

**Merrimack School Board Meeting  
Merrimack School District, SAU #26  
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room  
April 21, 2025**

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**5:30 – 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. Jenna Hardy, Vice-Chair; Ms. Laurie Rothhaus, Board Member; Ms. Naomi Halter, Board Member; Ms. Rachel Paepke, Board Member; and Mr. Finnegan Haddad, Student Representative.

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

**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. SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION**

- Chair of the School Board

**MOTION:** Board Member Rothhaus made a motion to nominate Ms. Lori Peters to the position of Chair of the School Board. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Board Member Rothhaus stated Ms. Peters displayed exceptional leadership this past year and led the Board through a very difficult budget season.

Board Member Hardy stated that Ms. Peters has been a great voice for the Board and a great advocate for students and staff.

Ms. Halter asked Ms. Peters to share priorities for the coming year and what her role would be as the Chair.

Ms. Peters responded, as discussed during the 2024 goal setting meeting last year, an important initiative would be for Merrimack High School to become a flagship high school in New Hampshire. Some ideas have been discussed and it is time to move forward with changes making them very tangible by working with the high school leadership team and administration. She felt that would take most of the year.

The other major initiative she has is the Merrimack Teachers' Association (MTA) contract. She was the lead negotiator for the current contract. She feels it is important, given the current budget climate, to negotiate the contract very thoughtfully and with good stewardship.

Her third priority is the budget. The budget was voted down twice. She wants to craft a budget that is level funded, meets our needs, and meets the needs of the taxpayers.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.**

Vice Chair of the School Board

**MOTION:** Chair Peters made a motion to nominate Board Member Rothhaus to the position of Vice-Chair of the School Board. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Chair Peters stated that she worked well with Ms. Rothhaus as a former Chair when Ms. Peters was vice chair. She highlighted they negotiated the current MTA contract together and that Ms. Rothhaus is a powerful supportive voice of students and teachers in our district.

Ms. Halter asked Ms. Rothhaus to share priorities for the coming year and how she would address them in her role as Vice Chair.

Ms. Rothhaus responded the Board's priorities are the budget, the MTA contract and hiring a new Superintendent of Schools. Every board member has an equal voice and equal say. In her role as vice chair she will assist with setting the agenda and ensuring good communication.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.**

**3. COMMITMENT TO BOARD CODE OF ETHICS**

Each Board member read aloud a section of the Merrimack School Board Code of Ethics. Chair Peters noted that each board member signed a copy of the document.

Chair Peters reminded the Board to avoid selecting "reply to all" when replying to emails addressed to all board members to avoid an accidental meeting.

**4. RECOGNITION**

- a. Tim Mark Gibson Memorial Scholarship

Chief Educational Officer Olsen introduced Chris Christensen and Tom and Elaine Gibson.

Chris Christensen explained that the Trustees of Trust Funds hold, among other things, the Timothy Mark Gibson Memorial Scholarship. This year the scholarship award will increase to \$5,000. Tom and Elaine Gibson established the fund initially and add to it periodically. The Trustees management the funds and write the scholarship check at the end of the year.

Elaine Gibson explained that her son, Tim Gibson was killed in Iraq in 2005. That year so many people asked what they could do to help. A very dear friend of the Gibson family started the Timothy Mark Gibson Memorial Scholarship fund. The primary fundraiser for the scholarship is the Timothy Mark Gibson Memorial Scholarship Softball Tournament held in July, his birthday month. The current scholarship fund balance is \$313,000.

Mrs. Gibson described Tim as an all-round good guy who was loved by everyone. He was full of life and a leader in many ways. The scholarship is for someone who is going to go to a trade school, vocational school, a two-year community college or any other path to further their education. They want the recipient to be a leader on and off the field with a zest for life. She noted that the 2025 graduating seniors were not even born the year Tim passed, yet it is a popular scholarship.

Chair Peters thanked the Gibson family for the sacrifice their family made. There is deep gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice Tim made for our country and freedom.

Chair Peters thanked the Gibson family for continuing to support the students in Merrimack through the Timothy Mark Gibson Memorial Scholarship.

Vice Chair Rothhaus stated that she was Tim's teacher at Merrimack High School. He was a strong leader with enthusiasm, a friend to everyone who knew him, she reminisced seeing him in his football uniform on game day getting ready to play football. She said it was a crushing blow for the Merrimack community to lose Tim. She appreciates how the Gibson Family has dealt with the loss of Tim.

Board Member Hardy recalled Tim, as a happy young boy. Tim was an exceptional person and she loves that he will never be forgotten and that the Timothy Mark Memorial Scholarship is a well sought-after scholarship by the high school seniors.

Board Member Halter was touched by the personal memories of Tim and she thanked the Gibson family for their generosity in giving back to the community in Tim's memory.

Board Member Paepke thanked the Gibson family for keeping Tim's memory alive.

School Board Representative Haddad confirmed that the high school seniors talk about the Timothy Mark Memorial Scholarship every year. He expressed his appreciation to the Gibson family.

Chris Christensen explained that money held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds is perpetual, created by State Statutes and is part of the Town government. Mr. Christensen stated that Tim is memorialized within the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery.

Chair Peters thanked Mr. Christensen for the work he does for the Trustees of the Trust Funds and for the service he has provided to the community of Merrimack in so many ways.

Mr. Gibson expressed appreciation to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for managing the scholarship fund. He explained that the Gibson family asked the educators at Merrimack High School to determine the scholarship recipient because they know the students best. The first scholarship awarded 20 years ago was \$2,500. Mr. Gibson proudly announced this year the scholarship will increase to \$5,000.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chris Christensen of 27 Greatstone Drive announced the Warrant Article to harvest the Watkins Forest passed. A volunteer is needed from the School Board to serve on that committee. Chair Peters will serve as the School Board's representative.

Patrick McGrath of 7 Peter Road knew Tim as a young boy and highlighted Tim's energy on the soccer field. He congratulated and welcomed Rachel Paepke to the School Board. Mr. McGrath congratulated Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Amy Doyle on receiving the "Excellence in the Workplace Award".

Kaitlyn Bernier of 2 Birch Street reported that HB115 would expand eligibility of the Education Freedom Act (EFA) for all students regardless family income. She also reported 16 other bills are being discussed in Concord. She congratulated Naomi Halter for being reelected to the school board and welcomed Rachel Paepke to the school board.

## **6. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

### **a. Superintendent Update**

Chief Educational Officer Olsen wished the staff and students a very enjoyable April vacation week. He acknowledged the Merrimack High School Robotics Team for its recent accomplishment in Houston, Texas.

### **b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update**

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle noted that the New Hampshire Statewide Assessment window was still open. Sarah Sherman facilitated a family engagement event last week. It was a virtual training on practical home supports for students with anxiety, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism. Sarah Sherman will host the final family engagement event next week. It will be an in-person event at Merrimack Middle School on the individualized Education Program (IEP) process. She also wished everyone a great April vacation next week. She thanked Rotary for hosting the Excellence in the Workplace Award Ceremony and that she was honored to be a recipient of the Excellence in the Workplace Award.

### **c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell congratulated the Merrimack High School softball team who won their first game ever at Legion Field in the 11<sup>th</sup> inning. He explained the School Board and the Legion signed a Memo of Understanding to create a field for the girls' varsity softball team. He thanked Michael Burke, Dick Petersen, Tim Goodridge, Maintenance Director Touseau, Athletic Director Adam French and everyone else who made this project a success.

d. School Board Update

Chair Peters congratulated Rachel Paepke on being elected to the School Board and welcomed her to the School Board. Chair Peters congratulated Naomi Halter on her reelection to the School Board. Chair Peters expressed her appreciation to Board Member Hardy for being an excellent and dedicated vice chair and leader. Chair Peters expressed her appreciation to the Mackenzie Murphy who sponsored Mrs. Doyle for the Rotary Club's Excellent in the Workplace Award.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Haddad reported the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) took place, the high school Robotics Team will be competing for the Robotics championship in Houston, spring sports have begun, there will be a pep rally on Friday, Juniors will be taking the New Hampshire Statewide Science Assessment on Thursday, and a group of students will be traveling to Italy over the April vacation week.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Review Outcomes of School District Elections, 2025-2026 Budget and Warrant Articles

Chair Peters reported the 2025-26 budget was voted down by the voters on April 8 resulting in a default budget for next year. Budget reductions will be discussed later in the meeting under New Business.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reviewed the School District's Warrant outcomes.

Article 1: Election of School District Officials:

- Naomi Halter and Rachel Paepke were elected to the School Board
- Gina Groff and Donna Larue were elected to the Planning and Building Committee
- Ashley Depreaux, Joanne Grobecker, Jennifer McCormack, and Heather Robitaille, were elected to the Budget Committee
- Brian McCarthy was reelected as the School District Moderator
- Pat Heinrich was reelected as the School District Clerk
- Jennifer Heinrich was reelected as the School District Treasurer

Article 2: The voters approved the Acceptance of Gifts/Grants on Behalf of the School District

Article 3: The voters approved the Administrative Office Development Fund – Capital Reserve Account

Article 4: The voters approved the James Masticola Upper and Elementary Schools Roof Replacement

Article 5 (by Petition): The voters did not approve the petitioned warrant article to delegate the determination of the default budget to the Budget Committee.

Article 6 (by Petition): The voters did not approve the petitioned warrant article to abolish the Budget Committee.

Article 7: The voters did not approve the Merrimack School District Operating Budget.

Chair Peters thanked the voters for supporting the Administrative Office Development Fund – Capital Reserve Account (Article 3) and the James Mastricola and James Mastricola Upper Elementary Schools Roof Replacement project (Article 4).

Chief Educational Officer Olsen expressed his appreciation to the voters for the warrant articles they did support.

Board Member Halter expressed her appreciation to the voters for supporting Warrant Articles 3 and 4.

b. Gallup Survey

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle explained two years ago the decision was made to allow middle and high school students the opportunity to participate in the New Hampshire Gallup Survey through a partnership with New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI). Recently NHLI informed participating districts that the New Hampshire Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut pivoted from his previous decision about this survey. Previously he considered it to be an academic survey that did not require written communication to parents and parental permission. The Commissioner determined this year's Gallup Survey to be a non-academic survey. The District decided not to participate in the non-academic survey this year and to use the data collected from the last two years.

Board Member Halter asked for the content of the questions that were asked in the Gallup Survey in the past.

The career connected learning part of the survey asked questions such as do you receive information on at school on how to start up a new business. The hope and engagement part of the survey asks questions like do you have a best friend, do you have a teacher you can go to, do you feel proud of the work you have done, has someone at school told you that you have done a good job.

Board Members Halter and Hardy and Chair Peters agree with the decision not to participate in the non-academic survey this year, however both saw the value in the survey results.

Student Representative Haddad participated in the survey in the past. During his review of the data with high school administrators and teachers, he learned the results were helpful to the teachers. He felt the Gallup Survey results were valuable.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Consideration of the Planning and Building Committee's Facilities

Chair Peters explained at a previous Board meeting the Planning and Building Committee made a recommendation to the School Board to name the high school track and field complex after Mr. John Snell.

Chair Peters asked Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to address the cost, where the funds would come from, and the placement of signage/plaque.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell explained possible locations for the signage/plaque could be on the fence near the field entrance or on the facing of the cement block wall near the track start line.

The cost of the signage/plaque would be a combination of fundraising and use of the high school improvement account. An estimated cost for a professional bronze plaque is about \$1,000

Vice Chair Rothhaus referenced the Planning and Building Committee minutes from August 11, 2008 that noted the costs would be self-funded and a plaque should be like existing plaques.

Chair Peters supports the recommendation to name the track and field complex after Mr. John Snell and would like to honor Pat McGrath as well.

Vice Chair Rothhaus stated that former School Board Member Pat McGrath was instrumental and driven to build the track. She supports honoring John Snell and Pat McGrath in the naming of the track and field complex.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to have a plaque made, location to be determined later, to honor Mr. John Snell, a 43-year varsity track coach, for his commitment and dedication to the Merrimack High School students and to Pat McGrath a former School Board member whose passion and drive was also instrumental in getting the track built at Merrimack High School and the cost of the plaque would be a combination of fundraising and support from the high school improvement account. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Board Member Paepke asked if there was a timeframe for purchasing the plaque.

Chair Peters clarified that the announcement will be made soon Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell can facilitate the purchase and placement of the plaque later.

Vice Chair Rothhaus explained that she met with Athletic Director French and learned that it is important to have a marker, or something similar, in place at ground level to avoid signage confusion in a potential emergency.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.**

Chair Peters stated that the announcement of the naming of the track and field complex can be made at Mr. McGrath's convenience.

b. Revision to 2025-2026 School Year Calendar

Chief Educational Officer Olsen proposed a change to the 2025-2026 school calendar. He asked the board to consider changing the early release day from May 6, 2026 to May 20, 2026 to avoid a potential conflict with the high school advanced placement testing schedule.

**MOTION:** Board Member Halter made a motion to change the May 6, 2026 early release day to May 20, 2026. Board Member Hard seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.**

c. Summer Meeting Dates

The summer Board meetings were tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 14 and Monday, August 11.

Vice Chair Rothhaus and Board Member Paepke stated they may have each have a conflict with the July 14 meeting date.

d. Last Day of School

Chief Educational Officer stated the two snow days extended the last day of school from June 18 to June 20. He announced June 18 would remain the last day of school and that the required number of instruction hours would be met. He also reported that June 20 would be the last day for staff.

e. Proposed FY26 Budget Reductions

Chair Peters reported the administration provided the Board with a list of proposed budget reductions for consideration.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen reported the proposed budget reductions total \$1,358,952. The total is \$343,820 beyond the required reduction of \$1,015,132, the amount of the default budget.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen explained the priorities for the default budget were classroom environment, core instruction, class size, and the mission of the school district.

**Discussion:**

Chair Peters expressed her desire to keep the math interventionist position in the budget. She cited math scores and other reasons to support keeping the position in the budget.

Vice Chair Rothhaus suggested the Board may want to ask the administration to revisit the list of reductions to offset any priorities the Board wanted to reinstate.

Board Member Hardy asked for clarification regarding the grade 4 class size at Reeds Ferry Elementary School if a grade 4 teaching position was removed from the budget.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen responded without the additional grade 4 teaching position at Reeds Ferry the grade 4 class size at would be approximately 22 students to 1 teacher (22:1) compared to 18 students to 1 teacher (18:1) at the other schools in grade 4. It is anticipated that one kindergarten teaching position might be eliminated at Reeds Ferry School because of lower kindergarten enrollments. If that enrollment trend were to continue, he felt the grade 4 position could be filled through staff reassignment. He added that the FTE costs reflected on the budget reduction list were inclusive of salary and benefits.

Board Member Hardy appreciated that the list contained a variety of reductions with minimal impact on students.



Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated that students have never been used as leverage (the removal of co-curricular activities, sports, or transportation) during any budget reduction process.

Board Member Hardy asked who would pick up the required responsibilities of the K-8 Director of School Counseling if that position were eliminated.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen explained the 504 responsibilities would return to the school counselor positions. Counselor positions are needed at Reeds Ferry and at the middle school. The Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) responsibilities could be combined with a counseling position, which would not be ideal. This is an example of one of the situations still being discussed.

Board Member Halter expressed her concern over decentralizing districtwide positions after efforts were made to centralize certain efforts.

Chief Educational Office Olsen agreed decentralizing districtwide positions would be a step backward. He explained the elimination of the district registrar position would result in returning the student registration process back to the schools. He explained it is possible that the student data specialist position could potentially be combined with an anticipated open districtwide position due to an anticipated retirement.

Board Member Paepke asked if there was a way to quantify the efficiencies of the districtwide positions over the past couple of years.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied there are areas being performed now that would not be able to continue as effectively and consistently. For example, student enrollments by non-Merrimack residents are discovered early in the enrollment process now and are redirected to the appropriate district which is a cost savings to the district. This level of detail would be difficult to perform at the school level given the variety of other responsibilities.

Vice Chair Rothhaus requested the impacts of this year's budget reductions be highlighted during the next budget process.

There was much discussion in support of not reducing the 1.0 FTE Gifted and Talented teaching position at James Masticola Elementary and James Masticola Upper Elementary School and the 1.0 FTE Gifted and Talented teaching position at Thorntons Ferry and Reeds Ferry Elementary Schools.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen informed the Board that during the budget reduction process he learned information requiring the district to add an additional 1.0 FTE English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teaching position to comply with the statutory requirement.

Vice Chair Rothhaus suggested offering professional development to teachers regarding ways to challenge students.

Student Representative Haddad spoke of his personal testimony in support of accelerated learning programs for students.

Vice Chair Rothhaus stated that accelerated learning programs for students will be discussed at the goals meeting in June.

Chief Educational Officer noted that accelerated learning and higher-level programs for students can be done through sustained professional development and collaboration between staff members organically overtime and not be another added responsibility. He agreed that accelerated learning and higher-level thinking opportunities for students should be discussed at the June goals meeting and be reflected in a future update of the Strategic Plan.

Board Member Hardy stated high achieving students love freedom, they generally love to learn, they are curious, and can be self-motivated if they are given a project that is an appropriate challenge and of interest to them. She witnessed a reduction of behavior issues in this population of students in different district.

Chair Peters asked the Board members to be prepared to identify items from the proposed budget reduction list that they would like to keep in the default budget. She reminded the Board to keep in mind the need to add a new 1.0 FTE ESOL teaching position.

The proposed budget reduction list will be posted on the district website for public review.

Board Member Halter expressed her appreciation to the administration selecting reductions from a variety of places.

Board Member Hardy suggested the Board consider reducing staffing positions to part time rather than eliminate the entire position.

f. Other

Vice Chair Rothhaus noted that the facilities policies and guidelines need to be updated and provide the Planning and Building Committee will communication and guidelines of the Board's expectations.

## 9. **POLICIES**

- a. Approval of Food and Nutrition Services: Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights Complaints Policy (ACF)

**MOTION:** Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the Food and Nutrition Services: Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights Complaints policy (ACF). Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 1.** Board member Paepke abstained.

- b. Approval of Revised Title I Parent Involvement in Education Policy (KB)

**MOTION:** Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the Revised Title I Parent Involvement in Education Policy (KB). Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

The policy will be reviewed to ensure the correct use and placement of the statutory requirement of the word “family”.

The Board decided not to vote on the motion until the policy is reviewed.

## 10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### a. March 25, 2025 Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the March 25, 2025 non-public minutes. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 1.** Board Member Paepke abstained.

### b. March 31, 2025 Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the March 31, 2025 non-public minutes. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 1.** Board Member Paepke abstained.

### c. April 7, 2025 Public and Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the April 7, 2025 public and non-public minutes. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 1.** Board Member Paepke abstained.

## 11. CONSENT AGENDA

### a. Resignations

- Nicole Delani, Special Education Teacher at Merrimack High School
- Sarah Leland, Special Education Teacher at Merrimack High School
- Christopher Andrews, Physical Education Teacher at Thornton Ferry Elementary School

**MOTON:** Board Member Halter made a motion to accept the resignations. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.**

### b. Nominations

- Jillian Pouliot, Registered Nurse, Merrimack High School
- Aubrey Zagula, Science (civics) Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Kerry Miller, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School

**MOTON:** Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the nominations. Board Member Paepke seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.**

### c. Educator Nominations for the 2025-2026 School Year

Vice Chair Rothhaus said she did not feel comfortable voting on the educator nominations for the 2025-2026 school year because the list was not in her packet and she did not have an opportunity to review the list.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle acknowledged that she was aware that the board members did not receive their packet of material for tonight's meeting via the U.S. mail. She explained that the contracts need to be issued before the Board's next meeting.

Chair Peters offered to schedule a non-public meeting this week.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle stated all the individuals on the 2025-2026 educator nomination list completed the evaluation process; however, she understood Vice Chair Rothhaus's concern.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen added that the 2025-2026 educator nominations were reviewed with each building principal and there were no issues or concerns with any staff on the 2025-2026 educator nomination list. He also understood Vice Chair Rothhaus's concern.

**MOTON:** Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the educator nominations for the 2025-2026 school year. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 1 – 0.** Vice Chair Rothhaus voted against the motion.

## **12. OTHER**

### **a. Committee Reports**

Vice Chair Rothhaus reported that the Merrimack Parks and Recreation Department has an after-school program survey on its website for parents to complete. She reported that the fields are not open for use at this time. She also reported that Matt Casparius received an award for being an outstanding Parks and Recreation Director.

Chair Peters explained that she was detained and not able to attend the Professional Development Committee meeting.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum reported that professional development reimbursements and hours with appropriate documentation were awarded to teachers. There were discussions about making sure that individuals who are due for certification renew meet the requirements.

Chair Peters attended a Joint Loss Management Committee meeting. The committee reviewed claims against the district for slips, falls and other incidents. There was an 11% reduction in the number of slips and falls claims. There was an increase in the number of student incidents. Efforts are being made to report all incidents in a timely manner.

Chair Peters attended a Wellness Committee meeting. This was a restart from a couple of years ago. The Wellness Policy (2023) is being reviewed. There may be future recommendations to the policy regarding celebrations.

### **b. Correspondence**

Board Member Hardy received correspondence from a couple of staff members regarding concerns. She redirected the staff to the appropriate person to hear their concerns.

Chair Peters received correspondence from a couple of parents regarding a issues. She redirected them to the people they need to speak with first. She reported receiving correspondence from a few people about the election results and what the budget reductions might be. She encouraged them to watch the meeting tonight.

c. Comments

Chair Peters will distribute the list of Committee Assignments, inclusive of the updated committees, for final review at the next meeting. The Board will address the proposed budget reductions, also.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Student Matthew Brown spoke about advanced learning opportunities for students. He and other high school students participated in an Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) where they taught French and Spanish to students in the upper elementary school. He suggested the Board and Administration consider similar experiences for advanced learning opportunities for students.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At approximately 8:15 p.m. Board Member Paepke made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0.**