

Mendota Township High School
Building Committee Minutes
September 15, 2010
9:00 AM

The Building Committee meeting was held in the high school media center on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 9:00 AM. Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. The following were present: Tom Bauer, Jim Lauer, Jim Strouss, Dr. Mike Vercimak, John McKenzie, Jeff Prusator, Steve Wright of DLA, and Denise Aughenbaugh. Media was also present.

Mr. Bauer opened the meeting by describing the overall goal of the committee today. Mr. Wright requested the day's goal included a priority list of tasks to be accomplished with an established budget. He would hope to compare the list against the budget for the board.

Mr. Wright began discussing seat. He explained the count and calculation is based upon linear seating. The code says to build allowing 18 inches per seat. The sites visited on September 13th at Lincoln-Way North and West schools showed an example of 2405 seats on the home side based upon 18 inch increments. Mr. Wright noted that to seat for comfort, the board could adjust to 20 inches. On paper, it would bring the overall seat count down, but it would be more comfortable for the fans. Mr. Wright wanted the committee to consider code or comfort in seating.

Mr. Wright next asked for some input on what the committee liked and did not like on the visits that week. Mr. Prusator began by saying the committee had discussed on the drive home, and they were in consensus that field turf was an option everyone liked. Mr. Lauer noted the layout of the stadiums visited were nice. He would prefer to see asphalt under the bleachers instead of the gravel they used. Mr. Bauer agreed asphalt would be preferred. Mr. Lauer also mentioned the staff at Lincoln-Way mentioned the aluminum bleachers were slippery when wet. Mr. Wright agreed that there is texture to the aluminum, but it does have the potential for slipperiness when it rains. Mr. Lauer also commented on the enclosed bleacher seats being helpful, especially when cleaning is concerned.

Mr. Wright asked Mr. McKenzie to share his preferences with the committee. Mr. McKenzie shared that field turf would be his first priority. Next, he would like to see the stadium with an 8-lane track. Third, he would consider the bleachers. Fourth, the press box would be a priority item for him. If there is money left, then he thought the committee should determine what else to put into the new stadium.

Mr. Wright then brought up lighting. The consensus was to light the stadium. Mr. Wright asked about extending to auxiliary buildings. Mr. Strouss did not feel the two separate concession stands used at Lincoln-Way was necessary. He felt one building would be sufficient. Mr. Strouss would like the flow of traffic and congestion watched if one building is used. Mr. Lauer suggested concessions at one end with the Booster Club and Booster Club storage at the other end. Mr. Prusator asked the committee if they preferred a separate restroom away from the concession building. The group concurred. Short discussion ensued on the possibility of a restroom located under the bleachers.

Discussion continued on the original drawings for the school and stadium. Mr. Prusator asked if additional parking would be available at the new stadium, and Mr. Wright thought it was. Dr. Vercimak pointed out to Mr. Wright the additional footage that had been purchased by the district since the original plans were drawn. There is plenty of room for additional parking. Dr. Vercimak suggested they gravel the parking first, and it would be nice to have all the football parking in the back. Mr. Strouss noted it would also allow for overflow parking at graduation. All agreed that they would need sufficient lighting in the parking lots for safety.

Mr. Prusator brought up that Ed Scott had asked for additional storage outside if possible. Mr. Wright clarified if he needed equipment storage or other items. Mr. Prusator shared that Mr. Scott would like storage for outdoor equipment, track storage, and possibly tractors.

Discussion ensued on how much storage could be placed under the bleachers. The group agreed to try and incorporate as much storage as possible into the new construction.

Next, Mr. Wright asked to discuss the rest rooms, locker rooms, and team room concept. Mr. McKenzie shared that the additional locker rooms would be lower on his list of priorities. He would like to cost out the rest of the project, and if they are close on budget, then the teams can use the high school's locker rooms. Mr. McKenzie also shared that he had been approached by an organization that could perhaps fund locker rooms if necessary. Mr. Wright asked Mr. McKenzie to explain the team room needs. Mr. McKenzie shared that it would be a room players at half-time, and they would need access to some type of rest room. It would be Mr. McKenzie's preference to give both teams equal access to a team room. Mr. Wright summarized for everyone that they voiced a preference for team rooms separate from the concessions. They would also be separate from the public rest rooms. The group also would like the concessions separate from the rest rooms.

Dr. Vercimak asked for clarification on the cost effectiveness of using one building and perhaps utilizing opposite sides of the building for the various needs. He also shared that the location of the new stadium is on the edge of a 100 year flood plain. They might prefer to keep the team room on the opposite end. Mr. Prusator asked if Mr. Wright could lay out a few buildings and see if there is room to move things around. He would.

Next, Mr. Wright asked to discuss bleachers. Mr. Strauss stated he would like to see 1800 seats on the home side. Dr. Vercimak asked about current seating since it is rarely full. The current stadium seats 1600. Mr. Bauer shared that in 1996 and 2009, the stadium was only sold out twice in later play-off games. Dr. Vercimak also asked the committee to remember that two districts have approached MHS with consolidation, and ample seating is needed for both now and future needs. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bauer shared the current bleachers have 13.5 inches of leg rooms. Mr. Wright said the stadium visits had seating with 16 inches of leg room.

Mr. Wright then discussed the new code that could require either an elevator or lift in the press box. A lift would cost substantially less money at approximately \$25,000 with an enclosure raising it to possibly \$35,000. Mr. Wright continued that an elevator requirement could cost the district anywhere from \$80,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Lauer asked if it was Mr. Wright's opinion the requirement could change, or if a separate press box had passed the state. Mr. Wright shared that alternate handicap seating would be acceptable with the seat for the press box. Mr. Prusator asked if that would include equal access to the upper canopy to film, and Mr. Wright did not think it would.

Mr. Prusator asked if running electrical from the stadium to the fields and soccer concession area could be an alternate bid. Mr. Wright said he could do immediate power for the stadium only with alternates for the others.

Seating was discussed again. Mr. Wright wanted to clarify home with 1800 seats. Mr. Strauss preferred 2000, Mr. Bauer preferred 1600, and Dr. Vercimak thought 1800 on home. Mr. Bauer shared that every 100 seats was approximately \$25,000. Mr. Wright asked about visitors. Mr. Prusator reported there are 500 on the visitor side now. He suggested perhaps 500 permanent seats with 500 portable on the visitor side. It was agreed to consider 700 seats on the visitor side.

The track was discussed next. Mr. Wright asked if Mr. McKenzie could consult the track coach for the quality of the track. Mr. Bauer noted the need to keep all track outside and not in the end zone. He suggested pole vault and high jump could possibly be in the end zone. Shot and discuss would be outside.

Mr. Lauer asked about the lighting variance. Mr. Wright explained there are degrees of lighting. There is professional grade to college to high school. Musko lighting has been a good company for many

of their clients. It was the same company that Rochelle used. Mr. Lauer also asked about the sound system variance. Mr. Wright asked if the committee would like him to make recommendations to them, and it was agreed. He also suggested both the press box and a mike jack down on the field level are used. The scoreboard location was discussed next. The committee preferred the far end of the field to be viewable from the parking lot. Mr. Prusator shared that the district had a family five years ago approach them and say they were interested in donating the scoreboard for the new stadium. The family is still interested. Mr. McKenzie mentioned the scoreboard should also be used for track meets as a universal board. Mr. Wright would share catalogs with Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. Wright shared there are many manufacturers of turf. Field Turf is the best visited by the committee. Mr. Lauer asked if Mr. Wright had experience with other companies. Mr. Wright recalled only one other company being used for one stadium. His firm has done 16 stadiums, and of those, 15 were Field Turf. Pictures were shared with fields that alternated color. Discussion ensued. Color could be determined later. Ticket booths were discussed. Again, they could be discussed later.

Mr. Wright wanted to clarify if the committee was interested in seating that had exits in the middle of the bleachers. Mr. Lauer shared based on cost; it would be desirable to have middle exits. Mr. Prusator shared the last meeting the board said \$3 million total for the project cost.

Dr. Vercimak asked about a tentative time frame. Mr. Wright would get a layout within four weeks and additional information to the committee. Mr. McKenzie would get additional track information to Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright would put in a recommended 75 spots for parking in the drawing. Next meeting would be Wednesday, October 13th at 9:00 AM.

At 10:45 AM, Bauer made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Lauer. By acclamation, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Aughenbaugh
Principal