At the March 30, 2005 Board meeting Mr. Michael Leahy presented to the Board of Trustees his planned operations for a nonsectarian independent secondary school. The resolution that is attached to this Board item has been modified in only one respect. The previous resolution capped the enrollment of the school to 35 full-time equivalent students. This revised resolution caps the enrollment at 40 full-time equivalent students which is the limit requested by the Leahy’s in their operational use permit.

To refresh the Board’s memory, Mr. Leahy proposes to convert his private residence into a nonsectarian independent secondary school. The easement agreement which the Board of Trustees originally approved in 2001, only approved an easement for the purposes of ingress and egress from Witherly Lane for the purposes of accessing a private residence. It specifically prohibited any other type of operation. When Mr. Leahy presented his plans to the Board of Trustees in March there were several neighbors in attendance who expressed concerns about dangerous traffic conditions caused by twice daily school bus trips and questioned what might happen if the Leahy’s sold the school at some future date.

Mr. Leahy would be willing to have an additional restriction added to an amended easement agreement, whereby the Montessori School would be required to issue an additional insured certificate to the College in the amount of $2 million to mitigate any additional liability due to increased school bus traffic.

The attached resolution drawn up by the District’s real estate counsel does not include the additional restrictions listed above. The Board of Trustees must decide whether they are in favor of granting an easement for the purpose of allowing the Leahy’s to operate a private school. Furthermore, if the Board is in favor of approving an amended easement, then the Board must determine what restrictions it wishes to have added to the attached agreement to protect the College. Legal services are costly, and staff does not wish to incur more legal costs until they know what the Board’s opinion is in this matter.
RECOMMENDATION:

The President/Superintendent recommends that the Board of Trustees consider the matter of granting an amended easement to Michael and Cynthia Leahy for the purpose of operating a nonsectarian independent secondary school.