

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
Merrimack High School Cafeteria
January 12, 2015
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman Ortega, Vice Chairman Barnes, Board Members Powell, Guagliumi and Schneider, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin and Business Administrator Shevenell.

1. Call To Order

Chairman Ortega called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Additional Budget Session with Maintenance

Chairman Ortega explained that Director of Maintenance Tom Touseau was present in order to answer a few final questions before the Board enters into its final budget deliberations.

Board Member Schneider asked how much money would be needed to maintain the track for one more year.

Mr. Touseau replied between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Board Member Schneider asked if the high school heat wheel project were moved out one year what the impact would be to the two paving projects on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Director Touseau reviewed the paving projects at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, the high school loop and O’Gara Drive. He did not anticipate any impacts.

Vice Chair Barnes asked if the Reeds Ferry Elementary School roofing project on the Capital Improvement Plan was critical for 2016-2017.

Director Touseau responded that the Reeds Ferry Elementary School roofing project is vital for 2016-2017.

Board Member Schneider asked Director Touseau if only one project could occur in 2016-2017 would it be the roofing project or the paving project.

Director Touseau replied the roofing project would take priority over the paving project.

Board Member Schneider asked Director Touseau for his input on the structural integrity of the goal posts.

Director Touseau responded that the goal posts had been painted recently and they do contain rust. He did not feel the condition of the goal posts are unsafe and would support having it inspected by a professional.

5. Budget Adjustments

Chairman Ortega explained that the Administration presented a proposed 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$71,252,545 with a default budget of \$71,005,822. He explained the Board asked the Administration to reduce the proposed budget. The Administration provided the Board with a list of proposed reductions in the amount of \$1,141,622 that were prioritized into five tiers.

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Powell) to reduce the proposed budget by \$761,623, which consists of all items in tier one of the proposed budget reductions from the Administration.

Board Member Schneider stated the reason for his motion was that the reductions were recommended by Administration and Director Touseau felt the heat wheel project at the high school could wait another year.

Board Member Guagliumi stated that discussion at the January 7, 2015 meeting resulted in her support to keep the \$21,175 online parent registration system in the budget because it was her understanding it will result in many hours of support staff savings to focus on other tasks.

Vice Chair Barnes agreed with Board Member Guagliumi.

Board Member Schneider amended his motion (seconded by Board Member Powell) to reduce the budget by \$740,448 leaving the \$21,175 for the online parent registration system in the proposed budget.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to reduce the proposed budget by \$77,493 which are all items related to Thorntons Ferry Elementary School preschool in tier two of the proposed budget reductions from the Administration.

Vice Chair Barnes stated that her motion allowed for the cabinets at James Mastricola Elementary School (\$20,000) and the crack filling/sealing (\$8,000) to remain in the proposed budget.

Board Member Guagliumi expressed her desire to remove the cabinets at James Mastricola Elementary School (\$20,000) from the proposed budget because she didn't believe it was critically needed other than for cosmetic reasons.

Vice Chair Barnes amended her motion (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to reduce the budget by \$97,493 leaving \$8,000 for the crack filling/sealing in the proposed budget.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to reduce the budget by \$35,887 representing the first year furniture replacement plan for all six schools.

Vice Chair Barnes stated that she did not support the motion as it would take furniture plans off schedule.

Board Member Guagliumi noted that the middle school lab stools needed to be replaced based on her personal observation of the condition of the lab stools while on a tour at the middle school when on she was a Budget Committee member.

Chairman Ortega stated that he did not support the motion.

The motion failed 0-5-0 with Board Members Guagliumi, Schneider, Powell, Vice Chair Barnes and Chairman Ortega voting in opposition.

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to remove from the proposed budget the library newspapers/periodical purchases (\$3,000) and the shredder for Reeds Ferry Elementary School (\$750) and the Digital Piano and Cover and Dolly for James Masticola Elementary School (\$2,259).

Board Members Schneider and Guagliumi expressed their support to remove the periodicals and the shredder but to keep the digital piano with cover and dolly.

Vice Chair Barnes amended her motion (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to reduce the budget by \$3,750 leaving \$2,259 in the budget for the digital piano, cover and dolly for Masticola Elementary School.

The motion passed 4-1-0 with Board Member Powell in opposition.

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to remove \$9,135 from the proposed budget representing \$1,135 for the English subscriptions, video cameras and tripods for the high school and \$8,000 for a reduction in software for discovery streaming for the library.

Chairman Ortega stated he would not support the motion because of the impacts to instruction.

Board Member Schneider stated he would not support the motion.

The motion passed 3-2-0 with Board Member Schneider and Chairman Ortega in opposition.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Powell) to remove the end zone camera for \$4,400 from the proposed budget.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to remove the goal posts for \$6,400 from the proposed budget.

Board Member Schneider felt if the goal posts were unsafe after an expert's inspection the replacements would be handled through other means.

Vice Chair Barnes supported the motion as it should be addressed with the field project in the CIP.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to remove the computer technician position (\$79,675) from the proposed budget.

Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin and Business Administrator Shevenell defended the new computer technician position.

The motion failed 0-5-0 with Board Members Powell, Schneider, Guagliumi, Vice Chair Barnes and Chairman Ortega in opposition.

Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to add \$11,678 to the co-curricular transportation account.

It was noted that additional discussion and information was desired prior to the 2016-2017 budget process.

The motion failed 1-4-0 with Board Members Guagliumi, Schneider, Vice Chair Barnes and Chairman Ortega in opposition.

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to increase the co-curricular transportation account from \$33,000 to \$36,000 to account for lack of increase in the 2014-2015 budget.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) add \$15,000 to the maintenance and grounds account for repairs to the track in 2015-2016.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

6. Approval of 2015-2016 School District Budget

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Vice Chair Barnes) to approve the 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$70,408,919.

Board Member Schneider stated the board reduced the proposed 2015-2016 budget by \$843,626.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

7. Warrant Article Discussion

Chairman Ortega stated that a Warrant Article for the SAU and Special Services Offices was not ready for discussion and that the Planning and Building Committee will provide a report to the Board on January 20, 2015. Additionally Warrant Article for the MESSA (Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association) contract was not ready for discussion due to ongoing negotiations.

Chairman Ortega noted Warrant Articles would include authorization to accept gifts and grants, discontinuation of the Asbestos Removal Fund, School District Repair Capital Reserve Fund, Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association Contract, the Consolidation of the SAU and Special Services Office and the 2015-2016 Budget.

8. Public Participation on Agenda Items

There was no public participation.

At 10:30 p.m. Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.