for student movement
- Round tables in cafeteria for socialization
- Playgrounds and recess if possible
- Computers available in each classroom-adolescents are very much hands-on
- Active hands-on activities require large space
- Life is interdisciplinary, so middle school must be also

Minutes of meeting on December 18, 2003-page2

- Unified Arts classes (art, music, tech.ed family and consumer science, computer ed.) must be active, fun, hands-on, and required for all students
- Don't skimp on adolescent building needs; wide corridors, bathrooms in each cluster of team rooms, cubbies in each cluster of team rooms (not lockers), flexibility of rooms.

Nancy Clayburgh asked if it is important to have an auditorium. Dr. Spear felt it was, but it usually gets cut because of cost. Nancy Clayburgh felt if the community had the use of the auditorium it would have community support. Dr.Spears will be available to meet with us again if we feel we need him. Dr.Spear was asked if there was one middle school he would recommend we visit. He felt the middle school in East Lime, Ct. has an excellent program and a building designed to meet the needs of the program.

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, January 21, 2004, at 7:00 pm in the Middle School library. At the next meeting we will have reports back from the faculty and staff recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Clayburgh

PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Laura Barone, Nansi Craig, Helen Maldini, Steve Marchand, Peter Torrey, Ken Hawkins, Tom Bolko, Nancy Clayburgh, Clay Hayward, Carl Diemer, John Stokel

Approval of minutes of December 18, 2003, meeting. Moved by Peter Torrey second by Clay Hayward. Unanimously approved.

Committee members set-up visitations to newly constructed Middle Schools. Nancy Clayburgh will contact York, ME, Dover NH, Stratham NH. John Stokel will contact East Lyme, CT, and Ipswich, MA.

Input from Faculty about facility needs:

- Building needs to be symbol of education
- Design set-up for five member teams, two teams at each grade level with guidance offices located with the teams (one guidance counselor per grade level), common area for each team to have student team meetings
- Prep rooms for the science classrooms (plenty of storage space for equipment and supplies)
- Large classrooms
- Natural lighting
- Fresh air
- Climate control
- Water source in every classroom
- Bathroom facilities in each team cluster of classrooms
- Comfortable learning atmosphere, built in shelving, storage space
- Team planning rooms/parent conference rooms
- Comfortable cafeteria area with options for seating-capacity 250 to 300 students
- Auditorium that will seat 700-800, available for community use, near school entrance
- Large conference room for meetings
- Unified Arts (2 art, 2 music, 2 tech. ed., 2 family and consumer science) need space, space, space, flexibility, storage
- Separate space for kiln
- Tech ed. spaces (2) with computer lab., classroom, work area
- Family consumer science (2), one for cooking, one for sewing, each containing classroom area
- Large band room to accommodate 120 students, surrounded by practice rooms, see attachment
- International language (2) large classrooms, see attachment
- Large library/media center centrally located for easy access for all teams
- Large gymnasium to accommodate three classes at a time, three PE/Health offices with bath/shower, two locker rooms
- One health ed. classroom
- Outdoor project adventure

- Athletic fields that accommodate the various programs, outdoor basketball courts
- Peer mediation room
- Large classroom for developmentally disabled program
- Large classroom space for KIDS program, with office spaces adjacent to classroom
- Areas for PT, OT, Speech, Reading
- Offices for the following: SPED Coordinator, SRO, After school program, Futures, Clipper health, Psychologist, Adult Ed., Peer Mediation
- Nurse's clinic with bath/shower, office space within the clinic
- Administration: main office with reception area for parents, work room for secretaries, conference room for meetings/parent conferences, principal's office located within main office area, assistant principal's office located away from main office (with reception area for students/parents), guidance office with reception area for parents, office for secretary, (guidance offices out with the teams),
- Supply room located on first floor for deliveries (near loading dock)
- Custodial office and plenty of storage space around teams for custodial supplies and equipment, floor sinks

Peter Torrey advised that it was time to bring in an architect. Peter felt we have a good working relationship with Team Design. Steve Marchand felt we need to know how the current space could be used. The City Councilors are planning for the future of the entire city. Maybe we could only do 70% at the present location. Do we want to settle for that? We decided that we wanted to invite Team design to do a conceptual drawing for us. Peter will find out how much it will cost and we will invite them to the next meeting. Have Team design visit PMS before the next meeting. We need to have a dollar amount put on this. Carl Diemer made a motion to have Team Design get involved with the project, second by Ken Hawkins. Voted unanimously. Peter Torrey has been in contact with Planning Decisions. They did the population projections a few years ago. They will do a ten-year projection, cost \$1700.00. They will have a report to us by May, but will work with the architects along the way. Carl Diemer made a motion to have Planning Decisions do this work, second by Tom Bolko. Voted unanimously.

Next meeting set for February 18, 2004, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Clayburgh

**Portsmouth middle School
Facilities Needs Assessment Committee
Minutes of Meeting on April 22, 2004**

Present: Raimond Bowles, Tom Bolko, Clay Hayward, Carl Diemer, Helen Maldini, Steve Marchand, Peter Torrey, Nancy Clayburgh, John Stokel, Dan Bisson-Team Design

Review of existing facility, Review of existing plans Dan Bisson will present

Dan has visited every room at PMS, he has also interviewed ½ of the staff and will continue interviewing all staff. He is putting together a design, which will include things like plumbing & heating. Dan reviewed each section of the Program Analysis report.

State Standards:

Grade 1-6 900 sq ft.

Grades 6-12 800 sq ft.

Hardly any of our rooms meet the state standards.

We are within the guidelines of pupil standards on enrollment, but not for the unified arts section, special Ed, Library is ok as far as sq. footage goes. Gym fit 1,000 (but does it meet fire code?)

General classrooms are adequate sq. footage, but many areas are inadequate e.g. no student bathroom on the second floor. Does not meet code for bathrooms. Second floor teacher's lounge has become a Special Ed room. Storage room with no ventilation is now the teacher's room. Many rooms are not being used for what they were planned for. In order to get state aid, you have to meet state standards, and we really do not.

All these will come to be scrutinized if we go to renovate. (Dept of Ed, IDC interim code, Fire Marshall and Bldg Inspector, ADA Handicapped, etc)

30% of this bldg would not be eligible for state funding because of the small size. Science labs because of safety would have to meet the state standards.

We do have enough classrooms according to the state, but the size is not adequate for many rooms. Dan will figure out if this building can handle the number of students according to the state standards.

Site Plan - We should have 16 acres, we only have 1.5 the whole parcel is only 5.7 acres, so it's still not big enough.

Page 2-April 22, 2004 minutes

We need 101 parking spaces and we have about 60. The other 40 park on the street. We definitely have site issues.

There is not much leeway with the state with acreage. Can we get more acreage? Probably not on this site. 4th floor? Probably not, because the building probably does not meet seismic code.
This building is on piles because it is filled land.
Small classrooms here would probably make a renovation difficult.

Population predications...for the next 5 years, it will level and pretty much be the same. We have asked for another report for the next 10 years. Even if the population numbers are flat, it would be great to build for growth.

Dan will continue working on his report and get back to us at our next mtg.

Clay, Nancy and Ray will ask the Board to let us make a presentation to the Board on 6/8.

Dan will complete interviews by May 7, 2004. The committee set the next two meetings for May 13, 2004, at 6:30 and May 27, 2004, at 6:30.

A big thanks to Dan for putting together the report. Dan thanked the staff for being so cooperative and easy work with.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Clayburgh

**Portsmouth Middle School
Facilities Needs Assessment Committee
Minutes of Meeting on May 13, 2004**

Present: Nancy Clayburgh, John Stokel, Raimond Bowles, Steve Marchand, Carl Diemer, Ken Hawkins, Laura Barone, Clay Hayward, Tom Bolko, Nansi Craig, representing Team Design: Dan Bisson, Wes Bonney.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Dan Bisson began by reviewing the Program Analysis Report from last meeting. The Facility Analysis was then handed out and Wes Bonney talked explained the report. In general the entire facility needs to be renovated for accessibility. There is only one totally accessible entrance. Parking is a problem with accessibility as well as: knobs on doors, recessed doors and enough room to get in the rooms with a wheelchair. Ramps are rundown. There is an elevator, which is good. Carpet is worn. Asbestos tile and pipe would have to be fixed. Toilet areas are deficient. Much of this does not meet code, drinking fountains; telephones do not meet accessibility codes. Cafeteria is inadequate, computer stations are too high, and signage is inadequate. Stairwells would have to be redone. Fire codes would all have to be enforced. We do have a sprinkler system. Mechanical and electrical systems are very outdated and must be gutted. Plumbing needs to all be redone. All electrical and power service must be repaired. No emergency back up generator. Air quality is probably not the best. Let's think about air quality and air conditioning. This is a very black and white report and says that a total gutting of the building would be necessary. Wes was asked if he knew of any schools in the area that had been totally gutted. He said that Somersworth H.S. was totally gutted and rebuilt. PMS would be different however because of seismic concerns and pilings under the building. Probably we can't add a 4th floor. We would have to gut because basically everything needs to be replaced. We need 16 acres, we have only 1 1/2. The state Dept of Ed. regulations say you need 16 acres for parking, playing fields, and room for expansion. Today you really need the playing fields. In 1930 the State did not have these regulations.

Dan Bisson handed out the staff interview response sheets and the amounts of square footage that is required. Dan is amazed at how well the programs are delivered in such cramped space. John Stokel commented that so much of the building is inadequate and space is not used the way it was intended. Dan then reviewed some ideas about how we would renovate this building. The heat on the 3rd floor has been reported to be well over 100 because it bounces off the gym roof.

Dan tried to reconfigure the existing space and he gave up because everything just won't fit. What we have for a middle school program does not fit in this building. Ray Bowles asked if we could add on at all. It appears that whatever is built will be separated from this building.

Page 2-May 13, 2004 minutes

Have two middle schools, move 6th grade back to elementary, build one big school someplace else, are some of the options. Dan really tried to fit everything in and it is impossible! We have lots of new data to work with to try to come up with a solution, 8th grades at the high school? Ray Bowles would like to keep the middle school where it is, to retain the City space; Parrott Ave is a Civic Center of Portsmouth.

We should have population projections at the next meeting. John Stokel asked us to review "our charge" from the School Board. Middle schools are generally 6-7-8. Our charge talks about the middle school concept and what we need to have the perfect middle school. We could handle about 300 students in this building if it were renovated.

Dan presented what a perfect middle school would look like. The pods or kivas were explained. John mentioned you don't want to isolate kids too much, and we want to be careful about that. Guidance, special ed. needs to be part of the team. How would you renovate? Where would you put the students? Double sessions? Put students some place else.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 27, 2004, at 7:00 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Clayburgh

Minutes of Meeting
May 27, 2004
Portsmouth Middle School Needs Assessment Study Committee

Present: Peter Torrey, Carl Diemer, Nancy Clayburgh, Tom Bolko, Laura Barone, Steve Marchand, Helen Maldini, Ken Hawkins, John Stokel, Dan Bisson-Team Design

The committee report to the School Board will be on June 8, 2004, at Portsmouth High School. Team Design will probably give the bulk of the talk.

Population Projection- Peter Torey, 550 students approximately for the next ten (10) years.

Dan Bisson reported that the Program Analysis & Facility Analysis suggest the present building has lived its course.

Report for Board should contain Educational Narrative specifications that the staff gave Dan, teaming, unified arts, tours of others schools.

Educational need must be discussed, the building was built for a junior high and we use it as a middle school facility.

Dan will present the facility analysis and the program analysis.

We will suggest a works session.

Dan showed us the drawing for the 6th grade teams and another drawing for the 7th & 8th grade team.

John Stokel will mail the report to the committee members. The committee will meet at Portsmouth High School at 6:00 pm on June 8, 2004, to discuss report prior to the School Board presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Clayburgh