

Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
April 7, 2025
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room

5:30 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Merrimack TV Training Classroom

- Staff Welfare

6:00 p.m. PUBLIC MEETING

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 6:00 p.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | Lori Peters |
| 6:05 p.m. | 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION | Lori Peters |
| 6:15 p.m. | 3. RECOGNITIONS
-School Board Member Ken Martin | Lori Peters |
| 6:25 p.m. | 4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES
a. Superintendent Update
b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
d. School Board Update
e. Student Representative Update | Lori Peters |
| 6:40 p.m. | 5. OLD BUSINESS
a. Discussion on Warrant Articles/Review Voters Guide
b. Review the Draft Letter Regarding Spending Cap Legislation
c. Merrimack High School Graduation Date | Lori Peters

Lori Peters |
| 7:05 p.m. | 6. NEW BUSINESS
a. Facilities Naming Recommendation from Planning and Building Committee
b. Update on Request to Fidelity
c. Review & Approval of the Document Entitled “FY26 General Assurances Requirements and Definitions for Participation in Federal Programs”
d. Other | Lori Peters
Gage Perry
Laurie Rothhaus
Everett Olsen |
| 7:15 p.m. | 7. POLICIES
a. Second Review of Food and Nutrition Services: Anti-Discrimination and Civil Right complaints (ACR)
b. First Reading of Revised Title I Parent Involvement in Education Policy (KB)
c. Review of Title I Parent Involvement In Education Appendix KB-R(1) | Lori Peters |
| 7:20 p.m. | 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. March 3, 2025 Non-Public Minutes
b. March 17, 2025 Non-Public and Public Minutes | Lori Peters |
| 7:25 p.m. | 9. CONSENT AGENDA
a. Educator Resignations/Retirements
b. Administrator Resignation
c. Administrator Nomination | Amanda Doyle |
| 7:35 p.m. | 10. OTHER
a. Committee Reports
b. Correspondence
c. Comments | Lori Peters |
| 7:50 p.m. | 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS | Lori Peters |
| 8:10 p.m. | 12. ADJOURN | |

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229


AMANDA S. DOYLE
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Chief Education Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Lori Peters
Jenna Hardy

Naomi Halter
Ken Martin
Laurie Rothhaus
Finnegan Haddad

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr. 

Date: April 2, 2025

Subject: Date of Merrimack High School Graduation

The Merrimack High School graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2025. The originally established date of graduation is not impacted by the number of days left due to inclement weather, etc.

The state statute with respect to high school graduates is as follows:

“The high school graduation date shall be set no more than 5 school days or 30 instructional hours before the end of the scheduled school year without consideration of making up lost time, pursuant to Ed 306.18 (a) (4).”



Facilities and Grounds Naming Request **Application Information**

Those submitting an application should read the Merrimack School District Facilities Naming Policy and Policy Procedures before submitting an application.

The Merrimack School Board shall be responsible for naming of facilities or grounds within the School District upon the recommendation of the School District Planning and Building Committee.

The Merrimack School Planning and Building Committee is responsible for reviewing all naming request applications and making a recommendation on each to the School Board.

The Committee will independently review and analyze each application. This research may include contacting all those who wrote letters of support, have been named within the application documents, or viewed as autonomous entities having direct knowledge of the subject.

The Committee policy is to review each naming request applications

- ❖ One at a time
- ❖ In the order received
- ❖ Only if complete

Be advised: School Board policy requires a one-year waiting period between the event prompting this request and the actual application. In addition, Planning and Building Committee policy states applications that are not recommended can be re-submitted for consideration after two year waiting period.

Please send the application form and the supporting documents to the following address:

Merrimack School District Planning and Building Committee
Facilities & Grounds Naming Request
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, NH 03054



Date Received By MSD _____

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS NAMING APPLICATION

Name of Individual, Group or Organization making this request _____

Primary Requestor Contact Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Name of individual, group or organization to be recognized _____

Does this individual, group or organization know about this request? Yes ☐ No ☐

Facility/Area applicant suggests be named _____

How is this area relevant to this individual, group or organization? _____

Attach a summary (two pages **maximum**) explaining why the Merrimack School District should recognize this individual, group or organization. This summary should include information by which the Committee can evaluate the following criteria:

- ☐ Quality of Service/Level of Commitment/Distinguished Leadership in service of Merrimack School District
- ☐ Impact on the Furtherance of Educational Experience in Merrimack School District
- ☐ Uniqueness of Request – How are the designee's contributions "over and above what is generally expected"?
- ☐ Overall Record of service within Merrimack School District or Community demonstrating traits such as ethics, integrity, mentorship, role model, character or courage
- ☐ Other Important or Relevant Information for consideration

Attach at least one letter of support from three different categories listed below. (i.e. minimum 3 letters total)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff peers | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials (Current or former) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Students | |

NOTE: Support letters from the applicant or family members of the applicant or designee are not allowed.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES NAMING POLICY

The Merrimack School Board shall be responsible for the naming of facilities or grounds within the School District upon recommendation of the Merrimack School District Planning and Building Committee.

The Merrimack School Board may, subject to the provisions contained herein, name a facility, or a portion of the facility, or a specific parcel of property after an individual or organization for a significant contribution to the furtherance of education in the Merrimack School District.

In naming facilities (or portions thereof) or grounds, the intention of the Merrimack School Board is that such name should be into perpetuity. Nevertheless the Merrimack School Board retains the right, in appropriate and compelling circumstances, to rename a facility.

1st Reading: May 19, 2008

2nd Review: June 2, 2008

Adoption: June 16, 2008

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES NAMING POLICY PROCEDURES

In the case of individuals:

- 1) The person so honored shall have demonstrated, by professional or community service, a commitment to further quality education and the furtherance of student achievement.
- 2) Such honor will only be conferred after a one year waiting period for the event prompting the request.
- 3) In the case of former employees, the commitment shall be reflected by dedication considered beyond that which would be generally expected by an employee.
- 4) In the case of elected school officials, the commitment shall be reflected in the demonstrated commitment of extended tenure in office and service in various leadership and liaison roles within and outside the district.
- 5) In the case of volunteers or other community leaders, the commitment shall be through unselfish volunteer service and leadership of the community on education issues.
- 6) While the commitment of significant resources to construct or maintain a given facility may be considered, it shall not be the policy of the District to "sell" naming rights to facilities.

In the case of organizations:

- 1) Commitment of resources to the construction or maintenance of a facility shall be a permissible ground for the decision to honor an organization; however, the organization's reputation, character and standing in the community (in Merrimack or at large) shall also be considered.
- 2) Plaques or other tangible evidence of the naming of the facility shall be of the same character as that for individuals; generally display of logos or trademarks shall not be permitted.



Facilities and Ground Naming Application Grid

	1 - Emerging	2 - Capable	3 - Proficient	4 - Exceeds Expectations	5 - Extraordinary, Distinguished, Outstanding, Excellent
Quality of Service/Level of Commitment/Distinguished Leadership to MSD Commensurate with Item Requested					
Impact on Furtherance of Quality of Educational Experience in MSD					
Uniqueness of Request How is this "Over and Above What is Generally Expected"					
Overall Record of Service in MSD or Community Demonstrating: Ethics, Integrity, Role Model, Mentorship, Character, Courage					
TOTALS					

TOTAL SCORE _____

BOARD MEMBER INITIALS _____

DATE _____

Date Received By MSD _____

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS NAMING APPLICATION

Name of Individual, Group or Organization making this request:

Merrimack Track Booster Club

Primary Requestor Contact Information:

Name Joseph Sanborn

Address 17 Elwood rd, Londonderry, NH

Telephone 603-391-7885

Email: Joseph.sanborn@sau26.org

Name of individual, group or organization to be recognized : John Snell

Does this individual, group or organization know about this request? No

Facility/Area applicant suggests be named: Track and Field Complex at Merrimack High School

How is this area relevant to this individual, group or organization? He has coached the Girls & Boys Indoor and Spring Track Teams, as well as the Girls & Boys Cross Country years for 41 years at Merrimack High School. He has earned the respect of student-athletes, parents and coaches within the Merrimack School District as well as those from other schools in the state. His dedication has allowed the athletes to develop healthy and active lifestyles far beyond their Merrimack High School Graduation. He was a major contributor in planning for the track and field complex.

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FEB 11 2025

Merrimack School District SAU26

Summary: Explanation for the recognition of John Snell in naming the track and field complex in his honor.

John Snell was hired as an educator in the Merrimack School District in 1979 and became a coach of the Cross Country and Track teams beginning in 1983. Although he retired as a full-time science educator and Science Department Chair a number of years ago, he continues to coach the students in both indoor and outdoor track and field. John Snell's level of commitment to the track and field program, as well as the athletes therein, throughout his tenure has been extraordinary. He was a three-season head coach for decades. He has helped to foster the maturation of numerous athletes and coaches alike, including myself. Whether it is continuing to work with students through school vacations, assisting students through their college process or competition even after a season is completed, his dedication has been on display.

Attached are a number of letters written by parents, former Merrimack athletes John Snell has coached as well as letters from a prior Athletic Director and his coaching peers. John Snell is and has always been a remarkable person and coach to the athletes for the past 41 years. He has worked with students of all abilities who wished to be better in their events. He literally ran the roads and the track with the students as they trained. He was very present to all of them as they competed for Merrimack High School.

John has always considered himself more of a "track teacher" more than a track coach. While the difference between the two may seem minimal, it is not. He takes great pride in ensuring that his athletes understand why they are doing the work that they are undertaking. This probably stems from his many years as the Science Department Head for Merrimack High School as well as his fondness for teaching chemistry and anatomy and physiology. He has incorporated many "lessons" into his practices. The knowledge and commitment that John has provided to his student-athletes over the years has promoted their growth. John is a coach that believes that the sport is an extension of the classroom and he often checks on student grades, preaches the importance of being successful in the classroom and is determined to find ways to assist and motivate his athletes. One former athlete summed up John's commitment to working with his athletes in this manner, "Snell worked with every student, regardless of talent, and made them better."

A few of his coaching accolades: He is a member of the Merrimack High School Hall of Fame and has been Coach of the Year of both Girls and Boys Track Teams.

Here is a listing that speaks to some of the successes the teams have had:

Cross Country

1997. 2nd Place 2006. 1st Place

Indoor Track

1997. 2nd Place	1999. 1st Place	2002. 2nd Place	2004. 2nd Place
2005. 2nd Place	2006. 2nd Place	2007. 1st Place	2008. 1st Place
2010. 2nd Place	2012. 2nd Place		

Outdoor Track

1993. 2nd Place	1996. 2nd Place	1998. 2nd Place	2003. 1st Place
2004. 1st Place	2005. 2nd Place	2006. 1st Place	2007. 1st Place
2008. 2nd Place	2010. 2nd Place		

That is 22 first or second place finishes during his tenure.

As noted by a former athlete, "It is important to note that we were going head to head, year in year out with some juggernaut Londonderry Teams in the Mid 1990's thru the early 2000's." This was a tremendous rivalry to be a part of.

While the longevity of his coaching career alone is extremely impressive, the success of his program and list of accomplishments throughout his coaching tenure make this situation unique. He was integral in bringing the track and field complex into fruition. John is a highly recognized symbol of track and field at Merrimack High School. As one letter writer points out, when John Snell was asked to coach the track team, the equipment consisted of a rusty shot put, a bent javelin and few broken hurdles. Keep in mind that the Merrimack Track was not built and used until April 2000.

He is well beyond the age when he became eligible for Social Security and Retirement. Yet, even after retiring as a classroom science educator, he remains to this day as Coach of the Track and Cross Country Teams. He carries the respect of his peers and in his own special manner, has taken on some of his previous athletes and developed in them the necessary skills to coach. His methods and techniques will carry on for years to come. John has been a member of various track and field committees over the years.

Throughout the reading of John Snell's letters for nomination. I have been reminded of many stories and examples of how John has affected the lives of those that have had the privilege of working with him or learning from him. John operates in a professional manner, understanding his role as a mentor to his athletes as well as other coaches. Track and field, by its nature, is a sport of rules. John always ensures that his athletes treat others with respect and that they are good ambassadors for the sport. There are many examples over the years of John having to make difficult decisions for his team. His athletes always understand the reason why these decisions were made, after a discussion with Coach Snell. While this introductory summary touches on some of the items in the letters, it is important to note that each has had their own experiences with John Snell and in each case their appreciation and or admiration for him is evident. In summation, a letter from a former Athletic Director stated that, "would honor his countless contributions to MHS athletics and recognize the profound impact he had on the lives of student-athletes."

Recommendation to Name the High School Track After John Snell

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend naming the High School track after John Snell. His contributions to Merrimack High School extend far beyond the classroom, where he served as a dedicated teacher and chair of the Science Department. John Snell's legacy is particularly profound in the realm of high school athletics, where he coached winter and spring track, as well as cross country, with remarkable success.

John Snell's Contributions to MHS Athletics

For many years, MHS did not have a track, which presented a significant challenge for Coach Snell. However, he embraced his challenge with creativity and determination. He improvised at practices, engaging all students and continually increasing participation. His innovative approach and unwavering commitment to the transformation of the track and cross-country teams into some of the top-performing teams in the state.

Under John Snell's leadership, the teams achieved an impressive level of success. His dedication and hard work were pivotal in fostering a culture of excellence and commitment among the athletes. John Snell's ability to motivate and inspire his players was evident in the consistent performance of the teams he coached.

Sharing Expertise and Supporting Other Teams

John Snell's impact extended beyond his own teams. He generously shared his knowledge of the sport with other coaches and teams. For instance, he attended football practices to teach athletes the proper techniques for running, demonstrating his willingness to support any team that sought his help. His expertise was a valuable resource for the entire athletic community at MHS.

At the same time, John Snell also served as the Freshman Basketball coach, further contributing to the athletic success of Merrimack High School. His multifaceted involvement in various sports highlights his versatility and dedication to student-athletes across different disciplines.

Inspiring Fellow Coaches and Athletes

John Snell earned the respect and admiration of his fellow coaches, as well as all of his runners. His dedication and passion for coaching were infectious, inspiring other coaches to adopt the same level of commitment. His influence extended beyond the track, instilling values of hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship in the broader MHS athletic community.

A Fitting Honor

Naming the high school track after John Snell would be a fitting tribute to his enduring legacy. It would honor his countless contributions to MHS athletics and recognize the profound impact he had on the lives of student-athletes. John Snell's name on the track would serve as a symbol of excellence, dedication, and the transformative power of a committed coach.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend that the high school track be named after John Snell. It is a gesture that acknowledges his remarkable achievement and ensures that his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of athletes at Merrimack High School.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Raycraft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph W. Raycraft
Former Athletic Director and Coach
Merrimack High School

To: Merrimack School District Planning & Building Committee
Merrimack School Board
Date: January 28, 2025

Re: Naming the Merrimack Track for John Snell

My kids, Colleen, John, and Kathleen McGrath were coached by John Snell in the 1990-2000 time frame, in either or both, Indoor and Outdoor Track. My son John was coached in Cross Country as well. Colleen and John each qualified and ran for Merrimack High School in State and New England Regional Track Events. Kathleen was Team Manager.

The teams won many events, but also were honored for Team Sportsmanship in New Hampshire while Colleen and John were John Snell's Team Captains.

It is important to note that John Snell was inducted into the Merrimack High School Hall of Fame where he is joined by some of the athletes he coached, including Colleen and John.


Although for many years, Merrimack High School did not have a track, John Snell coached several of the athletes in the High and Intermediate Hurdles to state and New England Regional Championships. When asked by coaches of other schools to work with their hurdlers, John Snell did a fine job....athletes like Keith Chisholm of Alvirne became a state champ in the Hurdles, Ed Rosier of the Class of 1997 went on to have a stellar college track career at Williams College. Ed also represented the United States of America in The Maccabiah Games in Israel.

As a Past President of the Merrimack Track Booster Club, I enjoyed working with John Snell to formulate the Warrant Article to build a track and re-construct all of the fields in the Masticola / High School Complex. This project addressed the deficiency cited in a report by the surveyors from the New England Accreditation Council. While the Warrant Article had a value of \$500,000, few knew that it was John Snell who alerted the School District Administration and the School Board that the project actually qualified for State building aid. He single handedly saved the District and the voters of Merrimack \$150,000.

As you might expect, with the construction of the new track, other teams wanted to come and compete. State high school records tumbled in the track events, some by Merrimack runners!

In closing, I commend to you for your consideration, John Snell, as a worthy person and for whom the Track at Merrimack High School should be named.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. McGrath

Past President Merrimack Track Booster Club
Track Parent
Former Merrimack School District Board Member

To the Merrimack School Board,

John Snell has been the most important individual behind the very successful Merrimack High School track and cross country programs. John's teams finished in the top two twenty times, including seven state championships. John was also a great teacher and department chairman (science) at Merrimack High School until his retirement several years ago. He is still very involved with both cross country and track programs (head track coach). He also is the meet director for the prestigious Merrimack Invitational held the second week of May. He has touched so many lives and has been a great role model for his students, athletes, and fellow educators. As he looks toward the future, John Snell remains a shining example of perseverance, humility, and passion for the sports of cross country and track and field. Merrimack High School and the entire New Hampshire running community have every reason to be proud of John Snell's achievements. We feel that naming the track after him would be a great tribute to John and all that he has meant to Merrimack High School.

Yours Truly,

Retired NH Track Coaches Association

Pete Bergeron	Don Boggis	Jim Boulanger	Ed Burgess
John Cahalane	Mike Clark	Jay Damren	Art Demers
John Doria	John Eastman	John Faggiano	Jack Gati
Bob Gidari	Doug Glance	John Goegel	Dave Goldsmith
Al Halpern	Lee Hess	Barb Higgins	Tom Irving

Stan Lyford
Joe O'Neill
Kurt Schulz

Larry Martin
Rich Osborne
Ken Sciacca

Maryanne Morcom
Rich Provencher
Bob Ward

Bill Newcomb
Joe Scascitelli

My name is Jason Wright, and I am writing in wholehearted support of the Merrimack Track and Field facility being named for John Snell. I have a unique perspective as a former athlete, parent of a former and current athlete and recent addition to the coaching staff.

I was a member of the Merrimack Track and Field team from 1994-1998. During that time, we didn't have a track facility. John Snell worked with what he had coaching me to multiple titles, awards, and records. I was Class L and NH State Champion in the 55-meter hurdles, 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles. I also competed in the 400-meter hurdles at the USATF Nationals in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I still hold the school record for the 400-meter hurdles and during my senior year our indoor track 4x400 meter relay team was ranked #1 in the country for part of the season. That relay team still holds the NH state record.

Coach Snell also led my daughter to a State Championship. In 2017 Siaoli won the 300-meter hurdle event. He is now coaching my daughter Serenah, who is a sophomore.

Earlier this year I was eager to coach alongside John. I have been energized to see that he still has the same excitement in coaching, developing and mentoring athletes.

John has committed over 40 years to Merrimack High School and it's Cross Country and Track and Field Teams. It's important to note that he also raised his own family during this time. His length of service is almost unheard of today. Others have come and gone during John's tenure, but he has remained. Year over John is a constant that can be counted on to unselfishly give his time to improve student athletes of all abilities. He has remained relevant and continues to turn out extraordinarily successful individual athletes and teams.

John Snell is an ambassador of the school. Simply put, he is Merrimack High School Cross Country and Track and Field. He embodies the sport and is known by all. One of the most anticipated outdoor track meets is the Merrimack Invitational. I'm sure John planned it well before Merrimack even had a track facility. This year, the group of parents, alumni, current and former coaches and peers who are nominating the Merrimack track facility be named for John Snell are also planning the first every New Hampshire State Alumni Mile that will be part of the Merrimack Invitational. The New Hampshire running community is eagerly awaiting this event. It is our hope that we would be able to also officially announce the naming of the facility at that time.

Thank you in advance for your consideration
Jason Wright
Merrimack Track and Field Alumni 1994-1998

January 28, 2025

Merrimack School Board
Merrimack School District Planning & Building Committee
36 McElwain St.
Merrimack NH 03054

I am writing to you today to add to the chorus of voices imploring you to honor John Snell in the most appropriate and meaningful way possible – name the track and field complex at Merrimack High School in his honor.

As far as his professional career goes, I'll let his record speak for itself. I'm not sure if it's worth the time it would take to tally up the countless trophies, medals, ribbons, victories and championships earned over the years. There is a likewise seemingly endless number of scholar-athletes who were able to parlay their athletic success under Snell into academic success at the college level and beyond.

I think it's best to take a bigger picture view of what Snell means to MHS. We don't request that you honor him for his years of service, or because he is one of the greatest coaches in state history. He is all that and more but moreover, John Snell is MHS track. He founded the program in 1983 – as the legend goes – with nothing but a rusty shotput, a bent javelin, and a few broken hurdles. Everything MHS track has accomplished is entirely thanks to Snell.

On a personal note – there is not a single person outside of my family that has had a greater impact on my life than Snell. He's the best teacher I ever had, and I never once had him as my classroom science teacher. What he taught me was accumulated over hundreds of laps around freezing tracks and thousands of miles run on the roads and in the woods. A great coach, a great teacher, a great mentor and a great friend.

Let's do the right thing and make sure everyone who comes to MHS will forever know the name John Snell.

Sincerely,

John McGrath

MHS XC '93, '94, '95 (Capt.)

MHS Indoor track '93, '94, '95, '96 (Capt.)

MHS Outdoor track '93, '94, '95, '96 (Capt.)

January 29, 2025

Dear Merrimack School Board,

I am honored to submit this letter of nomination for the Merrimack track facility to be renamed in honor of Coach John Snell in recognition of his unwavering commitment and invaluable contribution to the Merrimack High School community. For decades, Coach Snell has not only shaped the athletic programs but has profoundly influenced the overall educational experience of countless students. His dedication, mentorship, and passion for the students go far beyond the realm of sports, and it is with great respect that I put forth this nomination.

Since joining Merrimack High School, Coach Snell has been more than just a track coach. He has been a mentor, a role model, and a steady presence in the lives of the students he has worked with. Through his leadership, Coach Snell has helped develop a strong sense of discipline, teamwork, and resilience within the track and field program. His ability to inspire his athletes to push beyond their limits, not only in sports but also in life, has made a lasting impact on their futures.

Furthermore, Coach Snell's leadership has elevated the track program at Merrimack High School to a level of excellence that has been recognized throughout the region. Under his guidance, the program has seen numerous successes, with students achieving personal bests, setting school records, and competing at the highest levels of competition. However, what stands out even more than the victories is his consistent dedication to the development of student-athletes who continue to succeed in college and beyond, contributing to their communities and embodying the values instilled by Coach Snell. His impact can be seen in the students who have graduated, many of whom continue to return to express their gratitude and share how Coach Snell shaped their paths in life.

Coach Snell has had the privilege of coaching both of my sons. My oldest, Josh, is now a senior at Indiana Wesleyan University, where he competes on the Track and Field and Cross Country teams. He graduated in 2021, and Coach Snell played a crucial role in his development, especially during the challenging final semesters of high school amid the pandemic. Not only did Coach Snell help Josh stay physically fit, but he also provided vital support for his mental well-being during a tough time. Additionally, Coach Snell guided and encouraged Josh throughout the college recruiting process, helping him successfully navigate that journey. The valuable lessons Josh learned from Coach Snell about hard work, resilience, teamwork and handling both success and failure are ones that will stick with him for life.

Now, my youngest son, Luke, is part of the track team as well, and Coach Snell continues to be an incredible mentor. He motivates Luke to grow both as an athlete and as an individual, offering guidance and encouragement every step of the way. We've been so fortunate to have Coach Snell in both of their lives.

In summary, Coach Snell has been an integral part of the Merrimack High School community for decades, and his impact is immeasurable. His dedication, integrity, and selfless service make him an outstanding candidate for this well-deserved recognition.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,

Allyson Felo

Merrimack Road Runners Booster Club President

Colleen Rondon
17 Jason Wright Drive
Ansonia, CT 06401

203-209-5240
colleenrondon19@gmail.com

To: Merrimack School District Planning and Building Committee
Merrimack School Board

Date: January 28, 2025

Re: Honoring John Snell

Who was the most influential person at Merrimack High School that never taught me in class? While a couple of people may fit that role, the best answer is...John Snell.

A non-athlete until I reached MHS, I started running freshman indoor track to "stay in shape" for field hockey. John Snell was a fixture throughout my 4 years of running for Merrimack. Without a track to work out on in the mid-nineties, we made do with the space in the cafeteria, some hurdles set up in the hallways and behind the school, O'Gara Drive, and a sandy pit between the school and the trees bordering the Everett Turnpike. How that guy consistently coached athletes to state and New England championships is still a wonder.

As long as you showed up to practice and put in the work, every student was welcome on the track team at MHS. Snell instilled and nurtured that culture. Everyone improved; he was as happy for the kid who barely made it into the long jump pit (me) as he was for the runner who qualified for Nationals. Some cross-country and track teams cut members who can't perform to a certain standard during tryouts. Snell worked with every student, regardless of talent, and made them better. It's an approach I use daily in my 8th grade science classroom.

Snell coached as he lived. We weren't just sent out on warm up runs - he was there with us. At meets, he seemed to be everywhere at once - timing races, monitoring jumps and throws, directing kids to events - and wasn't fazed by the chaos and drama. As a teacher myself, I now realize his day started before sunup and he likely returned home well after sunset. Meet days and weekend invitationals added more demands to his schedule. The sacrifices he and his family made for the benefit of Merrimack running are astounding.

Life has taken me outside of New Hampshire to Connecticut. My younger son happens to be coached by a CT legend - Laddie Lawrence. He's coached for over 55 years at his alma mater, Staples High School. 4 years ago, the Town of Westport voted to name the track in his honor. Laddie is the Connecticut equivalent of New Hampshire's Snell - a tireless advocate for kids and the sport of running. It is high time the same honor is bestowed on John Snell. You have my enthusiastic recommendation to name the Merrimack Track after the most influential coach in Merrimack running history.

Sincerely,



Colleen (McGrath) Rondon
MHS Indoor Track 1991-1994 (captain)
MHS Outdoor Track 1991-1994 (captain)



EXETER HIGH SCHOOL

MICHAEL F. MONAHAN
Principal

CATHERINE CLERMONT
Athletic Director

REBECCA DELBARONE
Assistant Principal

MARCY DOVHOLUK
Assistant Principal

AMANDA RUSSELL
Assistant Principal

JAIME SAWLER
Assistant Principal

LYLE HAMEL
Curriculum Administrator

LISA MORIN
*Special Education
Administrator*

NANCY PETERSON-CATON
*Assistant Special Education
Administrator*



1 Blue Hawk Drive
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Feb 3, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the Track Facility at Merrimack High School be named in honor of John Snell. I coached and taught with John at Merrimack High School for nine years and have known him for over thirty years.

John is amongst the finest track coaches in the history of NH Track and Field. He has coached countless team and individual state champions. His most important contribution is the literally thousands of student-athletes that he has touched in his time at Merrimack. Keep in mind that for more that half of his career there was no track at Merrimack, yet he was still able to produce outstanding teams and built a premier program. There would be no track facility or team quite frankly if it were not for John Snell.

John Snell is truly worthy and deserving of having the Merrimack Track Facility named in his honor. I would be more than willing to speak to anyone personally in support of this effort.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Monahan
Principal
Exeter High School
Chair of the NHIAA Outdoor Track Committee

Merrimack School District Policy Progress Chart

3/21/2025

Policies In Process					Comments
	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review (if needed)	Adoption	
Food and Nutrition Services: Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights complaints (ACF)	3/17/25	4/7/25			Includes USDA new nondiscrimination statement.
Title I Parent Involvement in Education Policy (KB)	4/7/25				
Title I Family and Community Engagement – Parent Involvement in Education Appendix KB-R(1)	4/7/25 Review				School Board Review

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS****A. USDA Non-Discrimination Statement (copied to Policy AC).**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating ~~on the basis of~~ based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, ~~(including gender identity and sexual orientation)~~ disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. ~~(*See note at end of this Section A.)~~

~~Program information may be made available in languages other than English.~~ Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication ~~to obtain~~ for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the responsible ~~state or local~~ Agency ~~that administers the program~~ or USDA's TARGET Center at ~~(202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA~~ through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a [Form AD-3027](#), USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form ~~AD-3027~~, which can be obtained online at: [USDA Form AD-3027 \(link tested 2024/5/9\)](#) from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **Mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. **Fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **Email:**
Program.Intake@usda.gov

49
50 **NOTE: the above listed classes are those for which protections are extended under USDA*
51 *regulations. Although the USDA only receives complaints relative to claims of discrimination*
52 *based upon those classes, additional state and federal laws, as well as Board policy AC extend*
53 *protections against discrimination to additional classes of persons. See policy AC for further*
54 *information regarding those additional classes and related grievance procedures.*

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS**

B. Additional Discrimination Complaint Information.

1. Any person or representative alleging discrimination based on a prohibited basis relative to any of the District's food service programs has the right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action.
2. District staff who receive a complaint alleging illegal discrimination in the district's nutrition program will forward the complaint to the District's Human Rights Officer **Assistant Superintendent or Director of Human Resources** immediately, who shall note whether the allegation was made verbally or in person and will transcribe the complaint if it is not provided in writing. As required by the USDA, the District's Human Rights Officer **Assistant Superintendent or Director of Human Resources** will forward the complaint to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights immediately and will not first attempt to resolve the complaint prior to contacting the USDA.

C. Notice of Non-Discrimination Statement and Program Rights.

The Superintendent shall ensure that all materials and resources that are used to inform the public about any USDA supported Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) program include the complete, most current USDA non-discrimination statement in its exact wording. The statement may be accessed **at: ~~USDA Non-discrimination Statement (Other Programs)~~ (link tested 2024/5/9)** from any USDA office.

At a minimum, the full USDA non-discrimination statement must be included on the following materials related to USDA programs:

- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Application Form(s)
- Notification of Eligibility or Ineligibility
- Expiration of Certification Notification
- Discontinuance Notification
- Program (Home) Web Page
- Other Public Information

If the size of the material is too small to include the full USDA Non-Discrimination statement (e.g., newspaper printing of menus), the material must at a minimum include the following statement in print the same size font as the main text: *"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."*

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS**

D. Display of "And Justice for All" Poster.

The USDA requires that its "And Justice for All" non-discrimination poster is prominently displayed in each location where FNS meals are most frequently provided (e.g., school cafeteria). Each poster must be no smaller than 11" x 17" and placed in a location that enables program participants to read the text regarding civil rights complaints without obstruction.

Legal References:

RSA 354-A:1, (Human Rights) Title and Purposes of Chapter
RSA 354-A:27, Opportunity for Public Education without Discrimination a Civil Right
RSA 354-A:6, Opportunity for Employment without Discrimination a Civil Right

1st Reading: March 17, 2025
2nd Review: April 7, 2025
Adoption:

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

The Board endorses the ~~parent involvement~~ family and community engagement goals of ~~Title I~~ the Every Student Succeeds Act and encourages the regular ~~participation by parents of Title I eligible children in all aspects of the program~~ collaboration between family members, community members, and school leadership. The education of children is viewed as a cooperative effort among the parents, school and community, ~~other family members involved in supporting the child's development and education. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child's schools.~~

Pursuant to federal law, the District will develop jointly and ~~agree on with,~~ distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written ~~parent involvement family and community engagement~~ policy.

The goal of this policy is to:

1. Honor and recognize families' funds of knowledge,
2. Connect family engagement to student learning,
3. Create welcoming, inviting cultures, and
4. Develop and capacity of families to negotiate the role of supporters, advocates, and collaborators.

~~At the required annual meeting of Title I parents, parents will have opportunities to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program for the next school year. Proposed activities shall be presented to fulfill the requirements necessary to address the requirements of parental involvement goals.~~

~~At the required annual meeting and at other parent involvement activities planned throughout the school year and summer, parents will be provided with:~~

- ~~1. Information about programs provided under Title I;~~
- ~~2. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;~~
- ~~3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and~~
- ~~4. The opportunity to bring parent comments, if they are dissatisfied with the school's Title I program, to the district level.~~

The District will implement at least one annual meeting that is available to all families of students attending Title I schools and/or for families that include a student who receives Title I services (Targeted School). These meetings will provide parents and family members opportunities to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program for the next school year. Additional meetings may be held at the will of the Superintendent or school board. These meetings will be used to:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I program plan, the process of reviewing the implementation of the plan, and suggesting overall school improvements goals.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective family and community engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family and community engagement.
4. Coordinate and integrate Title I family and community engagement strategies with those of other educational programs.
5. Conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual evaluation of the content of the family engagement policy and its effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools served. This will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.
6. Involve families in the activities of the schools served.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and childcare costs, food for the event, and academic based supplies and activities during the event. In targeted assistance programs, the families of children identified to participate in Title I programs ~~shall~~ will receive from the school ~~Language Arts Coordinator and the district Title I Coordinator~~ Principal and/or Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting each child's selection for the program, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Opportunities ~~are~~ will be provided for parents to meet with ~~their child's teacher~~ the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss ~~student~~ their child's progress. ~~with input from the respective tutor~~. Parents ~~might~~ will also ~~meet with the tutor to learn~~ receive guidance as to how they can assist ~~in the child's education at home~~ in the education of their children at home.

Resources:

~~—“National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs,” National PTA (reprinted May 1998); Improving America’s Schools Act, P.L. No. 103-382, Sec. 1112; Local Education Agency Plans, P.L. 107-110, “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001”, Title I—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Sec. 1118 Policy.~~

Legal References:

1st Reading: April 2, 2007
2nd Review: April 16, 2007
Adopted: May 8, 2007

Revision

1st Reading: April 7, 2025
Revised:

TITLE I FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT

In order to achieve the desired level of Title I parent involvement desired by Board policy on this topic, these regulations guide the development of each school's annual plan designed to foster a cooperative effort among the parents, school and community.

A. Guidelines

Parent involvement activities developed at each school will include opportunities for volunteering; parent education; home support for child's education; parent participation in school decision-making.

The school system will provide opportunities for professional development and resources for staff and parents/community regarding effective parent involvement practices.

B. Roles and Responsibilities

1. Parents

It is the responsibility of the parent to actively communicate with school staff; be aware of rules and regulations of school; take an active role in the child's education by reinforcing, at home, the skills and knowledge the student has learned in school; utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.

2. Staff

It is the responsibility of the staff to develop and implement a school plan for parent involvement; promote and encourage parent involvement activities; effectively and actively communicate with all parents about skills, knowledge and attributes student is learning in school and suggestions for reinforcement; send information to parents of Title I children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

3. Community

Community members who volunteer in the schools have the responsibility to be aware of rules and regulations of the school; utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.

TITLE I FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION**4. Administration**

It is the responsibility of the administration to facilitate and implement the Title I Parent Involvement Policy and Plan; provide training and space for parent involvement activities; provide resources to support successful parent involvement practices; provide in-service education to staff regarding the value and use of contributions of parents and how to communicate with and work with parents as equal partners; send information to parents of Title I children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
March 17, 2025**

5:30 p.m. – Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) & (c) – Merrimack TV Training Classroom

- **Staff Welfare**

Present: Ms. Lori Peters, Chair; Ms. Laurie Rothhaus, Board Member; Mr. Ken Martin, Board Member; and Ms. Naomi Halter, Board Member.

Also Present: Mr. Everett Olsen, Chief Educational Officer; Ms. Amy Doyle, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum; and Mr. Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Excused: Ms. Jena Hardy, Vice-Chair, and Mr. Finnegan Haddad, Student Representative (Excused)

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Peters called the regular meeting to order.

Chair Peters read aloud the Merrimack School District's mission statement into the record as follows:

The Merrimack School District will provide a high-quality, future-driven education to all students in the community. Students will engage in learning opportunities that reflect both rigor and relevance and meet their cognitive, social, and emotional needs. The district will prepare students to understand, adapt, and adjust to civic, economic, social, and technological changes in the world. Our overall goal is to inspire, create, and encourage students to be curious, connected, prepared, resilient, and dedicated individuals who are lifelong expert learners. Merrimack graduates exercise judgment; they are innovative and will become responsible contributors to society. We hope the discussions we have tonight will always align with that mission.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- 1. Superintendent Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen reviewed the following:

- The Thornton's Ferry Elementary School had raised \$13,000 for the American Heart Association's "Kids Heart Challenge."
- The United Nations Club participated in a "Mock Trial" at Bedford High School.

- The high school jazz band performed at the Clark Terry Jazz Festival at the University of New Hampshire, where three members of the band were awarded "Outstanding Musicianship Awards." He said the jazz band also received two awards for the "Outstanding Saxophone" section and an honorable mention for Outstanding Musicianship."
- Grades 3 through 12 will host a "Celebration of Song" concert at the high school.
- The New Hampshire Music Educators Association "Large Group Festival" will be held on Saturday, March 22nd, at Bow High School.
- The "Cavalcade of Bands" (grades 5 through 12) district band concert will be held on Wednesday, March 26th, at the high school.
- The New Hampshire Music Educators Association "All-State Band and Orchestra" will perform on Saturday, April 5th, at the Capital Center for the Arts.
- The Robotics Club competed in the Pine Tree district competition in Lewiston, ME, where they won an award for sustainability.
- The newly formed Merrimack-Hollis-Brookline-Derryfield Warhawks hockey team made it to the Division II State Championship but unfortunately lost 3 – 2.
- The Granite State Challenge team had won 3 consecutive competitions and was looking forward to winning another one.

2. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle congratulated Dr. Campbell, who recently won a full scholarship to attend the M.I.T. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Science and Engineering Program in the summer.

3. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that he was happy that there was a good turnout at the Deliberative Session and was awaiting the vote to move forward with projects.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Deliberative Session Review

Chair Peters commented that there was a large turnout at the Deliberative Session. She said all of the Warrant Articles, as written, were moved to the ballot. She added that there was a proposed amendment to reduce the amount of the Operating Budget that failed.

Warrant Articles moved forward were:

- Operating Budget

- Roof
- Capital Fund for Correcting SAU buildings
- Two petitioned Warrant Articles

Chair Peters reminded the residents that the polls would be open on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Rotary Support to School District

Ms. Maureen Tracey, Merrimack Rotary President-Elect, Mr. Scott Wellman, Merrimack Rotary Past President, and Ms. Maureen Mooney, Merrimack Rotary Past President, were present.

Ms. Tracey discussed the "4 Way Speech Contest" and was hoping that Merrimack would integrate it into its curriculum.

Ms. Tracey said the Rotary Club started looking at scholarships in March; in April, they recognized Excellence in the Workplace; in May, they honored the Top Ten Scholars; in June, there would be the Interact Club (Helping with Recycling Event), also in June was the Changing of the Gavel, in July there was a Pancake Breakfast, in August they began the Turkey Trot Promotion, in September they did Roadside Clean-Up, in October was NuBingo, in November was the actual Turkey Trot, and in December they sold Christmas trees.

Ms. Tracey said the Rotary Club made significant donations to the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as donating to the police department and food banks, held coat drives, and partnered with Meals on Wheels, among others.

Ms. Tracey stated that the Rotary Club would like to have a representative from the School Board to join them for breakfast in an effort to make a stronger connection with the Interact Club.

Board Member Rothhaus thanked the members of the Rotary Club for their dedication to the Town of Merrimack.

Chair Peters commented that she was interested in getting the 4 Way Speech program back into the district.

b. Voice of Democracy Scholarships

Ms. Julie Schneider-Derubeis, Class of 1987 Alumni, addressed the Board and said she was part of the VFW Auxiliary for the State of New Hampshire. She said she was aware that Merrimack had received "Voice of Democracy" (for high school students) and "Patriots

Pen" (for middle school students) essays, but in the past five years, it has declined to almost nothing. She said a young man from Manchester Central High School won \$35,000 based on his essay and was the number one in the country. She said the theme for the Patriots Pen was "How are you Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country." She added that the deadline to submit the essay was October 31st. She said the people who won would get monies from the VFW as well as the VFW Auxiliary.

Ms. Schneider-Derubeis said the teachers and guidance counselors did not seem to know anything about it, and therefore, the students and parents did not know about it.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied that there would be a Leadership Team meeting, and he said he would make sure it was addressed.

Chair Peters requested that Chief Educational Officer Olsen provide the School Board with an update after the Leadership Team meeting.

c. HB 675

Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated that HB 675 was a piece of legislation that would require school districts to cap spending according to a specific formula. He said there was an override provision that would require a 2/3 majority vote. He added that it was somewhat similar to Proposition 2 ½ in Massachusetts. He said in the first two years of the proposed legislation, budgets would be capped at the previous year's spending level and multiplied by the five-year average of the inflation rate.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he was unsure of what inflation rate the legislation spoke to; if it was regarding the average United States inflation rate or the inflation rate in the northeast. He noted that if the legislation were going to use the average United States rate, then the Northeast would lose significantly.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he did not feel there was any logic in setting a budget based on the average of the five prior years. He said the other option was to set the budget at the previous year's budget level multiplied by the average percentage change in enrollment over the previous five years. Further, Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he did not think either option was a good one.

Chair Peters commented that one of the things she loved about New Hampshire was how important the community was, and coming together to decide what was best for the community was very important. She said they had a mechanism in place for budgets to change, and if the Town of Merrimack wanted to change the budget, it could be done at the Deliberative Session and at the ballot box.

Board Member Halter stated that she felt the proposed legislation was the exact opposite of local control.

Board Member Martin commented that he felt the proposed legislation was ignoring the fact that the majority of people did not want it.

d. New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project

Chair Peters read the following letter into the record:

To Governor Ayotte and the General Court of New Hampshire:

Two years ago, a group of over 150 local leaders - including Mayors, City Councilors, Select Board members, and School Board members - [presented a similar letter to this one during public hearings on the State budget](#), calling on the State of New Hampshire to increase its funding for public education in order to address well-known inequities and gaps. [What that budget contained](#), touted as one of the biggest increases to State education aid since the Claremont decisions, was only \$169 million (barely more than a 2% increase) that did not meaningfully affect the State's share of education funding, which remains [the lowest in the entire country](#).

This modest change has not helped reduce the downshifted tax burden faced by local property taxpayers trying to support their public schools. During the legislature's work in 2024, [there were several bills aimed at reducing that burden](#) and sending aid to districts and students that needed it the most, like students receiving special education services. Despite strong, bipartisan support in the House, these bills were killed by the Senate and failed to become law.

Meanwhile, all of us at the local level have continued working hard for our schools and communities to try and balance the needs of our students and the economic realities faced by our taxpayers. Inflation, energy costs, and unpredictable special education expenditures have put strains on our budgets, and the State has provided no relief.

The significant gap between actual expenses, which was [\\$21,545 per pupil](#) during the 23-24 school year, and average State aid, which was [only \\$5,148 per pupil the same year](#), must be closed with local property taxes. Our [local property taxes cover 70% of all school revenues in the state](#), the highest share in the country. In all of our communities, especially those with lower property values, this means levying higher and higher tax rates just to keep up. The result is a system where one of the biggest factors in determining the opportunities available to our students, and the burden placed on the taxpayer is local property values.

Despite record surpluses in the Education Trust Fund, excess State funds have not been used to help alleviate these disparities or provide aid to school districts. [In November 2024](#), the Department of Education announced that there was expected to be \$16 million less in the State's Special Education Aid fund than was being requested by local districts. This fund is used to reimburse school districts for specific, state-approved services provided to students with complex and intensive needs. These students have a federally protected right to these services, and if the State does not fill in the funding shortfall, it will downshift even more onto local property taxpayers.

As the legislature begins working on the biennial State budget – the single largest vehicle for school funding reform - you must take stock of the current situation communities are facing. For decades, the State has fallen short of its constitutional responsibility to fund education, losing again and again in court while downshifting increases onto local property taxes in most communities around the state. With [pending decisions](#) in the two current school funding lawsuits [coming any day from the NH Supreme Court](#), we once again call on the Governor and New Hampshire Legislature to act.

There are a variety of policy changes that could provide significant relief to local property taxpayers while boosting the funding going to school districts around the state. [The 2020 Commission to Study School Funding's final report](#), having now gone four years without the legislature putting its findings and policy proposals into action, still presents a strong framework to build from. The work of last year's special House Sub-Committee on Education Funding also did extensive work on the bipartisan proposals that were ultimately killed in the Senate.

It is the firm belief of those signed below that well-funded, excellent public education is the most important asset for the future of New Hampshire. [About 85% of New Hampshire children attend public schools](#), meaning an increase in State aid would help most children in the state access new opportunities while also providing property tax relief for most taxpayers. This is a win-win and promotes the health of the New Hampshire economy by investing in the next generation and making our communities more attractive for businesses and families.

We all work hard to balance providing critical services to our communities while not increasing property taxes beyond what people can afford. The current budget process presents a new opportunity for the Governor and Legislature to work together on finding a solution to the funding challenges faced by so many communities in our state. A school funding solution ensures every student, no matter where they live, has access to the best possible public education while also creating real relief for taxpayers. Doing nothing, while not only violating the New Hampshire Constitution, will only serve to exacerbate the existing disparities that exist in our state, driving local property taxes higher and keeping opportunities away from our students. The future of our state, and our communities, depends on the State contributing to a well-funded public education system.

Chair Peters commented that she felt the State Legislature needed to come up with some creative funding solutions that did not include an income tax and increase what they paid per pupil from the state level. She said if the Board so desired, they could add their names as individuals or as a Board to the letter.

Board Member Rothhaus commented that she thought at one point in time the Board had decided to write their own letter. She said she felt the letter should be addressed to Governor Ayotte, State Representatives, and the State Senator explaining that they were fearful that they would not be able to continue to offer the services if there were to be a spending cap.

Chair Peters noted that she would provide the Board with a draft letter at the next meeting.

e. Regional Career and Technical Education Agreement with Nashua

Chief Educational Officer Olsen reviewed the annual Regional Career and Technical Education Agreement with the Nashua School District. He said nothing had changed and asked the School Board for their approval.

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the Regional Career and Technical Education Agreement with Nashua. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

f. Review of March 11, 2025 Professional Development Day

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said a Professional Development Day had been held the prior Tuesday which included the third "Wit & Wisdom" implementation training for the current school year. She also said they had "OpenSyEd" implementation training. She said they had worked to implement a progress monitoring tool called "aimswebPlus," along with a targeted Q & A session for the special education teachers and interventionists. She also said they had NAMI suicide prevention training for the school counselors and some of the wellness staff.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said they narrowed down some health curriculums they were looking to purchase the following year. She said they also had CPI training and refresher sessions.

g. Date for Goal Setting Meeting

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the previous facilitator was not available this year, but he was going to look into recommending someone else. Chair Peters said the tentative date was June 19, 2025, but they would discuss it at the next meeting.

h. Voter Information Guide

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the Board had a draft of the Voter Information Guide and asked them to review it.

7. POLICIES

a. Approval of Revised Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment, and Anti-Discrimination Plan (AC)

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the Revised Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment, and Anti-Discrimination Plan (AC). Board Member Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. Approval of Revised Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE)

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the Revised Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE). Board Member Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

- c. First Review of Food and Nutrition Services: Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights Complaints (ACR)

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to waive the first reading. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. February 17, 2025, Public & Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to accept the public and non-public minutes of the February 17, 2025, meeting, as presented. Board Member Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

- b. February 20, 2025, Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to accept the non-public minutes of the February 20, 2025, meeting, as presented. Board Member Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Educator Resignation
 - Harley T. Hall, Director of Graduation Pathways, Merrimack High School
- b. Administrator Retirement
 - Richard Zampieri, Assistant Principal, Merrimack High School

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the Board's sincere appreciation for both employees' service to the Merrimack School District. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

10. OTHER

- a. Committee Reports

Board Member Martin stated that he would attend a Curriculum Committee meeting the following day and would provide the Board with an update at the April 7th meeting.

b. Correspondence

Board Member Martin said he received a few emails regarding the Deliberative Session.

Board Member Rothhaus said she also had some people who reached out to her regarding the Deliberative Session.

Chair Peters stated that she received communication regarding some staff and student concerns, and she forwarded them to the administration. She added that the district had received a number "Right-to-Know" requests.

Chair Peters also commented that she too had received some questions regarding the Deliberative Session as well as some voting and budget questions.

c. Comments

Board Member Rothhaus commented the she had a Zoom meeting with Fidelity Investments regarding requesting funding for the SAU building. She said she did not think the district would be eligible under Fidelity's rules, but she would provide a more in-depth update at a future meeting.

Board Member Rothhaus said she was quite impressed at how well-behaved the Merrimack High Students presented themselves at the last hockey game.

Board Member Martin commented that March was "National Music in our Schools Month."

Chair Peters encouraged people to vote on April 8, 2025.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Maureen Mooney, a resident, and a State Representative, addressed the Board and said those in Concord were in the "very thick of budget season." She said the budget that had been presented to the members of the New Hampshire House was \$1 billion more than the prior term. She said it was a particularly challenging budget season.

MOTION: At approximately 7:51 p.m., Board Member Martin made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2024-2025
March 3, 2025

3/3/2025	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
MES	22	62	57	75	82	70	368														368
RFS	52	92	114	84	85	78	505														505
TFS	43	81	93	100	100	88	505														505
MUES								264	275	539	241	241	482	259	250	266	266	1041			1041
MMS																					482
MHS																					1041
PR-12 Total																					3440
Student Services ODP**																			25	150	25
Home Study (HSS)																					150
Total	117	235	264	259	267	236	1378	264	275	539	241	241	482	259	250	266	266	1041	25	150	3615

**Out-of-District Placement

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2024-2025

Month	*PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
September 9, 2024	104	239	267	267	266	239	1382	263	274	537	238	246	484	262	261	271	284	1078	20	139	3640
October 1, 2024	105	239	266	265	269	239	1383	261	272	533	237	242	479	258	257	268	273	1056	20	139	3610
October 7, 2024	106	238	266	265	269	239	1383	261	273	534	238	240	478	257	257	267	274	1055	20	139	3609
November 4, 2024	107	238	265	263	270	240	1383	264	274	538	239	240	479	257	256	265	273	1051	22	144	3617
December 2, 2024	110	237	264	262	267	239	1379	263	275	538	240	240	480	257	256	265	270	1048	22	147	3614
January 6, 2025	116	235	263	260	268	238	1380	263	276	539	240	241	481	258	253	266	269	1046	24	148	3618
February 3, 2025	118	234	264	260	267	237	1380	264	277	541	240	242	482	259	250	265	270	1044	24	150	3621
March 3, 2025	117	235	264	259	267	236	1378	264	275	539	241	241	482	259	250	266	266	1041	25	150	3615

BUS SUSPENSIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

	MHS	MMS	JMUES	MES	RFS	TFS
Fighting						
Vandalism						
Disrespect/Disruption			2			
Unsafe Behavior					1	
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	2	0	1	0