

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
June 21, 2010
Merrimack High School – Cafeteria**

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Vaillancourt, Vice Chairman Thornton, Board members Barnes and Swonger. Also present were Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, and Business Administrator Shevenell.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Vaillancourt announced that Board member Ortega had been excused from the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

- May 17, 2010 Minutes

Board member Barnes moved (seconded by Board member Swonger) to approve the May 17, 2010 minutes.

The motion passed 3-0-1 with Vice-Chairman Thornton abstaining.

- June 16, 2010 Minutes

Vice-Chairman Thornton moved (seconded by Board member Swonger) to approve the June 16, 2010 minutes.

The motion passed 3-0-1 with Board member Barnes abstaining.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Consent Agenda

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin announced the following teacher nominations.

- a) Teacher Nominations
 - Ruth Cowan, Special Education Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
 - Eric Howard, Art Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
 - Audra Low, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School
 - Jane Murray, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School

- b) Approval of ARRA Funds
 - IDEA Recovery Funds for \$587,139.00
 - Preschool Recovery Funds for \$15,710.61

- c) Approval to Administer National Outcomes Measure Survey to Merrimack Middle School Students in Years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012 - 2013

Board member Barnes moved (seconded by Board member Swonger) to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

5. Pay for Performance Report for 2010

Chairman Vaillancourt introduced JoAnn Wegman, Chairman of the Pay for Performance Committee.

JoAnn Wegman introduced committee members Christine Nawrocki from Merrimack Middle School, and Deborah Fournier from Thorntons Ferry Elementary School.

JoAnn Wegman stated that the committee met 12 times during the school year. The committee met in September, October and December to review proposals and any revisions. The committee received 235 proposals (169 proposals were accepted, 66 proposals were sent back for revision, 54 proposals were approved at a later date and 2 proposals were rejected). The Committee received and evaluated 197 portfolios (196 portfolios were accepted and 1 portfolio was rejected). Twelve teachers were awarded \$500 for 20 – 39 hours and 184 teachers were awarded \$1,000 for 40 or more hours on their projects. During the 2009 – 2010 school year, Merrimack teachers contributed over 11,000 hours to Pay for Performance projects that benefited the students of the Merrimack School District.

Vice-Chairman Thornton commended everyone for their hard work and commitment that made the Pay for Performance project a success.

Board member Swonger commended all the staff for their hard work and ingenuity in preparing sustainable skills that would benefit the schools and the district.

JoAnn Wegman stated that the committee had the opportunity to be knowledgeable about the great ideas the teachers developed and to witness those ideas come to life as the students participated in the various projects.

Chairman Vaillancourt commended all the participants and the committee for their creativity and efforts. She was hopeful that the increased number of participants was due to the Board's efforts to make the process easier, inviting and sustainable for teachers. She stated that the Board would welcome any suggestions the committee might have to make this program even better next year.

6. Process for Reviewing the Grater Woods Master Plan Report

Chairman Vaillancourt introduced Town Council Chairman Tom Koenig and Town Manager Keith Hickey.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that Board member Barnes was the School Board liaison attending the Grater Woods Subcommittee meetings. She was hopeful that the discussion between the School Board, Town Council Chairman Koenig and Town Manager Hickey would shed light on some of the questions, comments and concerns that were made at prior School Board meetings regarding the Grater Woods property. She asked if Chairman Koenig and Manager Hickey would consider the Board's comments and concerns.

Chairman Koenig assured Chairman Vaillancourt that he would consider the Board's comments and concerns.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that the Board sent a formal request to the Town Council asking if the Council would consider a Subcommittee (made up of School Board members and Town Council members) to discuss some of the Board's concerns and questions regarding the Master Plan that was being put together for the Grater Woods property. She mentioned that the Town and the School District both own acres of land on the Grater Woods property. She stated that Manager Hickey advised Superintendent Chiafery that a process was in place for the Board to participate under public comment during the Subcommittee and Conservation Commission meetings. She mentioned that Board member Swonger, at a prior Board meeting, was not clear on what that process was. She stated that she attended a few Conservation Commission meetings where she heard a couple of different ideas on what that process might be. She stated that the Board was hoping to get a better idea and understanding of that process. She asked if Town Council Chairman Koenig could join the Board's discussion this evening.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that a comment was made at the Board's last meeting that the Town never made a formal response. He explained that as the new Chairman it did not occur to him that a formal response was required. He stated that the formal request did not specifically request or desire a response in writing. He stated that he spoke briefly with Superintendent Chiafery about the request and felt that it was premature for the School Board to go forward with that kind of a committee. He thought it would be important for the Committee to come up with its report and then go through the review process. He mentioned that neither the Town Council nor the School Board were actively involved in the development of the report and that until that report was submitted, there was not a lot the Town Council or the School Board should do. He stated that the Town has a Committee and a Subcommittee that was in charge of making the report. He stated that before any policy could come before the Town, it had to be passed by the Town Council and, at that point, changes or adjustments would be made. He believed the Board's request might be trying to undercut the Committee by placing two School Board members, two Town Council members, and Business Administrator Shevenell on a special committee.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that the Board appreciated Chairman Koenig's thought process because it was beneficial for the School Board and Town Council to be on the same page. She turned the floor over to Board member Barnes with some of the Board's specific questions, suggestions, concerns and requests about this process.

Board member Barnes stated that the Board would like an outline of the plan that was identified in the formal process for the Grater Woods Subcommittee. She stated that she attended a couple of Subcommittee meetings, a Conservation Commission meeting, and the Town Council meeting as it related to questions regarding the Grater Woods property. She stated that the Board had questions about when the Town Council had been informed that the Master Plan became a Stewardship Plan; what the Town Council was told were the benefits of re-categorizing the Plan; and what the Town Council thought the differences were between the two Plans.

Chairman Koenig stated that he had not been formally notified that the Master Plan was changing to a Stewardship Plan. He stated that the Town Council had a Committee and a Subcommittee that was responsible for the plan. He stated that he did not see the Town Council as a micromanager in which the Council would interfere or tell the Committee and Subcommittee how to do their jobs. He did mention that the Town Council would like to be made aware of anything becoming far afield. He stated that he was not convinced that anything far field had happened yet that the Council could not work out.

Board member Barnes asked if the Stewardship Plan could do the job.

Chairman Koenig stated that the Stewardship Plan was more extensive than a Master Plan. He stated that he would not be made aware of a particular problem until it was presented to him and, at that point, he would understand what was going on.

Board member Barnes asked if Chairman Koenig knew of a Plan for Grater Woods that was being developed with detail to the extent of the Horse Hill plan. She asked if Chairman Koenig has seen the most current plan.

Chairman Koenig stated that he had not seen such a plan.

Board member Barnes stated that she had a copy of the Plan and would send it to Chairman Koenig via email. She stated that she was a member of the Horse Hill Committee from the first day when it was Green's Pond to the definitive Plan. She asked if Chairman Koenig knew that the Grater Woods property was discussed at the Town Council working session on June 11th. She asked if Chairman Koenig was aware that Vice Chair Mahon suggested that no work be done on the Grater Woods property until further notice. She asked if the consensus of the Town Council was to hold off on any work until there was a better understanding of the Plan.

Chairman Koenig stated that the Board needed to understand the difference between the Conservation Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee responsibilities on the Grater Woods property. The Town Council was looking to understand whether or not it needed to delineate the lines of responsibility per state law. He stated that one of the requirements would

have the Parks and Recreation Committee become more responsive and responsible to the recreational activities that go on at Horse Hill and Grater Woods. He stated that one of the Parks and Recreation Committee responsibilities might be to evaluate and look at the overall number of trails and how they impact the town.

Board member Barnes stated that she was the School Board liaison for the Parks and Recreation Committee. She asked Chairman Koenig if the Committee, having a vested interest in the Grater Woods property because of the recreational activity with ATVs, was thinking of not making a Subcommittee.

Chairman Koenig stated that he did not know the Committee was limited to ATV recreation and, if so, that would be a concern.

Board member Barnes stated that ATV recreation was one of the items brought to her attention.

Chairman Koenig asked if Board member Barnes could rephrase the question.

Board member Barnes asked Chairman Koenig knowing that there could be recreational activity on the property that would fall under Parks and Recreation, was there consideration of moving out of the Conservation Commission Subcommittee status and making it its own Independent Committee of Grater Woods so that both Committees were represented under the Town Council.

Chairman Koenig stated that the Town Council had not gotten to the level of trying to reassess responsibility and suggested something similar. He stated that the Council would like to see strong and serious input from the Parks and Recreation Committee to whatever plan comes out, whether it was guided by the Conservation Committee or not. The Council would like to see input and support from the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Board member Barnes recommended that the Board add the topic of Grater Woods to the agenda for the joint meeting in September. She further recommended that all plans be agreed to by the two governing bodies jointly the way things have been co-managed before (i.e. Fire Station and Our Lady of Mercy parking lot). She stated that she would like to have joint approval of the process and plan where both the School Board and Town Council interests would be equally represented in the document.

Chairman Koenig stated that he was not opposed to that concept, but was concerned about the responsibilities involved. He stated that Grater Woods was almost 500 acres and the School District's portion of that was about 10% or less. He stated that he did not have a problem with the School District's involvement, current legal documentation, easements or any rules and regulations, but to say the Board has to sign off on anything that happens was overstepping his bounds. He stated that if the Board had any concerns, to bring it up to the Town Council. He mentioned that the Fire Station and Our Lady of Mercy parking lot were a little different in that everyone was involved equally.

Board member Barnes stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee and School Board meetings both discussed the middle school as one of the best access points for any activity on the Grater Woods property because the parking lot allowed for perfect access points. She stated even though the School District did not have equal acreage, the middle school property made for an advantageous starting and ending point for any users of the property which made the Board's interest more than 10%. She stated that the Board had a vested interest on how activities would occur even if they were not on school property because it was likely that school property would be used to get to the activity.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that he was not sure about the particular access that the Board was concerned about. He stated if Board member Barnes was talking about hikers, he was not sure how that would be a major issue, but if the concern was about the ATV access, the Board stated that it was not for acceptable use and people should not be accessing the Grater Woods with ATVs through the school property.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that many activities go on at the middle school (i.e. the Walk About, Nature Walks, and sightings at Beaver Pond) and it all originates from the middle school and its parking lot. She stated that the Board had opened up the school building to groups for participation and a great deal goes on at that property.

Chairman Koenig stated that none of that could happen without the Board's approval and they don't open the school buildings to anyone that asks.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that a Use of Facilities Request form would need to be filled out to open one of the school buildings; otherwise, the Board did not have to allow access to a school building. She stated that anyone could come and park in the school parking lot without permission.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that he understood it would happen regardless whether there was a Grater Woods next door or not and that anyone could use the school parking lot at any time.

Board member Barnes stated that the Grater Woods had an established blueprint of inviting activities which, in turn, could invite unwanted activities. She stated that she walked the Grater Woods property and noticed a party pit built right on the trail along with tire tracks near the education center. She stated that people are easily accessing the area through school property. She stated that encouraging activity means that increased policing would need to happen where people come in and out of school property. She stated that the Board had vested concerns from what she saw in her one day walk-through.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that the Board was trying to be good neighbors about this. He stated that the Town Council had a vested interest in what the Board did on the school property because it had access to the town property as well. He stated that there had been a lot of talk about bad activities, but some good activities might come from the outdoor educational center. He stated if the Town Council decided to build an attraction with a rare nature quality it

would attract many people and they would probably want to access the attraction through school property. He stated that the attraction would impact the school parking flow and buses. He stated that the Board was looking to have a voice in the whole process because both the School District and the Town Council want to make Grater Woods successful.

Town Manager Hickey stated that one School Board member had been a sitting member of the Grater Woods Subcommittee since it was established. He stated that the School Board member who attended the April meeting supported the plan being moved to the Conservation Commission. Chairman Koenig and Business Administrator Shevenell both pointed out that the Town Council and School Board were trying to be good neighbors and find a balancing point. He stated that it simply was not true to suggest that the Board had no voice in the process since a School Board member had been sitting as one of the Subcommittee members.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that Vice Chairman Thornton and Board member Swonger were prior representatives for the Board. She stated that a draft copy of the Master Plan had just become available to the Board, due to some resistance in the Board obtaining a copy of that document, but before then there was nothing to look at, discuss or express concerns about. She stated that she had some concern about the document being created before all of the interested sources had placed their concerns and input. She stated that it would make more sense to have everyone voice their concerns before the document was completed, than to wait until the very end to start having a lot of input that might dramatically change the document. She asked if Chairman Koenig could give a more definitive and outlined answer to the process.

Board member Swonger stated that he was the original person wondering what the process was. He stated that there was a need for input even before any document was created and he did not understand how the document moved to the Conservation Committee. He questioned where the document was going from here. He stated that the document was on the agenda and then off the agenda, leaving no opportunity for public comment because the document was taken off the agenda without prior notice. He questioned what the expectation of the document was; if the document would go before the Conservation Committee as a formal discussion; and when the Board could expect it before the Town Council.

Chairman Koenig stated that he could not give a definitive timeline because the Town Council was asking a Committee of volunteers to do the work and time often stretched out beyond what might be anticipated. He stated that the Conservation Commission was working on the document because he had seen four or five revisions. He stated that public input and responses were being implemented into the document as it was being developed further. He stated that by the time the document came forward, the Commission would have put something together that the people of Merrimack would support, otherwise, the Commission would have to redo the document. He stated that unless the Commission came to the Town Council and specifically requested input from them, it was not appropriate for the Town Council to ask the Commission where they were in the process and then ask them to change their direction.

Board member Swonger stated that it was kind of worrisome that the School Board did not know where the document was at this point. He mentioned that Manager Hickey stated that the document had been moved to the Conservation Committee with the approval of a School Board member last year, but was not there yet. He was hopeful that the Town Council would have some awareness of when to expect the document to be completed.

Board member Barnes stated that the School Board was concerned that the document would be put to work. She stated that the Red Maple Trail did come up on the Conservation Commission agenda, but the School Board did not have a document that identified how all the trails were going to interconnect. She asked if the Conservation Commission had been given the go ahead from the Town Council to start any work even though the document had not been completed.

Chairman Koenig stated that he did not think the Conservation Commission had been given the go ahead to start any work, acquire any bids or spend any money until the Commission received some type of approval.

Board member Barnes stated that the Conservation Commission voted to go out for bid.

Chairman Koenig questioned if the Commission went out for bids.

Board member Barnes stated that she attended the last Conservation Commission meeting where it voted to put the Red Maple Trail Project out to bid.

Chairman Koenig questioned Manager Hickey if, in fact, the Conservation Commission had gone out for bid.

Manager Hickey stated that he was not aware that any bids had gone out at this point. He stated that there was a difference between the trail work that was being suggested (repairs of the Red Maple Trail) and the plan that the Conservation Commission was working on. He stated that it was his understanding that the Red Maple Trail was an existing trail on that property that was being used by the developer as a logging road prior to the Town acquiring it. He stated that the Conservation Commission was looking to do some repairs to the existing trail and not expand it. He stated if the Conservation Commission wanted to extend the trail beyond what already existed, which would be part of the Master Plan; they would have to come before the Town Council and get approval before moving forward. He stated that he would have to disagree on the fact that the School Board was not included in on the ground floor and did not have rights with regard to School District property. He stated that a School Board member was and is a member of the Grater Woods Subcommittee while the plan was put together.

Board member Barnes stated that she was only one of five votes.

Manager Hickey stated that he understood and mentioned that Board member Barnes was only one of five on the Board.

Board member Barnes stated that the School Board had one vote and if that Subcommittee did not agree with the School District's concerns, the Subcommittee could just out vote it.

Business Administrator Shevenell questioned if the Conservation Commission had the authority to go out and obtain bids and sign contracts to do trail repairs.

Chairman Koenig stated that the Conservation Commission did not have that authority.

Business Administrator Shevenell questioned if everything needed to come before the Town Council.

Manager Hickey stated that it all comes through him.

Business Administrator Shevenell questioned if the extension of trails had to go through Manager Hickey as well.

Manager Hickey stated that if the Conservation Commission was going to expand trails that it would be a Town Council decision and ultimately part of the Master Plan that was currently being worked on.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that the Conservation Commission talked about taking the existing trail, plus spots that have been damaged, and upgrade the entire trail to make it wider and accessible to emergency vehicles. He questioned if the trail was going to be turned into a road and, if so, would that be something that would need to go before the Town Council or Town Manager.

Manager Hickey stated that he had not been on the Red Maple Trail, but suggested that a logging truck made it through that roadway at some point in the not so distant past.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that a logging truck could not get on that road.

Manager Hickey stated that a logging truck had been on that road.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that the Red Maple trail property was logged when it was privately owned. It was logged quite a few years ago. She stated that the trail continued to deteriorate with off-road motorized use. She stated that the original plan that Board member Barnes referenced, a trail plan associated with the original plan, had offered up as a bypass to that trail, a connector loop. She stated that the Conservation Commission talked about how they did not think it was any longer a viable option because of houses that had been built and that was something new that she had not heard before. She stated that logging trucks have not been on that trail in quite a long time.

Manager Hickey stated that he was not trying to suggest that a logging truck was there last year, but it was a number of years ago. He stated that the trail had deteriorated and overgrown since then. He stated that the Conservation Commission was looking to establish that trail and allow emergency access vehicles to be able to get back there in case of an injury or a fire. He stated that he did not think the Conservation Commission was looking to try and expand the trail into a road, but simply looking to improve it.

Vice Chairman Thornton questioned what was done at Horse Hill if there was an emergency. She asked if an emergency vehicle could get through to all of its trails.

Manager Hickey stated that there were some trails that emergency vehicles could access. He stated that the Conservation Commission was looking to gain access to parts of those trails.

Vice Chairman Thornton questioned why the Master Plan for the Grater Woods couldn't fashion the Master Plan for Horse Hill since the two properties were so similar. She asked if it would be easier to use the Horse Hill document as a template for the Grater Woods document.

Chairman Koenig stated that he was getting the impression that the School Board would like to throw away the work that had already been done on the Grater Woods document and start over with a template that matched the Horse Hill document. He stated that if the Board and Council spent the next few years discussing a Horse Hill type of plan, the Red Maple Trail would continue to deteriorate and have drainage and run-off issues. He stated that it would be in everyone's best interest to move forward and make sure that the Red Maple Trail continued to be maintained.

Board member Barnes stated that the original document had the same type of infrastructure and architecture as that of the Horse Hill document.

Board member Swonger stated that he was aware that the School Board had a representative on the Grater Woods Subcommittee for a long time. He stated that it was not clear to him what the genesis of the new Master Plan actually was and why there was a need to change from the old plan to a new plan a year later. He stated that he was concerned about the process being unclear.

Chairman Koenig stated that the Grater Woods property was not the same as the Horse Hill property in that it was not acquired in the same fashion. He stated that the Grater Woods property was developed over a period of time and pieced together by several acquisitions to acquire 500 acres, which was the goal of the Town Forest Master Plan. He stated that being under the Conservation Committee Stewardship the Board would come to find that the Plan developed differently than Horse Hill. He stated that Horse Hill was voted on as one major project by a town wide vote and that Grater Woods did not develop in that way. He stated if the document was taken away from the Conservation Commission, which the Board had been monitoring, and put it in the hands of someone else to complete, it would become an entirely different process. He was hopeful that the Conservation Committee, along with the Subcommittee, was listening to the concerns and requirements of the Board and the people of Merrimack before the Plan was completed. He believed that most of the members on the Conservation Commission would love not to have ATVs access the property because of the damage that they can do, but the Commission realizes that the property is open to the public and it would be difficult to restrain them from using public property. He stated that the process was such that any policies set in the town had to come before the Town Council and, as the Grater Woods Subcommittee develops a Master Plan or Stewardship Plan, the Subcommittee would bring the Plan to the Conservation Commission who would then be responsible for bringing the Plan before the Town Council for implementation. He stated that the Town Council would have

an opportunity to look at the Plan and either approve it or reject it. He stated that the Horse Hill Plan followed those same steps. He stated that a process should be put into place before any document was accepted. He stated that he had no problem with sending the document back to the Conservation Commission if there was a public outcry and, at that point, the Town Council would then have to develop another Committee to see what they could bring forward. He stated that it was premature to jump in the middle and start making changes to the document that hadn't even been presented yet. He informed the Board that it was not the intent of the Town Council to rubber-stamp any document that came through. He stated that the Town Council considered public comments and concerns, and that the Town Council would have no problem bringing those issues before the Board in a joint meeting. He stated that he could not promise a date when the document would come before the Town Council and invited the Board to monitor the progress of the documents. He stated that the process was the same as it had always been. The document came before the Town Council for approval or disapproval. He stated if the document was not approved it would go back for review and be re-established from the beginning.

Board member Barnes stated that she would like to clarify if this was something the Board could put on the September joint meeting agenda.

Chairman Koenig stated that he had no problem with that, but the additional agenda item would need to be discussed with Chairman Vaillancourt, Town Manager Hickey, Superintendent Chiafery and him before it was placed on the September joint meeting agenda.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that there had been some confusion to make certain that the Plan would come before the Town Council. She stated that the Board had some serious concerns about the two different documents. She stated that she was not confident that she understood the process. She showed some concern about the Board not having as much input as the Town Council because the Board did not have as many acres. She was hopeful that Town Council Chairman Koenig would take the Board's concerns to the Town Council for discussion. She stated that even though no two projects were exactly the same, she would be thrilled to keep the working relationship between the Board and the Town Council going. She stated that she shared the view that not only does the School District own property, they are in a joint easement agreement with the Town and that the school property did have the major access in and out of that property whether it be invited or not. She believed the School District had a great deal at stake in what comes forward in the Plan. She would like to see the School District's rights as an abutter, property owner, and access point protected in a written legal document. She stated that the Board would like to discuss questions and concerns in a joint meeting in September.

Chairman Koenig stated that he did not have any problem with meeting again in September. He stated that the School District controlled the major access point of the middle school property and that it was the decision of the Board to allow people onto the property or not.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that it was not the goal of the School District or the Board to deny anyone access to the Grater Woods property. She stated that the Board wanted to control access and not prevent any type of good activity.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that he kept hearing a concern about motorized vehicles and believed that the School District had posted no access signs on the middle school property. He stated that he was not sure how much more the Board could do right now and wondered if the Police Department could monitor the property for any ATV trailers and, if some are spotted, find out who owned them and ticket them.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that it might not be a bad idea to have the Police Department monitor the property. He stated that recently the School District did not have a lot of ATV activity, but there had been two occasions where the upper field house door had been smashed in and the soccer field had been run over by an ATV.

Town Manager Hickey stated that the Town Council and Conservation Commission had the same concerns the Board had about the property. He stated that the Town Council would not do anything that would negatively impact the School District property and understood the Board's concerns.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that it was the Board's role to protect the rights of the School District.

Town Manager Hickey stated that the Town Council had the same concerns as the Board and was not suggesting or discrediting them.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that no one really knew when and if the same document would come before the Town Council for approval. She asked to have something documented that served the interest of the School District, the Town, and all of its residences.

Town Manager Hickey asked if any signs were posted on the school property stating that no ATVs were allowed through school property.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that the School District had some signs posted and those signs have since been taken down.

Town Manager Hickey stated that the Police Department should be made aware of any easements put into place that did not allow ATVs on school property.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that there was a large tract of land south of the middle school that, over time, was planning to be developed. He stated that neither the Board nor the Town Council had any control over what goes on at that property (i.e. paint ball fields or ATV parks). He stated when you have private property abutting school property you are always going to have an issue with what somebody decides to do on that property. He stated that the Town and School District were good partners and there was no interest on the part of the Town or the Conservation Commission to do something that would be totally outside of the realm of what the School Board wanted. He stated that he heard the discussion about a two-story classroom on the Grater Woods property and that the classroom would be so close to the middle school that you could throw a stone at it. He stated that it would not make any sense for the Town or the School Board to do things to the Grater Woods property that would disturb the school property.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that there had been other conversations not mentioned in Town Council Chairman Koenig's statement. She stated that there was nothing in writing to support the School District's rights as to what could be constructed on the Grater Woods property.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that there was nothing that would support the Board's rights on any piece of property that abuts the School District. He stated that the Town Council and the School Board were, in fact, neighbors and good friends and have common interests for what is best for the town. He stated if the Board wanted to try and write-up a document that suggested those common interests, to go for it.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that she would be comfortable with the Board writing up a document.

Board member Barnes stated that any document the Board would write would be on the terms of the members who wrote it.

Town Council Chairman Koenig stated that the building on the Grater Woods property might have potential uses and that might be a good thing if it was done properly.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that she was looking forward to having some discussions at a later date.

7. May 20th Professional Day Outcomes

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin provided the Board with a brief summary of the May 20th Teacher Workshop Day.

Nurses – the School District Nurses have developed a partnership with the Southern New Hampshire area Health Education Center. The partnership brought forward professional development in areas of concern related to state initiatives. The School District nurses were provided an opportunity to learn asthma training related to illness and treatment options.

Paraeducators – the Paraeducators were involved in an initiative to help the kindergarten through grade four teachers become more familiar with the collaborative assessment project. The Paraeducators learned ways they could support the classroom teacher. The kindergarten through grade four paraeducators concluded a year long series of professional development. Those paraeducators became more comfortable with the collaborative assessment project by finding ways to get involved. The grade five through eight paraeducators discussed behavioral management issues.

Librarians – the Librarians attended a State Conference which allowed them to actively engage in learning the newest initiatives in their field.

Unified Arts Educators – the Unified Arts Educators worked collaboratively on becoming materially involved in the intervention and extension of the collaborative assessment project. The Unified Arts Educators also supported their content areas while extending literacy learning.

Elementary School – the elementary level teachers continued to work on perfecting the intervention and extension block, which is a signature piece of the collaborative assessment project. The teachers worked in professional learning teams and continued to discuss and refine the project.

Middle School – the middle school teachers worked on the relationship between the standards and framework instruction, which was part of the State’s framework plan. The Principal and Assistant Principal worked on an initiative plan that set the stage for the administrative team to work on round two for next year.

High School – the high school teachers discussed the NEASC report and its mission statement. The teachers developed a NECAP plan, reviewed the web-based grading system, and the introduction of understanding its design and protocol.

Board member Swonger stated that the School District was using the Logic Model as an information tool. He stated that the Federal and State programs were helpful in having the School District get ahead of the curve in terms of the direction of education and the right way to improve it. He stated that he was impressed with the content of the professional days and the direction of the collaboration.

Board member Barnes questioned why May 20th was chosen as a workshop day given the school year was ending.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that the intent was to move the professional development days from the fall to the spring.

8. Eagle Scout Project – Garden at James Mastricola Elementary School

Superintendent Chiafery suggested that the Board move the placement of Brian Quimby’s Eagle Scout project presentation from item #8 to item #7 of the agenda.

Chairman Vaillancourt welcomed Eagle Scout Brian Quimby to come forward and present his Eagle Scout Project to the Board.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that Brian Quimby was looking to create a science garden at James Mastricola Elementary School. He reported that Brian met with Principal Fabrizio, Assistant Principal Carter, Maintenance Director Touseau and himself to review the garden plan. Everyone agreed to Brian’s nicely designed landscaped plan and couldn’t wait for its development.

Brian Quimby informed the Board that he was a Boy Scout with troop 424. He stated that for his Eagle Scout Project he would like to make a science garden at James Mastricola Elementary School that would be located at the back of the school. There would be road access to the garden to bring in supplies. There was nothing in the existing area where the garden would be placed. He designed the 24 by 24 ft. garden with six feet of perimeter between the school and the garden. All the plants in the garden were chosen because they bloom in the Spring and Fall and attract butterflies and humming birds. He plans to place two 6 by 1 ft. benches in the garden that would be made ahead of time and then secured in the garden. He requested \$1,500 from James Mastricola Elementary School Parent and Teacher Group. He needed to raise another \$800 to finish the project. He planned to have a bake sale and several car washes as fundraisers. Once the project was approved by the District Eagle Board, he planned to start fundraising right away because most of the work needed to be done during the summer months. He estimated that the project would take about 300 hours.

Board member Swonger stated that it looked like a very nice project and it reminded him of the Butterfly Garden at Reeds Ferry Elementary School.

Board member Barnes stated that she looked forward to Brian's project. She asked if the six foot perimeter was going to stay as grass.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated the six foot perimeter was for lawn mowers to access the area behind the garden without obstruction.

Board member Barnes expressed concern about that the lawn mowers may damage the garden.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that the lawn mowers would not damage the garden.

Board member Barnes asked if Brian designed the benches.

Brian Quimby stated that he received the bench designs from another Eagle Scout who placed benches in a project at Thornton's Ferry Elementary School.

Board member Barnes asked if Brian knew what materials he would use for the benches and if the benches would require maintenance.

Brian Quimby stated that he would be using pressure treated wood for the base. He did not know what he would use for the seats. He said that there really shouldn't be any maintenance to the benches.

Board member Barnes stated that she liked the detail of Brian's project and looked forward to seeing it come to life.

Board member Barnes asked if Brian could send the Board an email message informing them of the locations of the June 26th and July 11th car wash fundraisers so she could post the dates on the Merrimack Forum.

Vice Chairman Thornton stated that projects that help improve the school are a huge favor. She thanked Brian for all of his efforts. She asked if the garden would be on the gymnasium side or classroom side of Mastricola Elementary School.

Brian Quimby stated that the garden would be located in the back of the school near the playground, on the other side of the walkway.

Vice Chairman Thornton stated that she was concerned if children were playing outside that they might disturb the garden.

Brian Quimby stated that the plants he chose for the garden border were very durable.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that she was happy to learn that James Mastricola Elementary School would receive a nice garden similar to the other elementary schools.

Board member Swonger moved (seconded by Board member Thornton) to approve Brian Quimby's Eagle Scout project and to waive the two-week rule.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Brian Quimby asked that a School Board member sign his Eagle Scout Project book.

Vice Chairman Thornton offered to sign Brian's project book on behalf of the Board.

9. Request to Hire At Will

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she requested the Board's permission to allow the administration to extend contracts to the remaining open positions. She explained that if the School District held the hiring process for a formal meeting date, the candidate would most likely go to a sister district instead. The results would formally be announced at the July and August meetings.

Board member Swonger moved (seconded by Board member Barnes) to approve the request to hire at will for the summer.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

10. Other

a) Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

b) Comments

Board member Barnes stated that she attended Eagle Scout Matthew Beck's pancake breakfast fundraiser. She noted that if the fundraiser event was any indication of how Matthew would proceed with his Eagle Scout Project, then Reeds Ferry was in very good hands.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Committee Reports

Board member Barnes stated that she did not attend the Parks and Recreation meeting because she had a prior work commitment and it was the same time as the Board's non-public meeting. She would provide an update at the July meeting.

Board member Barnes stated that she met with the Grater Woods Subcommittee and walked the Grater Woods property. She was able to see the area that the Board had been talking about in prior discussions. She emailed John Diggins to inform him that the meeting with Town Council Chairman Koenig and Town Manager Hickey was on the School Board Agenda for this evening. She informed the Board that Business Administrator Shevenell attended the meeting with her and he was now a member of the Grater Woods Subcommittee.

Board member Barnes stated that she attended the Conservation Committee as a member of the Grater Woods Subcommittee. The Grater Woods Plan went to the floor of the Conservation Commission last week. There was no feedback to the Grater Woods Subcommittee other than to go back and work on the Plan. No specific dates were suggested and the Committee discussed the Red Maple Trail as an agenda item. The project was then put out to bid.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that he attended the Grater Woods Subcommittee and Conservation Commission meetings. He requested to be involved in the process and sit on the Grater Woods Subcommittee so he could give his opinions and ideas and then convey them to the Board. The Subcommittee accepted his offer and he was now a member of the Subcommittee.

Board member Barnes stated that Parks and Recreation required that Committees have alternates or appointees from outside entities in order to have a quorum. She stated that Parks and Recreation meet on the second Wednesday of every month.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that she thought the Board had an alternate representative.

Vice Chairman Thornton informed the Board that she was the alternate.

Board member Swonger stated that the School Planning Building Committee met and discussed how to move forward with the consolidation of SAU and Special Services Offices. The Committee Chair was supposed to contact Business Administrator Shevenell about getting bids.

Business Administrator Shevenell stated that he met Rich Hendricks of the School Planning Building Committee and a representative from Frank Marinace's office, Principal McGill and Assistant Principal Morris from the Mastricola Upper Elementary School to discuss options for utilizing potential space at James Mastricola Upper Elementary School. Potential code issues were being reviewed by a professional. It was likely that there may be some issues when a section of a school building was blocked off. The School District was hopeful to have some pricing of the renovations and code issues within the next couple of weeks. At that point the School District would present its findings before the Planning and Building Committee.

Board member Swonger stated that the School Planning Building Committee had six options, but the Committee needed more detail and precise numbers to determine which contractor the Committee would consider. The process was quite difficult because several decisions on design/build have to be made in order for a contractor to cost out the project. The School District has never been in this specific situation before. In the past, the Committee has always known what the School District needed because work was done on existing buildings or a new building was constructed.

Board member Swonger stated that he attended the Budget Committee meeting as an alternate. The Committee had its organizational meeting and elected Andy Schneider as Chair, and Bill Cummings as Vice Chair. He stated that there was some discussion about the general role of the Budget Committee and how to make the process go as smoothly as possible in the coming year (i.e. whether to meet more often and/or earlier). The next meeting will be July 15th in the Klump Room of the Merrimack Public Library.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that she was in the audience at the Budget Committee meeting. She thanked Board member Swonger and Business Administrator Shevenell for supporting the School Planning and Building Committee. She said the number one question posed to her regarding the consolidation of the SAU and Special Services Offices was about using existing space. She stated that you want to be very wise with the tax dollars that will be spent on the study. The School Planning and Building Committee would be doing the tax payers and constituents a service by exploring options in a cost effective manner. She stated that Board member Ortega was unable to attend the Budget Committee meeting on July 15th. She was available to attend the meeting with the Board's approval. The Budget Committee discussed ways that the Budget Committee could participate in the process. She spoke with Superintendent Chiafery and Business Administrator Shevenell about some ideas. She expressed her concern that some of the ideas were not viable, legal or procedural options. She stated that if anyone on the Board would like a copy of the draft minutes, because the meeting was not televised, to contact Pat Heinrich. She stated that if some of the ideas came to fruition and moved forward the Board would have to have a discussion about what it found acceptable and appropriate.

Board member Swonger stated that there was dynamic tension between the Budget Committee wanting to be involved and informed in the thought process. In some ways the Budget Committee was like an oversight committee. He was aware how other towns and schools interacted with their Budget Committee and that Merrimack's Budget Committee has a smooth interaction that produces a good product. He stated that the Board would have to follow what happened at the Budget Committee meetings.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that she planned on attending the Budget Committee meeting on July 15th as a School Board liaison.

13. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

14. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

At 9:08 p.m. Board member Barnes moved (seconded by Vice Chairman Thornton) to enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c).

The motion passed 4-0-0 by a roll call vote.

At 9:26 p.m. Board member Swonger moved (seconded by Vice Chairman Thornton) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 4-0-0.