

Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
June 2, 2025
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room

5:00 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Merrimack TV Training Classroom

- Staff Welfare
- Student Welfare

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 |
| 6:20 p.m. | 3. RECOGNITIONS | Lori Peters |
| | a. Boys Ice Hockey Team | |
| | b. Coed Bowling Team | |
| | c. Individual Gymnastics | |
| | d. Granite State Challenge Team | Senator McGough, Representative Miles
and the Merrimack Legislative Delegation |
| | e. Holly Levine | |
| | f. Student Representative Haddad | |
| 7:00 p.m. | 4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES | Lori Peters |
| | a. Superintendent Update | |
| | b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update | |
| | c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update | |
| | d. School Board Update | |
| | e. Student Representative Update | |
| 7:15 p.m. | 5. OLD BUSINESS | Lori Peters |
| | a. Budget Committee Meeting Update | |
| 7:25 p.m. | 6. NEW BUSINESS | Lori Peters |
| | a. Composting and Health Initiatives at Thorntons Ferry
Elementary School | Kate Viands, Jackie McMahon
and Cinzia Bibb |
| | b. Other | |
| 7:50 p.m. | 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES | Lori Peters |
| | a. May 5, 2025 Non-Public Minutes | |
| | b. May 12, 2025 Non-Public Minutes | |
| | c. May 19, 2025 Public and Non-Public Minutes | |
| 7:55 p.m. | 8. CONSENT AGENDA | Amanda Doyle |
| | a. Educator Resignations | |
| | b. Educator Nominations | |
| 8:00 p.m. | 9. OTHER c.) Administrator Nomination | Lori Peters |
| | a. Committee Reports | |
| | b. Correspondence | |
| | c. Comments | |
| 8:10 p.m. | 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS | Lori Peters |
| 8:25 p.m. | 11. ADJOURN | |

* These times are estimates and may vary depending on discussion.



Growing the Next Generation

Presented by
Jackie McMahon,
Cinzia Bibb &
Kate Viands

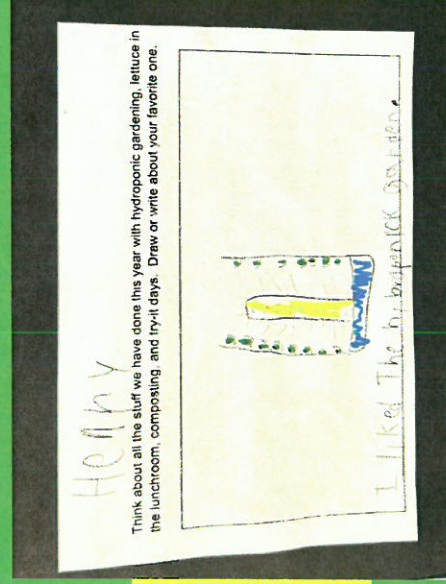
Our Story



Building community
through collaboration,
responsibility and shared
purpose



PLANTING THE SEEDS: HYDROPONICS GRANT



Think about all the stuff we have done this year with hydroponic gardening, lettuce in the lunchroom, composting, and fry-it days. Draw or write about your favorite one.



COMPOSTING

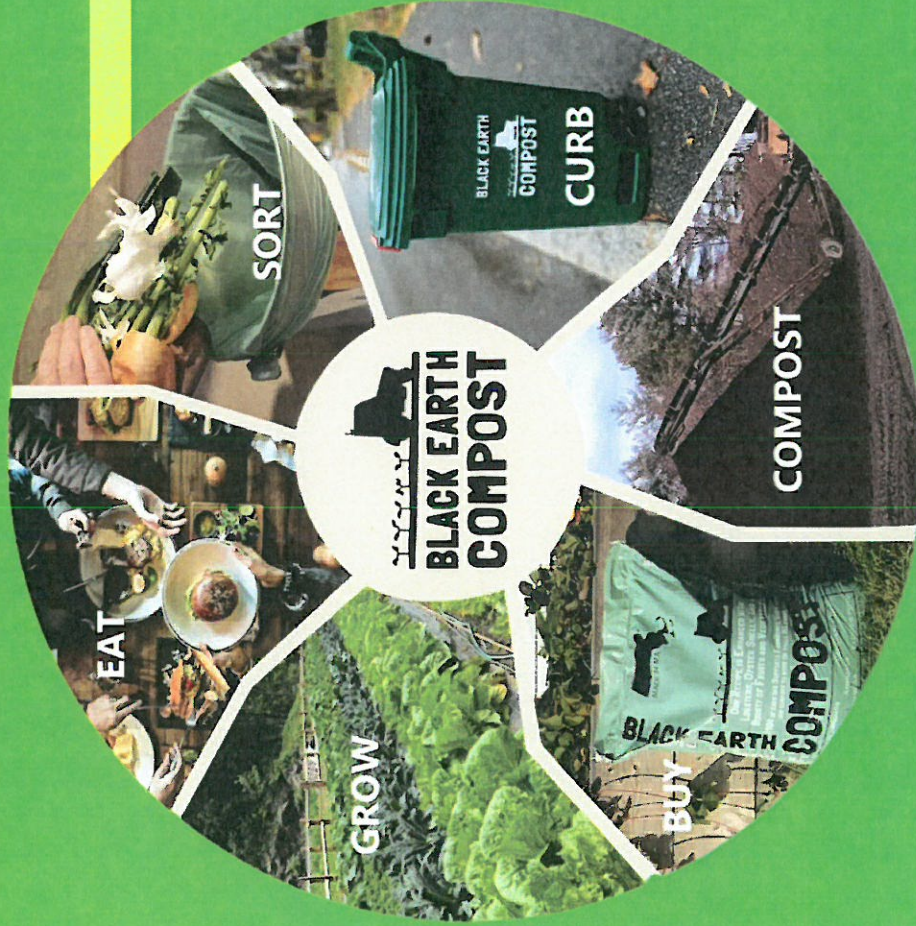
UpLift NH



Think about all the stuff we have done this year with hydroponic gardening, lettuce in the lunchroom, composting, and try-it days. Which one is your favorite and why?

composting because it helps
the Earth.
from Malcolm

FULL CIRCLE SUSTAINABILITY



Mariam.

Think about all the stuff we have done this year with hydroponic gardening, lettuce in the lunchroom, composting, and try-it days. Draw or write about your favorite one.



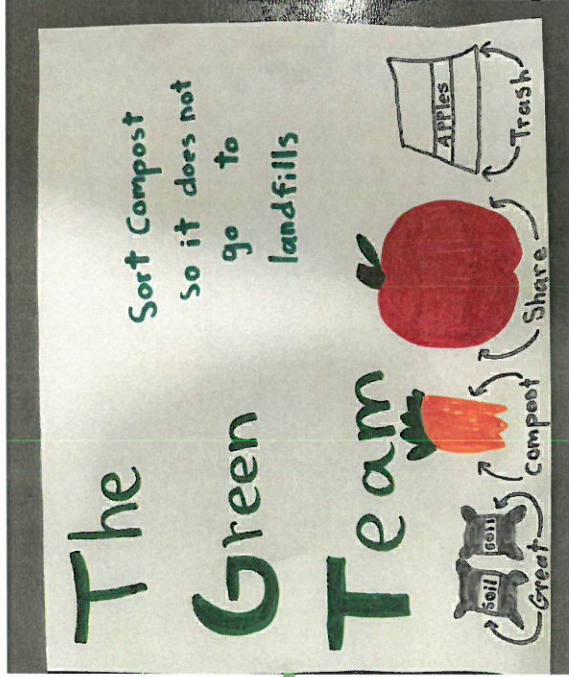
27-53% OF FOOD SERVED IN
SCHOOL CAFETERIAS IS WASTED
(USDA, 2021)



Think about all the stuff we have done this year with hydroponic gardening, lettuce in the lunchroom, composting, and try-it days. Which one is your favorite and why?

wey f a v v h + e i s c a m o f
b e c u s i t i s b e t t e r f o r t h e
w o r l d

0 1110



**OVER 800
POUNDS OF FOOD
WASTE DIVERTED
FROM TRASH**

**OVER 200
UNOPENED MILK
CARTONS
RECOVERED VIA
SHARE TABLE**

**OVER 50 POUNDS OF
FRESH CARROT AND
APPLE BAGS
RECOVERED VIA
SHARE TABLE**



HANDS-ON EXPLORATION,
CRITICAL THINKING, AND
REAL-WORLD PROBLEM-
SOLVING DRIVEN BY STUDENT
CURIOSITY AND INITIATIVE

SHARE TABLE

ONLY FOOD FROM THE
SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM
MAY BE PLACED ON THE
SHARE TABLE
UNOPENED PRE-PACKAGED
FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS
WHOLE FRUIT WITH PEEL

-BILL EMERSON GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD ACT





GROWING TOGETHER,
TASTING THE REWARDS



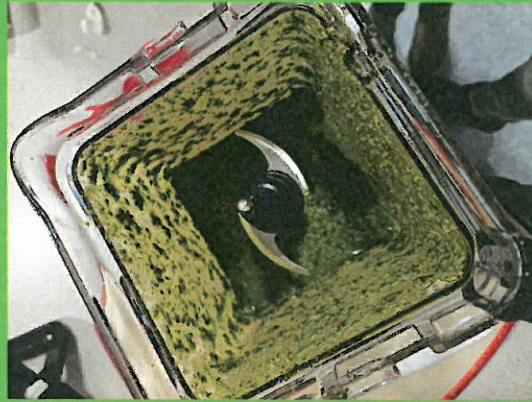
The Great Tomato Giveaway



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY,
ONE TOMATO AT A TIME

Try-Day Friday



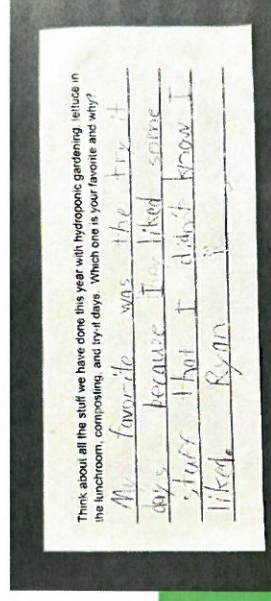


GARDEN GIRLS

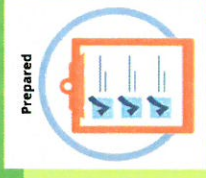
Think about all the stuff we have done this year with hydroponic gardening, lettuce in the lunchroom, composting and try-it days. Which one is your favorite and why?

Lettuce in the lunchroom because knowing that I helped to grow makes me feel good about myself. -Marcus

The Great Apple Crunch



Environmental Arts



PLANTING WISDOM



Think about all the stuff we have done this year with hydroponic gardening, lettuce in the lunchroom, composting, and try-it days. Which one is your favorite and why?
I liked the hydroponic gardening the best because I liked being able to plant a plant in a pot for the first time. It was also fun to be able to observe the plants in the hydroponic garden.



When a Garden is More Than Just Plants



Community Engagement

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

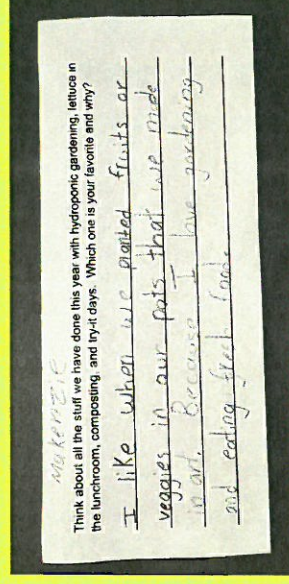


Educating the Community

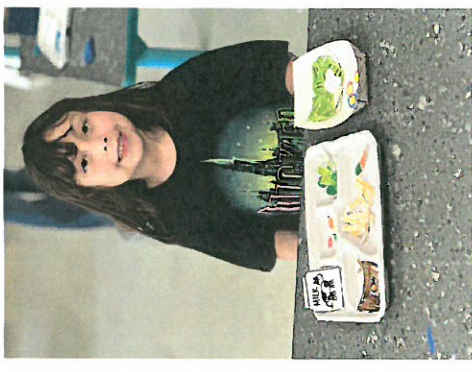


HANDS-ON LEARNING,
SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS,
AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Educating the Community



Looking toward the Future



SUSTAINABLE & ZERO COST
VISION OF A LEARNER & STRATEGIC PLAN
GROWING THE GARDEN
INTEGRATION
STUDENT-DRIVEN



**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
May 19, 2025**

5:00 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, Vice-Chair; Ms. Naomi Halter, Board Member; Ms. Rachel Paepke, Board Member; and Mr. Finnegan Haddad, Student Representative.

Also, Present: Mr. Everett Olsen, Chief Educational Officer and Mr. Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Excused: Board Member Hardy, Student Representative Haddad, and Ms. Amy Doyle, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

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 to and adjust to the changing world, including civic, economic, social and technological developments. 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 was no public participation.

3. RECOGNITIONS

a. NH Seal of Biliteracy Awards

The Board recognized twenty-one high school students who earned the NH Seal of Biliteracy Award for their proficiency in two languages.

47
48 b. Robotics Team
49

50 The Board recognized the Robotics Team for winning the National FIRST Competition held in
51 Houston, Texas. First-time accomplishments for the Robotics Team in its 31-year existence consisted
52 of attending 5 events in one season, they were on the winning alliance on the fields in Houston, they
53 won 7 awards (six of which were unique), and they won 5 metals. The Robotics Team thanked the
54 school board and the community for supporting the team.
55

56 **4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**
57

58 a. Superintendent Update
59

60 Chief Educational Officer Olsen highlighted the following announcements:
61

- 62 • The Granite State Challenge Team won an unprecedented fifth championship. Senator Tim
63 McGough will honor the team in Concord on May 22.
- 64 • Holy Levine received the Outstanding Band Director of the Year Award from the NH Board of
65 Band Directors Association.
- 66 • Ten middle school students participated in the NH Music Educators Association South Central
67 District Honor Band in Windham on May 10.
- 68 • Approximately 36 high school students and chaperones returned from week-long trip to Italy.
69 Student behavior while on the trip was exceptional.
- 70 • Middle school students leave for a 4-day trip to Washington D.C. early Tuesday morning and return
71 late Friday night.
- 72 • 130 high school seniors participated in senior citizens service day.
- 73 • The high school student council officers reinstated the senior citizens dinner followed by choral and
74 musical performances for approximately 60 senior citizens.
- 75 • A lacrosse game with Spaulding will be played this Friday in honor of Morgan's Message.
76 Morgan's Message is an initiative to deal with mental health issues associated with student athletes.
- 77 • The NH Interscholastic Athletic Association recognized ten Merrimack High School students as 3
78 Sport Athletes.
79

80 b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
81

82 There was no report.
83

84 c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
85

86 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reported the preliminary audit occurred this week.
87 The auditors will return in August for the final audit. The Planning and Building Committee met and
88 reviewed a very preliminary draft of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A roof project may be
89 postponed to address O'Gara Drive.
90

91 d. School Board Update
92

93 Chair Peters reported Advanced Placement (AP) testing occurred over the past two weeks. It is a
94 testament to the District to have many students participating in AP testing.
95

Thorntons Ferry Elementary School arts night will be held on May 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a 4th grade chorus concert at 6:00 p.m. This is a perfect opportunity to view the hydroponic garden.

e. Student Representative Update

There was no report.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Chair Peters introduced Student Amelia G. and Reeds Ferry Elementary School Assistant Principal Gentile.

Amelia G., a Girl Scout Ambassador of the Green and White Mountains presented plans for her Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. She explained her Gold Award will focus on current environmental issues, the amount that people carry around them, and the ways in which people have positive impacts on the environment. Her Gold Award has three parts consisting of a website, the butterfly garden and QR (Quick Response) code signs.

The location of the butterfly garden is at Reeds Ferry Elementary School. Currently the garden is overgrown and is not very usable. Her goals for the garden are to create a relaxing environment and to attract pollinators. The previous garden beds contain good plants that are very overgrown. She plans to refresh the garden, add a few more pollinator plants and add QR code signs to link to her website that will have fun quizzes and information about the plants and pollinators.

Discussion:

- She expects to complete the garden work by the end of Memorial Day weekend.
- Plants that attract pollinators are milk weeds and native plants.
- She will add cover plants to help with soil health.
- Expenses for this project are minimal. She is planning to sell crochet flowers as a fundraiser.
- Reeds Ferry School expects to maintain the garden, add additional garden beds, and enjoy the garden space.
- The QR codes will be housed on Amelia's website. She is willing to link her public website to the Reeds Ferry Elementary School webpage. It is her intent to keep the website available for public access.

MOTION: Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to support Amelia's Girl Scout Gold Award project for the butterfly garden. Seconded by Board Member Paepke.

THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0.

b. Strategic Plan Progress Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen explained the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was being used as a planning document to implement goals and strategic initiatives that are embedded in the document.

The following members of the Leadership Team provided details about each initiative: Principal DeLuca, Principal Romein, Principal Painchaud, Principal Rheault, Principal Boezeman, Principal Claire and Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell.

The 2024-2027 Strategic Plan can be found on the district's website (www.sau26.org). The following is a summary of the progress as of May 19, 2025.

Focus Area #1: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Seven strategic initiatives are "in progress", one is "complete".

Focus Area #2: Facilities

Eleven strategic initiatives are "in progress", two are "complete" and four "not yet started"

Focus Area #3: Culture of Wellness

Eight strategic initiatives are "in progress", one "not yet started"

Focus Area #4: Student Outcomes

Four strategic initiatives are "in progress", one is "not yet started"

Focus Area #5: Family and Community Engagement

Four strategic initiatives are "in progress", three "not yet started"

Focus Area #6: Vision of a Learner and Graduate

Three strategic initiatives are "in progress", nine "not yet started"

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted the Strategic Plan will continually be updated.

Principal Rheault added the document will never be complete.

Chair Peters suggested replacing the category "complete" with something that represents sustainability.

188 **7. POLICIES**

- 189
190 a. Approval of Amended Title I Parent Involvement in Education Policy (KB)

191
192 **MOTION:** Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the Amended Title I Parent Involvement
193 in Education Policy (KB). Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

194
195 **MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.**

196
197 **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 198
199 a. April 21, 2025 Public Minutes

200
201 **MOTION:** Board Member Paepke made a motion to approve the April 21, 2025 public
202 minutes. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

203
204 **MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.**

- 205
206 b. May 5, 2025 Public Minutes

207
208 **MOTION:** Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the May 5, 2025 public minutes. Vice
209 Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

210
211 **MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.**

212
213 **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 214
215 a. Educator Resignation

216
217 Chief Educational Officer Olsen announced the resignation of Jocelyn O'Connor from Merrimack
218 Middle School.

- 219
220 b. Educator Nominations

221
222 Chief Educational Officer Olsen presented the following educator nominations.

223
224 Peter Lawry, Physical Education Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
225 Marcie James, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School
226 Sara Parrotto, School Counselor, Merrimack Middle School
227 Sarah Paone, School Counselor, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
228 Patrick Keefe, Language Arts Teacher, Merrimack Middle School

229
230 **MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Board
231 Member Halter seconded the motion.

232
233 **MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.**

235
236 **10. OTHER**
237

238 a. Committee Reports
239

240 Vice Chair Rothhaus reported Tim Groff is the new chair for the Planning and Building Committee.
241 The committee discussed the facilities naming policy and the need to update it. The Committee
242 reviewed the preliminary Capital Improvement Plan, discussed the voting rights of the school board
243 liaison. Traffic changes made to the morning drop off routine at the upper elementary school have a
244 good impact. Other refinements are being considered.
245

246 Chair Peters reported the Wellness Committee met. The committee is dividing into teams to examine
247 USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) wellness policy and guidelines as well as the CDC
248 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and looking at the NH LEA (Local Educational Agency)
249 requirements for local wellness. The committee is also reviewing the wellness policy and embedded
250 policies. The committee will meet on the second Monday of every month.
251

252 Chair Peters reported the Budget Committee is meeting on Tuesday, May 27. Chair Peters will present
253 the 2025-2026 budget reductions.
254

255 Board Member Paepke did not have a report on the Professional Development Committee because the
256 meeting was canceled.
257

258 Board Member Paepke asked for points of contact for all the parent groups from each school. Chair
259 Peters advised Board Member Paepke to contact the building principal for that information. She also
260 suggested that Board Member Hardy and Paepke work together.
261

262 b. Correspondence
263

264 Board Member Rothhaus received correspondence expressing appreciation for the senior citizen's
265 dinner.
266

267 Chair Peters received correspondence regarding parent concerns; she redirected them to the appropriate
268 administrator. She directed correspondence regarding clarification of parent events to the appropriate
269 school. She also received correspondence from Student Representative Haddad with his thoughts on
270 the strategic plan.
271

272 c. Comments
273

274 Vice Chair Rothhaus highlighted her personal positive experience utilizing the Senior Service Day.
275

276 Board Member Paepke reported that the middle school parent group worked with Laura's World Fund
277 and the student council on a student council driven project to purchase and install a refillable water
278 bottle station. She thanked the student council for defining a need and Laura's World Fund for the
279 purchase and installation of the refillable water bottle station.
280

281 Board Member Paepke Rachel wished the students well on their trip to Washington DC.
282

283 Chair Peters encouraged individuals to attend as many school events as your schedule will allow.

284

285 Chair Peters stated Memorial Day is a day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our
286 country.

287

288 **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

289

290 There were no public comments on agenda items.

291

292 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

293

294 **MOTION:** At approximately 8:30 p.m. Board Member Paepke made a motion to adjourn. Board
295 Member Halter seconded the motion.

296

297 **MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.**