

**Special Merrimack School Board Meeting
March 3, 2011
Merrimack High School**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Vaillancourt, Vice Chairman Thornton, Board Members Swonger, and Barnes, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, Business Administrator Shevenell and Student Representative McLavey.

1. Call To Order

Chairman Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Vaillancourt announced that Board Member Ortega would not be in attendance due to his travel schedule.

Superintendent Chiafery requested a moment of silence in memory of Judy Volner, a paraeducator in the District for the last eighteen years.

Chairman Vaillancourt expressed condolences to her family, friends, and the school community.

2. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

3. Proposed Budget Modifications for a Probable School Board Amendment to the Proposed School District Budget for 2011-2012

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that according to the Governor's proposed budget the Merrimack School District stands to lose approximately \$2.3 million in state funding in budget year 2011-2012. She reported that the District could lose \$1 million in catastrophic aid and \$300,000 in building aid both of which are considered revenue for the District. She identified the proposed revenue reductions as phase one.

Chairman Vaillancourt noted that at the February 28, 2011 meeting the Board directed the administration to create a proposal that would reduce the 2011-2012 budget by an additional \$500,000. The Board asked that the proposed cuts be sustainable for the next few years.

Chairman Vaillancourt reported that there was the potential that the District would have an increase in expenditures. One example was the anticipation of having to pay an additional \$1 million to the New Hampshire Retirement System. She identified the potential increase in expenditures as phase two. Phase two will be addressed at a later date.

Chairman Vaillancourt explained that the amount of the budget prior to the deliberative session is approximately \$65 million. The actual funding amounts from the State of New Hampshire won't be known until June. She explained that increases in expenditures will prompt additional reductions to the 2011-2012 budget.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that the District is obligated to notify staff of contract renewals during the month of April. She explained that pink slips would most likely be given to staff in anticipation of

another \$1 million impact to the budget as a result of the New Hampshire Retirement System contribution. Should the increase in expenditures not occur then there is the possibility that contracts could be issued.

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that it is the Board's desire to have the budget reduced by \$500,000 at the deliberative session. She explained that a School Board member, acting as an individual, would make a motion to reduce the budget by \$500,000.

Board Member Swonger clarified that a reduction to the budget at the deliberative session would adjust the bottom line of the budget, not a specific line item(s).

Superintendent Chiafery noted that her recommendations were based on input from members of the Board and the Leadership Team.

Superintendent Chiafery presented the Board with proposed reductions to the 2011-2012 in the amount of \$500,959.76.

The areas affected by the proposed budget reductions included:

- Athletic Supplies
- Co-Curricular Supplies
- Furniture
- Field Trips
- Instructional Support/Contracted Service/District Wide
- Substitutes
- Maintenance Overtime
- Reduction-in-Force
 - 1 Library Assistant Position at MHS
 - .5 Administrative Assistant Position at MHS
 - 6 Paraeducator Positions (one from each school)
 - .5 Kindergarten Instructional Aid Position at MES
 - .5 Kindergarten Teacher Position at MES
 - 2 School Psychologist Positions (one position will become a contracted service)

Each Board member individually affirmed support for Superintendent Chiafery's proposed reductions.

Board Member Barnes requested that the proposed cuts be rounded up to the amount of \$501,000.

Chairman Vaillancourt thanked Student Representative McLavey for her attendance at recent meetings and for communicating information to high school students.

4. Public Comments

There was no public participation.

At 8:25 p.m. Vice Chairman Thornton moved (seconded by Board Member Swonger) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 4-0-0.