

**METUCHEN PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES**

June 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Eric Erickson, Chairperson, who read the statement in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present:	Ellen Clarkson, Vice Chairperson Alan Grossman Councilmember Koskoski William Love, Mayor's Designee James Griffin Eric Erickson, Chairman	Lauren Cohn, Alt. II Robert Renaud, Attorney William Hoover, Engineer Christopher Cosenza, Planner Denise Hamilton, Secretary
Absent:	Lynn Nowak Jonathan Lifton Melissa Perilstein, Administrator	Jonathan Busch, Mayor Michael Alvarez, Alt. I Patricia Kaulfers, Zoning Official

Mr. Renaud informed the Board that Mr. Lifton is a member of the Board of Education and was recused from the hearing.

PRESENTATION: Plans for Metuchen Public Schools/ EI Associates -Architect -NJ

Plans for building additions, new buildings and site improvements at Metuchen Public Schools:

Moss School	16 Simpson Avenue
Campbell School	24 Durham Avenue
Edgar School	49 Brunswick Avenue
Metuchen High School	400 Grove Avenue

Richard Scheick, Senior Project Manager, introduced his team and gave a brief overview of the proposed plans. He explained that revisions are due to overcrowding of the schools, and each school would be getting an addition. Changes include a shift in grades: Moss will become Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd; Campbell will have 2nd – 5th; and Edgar 6th – 8th. The Board of Education office at Moss will move to the High School. Each school will have cafeteria additions. Changes also include the following: 1) High School will have a one-story addition, larger cafeteria, new gymnasium and new parking lot; 2) Moss School a three-story addition to the rear, with a new ground entrance to accommodate offices and cafeteria, 2nd floor for the 2nd graders and 3rd floor for the 3rd graders; 3) Edgar will have two additions, one for the cafeteria and another for special education classes. The school entry will be relocated; and 4) Campbell School's configuration will remain the same with some alterations inside. Although the playground will shift, the fire lane will be maintained. Mr. Scheick invited questions from the Board.

Mr. Renaud summarized that various layers will be required for approval of the plans. Role of the Board is to review, advise, and to ensure that the Master Plan/Land Use elements will be maintained.

The Board expressed concerns; 1) outdoor play areas at Moss School will be separated by parking lots, 2) the elimination of the open areas that had provided adequate social distancing for Covid at Campbell was to

become pavement, 3) the accessibility of floor plans on the website, and 4) the switch of grades would promote cross town traffic and discourages the option of walking.

Corey Chase, Dynamic Traffic Engineer, responded that the intent is to make sure the changes will function as efficiently as possible. With Campbell, there are two pick-up and drop off areas proposed instead of the one in existence, which should be safe and will eliminate congestion.

Mr. Cosenza suggested minimizing the excess parking areas if they are not utilized, and to consolidate the playground area at Moss.

Mr. Hoover inquired about storm water management, especially at Moss School.

Michael Walsh, Engineer, responded that new additions will tie into the existing system and be functional.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Erickson opened the floor to the public. No one from the public responded. The floor was closed.

Mr. Renaud offered to prepare a Resolution for adoption of the plan, to be memorialized at the next meeting, if the Board was inclined to agree.

Motion to find the proposal consistent with the Master Plan and recommend adoption was made by Councilmember Koskoski and seconded by Mr. Ericson. Ms. Clarkson, Mr. Grossman, Councilmember Koskoski, Mr. Love, Ms. Cohn and Mr. Erickson vote yes. Mr. Griffin abstained. Motion was approved.

CORREPENDENCE:


Minutes for April 7, 2022

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Grossman. With all in favor, the minutes were approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Koskoski and seconded by Mr. Grossman. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


D. Hamilton, Secretary