

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack Town Hall Meeting Room
June 18, 2012**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call To Order

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

Chairman Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of June 4, 2012 Minutes

Board Member Markwell moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2012 meeting.

Board Member Barnes requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Page 4 of 9, paragraph 1, last sentence should begin with the word “Many”.
- Page 4 of 9, paragraph 4 from the bottom, change the word “were” to “would be”.
- Page 5 of 9, second bullet, change “Manchester” to “Merrimack”
- Page 5 of 9, paragraph 2, should read, “Board Member Barnes asked how many students in total went on the trip and of those how many were enrolled in the Mandarin course at Merrimack High School”.
- Page 5 of 9, last paragraph, correct the spelling of Katie “Correia”.
- Page 6 of 9, paragraph 2, the phrase is “Believe, Go Forward and Inspire”. Also change it in the next paragraph for the third bullet.
- Page 8 of 9, Section 8, correct the spelling of Jody “Vaillancourt”.

Board Member Markwell requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Page 4 of 9, paragraph 8, should read, “Vice Chairman Powell asked if other districts in the State actively use K-9 units”.

Board Member Powell requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Page 3 of 9, under “Searches” should read, “If the search findings indicate the presence of illegal substances, the student(s) will be turned over to the police”.
- Page 4 of 9, paragraph 7, the third sentence should read, “The Town Council wanted to know if there was a problem, could the dog be used”.
- Page 5 of 9, first sentence changed “other” to “another”.

Chairman Ortega requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Page 3 of 9, first sentence under “Overview of what is available with K-9 units”, should read, “Chief Doyle made a presentation regarding the Merrimack Police Department’s policies on use of K-9s to sniff objects for drugs”.
- Page 5 of 9, third bullet, change antidotes to “anecdotes”

- Page 7 of 9, Section 9, paragraph 1, remove the entire paragraph. Replace with “JoAnn Wegman, chairperson of the Pay for Performance Committee introduced members of the committee in attendance. They were Jan Moynihan-Cooney, Deb Fournier and Bill Sawyer.”
- Page 8 of 9, Section 10, first bullet, change “district” to “town”.
- Page 8 of 9, Section 10, paragraph 3, third sentence add “and he volunteered to serve as an alternate to the committee”.

The motion passed 4-0-1 with Board Member Schneider abstaining.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Consent Agenda

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the following nominations for approval:

- Teacher Nominations
 - Katie Cleasby, Physical Education Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School
 - Jennifer Parthum, Physical Education Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Administrator Nomination
 - Jay Gratton, Assistant Principal, James Mastricola Elementary School

Vice Chairman Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

5. A Staff Member’s Thank You

Chairman Ortega introduced Pattie Chapman who has served for 16 years in the Merrimack School District and is retiring this year. She served at the high school as administrative assistant for four years, as a paraeducator at Reeds Ferry Elementary School for five years and administrative assistant at the high school for her last seven years.

Ms. Chapman read a letter of thanks for the support she received during her 16 years of service. She presented Superintendent Chiafery with a plaque for the central office.

Chairman Ortega thanked Ms. Chapman for her years of service and wished her luck on her retirement.

6. Proposed Food Service Technology Upgrade

Business Administrator Shevenell introduced David Dziki, Food Service Director for the Merrimack School District. He added that there is a special revenue fund for food services. If there is a surplus, it goes back into the program for capital items such as computer equipment and anything else needed to make the program run smoothly. Last year the surplus was around \$90,000. This year it is estimated that the surplus will be about \$96,000.

Mr. Dziki reported that there are three computer servers used by food services that are over nine years old and outdated. It will cost approximately \$16,000 to replace the three old computer servers, purchase new hardware and software, do the installation and train the users.

Board Member Schneider asked if there was a service cost breakdown over the years.

Mr. Dziki responded that an update was done previously and some new equipment was brought in for the elementary school computers. It is therefore difficult to calculate the cost breakdown. He added that because the upper elementary school and the high school computers are old, it is almost impossible to get parts for them.

Board Member Barnes asked about the kind of information and communication the servers provide.

Mr. Dziki responded that one server at the office interacts with PowerSchool, which downloads student files. A software upgrade would allow parents the ability to check their child's account.

Board Member Barnes asked if the EZPay program would be integrated.

Mr. Dziki replied that when the software is upgraded, the company providing the upgrade has their own system, which is similar to EZPay. He is in the process of having discussions with the company and Business Administrator Shevenell.

Vice Chairman Powell asked if there would be a savings in labor hours with the new upgrade.

Mr. Dziki answered that the savings in labor hours would be neutral unless something breaks.

Vice Chairman Powell asked where the three servers to be replaced are located.

Mr. Dziki responded the servers to be replaced are located at the upper elementary school and the high school as well as the food services manager's office.

Vice Chairman Powell asked about the age of the servers that are not being replaced.

Mr. Dziki responded that there is still some life left on other school servers since an upgrade was recently done on them.

Chairman Ortega asked if "buy versus lease" was considered.

Mr. Dziki responded that at this point, lease options have not been looked into since there is money in the budget for the new equipment.

Chairman Ortega stated that this matter would be on the consent agenda for the next meeting on July 16.

7. Proposed School Lunch Price Increase

Business Administrator Shevenell explained that there is a proposed price increase in the school lunch program that would keep the district in compliance with the Federal Healthy-Free Kids Act of 2010. A school cannot charge less for paid lunches than the government reimbursement received.

Mr. Dziki explained that we have an average price per lunch of \$2.39. In order to be in compliance for the 2012-2013 school year, the average price for lunch must be \$2.51. Therefore the district is mandated to have a price increase for 2012-2013. Currently we receive \$2.71 for free lunches and \$0.26 for paid lunches.

Mr. Dziki continued by explaining that there are three options to reach this price. Option A is an increase across the board for all the schools for a three year period. Option B is an annual increase in the upper elementary school, the middle school and the high school. Option C is an annual increase in the high school, upper elementary school and middle school.

Board Member Schneider asked what the chances are that within the next three years there could be another price change and change in the law.

Mr. Dziki replied that change is not expected in the next three years.

Board Member Schneider stated that it is harder to lower the cost of something that changes if it has already been set at a higher rate.

Board Member Barnes stated that she was in favor of Option A. She questioned why the prices at the different schools would be different if the portions remained the same size.

Mr. Dziki replied that the reasons the costs are higher at the Upper Elementary School are that it has a larger kitchen, which feeds more students, and the menu is larger with many choices.

Vice Chairman Powell asked why the Federal government reimburses money for paid lunches.

Mr. Dziki replied that the reimbursement for paid lunches (\$0.26) helps with the district budget. The Federal government wants to make sure everyone who is serving paid lunch is charging enough in order to equal the reimbursement for free meals, as part of the Healthy-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Chairman Ortega added that the idea is to provide healthier lunches. He asked about the costs for providing healthy lunches, how the prices are changing and how much of a surplus will continue to be generated.

Mr. Dziki replied that the new regulations are out. Everything is increasing, such as green vegetables, whole grains and fruit.

Vice Chairman Powell asked when the price increase would go into effect.

Mr. Dziki responded that the menu deadline is July 1st, but the Department of Education will accept menus through August.

Vice Chairman Powell stated that he did not understand why there is any increase in cost.

Business Administrator Shevenell responded that there are added costs to the food service program, such as increases in wages as well as increases in the prices for food.

Board Member Markwell asked about the percentage of children who bring lunch to school.

Mr. Dziki replied that the food service program feeds about 60% of all the students in the district.

Board Member Markwell stated that he doesn't care for the Federal government mandating what has to be charged for lunches. He asked what would happen if the parents decide to stop buying lunches because of the cost increase and the students bring lunch instead.

Mr. Dziki responded that a decrease in the number of lunches provided is of concern.

Vice Chairman Powell asked if the board needed to act on this matter and choose either option A, B or C.

Business Administrator Shevenell explained that the administration would like option A, which is an increase straight across the board, and that the proposed price increase in school lunches be put on the next consent agenda.

Board Member Barnes asked about the timing of agreeing to this proposal and choosing either option A, B or C.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that if the consensus of the board is option A, the matter could be on the consent agenda for the next meeting. If there were other opinions, all three options would have to be revisited as an agenda item.

Board Member Markwell stated that he preferred option C

Chairman Ortega asked why option A is for a three-year period.

Business Administrator Shevenell explained that the surplus would probably be declining over the next three years. He added that there still has to be a reserve for other equipment, such as new freezers.

Board Member Schneider asked if the Board were to agree on option A, what would happen if there are changes. He noted that if the amounts were reviewed annually, changes could be made without any problems. He believed that people would like to see increases in smaller increments.

Mr. Dziki responded that, in his opinion, it makes more sense to do an across the board increase, looking at a three year projection and then putting it to rest for three years.

Board Member Barnes stated that the breakdown would be \$0.25 per day for 5 days equaling \$1.25 per child per week increase in cost. She stated that school lunches might be the most nutritious meal a student receives in a whole day. In her opinion, Option A gives "wobble room" so that healthier ingredients can be used.

Chairman Ortega stated that recognizing there is not consensus to put this matter on the consent agenda, it would appear as a separate item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Board Member Barnes asked if the two-week rule needed to be waived.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that because this matter has been raised, hopefully a vote could be taken at the July 16th meeting, which is within the two-week rule.

Board Member Barnes stated that she would like to see the differential in cost between the average of fresh, frozen or canned vegetables.

Board Member Schneider questioned if the increase was for the first year only, would the district still be in compliance.

8. Town Center Committee Updates

Tracy Bull, liaison to the Town Center Committee, presented an update on the Trails Master Plan and the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan. Highlights included:

- Ms. Bull gave a brief history on “how did we get here”.
 - In 2008 the Town’s Economic Citizen’s Advisory Committee (EDCAC) convened a subcommittee to undertake an iTRaC project with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC). The iTRaC program is designed to assist communities with sustaining their community character and in fostering a sense of place, while addressing challenges like growth and development by integrating transportation, land use, and environmental planning.
 - In late 2009 the iTRaC subcommittee published the Merrimack Town Center Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan, which was accepted by the EDCAC and the Town Council. A permanent Town Center Committee was formed, which was designed to implement the projects outline within the report.
- Trails Master Plan
 1. Connect Watson Park on the western side of DW Highway to the area on the other side of the road near the fire department by traveling underneath the bridge known as the “sluicesway”.
 2. Develop a trail system along the northerly side of the Souhegan River from the fire station west to join with the trail under the Everett Turnpike at Merrill’s Marauders Bride.
 3. Design and construct a trail leaving Watson Park and the old railroad bridge over Baboosic Brook towards the Merrimack River. This is not the primary focus, although it may be included, since all three are interrelated.
 - Recently the Town Center Committee (TCC) received a presentation from Lelia Mellen of the National Parks Service (NPS) regarding the Rivers, and the Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, which assists in trails design and seeking grants for funding.
 - The Town Center Committee is developing the application necessary to form a liaison with the NPS, which is due August 1, 2012. The committee requests the aid of the school board in providing a letter of support, expressing an awareness of the project and its benefits to the community. If approved on the July consent agenda, there would still be sufficient time to receive the letter in order to complete and submit the application.

Chairman Ortega agreed that a letter of support to liaison with the NPS would be in order and that if there were no objections it would be placed on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Board Member Barnes asked about the canal still being viable at the present time, since the project was not completed in 2010, which was the estimated completion date.

Ms. Bull explained that a short-term action plan was put in place, which would have to be changed at some point to change the deadline date.

Board Member Barnes asked if the priority list (1,2,3) is still in the same order.

Ms. Bull responded that for the most part, the list is in the same order.

- Safe Routes to School Travel Plan Task Force
 - On May 29, 2012, the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan (SRTS) Task Force met to receive a presentation from Mr. John Corrigan, who heads up the SRTS program for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT). Highlights included:
 - In recent decades the number of private vehicles on roads has increased dramatically, as has the number of school children being privately transported to school.
 - SRTS is not specifically designed to reduce the number of school buses.
 - 2009 data demonstrates that nearly 1/3 of New Hampshire school children are considered to be overweight.
 - 2009 data also demonstrates that some 10% of US health care costs are attributable to issues related to obesity, to the tune of some \$147 billion dollars.
 - The primary issues preventing more families from allowing students to walk or bike to school relate to concerns surrounding traffic accidents, bullying and violence, etc. Therefore most parents seek motorized means of transportation.
 - The committee's grant application has undergone initial review in April. There is now an updated grant application form. There is also a new NH DOT requirement for an employee of the applicant party to receive LPA training and three-year certification on the Local Public Agency Manual for the Development of Projects.
 - It is expected that the grant application should be approved.

The next committee meeting will be September 18, 2012.

Chairman Ortega thanked Ms. Bull for her factual and data-driven presentation.

Board Member Markwell stated that he disagreed with some of the data presented by Ms. Bull. He added that he doesn't think putting in sidewalks would be a savings to the district, and that most children don't even want to take the bus to school. Those children who do take the bus want to be picked up at their doorsteps.

Ms. Bull responded that the data presented was from Mr. Corrigan based on National information. It was not specific to Merrimack. She added that local data was not yet in place.

Board Member Markwell stated that in his opinion, sidewalks could be put in, but he did not think that the problem would be alleviated.

Ms. Bull responded that the obligation of the grant is that parents and teachers are educated. There will be meetings with parent-teacher groups in the future. Right now the committee is talking about a travel plan, not an infrastructure or creation.

Board Member Schneider asked how far Mr. Corrigan's scope of looking at the Mastricola area was.

Ms. Bull responded that it was about a two-mile radius.

9. First Review of Revised Policy

Superintendent Chiafery introduced Peter Bergeron, Assistant Principal at Merrimack High School and Bill Morris, Assistant Principal at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School. They are co-chairs of the Merrimack Attendance Task Force, which is a very pro-active committee. She explained that the guidelines come from the Department of Education, the New Hampshire School Board Association's

model policy is reviewed. The Department of Education is researched for the laws and the Administrative code. Sister districts were contacted to see what they have done. Finally, the parent-teachers group was asked for their input on the policy.

Assistant Principal Bergeron stated that he believes the new Attendance Policy will create awareness between parents and students.

Assistant Principal Bergeron, Assistant Principal Morris and Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin read the Proposed School Board Attendance Policy.

Board Member Markwell asked if a parent wishes to bring their child to work for Bring A Child To Work Day, would it be an excused absence.

Assistant Principal Bergeron replied that it would be an excused absence.

Assistant Principal Morris added that the policy speaks to being able to make the determination between excused and unexcused absences.

Board Member Markwell asked who makes up the truancy team.

Assistant Principal Morris replied that at the upper elementary school the team is made up of several people including, but not limited to, the assistant principal, school nurse, guidance counselor, behavior specialist, and truancy officer.

Assistant Principal Bergeron added that at the high school the teachers and parents might be included as well.

Assistant Principal Morris added that the members of the team are designated on a case-by-case basis.

Board Member Barnes asked if a student who attended a family trip that may present an educational opportunity, would the student lose credit for the missed classes.

Assistant Principal Bergeron replied that it would show up as an absence, but it would not be counted as truancy.

Board Member Barnes asked if PowerSchool is being used to track absences.

Assistant Principal Bergeron stated that there are more than seven codes in the high school for truancy. One of the goals of the committee is to be consistent among every school. He added that even though PowerSchool is not specifically mentioned in the policy, the information will be provided.

Board Member Schneider asked that if a student is 18 years old, would a parent/guardian be required to be in the conversation regarding the student's absentee status.

Assistant Principal Bergeron replied that a parent/guardian is responsible for the student, even at the age of 18.

Board Member Schneider asked if the number of days for truancy (5 full days) is the same throughout the state.

Assistant Principal Morris stated that the present state law states that when a student has ten half-days or five full days of unexcused absences, the student is considered truant.

Board Member Schneider asked if there are any provisions made for extended excused absences when work has to be made up.

Assistant Principal Bergeron explained that each school makes arrangements to provide instructional help for making up the missed work.

Board Member Schneider made the observation that implementation of this policy is key and that he hopes that implementation between all the schools is consistent. He added that implementation might be the harder challenge than the policy itself.

Vice Chairman Powell asked if the driving force behind the changes were due to an update of the current policy or changes in the RSAs.

Superintendent Chiafery explained that there have been changes in the RSA's as well as changes in the state guidelines. The policy has to be in compliance for the schools to be approved by the Department of Education.

Vice Chairman Powell asked if the ten half days or five full days of unexcused absences have to be consecutive absences or cumulative absences in order to be considered truant.

Assistant Principal Morris responded that the law does not define it specifically, but it is considered that the truant days are cumulative, not consecutive.

Vice Chairman Powell stated that now the attend/fail bar at the high school is ten unexcused absences per semester to be in danger of attendance failure. He asked if the new guidelines would change the bar of the high school attendance to ten per year.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that this was not discussed, but it does sound logical.

Assistant Principal Bergeron agreed that it is an aggressive policy, but it speaks to school officials working with families who have difficulty with their child attending school.

Vice Chairman Powell stated that sometimes there is confusion between excused absences and unexcused absences.

Assistant Principal Morris explained that the "spirit of the policy is to be supportive, not to be punitive".

Chairman Ortega asked about the child who is one and a half hours late, or who misses one and a half hours of selected periods, which is less than the "unexcused" time to be considered truant. Since this is not addressed in the policy, he asked how it should be handled.

Vice Principal Bergeron stated that there needs to be conversations with the parents regarding this possible problem.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that this should be taken under advisement at the meeting on July 16.

Chairman Ortega asked in what event does the Principal or his/her designee request further information.

Vice Principal Morris responded that when there is a pattern of excessive absences, additional documentation might be required.

Board Member Markwell asked if the Principal or his/her designee has the final say on truancy issues. He also asked what would happen if the parents disagree with the principal's decision. He suggested that the policy should state that if there is a disagreement, the matter can be brought to the Superintendent and/or the school board.

Assistant Principal Bergeron responded that the policy states that the parents can appeal the decision.

Superintendent Chiafery explained that, as in all the policies, it does not specifically state that the appeal process goes to the superintendent and/or the school board. She added that just about anything could be appealed.

Vice Chairman Powell asked if this new policy is going to be implemented in the school year 2012-2013.

Superintendent Chiafery answered that the policy will go into effect this year, because that is what the RSA dictates. The next review will be July 18th with final approval at the August 13th meeting. A special booklet containing the policy will be printed. In future years the policy will become part of the student handbook.

Assistant Principal Morris explained that in the first year of the committee, about 40 people came together, shared research, brainstormed, and highlighted interventions. A smaller task force was formed which looked at proven strategies that help in supporting good attendance.

Assistant Principal Bergeron stated that goals of the committee were consistent with the attendance letters and common intervention practices.

10. Request for Joint Meeting with Town Council and Possible Discussion Topics

Chairman Ortega reported that he received correspondence from Thomas Mahon, Chairman of the Town Council requesting a joint meeting between the Town Council and the School Board. Chairman Ortega stated that he was looking for board direction whether or not to begin the discussions with the Town Council.

Input from the board included:

- Board Member Barnes stated that she has three areas of concern. They are O'Gara Drive (the tennis courts and recreation area), Grater Woods (The Memo of Understanding) and Merrimack Safeguard (the new grant application).
- Board Member Schneider expressed that ongoing communication between the School Board and the Town Council is significant. He would like to see this occur and have it continue.
- Board Member Markwell thought the tennis courts and skate park were already addressed. He questioned who is responsible for maintenance of these. He added that he would like discussions with the Town Council on a single polling place in Merrimack to continue.
- Vice Chairman Powell added that he would like to see a joint meeting with the Council and the board at least bi-annually. As far as the tennis courts, he felt the situation needs to be looked at again, and if the Town Council is responsible, they need to hold their feet to the fire.
- Board Member Barnes stated that the issues regarding the tennis courts and recreation area are far from being satisfied.

Chairman Ortega stated that at this time he would reach out to the Town Council Chairman and the Town Manager to schedule a meeting. He will wait until September to begin the meeting process.

Board Member Markwell stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee are on board with the skate park, adding that the Town Council does not have complete insight on the matter. He suggested that the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee be invited to the joint meeting when it is scheduled.

11. Board's Response to Chief Doyle's Presentation Regarding Drug Screening Measures

Chairman Ortega stated that at the last meeting Chief Doyle gave a very informative and comprehensive presentation regarding the alternative drug screening methods of the Merrimack Police Department. He asked the board if they heard anything in the presentation that would necessitate changing the approach to drug screening in the high school.

Board Member Barnes stated that the "door should be left open". She stated that there should be a policy, not to request the use of a K-9 in the high school to search for drugs, but to authorize the Superintendent to request a search if there is just cause and come to the board if such a case arises. It would give power to those who know when it would be appropriate.

Chairman Ortega stated that he observed and heard that nothing has changed as it relates to changing the drug screening process. He also stated that when changing a process that it is not to be done in haste as to not endanger the environment of trust between the administration, the students and the school resource officer. If conditions change there would need to be a cooperative effort in looking at all the aspects associated with them.

Board Member Barnes stated that she felt the Superintendent should make the changes if the need arises, and notify the board. She added that she did not think that anything had to be done right now.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she has great trust that the school resource officer and high school administration are dealing with the students on a daily basis. She added that she felt that if a change were in order, she would come to the board and tell them to educate the students on drug screening measures. She also stated that she was concerned about entrapment or surprising the students. The trust with the students could be jeopardized. She felt it is important to let the students share and communicate.

Vice Chairman Powell stated that he did not hear anything about a necessary change or an education piece from Chief Doyle's presentation. He added that there is a tool available if necessary. The ways things are being done now are sufficient.

Board Member Markwell said that he has not seen or heard about any major drug problem currently in the high school. He emphasized that if the K-9 unit were to be used, he hoped that it would be a surprise to the student(s) involved. He added that the students should know that there is a tool that can be used and that they didn't need to know about it to make it an effective tool.

Board Member Schneider stated that he has had experience with people in other districts with K-9 units and agrees with Board Member Markwell that the element of surprise is necessary. He also stated that he is a firm believer that the trust issue is major.

Chairman Ortega stated that it appeared that the board saw no reason to change things, and that the situation will continue to be monitored. At the same time, there will be a continuation to build the bridge of trust in the high school between the students, the administration and the school resource officer.

12. Update on Summer Maintenance Projects

Business Administrator Shevenell provided an update on the following summer maintenance projects.

Reeds Ferry Paving: There is a certain amount of site work that needs to be done. The project will start June 19, 2012. After the site work is done, Continental Paving will complete the job.

Asbestos Removal at the High School: A 24,000 square feet of asbestos needs to be removed from the first and second floors. The work will be done the week of June 18, 2012.

James Masticola Elementary School Roof: The project went out for bid. The cost will be within the budget. Hopefully the work will start this week or next week.

13. Other

- Correspondence

- Chairman Ortega reported that an e-mail was received from a parent regarding an issue on the school bus.
- Chairman Ortega reported that correspondence was received regarding school internet access.
- Chairman Ortega reported that an e-mail was received from a parent regarding the absentee policy.
- Board Member Barnes received correspondence from a parent in regards to improving communication between parents and the administration.

- Comments

- Superintendent Chiafery noted that Valerie Nigg, an 11th grade student at Merrimack High School, won a \$5,000 History Channel Award in Washington, DC. Her topic was the Korean War.
- Chairman Ortega congratulated Student Representative Yates on his recent graduation. He noted that Student Representative Yates is the first student representative to continue to serve his obligation to the School Board after graduation.
- Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin reported on the district's partnership with Southern New Hampshire University. There is a cohort of 32 teachers in the district who will be the first Merrimack cohort to take advantage of the leadership program.

14. New Business

Board Member Barnes reported that House Bill CACR-12 did not pass the legislature and therefore the district does not have to be concerned about it.

Superintendent Chiafery announced that the District Logic Model meeting would be held on June 21st.

15. Committee Reports

- Board Member Schneider attended the Professional Development meeting. In general they are looking for approval among the members to have some training on Office 2010, Excel and Photo Shop.

- Board Member Schneider reported that he and Board Member Markwell attended a Budget Committee Meeting on the June 6th. He announced that there is a vacancy on the committee which will be announced to the public in the next few weeks. Other items discussed were:
 - The suggestion of streamlining the budget process by compressing the schedule to realize efficiency and avoid duplication.
 - The committee suggested a joint budget workshop for department reviews. Board Member Schneider suggested that the budget committee's proposal on the budget review process be put on the agenda for the August 13th meeting invite the chair and vice chair of the budget committee to attend. Chairman Ortega said that it would be on the agenda for the August 13th meeting.
 - The next meeting of the budget committee is August 28, 2012. The bulk of the meeting will be how the committee wants to shape itself, since there was an edict from the town that there has to be a change
- Board Member Markwell attend the June 6th meeting of the Healthcare Cost Committee. A presentation was made on the Smart Shopper Pilot Program by Rob Grabel who proposed that individuals having major medical procedures can "shop around" for the best price between network doctors. If the patient does shop around and finds the least expensive cost, the patient will receive a cash reward. Board Member Markwell made a presentation to the committee on public sector rates compared to private rates with regards to deductibles and health care costs.

Board Member Markwell attended the Planning and Building Committee on June 11, 2012. Areas of discussion were the track and field, narrowing down the cost and maintenance of artificial turf and the replacement costs once the artificial turf was installed. There was also discussion about a missing plaque at the high school and a space utilization survey.

Chairman Ortega asked Board Member Markwell if the Planning and Building Committee discussed the target for updating the projections of the artificial turf project and bring these projections to the board.

Board Member Markwell stated that he didn't recall any specific data. He assumed the committee wanted to have better figures for the maintenance cost.

Chairman Ortega attended the Master Plan Steering Committee on June 12, 2012. Discussions centered around updates on housing, natural resources and open space. He added that most of topics addressed had little relevance to the school board. The dates for upcoming meetings are July 31st, August 28th, September 18th, and October 9th.

16. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

17. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

At 10:15 p.m. Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.