

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
May 16, 2016
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Schneider, Board Members Guagliumi, Powell and Thompson, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell and Student Representative Marcus.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Patriotic Song

Band and chorus students from James Mastricola Upper Elementary School played and sang the Star Spangled Banner to open the meeting.

3. Formal Signing of Master Agreement Between the Merrimack Teachers Association and Merrimack School Board

Chair Barnes and Mike Cirelli, Merrimack Teachers Association President signed the Master Agreement presented to them by Superintendent Chiafery. The Master Agreement will be in place for the next three school years.

4. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

5. Focus on James Mastricola Upper Elementary School - A Year in Review

Chair Barnes invited Principal Marsha McGill, Assistant Principal Bill Morris, Educators and Students to the table.

Principal McGill opened her remarks by stating that the district focus on inquiry will be demonstrated through the Unified Arts Program for this presentation. The Unified Arts Program is comprised of music, art, physical education, World Languages French and Spanish, and technology.

The music program includes band, chorus and music classes. Ms. Saranita teaches the band classes, emphasizing performance standards, and Mr. Moore teaches chorus and music classes. All classes are taught based on national music standards.

Grade five band students learned how to read music, pitch and rhythm by composing their own songs. Grade five music students created band instruments out of everyday objects.

Art educator Tracy Gruber and students Riley Hodge, Hollie Matthes and Gavin Clark shared the story of the large mosaic that now welcomes visitors to the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School. The mosaic was created under the direction of artist-in-residence Joshua Winer over two school years.

Mr. Winer began by visiting the school and asking students and staff what was important about their school. During art classes students brainstormed and generated images that were important to them or symbolized JMUES as a whole. Mr. Winer then took these ideas and combined them into an overall design. During the same time frame Mr. Winer taught the sixth graders how to make clay tile leaves. Students began with lumps of clay that they created, shaped, painted and fired in a kiln.

This year the actual mosaic was created with every student participating. Students cut the glass tiles and learned how to blend colors to reflect movement. The final design reflects the idea “Every day is a fine day for learning at JMUES”. The mosaic depicts the JMUES jaguar overseeing readers, writers, artists, movers and dreamers.

When asked by Principal McGill to share what they most enjoyed about the project, Gavin enjoyed cutting and placing the tiles so they fit like a puzzle, Holly liked cutting the piece to fit perfectly and stepping back to imagine the final result, and Riley liked how different parts of the class were working on separate sections and envisioning how they would come together. Gavin demonstrated tile cutting. Holly demonstrated the process used to create the clay leaves. Riley explained imprinting on the clay tiles.

Art educator Gruber shared that over three years of art classes were involved in the mural process.

Riley invited the public to the upcoming Art Show scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the school.

Physical education teacher Mr. Rick Greenier spoke about the importance of movement to a healthy life and the traditional sports and activities outside of the classroom such as the Harvest 3K, International Walk to School day and intramural sports. Non-traditional sports offered are rock climbing, slacklining, yoga and cup stacking. Hip-hop dance was highlighted through a demonstration for the audience by students Gabriella Brown, Madison Bergeron, MacKayla Charles-Yule, Madison Dwyer, Mia Centrella and Julianna Brown.

French teacher Ms. Danielle Dunn and Spanish teacher Ms. Marisa Harper came to the table with some of their students. Brothers Ajay and Ajith George and Andrew Winters welcomed the audience to their presentation using formal and conversational French and Spanish.

Ms. Harper and Ms. Dunn then shared the two essential questions of the curriculum. They are:

1. How does language change in different situations?
2. How does the culture of a country influence one’s identity?

Ms. Harper stated that the challenge in learning a second language is that the first language has a broader vocabulary than the second language.

These questions were addressed through student generated skits on formal and informal conversation involving props, planning a vacation trip, recipes, and music.

Once they had learned some vocabulary, Spanish students Crystal and Sarah created and demonstrated a formal conversation and students Aubrey and Grace an informal conversation.

Fifth grade students plan a destination vacation using technology and library resources to look at the costs involved.

In sixth grade students enjoy learning about foods from Spanish cultures. Student Gavin Kurdek shared how he learned about a Chilean holiday drink similar to eggnog. Making different recipes helped him to understand more about the lifestyles of the people of Chile.

French teacher Ms. Dunn shared that students travel the world through music. Students created and performed their own French rap song incorporating vocabulary from their units.

Students Olivia, Andrew and Ajith came to the table to inform the School Board members that they had prepared some treats for them. French class students prepared strawberry crepes and Spanish class students prepared quesadillas.

Technology educator Mr. Adam Goodman began by noting that the PowerPoint slides were created using Office 365 and that all of the Unified Arts teachers collaborated on the creation of the presentation.

Mr. Goodman asked the tech inquiry questions of:

1. What do I want the computer to do?
2. How can I get it to do what I want?

Mr. Goodman teaches students to answer these questions through the concepts of “Explore, Explore, Explore!”, “Take your mouse for a walk...” and “Make Mistakes!”

Questioning is a key component to the technology curriculum. Students questioned an online baseball math game and learned about probability, percentages, data collection, graphing, and creating formulas in spreadsheets.

Computer Programming has increased with the “Hour of Code” through Code.org code, “Scratch” an MIT created website, and “Dot and Dash” the mini robots. During the Smarter Balanced testing week, students programmed Dot and Dash to pass a driving test, bowl and play music.

Students Chase, Rachel and Luke explained and demonstrated how they had created an obstacle course for their robots. They had to create a program using their coding skills. Rachel spoke about the challenges the faced and how they overcame them. Luke spoke about the importance to the team that they solve the problems and complete the challenge.

Mr. Goodman shared that he and JMUES librarian Sharon Silva worked together and brought a Google representative to the school to introduce a pilot program titled “Expeditions Pioneer Program”. This is a virtual reality platform built for the classroom using Google cardboard, similar to the old viewmaster concept. Students assisted School Board members in testing out

the Google cardboard while Mr. Goodman noted some of the virtual field trips students enjoyed using the Google cardboards.

Principal McGill and Assistant Principal Morris returned to the table to answer any questions.

Board Member Powell appreciated Mr. Goodman's encouraging students to make mistakes while learning.

Student Representative Marcus remarked that the two fundamental questions in the World Language classes were represented on his Advanced Placement exam recently.

Board Member Guagliumi shared that she saw the mosaic recently and that it is very impressive.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that the band's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner was also excellent.

Chair Barnes noted the challenge of bringing three elementary schools into one school for a two-year experience and lauded the students and staff for the successful outcomes.

Chair Barnes then shared that Reeds Ferry Elementary School Art teacher Mrs. Donovan-Olson was named the Art educator of the Year for the State of New Hampshire and that Thorntons Ferry Elementary School was named the Elementary School of the Year for the State of New Hampshire.

All of the Board Members individually thanked the presenters.

6. Merrimack Village District Update on the PFOA Water Situation

Chair Barnes invited Merrimack Village District (MVD) representative Ron Minor and Mike Metcalf of Underwood Engineers to the table. She referred to a list of questions he had been provided prior to the meeting.

Chair Barnes question: What is the position of the MVD regarding PFOA (perflourooctanoic acid) counts in the water? We have constituents (and board members for that matter) who feel anything over 0 is unacceptable.

Response from Mr. Minor: The MVD is within current mandatory limits but the wells are being managed to reduce the PFOA within the system. PFOA is prevalent in many other systems. Anything under 10 can be considered background per the Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Response from Mr. Metcalf: There is no such thing as zero PFOA per the DES. He noted that PFOA is prevalent in our food packaging, clothes, and home goods. PFOA has even been found near polar bears.

Chair Barnes question: What is in place to filter any contaminants in the water that is delivered?

Response from Mr. Minor: Currently there is no filtration in place for PFOA. An engineering study he had received that day outlined the cost of an installment of treatment of PFOA. At this time it is unknown who would pay for the plan which is estimated at approximately \$900,000.00.

Response from Mr. Metcalf: It was his company that provided the study. He explained that it included two scenarios. One for the expedient treatment of the wells closest to Saint Gobain; and another to plan to combine PFOA filtration with the recently completed manganese and iron filtration system.

Chair Barnes question: What options are in place to eliminate contaminants beyond what is in place now?

Response from Mr. Minor: The MVD is currently evaluating different treatment options, utilizing the wells so as to put out as little PFOA as possible, and a possibility for the future would be a Pennichuck connector. All of these options cost money.

Chair Barnes question: Why do different schools read different PFOA levels if all waters are combined before being redistributed?

Response from Mr. Minor: The wells are in different locations in the town and the demand impacts the mix.

Response from Mr. Metcalf: The wells all pump into a tank. On the way to the tank they might be diverted to individual users.

Board Member Thompson asked what the MVD position is on PFOA numbers. He alluded to Mr. Metcalf's statement on how PFOA is everywhere and noted that their use has now been banned.

Mr. Minor responded that the MVD is currently compiling information to bring to the rate payers.

Board Member Thompson was concerned about the slow response rate to the situation.

Board Member Thompson's question: Where is the MVD in regards to discussions on filters being supplied/paid for by Saint Gobain? Have there been any discussions? Is there a timeline for installation? Does the MVD plan to move forward with filters if Saint Gobain will not pay for them?

Response from Mr. Minor: Discussions with Saint Gobain in regards to the private wells affected have happened.

Response from Mr. Metcalf: Standards vary and the only regulatory standard available currently is the provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion. EPA is being pressured to create standards.

Board Member Thompson's question: When was well 4 (if I have the right number) taken off line? What has been the historic supply of water for the 24 months prior to taking the well off line? If I recall correctly it was stated it was taken off line due to demand. I think it would be beneficial to understand that demand that led to this position.

Response from Mr. Minor: It has been off for over a year now. Wells 4 and 5 are combined and are used for high demand times. Demand was low so it was shut off to let the aquifer recharge.

The well was not shut off due to PFOA's. In 2014 testing showed a reading of 42 parts per trillion and six months later a reading of non-detect.

Board Member Guagliumi's question: I understand that the products that Saint Gobain used that has contributed or caused the PFOA in the water have been discontinued some time ago. Is it likely that the PFOA in the water was much higher several years ago?

Response from Mr. Metcalf: The performance compounds that were eliminated have been replaced by other similar products and as of this date there is no data on their health impacts. It seems that aerial contamination is the cause of PFOA's.

Board Member Guagliumi's question: Is it expected that PFOA levels in the drinking water could be higher at certain times, i.e. post heavy rains, snow melting, etc...?

Response from Mr. Metcalf: Those questions are currently being asked by DES.

Board Member Guagliumi's question: Since there is nothing we can do about past exposure, I am most interested in the safety of the water in the schools moving forward. What are all options in minimizing/eliminating PFOA from the drinking water from the schools and/or public access regardless of reasonability? What is the most likely plan of action for the future, or when and how will that be determined? What are short term and long term plans for reducing/eliminating; and monitoring, and how will this information be communicated to the SD and the public?

Response from Mr. Metcalf: He and Mr. Minor had just come from a board meeting where Mr. Metcalf presented the report.

Response from Mr. Minor: Treatment options are also being examined. Personal home treatment options range from an expensive whole house filtration systems to Brita water filters. The DES website has a list of options.

Response from Mr. Metcalf: If the standard comes out at 100 parts per trillion, will the district be happy with just meeting the standard?

Superintendent Chiafery asked about the \$900,000.00 temporary treatment option and how long it would take to implement such a system.

Mr. Metcalf responded that a design-build concept would allow the process to be shortened to a minimum of three months. This avoids the municipal bidding process.

Board Member Thompson reiterated his displeasure at the slow pace of MVD's progress and asked why they have not requested funds from Saint Gobain for a temporary solution.

Board Member Guagliumi's question: When was the MVD made aware of this issue and when was the SD first notified? What's the procedure for keeping the town and SD aware of any significant contaminants (PFOA or otherwise) that may affect the safety of our drinking water?

Response from Mr. Minor: DES notified the MVD about the Saint Gobain testing and also provided a press release. A mailing will go out to MVD customers containing the results to date and treatment options.

Assistant Superintendent for Business shared that he first learned of the situation when he was contacted by the media looking for a response. The district took the proactive step to have the water tested at Reeds Ferry Elementary School.

Board Member Guagliumi asked Mr. Minor to please notify the school board with any future impacts to the water supply.

Board Member Powell noted that the Merrimack School District is one of the largest MVD customers and agreed with Board Member Guagliumi's request. He asked that the school board concerns be passed along to the MVD Board of Commissioners.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if investing in the recommended carbon filters would filter contaminants other than PFOA.

Mr. Metcalf responded that a rush to implement a solution for one compound when there might be other compounds as yet unknown without more investigation. He also clarified that there have been talks with Saint Gobain and MVD from the start of the situation.

Board Member Thompson asked for clarification on the talks with Saint Gobain.

Mr. Minor responded that the MVD, the town and Saint Gobain met for a general discussion about the next steps for Saint Gobain to take to manage the situation.

Board Member Thompson requested that MVD hold talks concurrently with Saint Gobain on managing the situation and financial reimbursement to the town for steps the town takes to implement solutions.

Chair Barnes thanked Mr. Minor and Mr. Metcalf for attending and providing answers to the school board members questions. She suggested the possibility of a collaboration between the MVD and the Merrimack High School chemistry students. She then noted that this is the beginning of a long-term dialogue between the school board and the MVD. She welcomes further data as it becomes available.

7. Discussion about the Planning and Building Committee Charge

Chair Barnes invited Rich Hendricks to the table. Mr. Hendricks addressed each charge individually.

Charge #1 reads:

The District's Capital Improvement Plan contains a field replacement project for the artificial turf at the Merrimack High School. The project represents a large capital expenditure and the Board is interested in exploring the possibility of defraying the cost of the project through private contributions and/or potential sponsorships. To best inform its decision making for the project the School Board charges the Planning and Building Committee to explore and report to the Board on the following:

- *Of surrounding districts that have implemented artificial fields, how were they funded? Taxpayer, private, sponsorship?*
- *Did those districts that accepted sponsorships need to implement specific policies? If so, please provide the board with those policies.*

- *What were the lessons learned in these districts around the funding of the projects?*
- *What were the lessons learned in these districts around the move to turf? Maintenance, use, additional revenue through usage fees?*

Timing: September 2016

Mr. Hendricks requested that Superintendent Chiafery contact the area Athletic Directors to alert them that members of the Planning and Building Committee would be contacting them for a visit.

Mr. Hendricks then referenced a full report from the Planning and Building Committee that was presented to the School Board on March 20, 2012 in which the track was addressed. He read from that report and noted that it will be used a basis for further investigation. He noted that there are criteria for naming rights for facilities.

Charge #2 reads:

The replacement of the field at Merrimack High School with artificial turf is driven not from any deficiency in the field itself, but rather to get more use of the field. Grass fields require rest and cannot be utilized under certain weather conditions, e.g. snow and extreme rain. The Town of Merrimack has a noted rectangular field shortage. Converting the Merrimack High School to turf would extend the hours of play that this parcel would support. That said, it is an expensive project. The District owns two properties that might also support playing fields. There is a 13 acre parcel on Continental Boulevard and a 40 acre property on Baboosic Lake Road. The former is designated to be transferred to the Town of Merrimack if a south fire station warrant passes. Additionally there may be unutilized space on developed District property (e.g. Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, Merrimack Middle School) that might support playing fields. To best inform its decision making related to playing fields, the School Board charges the Planning and Building Committee to explore and report to the Board on each of its properties the following information:

- *Is the property suitable for playing field development and the necessary parking?*
- *If so, how many fields might be placed on the property?*
- *If so, what are the rough estimates for converting the properties to playing fields (grass/turf)?*

Timing: February 2017 (The board requests quarterly progress updates.)

Mr. Hendricks noted a 55 page report from about six years ago that rated all of the fields in town. He made general comments on the results, noting that the 40 acre Baboosic site is not in this report. The Baboosic site has no access to irrigation, electricity and will increase traffic and noise for abutting homeowners.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if the land is flat enough for field placement and was told that needs to be determined. He also noted that the land on Continental Boulevard is available to the need for a future fire station but the school board is not bound to this option.

Board Member Powell stated that what the school board is asking for is hard data to back up the decisions to be made.

Charge #3

The lease between the Merrimack School District and the Town of Merrimack on the district owned property of roughly three acres on O’Gara Drive expires in July 2018. Currently the Town provides a basketball court, skateboard park, and ice skating rink on the property. The tennis courts there are to be removed and returned to green space. To best inform its decision making for the property’s disposition the School Board charges the Planning and Building Committee to examine and report to the Board on the following:

- *What needs exist with the District that might be met by this property? While it might be self-evident, it should be stated: some of these uses might have utility and be a benefit to Merrimack residents more broadly. For example, the high school track is not used by just the school track team, but also by joggers and walkers of all ages from Merrimack. The same might be the case with identified uses of the O’Gara property.*
- *Do these needs align or overlap with existing uses of the property (e.g. basketball, skate park, ice rink)?*
- *What are the current usage metrics and operation hours for the facilities? What are the proposed usage metrics and operation hours for the proposed usage of the property?*
- *Is this site a suitable or preferable location for the planned Central Office/SAU building?*

Note: The Board recognizes there is some question about the sub layer of this property and has committed to engaging an engineering study to assess suitability.

Timing: July 2017 (The board requests quarterly progress updates.)

Mr. Hendricks stated that the Planning and Building Committee is formally requesting Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to obtain for their use; a complete geological report on the O’Gara Drive property being considered for use by the district, including potential new sites for the new administration building or for other athletic uses for the district. It is to please include a soil report on exactly what the ledge covers and what exact areas.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that in order to provide Mr. Hendricks the requested information, he would need to contract the services of civil engineer and a geo-tech firm. The first step is to define the property and get a preliminary drawing which would possibly cost about \$15,000 which would come from surplus funds.

Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to authorize Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to contract with a civil engineering firm to commission an engineering study on the O’Gara Road site that encompasses design, topographical mapping and shooting of grades in order to proceed to test boring; using unencumbered surplus funds from this year.

Superintendent Chiafery requested that the Town Council be made aware of this undertaking due to the fact that the Town is overseeing this property until 2018.

Vice Chair Schneider questioned if the School Board is able to proceed with an engineering study at this time without Town Council approval.

Superintendent Chiafery will look at the agreement that was made to look for constraints.

Chair Barnes stated that both actions will be undertaken concurrently.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Student Representative Marcus voted In Favor.

Mr. Hendricks noted that this particular charge involves usage beyond that to the school district and asked if the board would like to be presented with options that include use by the community at large.

Board Member Powell responded that there is a Town Center Committee that might be contacted for input as this parcel sits in the middle of the town.

Board Member Guagliumi recommended also reaching out to the Parks and Recreation Committee and Chair Barnes added reaching out to the Merrimack Youth Sports Association.

Chair Barnes noted that the focus of the charges is the school district needs and interests.

8. Merrimack Safeguard Response to the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results for Merrimack High School

Chair Barnes invited Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin to speak about the survey.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin began by noting that per a request at the previous board meeting, a copy of the test was included in the packets mailed to members prior to this meeting.

The Merrimack Safeguard Committee met and also reviewed the survey results. At the meeting Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin asked if the committee would take a position on the use of a canine. Their response was theoretically yes, to endorse the idea of an additional tool, but want more dialogue and to have a greater understanding about the educational support before the tool is utilized.

Merrimack Police Chief Doyle expressed interest in working with the school district over the summer to craft a carefully designed set of expectations of what students and parents might reasonably expect might happen should a canine detect a substance at the high school.

When asked if the canine and his handler could come into the schools before this school year ends, all of the Merrimack School district principals were amenable to the possibility. The purpose of the visit would be to introduce the canine to incoming grade 9-12 students as part of an educational component.

Vice Chair Schneider who also attended the Merrimack Safeguard meeting, noted that the committee noted the trends and that the take-away was around better education on the impacts of substance abuse. He spoke about a time-line plan which began by introducing the students to the canine before this school year ends and to more fully develop the plan over the summer.

Board Member Guagliumi stressed the need to develop mechanisms that can be put in place to assist parents in understanding and dealing with the substance abuse issues.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that one piece of this issue is to create better awareness in the community about the resources available through Merrimack Safeguard.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stressed the importance of community involvement and welcomed any new members to the monthly meetings.

Board Member Thompson asked if there is information available on what actions other school districts have taken to manage their situations.

Vice Chair Schneider stressed that the school board does not act in isolation on this issue. Input comes from a variety of sources. He then asked if the school board needed to take any action before the canine is brought into the schools.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin responded that no action is needed to have the canine attend school assemblies as part of an educational component. If the board later decides to implement the tool then board approval would be needed.

Board Member Powell asked to be notified so that he could attend the assemblies.

Chair Barnes stated that the animals in schools policy would cover the canine coming to assemblies.

Chair Barnes noted that when the issue of the canine was introduced at a meeting in February, that the board was not inclined to bringing the canine into the schools. The change in thinking tonight is based on the data that was gleaned from the 2015 youth risk behavior survey.

Student Representative Marcus expressed again his opposition to bringing the drug sniffing dog into the schools. He feels the trust between students and administration would be severely damaged. He also requested that the student representative for next year be invited to any summer meetings on this topic.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he had Student Representative Marcus' position in mind when considering the canine.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin noted that the community needs to be aware of the deliberate and thoughtful steps the school board is taking to respond to the substance abuse issues identified in the district.

Student Representative Marcus stated his appreciation for the due diligence of the board in addressing the issues.

Board Member Thompson asked for clarification on Merrimack Safeguard and Project Safeguard.

Vice Chair Schneider explained that the voluntary youth risk behavior survey is sent out by the Centers for Disease Control to all school districts interested in participating. Merrimack Safeguard is a community based organization that looks at the data and tries to devise resources to address the needs exposed through the survey, and Project Safeguard is an education program run in the schools that is completely separate and parents can opt their children out of it.

9. Review of School Sites as Possible Future Polling Places

Chair Barnes opened her remarks by sharing that the joint meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2016 between the Merrimack School Board and the Merrimack Town Council had been postponed and asked that the board members choose from the three other dates offered and email her their choices. She then turned over the microphone to the administrators.

Superintendent Chiafery and Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin met with the principals, assistant principals and directors to discuss the possible options for polling when school is in session. After collegial discussion the group consensus was that James Masticola Elementary School is the preferred option. The second option is the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

gym. She stressed the importance of police involvement in regards to safety. The Merrimack High School was considered not possible due to the issue of student cars. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell provided details on the options. In looking at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School staff could park at Camp Sargent off Veteran's Park. Accommodations would need to be made to shuttle staff back and forth. Buses and parent drop-off and pick-up would also need to be addressed.

The Merrimack Middle School is not ADA compliant and was not considered as an option. Reeds Ferry Elementary School was not considered as a possible polling site due to a lack of parking, one egress and busses.

Board Member Powell asked about the gym at James Mastricola Elementary School and was told that the back of the gym is near the playground and that there is no safe access from the back of the building. Additionally, there is no bathroom access and there is direct access to the fourth grade classrooms.

Superintendent Chiafery commented that a future capital improvement project might be to reconstruct the bowl area in the front of the entrance to the Smith Gymnasium of James Mastricola Upper Elementary School in order to make the Smith Gymnasium ADA compliant.

Superintendent Chiafery noted that as part of the process in selecting possible options was the need to consider all of the issues for town partners and that she is most comfortable offering the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School and maybe Thorntons Ferry Elementary School as possible polling places. She then stressed that the administration is willing and able to do what needs to be done.

Board Member Powell asked if the Reeds Ferry Elementary School gym is accessible and was told no.

Board members thanked the administration for their work on pre-selecting possible polling locations.

Board Member Thompson asked if the purpose of the joint meeting is to result in a recommendation and was told that it is to have a discussion and gather information.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if the school board needed to go into the joint meeting in agreement on which school sites are and are not possible polling places.

Discussion ensued and was summed up by Chair Barnes stating that while it will be a collaborative session, both groups have their separate primary responsibilities.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if the school calendar will be open to change also for voting and the consensus of the board was that there can be no changes made to the 2016-2017 school calendar without School Board approval.

10. Approval of May 2, 2016 Minutes

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016 meeting.

Student Representative Marcus requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Page 8, line 349 change the sentence to read “Student Representative Marcus reiterated his comments from a prior meeting that revisiting the co-curricular transportation funding should be considered in future years, and funds moved to other areas as needed.”
- Page 10, line 452 change “...Holy Cross College.” To “...The College of the Holy Cross.”

The motion passed as amended 5-0-0.

Student Representative Marcus voted In Favor.

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

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell presented the following gifts/grants:

A gift to Merrimack High School from the Joseph Annuto Law Office in the amount of \$1,000.00. The funds are to be used to help pay the cost of buses to transport the Merrimack High School lacrosse team to the Dome for practice.

A gift to Merrimack High School from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bull, in the amount of \$3,000.00. The funds are to be used to support the activities of the U.S. FIRST Robotics Team, Chop Shop #166.

A gift to Merrimack High School from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund in the name of the Wallace Family Fund, in the amount of \$1,000.00. The funds are to be utilized to award a deserving senior a book supplies scholarship for future endeavors and to fund art embedded learning activities.

A gift to James Mastricola Upper Elementary School from Delta Dental in the amount of \$200.00. The funds are to be used to support the activities of the Lego League.

A gift to Merrimack High School from Thomas and Judy Vaillancourt in the amount of \$100.00. The funds are in memory of a former band student and are unrestricted.

Board Member Powell moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to accept the gifts and grants as presented.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Student Representative Marcus voted In Favor.

12. Consent Agenda

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the following for consent:

a) Educator Retirements

Joanne Green, Special Education Coordinator at James Mastricola Elementary School
Christine Nawrocki, Grade 7 Science Teacher at Merrimack Middle School
Chris Edscorn, Special Educator, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School

b) Educator Resignations

Julie Totaro, French Teacher, Merrimack High School
Jessica Wilhelm, Grade 1 Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
Janet Hitchcock, Grade 3 Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School

c) Educator Nominations

Melanie Hedlund, Social Studies Teacher, Merrimack High School

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

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Student Representative Marcus voted In Favor.

13. Other

a) Correspondence

Chair Barnes received emails from various constituents in regards to the scholarship selection process, use of the Merrimack Middle School Science Lab for the use of commercial filming which was referred to maintenance, parent feedback on post-high school success, PFOA, parent interest in participating on the Communications Committee and inquiry on the date of the joint meeting to be held with the Town Council.

Board Member Guagliumi received emails from various constituents in regards to program changes at the high school for next year and the schedule for the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School schedule.

Vice Chair Schneider received emails from a constituent in regards to potential future discussion around a transgender policy and from an alumni interested in using the high school gym for a school reunion.

Board Member Thompson received an email in regards to PFOA and another in regards to scholarships.

b) Comments

Chair Barnes noted that June 6 is Bands Awards Night and that this is Student Representative Marcus's final night with the School Board. She praised his accomplishments and presented him with a gift from the board members.

Chair Barnes and the board then presented a gift to Board Member Powell in recognition of his graduation from Southern New Hampshire University.

Student Representative Marcus thanked the board and the administration for their support and guidance over the past school year.

Superintendent Chiafery shared that the New Hampshire Educator Awards are scheduled for June 11th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Board Member Thompson attended the New Hampshire School Board Association meeting for an orientation. A discussion on policies exposed that Merrimack was one of only three school districts out of the seventy-five represented without a Policy Committee.

14. Board Member Committee Assignments for 2016-2017

Chair Barnes distributed the 2016-2017 School Board committee assignments with the board.

15. New Business

Board Member Guagliumi noted that there was a camera left in the room by a member of the audience.

16. Committee Reports

Vice Chair Schneider attended the Merrimack Safeguard meeting on May 5th and welcomed a new member. On May 9th the District Wellness Committee met and reviewed upcoming events and nutrition guidelines. Also on May 9th the Planning and Building Committee met and reviewed the charges. On May 12th the SERESC Board of Directors met and received two resignations and welcomed a new director.

Board Member Powell attended the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee in early May where a medical application was demonstrated and the Smart Shopper Program savings for the district was discussed.

Student Representative Marcus ended his tenure with the School Board with a special report. Merrimack High School seniors Matt Spettel and Sara Mason accompanied by their science teacher Mr. Mueller attended the International Science Fair in Arizona where they won second place for their ChemiCube. Both students won cash prizes and had asteroids named after them.

17. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

18. Manifest

The board signed the manifest.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Student Representative Marcus voted In Favor.