

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
May 18, 2015
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Vice Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair Barnes stated that Chairman Ortega, Board Member Powell and Student Representative Crowley were excused from the meeting.

2. Focus on Merrimack High School

Vice Chair Barnes introduced Principal Johnson and Assistant Principals Zampieri and Bergeron.

Principal Johnson introduced Students Tia Gaumont and A.J. Knust.

Student Gaumont shared her experience as an Air Force Junior ROTC at Alvirne High School in Hudson. She will be the Air Force Junior ROTC Group Commander next year.

Principal Johnson explained that Student Gaumont will be the first student other than an Alvirne High School student to hold this position.

Vice Chair Barnes asked Student Gaumont if any Merrimack High School students were interested in ROTC.

Student Gaumont responded that she received inquiries when she wears her uniform.

Business Administrator Shevenell asked Student Gaumont what her plans were after Junior ROTC.

Student Gaumont stated that she was accepted into the Air Force Academy summer program. She wants to pursue college at the Air Force Academy or the Air Force ROTC. Her goal is to become a pilot.

Student Knust shared his interest in woodworking. Student Knust participated in the Brookline High School Student Woodworking and Design Competition. Last year he placed third in the lathe completion of all New England students.

Student Knust participated in a New Hampshire competition sponsored by the Guild of New Hampshire Wood Turners. He placed first and was awarded a Rikon lathe valued at \$850 that spins wood for carving. He publicly thanked Technology Education Teacher Phil Carle and the entire technology education department for their support.

Vice Chair Barnes asked if Student Knust had a favorite type of wood.

Student Knust responded he prefers to work with cherry.

Vice Chair Barnes asked what new projects were next for Student Knust.

Student Knust responded that he would like to become more creative using the hollow form method.

Principal Johnson highlighted curriculum, instruction, assessment and co-curricular achievement at Merrimack High School.

Principal Johnson reported this year more co-curricular teams advanced to regional and national competitions than previous years. The Granite State Team went to the semifinals, the Quiz Bowl Team went to the State Championship. The Science Olympiad, U.S. FIRST, DECA and Future Problem Solvers all qualified for the nationals.

Principal Johnson highlighted a display case, created by Student Connor Pearson, featuring Merrimack High School principals, past and present.

Principal Johnson named the Top Ten Scholars. They are Isabelle Beauregard, James Jolly, Shoshana Serick, Hersh Rai, Dylan Richardson, Blake Williams, Sandra Walser, John Pitten, Katherine Brennan and Schuyler Vaillancourt.

Principal Johnson noted that Physics Teacher Adriana Oancea was named a member of the National Academy of Future Physicians of Medical Scientist and was appointed an honorary member of the Board.

Principal Johnson shared Students Lauren Gerhard and Kelsey Kerouac were selected to attend Breakfast on the Hill with members of Congress, a rare achievement for students.

Principal Johnson displayed award winning artwork by Students Courtney Wallace, Lily Desrochers, Laynie Rosati and Aiden Geurette.

Principal Johnson reported earlier in the school year Technology Education Teacher Jon Van de Car was recognized by New Hampshire Lottery and New Hampshire Motor Speedway as the winner of the All Star Educators for which he was awarded \$2,500. Mr. Van de Car purchased \$2,500 worth of tools for the high school automotive program. The tool company was so impressed by the award, they the automotive department with \$5,000 worth of tools for \$2,500.

Principal Johnson previewed software animation video clips created by Students Justin Calautti, Stephen Chyn and Gabe LaForge.

Students and mentors reflected on the 20 year history of the Merrimack High School FIRST Team Chop Shop 166.

Other highlights included Graduation Challenge Day, Athletics, Student Congress, Senior Service Day, Random Acts of Kindness, Theater, South Korean Student Visit and Music.

Principal Johnson announced Student Rachel Schwartz will be honored at Fenway Park on June 14, 2015 as a Red Sox Foundation Scholarship winner.

In Student Wesley Notter's absence Principal Johnson described Wesley's plans to transform the senior courtyard.

Board Member Guagliumi noted that it is really neat to see what students are doing as they progress during the four years. Students have different skill sets and different ambitions with different options as they continue their journey. Community involvement is very apparent.

Board Member Schneider asked if student input was a factor in deciding which advanced placement courses to offer.

Principal Johnson responded that conversations with students and recommendations from department heads influence the advanced placement course offerings.

Vice Chair Barnes acknowledged advanced placement courses in Micro Economics, Macro Economics and American government. She asked for the names of the other two new advanced placement courses.

Principal Johnson responded Spanish and Literature and Composition. He clarified that the five new advanced placement courses are in addition to what is currently in place.

Vice Chair Barnes question how interdisciplinary course credits will fulfill a graduation requirement.

Principal Johnson explained that interdisciplinary courses are dual credit courses.

Principal Johnson clarified that student participation in the NH Scholars program was expected to increase.

Vice Chair Barnes questioned the streamlining in the area of math.

Principal Johnson explained that the offerings around Algebra II are being narrowed down as opposed to offering classes that are not specific to Algebra II. He clarified the electives will remain the same; the program will be a more focused curriculum.

3. Approval of May 4, 2015 Minutes

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 meeting.

Board Member Schneider requested the following change to the minutes:

- Page 2, line 68-69 should read "... demonstrated how to divide a group in half using marshmallows".

Board Member Guagliumi requested the following change to the minutes:

- Page 1, line 43 should read "... reside in Merrimack because of the schools and the overall Merrimack community."

Vice Chair Barnes requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Page 1, line 39, add the following sentence. Vice Chair Barnes asked if students used shaving cream in the table top activity and if parents were told what was used so they could practice with shaving cream at home.
- Page 4, line 157, the sentence should read “She explained she reviewed the minutes and notes and there were only five curriculum committee reports in the last twelve months so she still had the same question. Of the five reports only one had content of a meeting that occurred the rest were upcoming meetings and no report of what transpired.
- Page 4, line 178 change the word “understand” to the word “understanding”.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

4. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

5. Acceptance of Gifts/Grants under \$5,000

Business Administrator Shevenell presented a gift from Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund in the amount of \$2,000 for Merrimack High School to be allocated to the U.S. FIRST program.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to accept the gift from Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund with gratitude and thanks.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

6. Consent Agenda

a) Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the following teacher nomination

- Reginald Bates II, English Teacher, Merrimack High School

b) Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the following teacher resignations

- Raymond (Tray) Sleeper, Science Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ron Krikorian, Technology Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Jennie O’Hara, Math Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Gail Severy, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- George Havener, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to accept the consent agenda as presented.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

7. Other

a) **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to report.

b) Comments

Superintendent Chiafery reported the Merrimack Police Department, Merrimack Fire Department, Central Office Administrators and Merrimack High School Administrators would participate in a table top exercise on May 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She explained this is in preparation for an active shooter drill at the high school on June 26, 2015.

8. New Business

There was no new business to report.

9. Committee Reports

Board Member Schneider reported Merrimack Safeguard met on May 7th. He reported a successful public health fair at the Pheasant Lane Mall and noted the annual mock DUI (Driving Under the Influence) for high school seniors would take place on May 20th. Members of the Merrimack Safeguard continue to review focus groups per the grant.

Vice Chair Barnes reported the NHSBA Board of Directors held an end of school year meeting on May 12th. The 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets were reviewed. A representative from the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) asked the NHSBA for its endorsement.

Vice Chair Barnes reported a replica of the World War II Memorial, originally placed at the Merrimack Public Library, would be re-established at Veterans Park on Memorial Day.

Vice Chair Barnes reported a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Department was promoting a Dog Park contest at www.petsafe.net.

10. Public Participation on Agenda Items

There was no public participation on agenda items.

11. Manifest

The board signed the manifest.

At 8:08 p.m. Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to go to non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II (a) (b) (c) with a roll call vote.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

At 8:20 p.m. Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 3-0-0.