

**Merrimack School Board Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
September 19, 2016  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Schneider, Board Members Guagliumi, Thompson and Schoenfeld, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell and Student Representative Sernik

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**3. Polling Site Outcome on September 13, 2016 (Merrimack Middle School, James Masticola Upper Elementary School)**

Chair Barnes invited Police Chief Mark Doyle and Moderator Lynn Christensen to the table.

Ms. Christensen stated that about 3,700 residents came out to vote and that there were no problems.

Police Chief Doyle stated that the collaborative plan put in place by the police, town clerk's office and the school board worked very well even though school was in session. Shuttling teachers to alternative parking worked well.

He then warned that the November election will see a larger turnout and recommended people try to avoid rush hour times and or car pool to the polls.

Ms. Christensen noted that the schools will be closed for the November election.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if more egress will be provided for the November election.

Ms. Christensen said this is being discussed and worked on now.

Vice Chair Schneider asked what police accommodations will be made to assist voters with parking and crossing the traffic.

Police Chief Doyle responded that there were seven police officers stationed at the middle school for the September 13<sup>th</sup> election and that this was a good training opportunity for the police and the public.

Board Member Thompson asked if more students took the bus than usual.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that parents were requested to put their students on the bus to alleviate the traffic and that there was an increase in bus riders.

Superintendent Chiafery thanked Police Chief Doyle for the pre-planning and the striping of the field for middle school staff parking.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell noted that the planning and execution and police presence were the right amount for the situation. A police officer guided middle school staff in backing into the parking at Bishop Field so as to simplify exiting at the end of the day. Shuttle busses were provided by Caring Hands for both the middle school and the upper elementary school.

Ms. Christensen noted that police volunteers assisted at Bishop Field also. She thanked the superintendent's office for their additional staff support.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if there are contingency plans for the November election to shuttle voters to the polls from alternative parking areas.

Police Chief Doyle responded that they are considering the option of a shuttle.

Chair Barnes thanked both Police Chief Doyle and Moderator Christensen for their collaboration and their attendance at the meeting.

#### **4. Presentation of Proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2017-2023**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell presented the Capital Improvement Plan for 2017-2023 that was approved by the Planning and Building Committee at their meeting the previous week.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell began by noting that in order for an item to be considered for the capital improvement plan the cost must exceed \$100,000.00.

He then went through the plan item by item, providing detailed information.

The most urgent item is the replacement of the HVAC equipment at the high school, which was scheduled for the 2016-2017 school year but was pushed back when the budget did not pass at the election.

Other items slated for the 2017-2018 school year are partial roofing at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, paving, sidewalks and asbestos removal at the high school, and technology infrastructure upgrades.

The 2018-2019 slated capital improvements are the roof at Reeds Ferry Elementary School, paving at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School and technology infrastructure upgrades.

The 2019-2020 slated capital improvements are the roof at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, paving at the entrance at the James Mastricola Elementary School and at the entrance lot next to School Street at James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, drainage at the James Mastricola Elementary School, upgraded bleachers at the middle school track, field upgrades and window replacement at the high school, and technology infrastructure upgrades.

The windows were originally scheduled for 2022-2023 and were moved up by the Planning and Building Committee.

The 2020-2021 slated capital improvements are the second phase of the roof at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, upgraded bleachers at James Masticola Upper Elementary School Smith Gym, and technology infrastructure upgrades.

In 2022-2023 slated capital improvements are the roofs at the James Masticola Elementary School and the James Masticola Upper Elementary School.

The consolidated Special Services/SAU Offices are scheduled for 2018-2019 and are estimated at this time to be about \$1,945,000.00 with the costs to be spread out over a ten year period from 2019-2029. This time frame was chosen to coincide with the tennis courts being returned to the jurisdiction of the school district.

Once the roofs are all replaced in 2025-2026 there will be a six year period in which to replenish the capital reserve account which is now depleted.

Vice Chair Schneider shared that the reason for moving the field upgrades in was to save money, as the cost rises about \$100,000.00 each year it is delayed.

Vice Chair Schneider commented on the O’Gara Drive paving and the moving of the SAU building. He raised the need for the school board to discuss the Skate Park and give notice to affected parties. Questions had been raised at the Planning and Building Committee meeting about giving voters more say in large expenditures and that the paving projects could be presented as a warrant article.

Board Member Guagliumi asked what the cost was to replace the middle school roof and why the cost to replace the roof at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School was so much higher.

Assistant Superintendent for Business responded that the roof cost for the middle school was \$1,139,750.00 and that as time moves on the cost does go up because of the price of petroleum and other inflationary factors. Also, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School has thirteen different roofing sections that require separate flashing.

Board Member Thompson asked if the district has looked into grants for asbestos removal.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that there are no available grants for the asbestos removal.

Board Member Thompson asked how soon information could be gathered and presented to voters.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that as soon as the school board makes its final decision she will go before the Planning Board and present a photo presentation that would then be shared with the voters.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell added that the district also has a twitter account where daily updates and changes can be shared with interested parties.

Chair Barnes commented that the Town Council is awaiting the decision of the school board on the tennis court property and that a formal vote should be taken soon.

Superintendent Chiafery commented that Rich Hendricks, Chairman of the Planning Board has asked to come before the School Board in November to discuss parts of the Charge and that this would provide a good opportunity to discuss the tennis courts.

Chair Barnes expressed concern about warranting the paving and then having it voted down as it relates to other capital improvement projects.

She would be open to a warrant article on the turf field at the high school as it would return to the voters every ten years.

Chair Barnes encouraged board members to review the CIP spreadsheet that included the bonded debt stating that it gave a very complete picture for budgetary planning.

Board Member Thompson asked what sports would use a turf field.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that football, band, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and any group that needed a large rectangular area would use the field.

Vice Chair Schneider added that other town organizations such as the MYA would use the field.

Board Member Guagliumi shared that prior concerns over health risks associated with turf fields invites a community discussion.

Vice Chair Schneider shared the historical view that anything involved in infrastructure belongs in the operating budget. This past election the operating budget failed. Voter feedback revealed discontent at a lack of options and the need for a more granular presentation of each item.

Chair Barnes raised the question of doing a study on adding more parking at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent for Business responded that the traffic flow will not change, but that the parking lot could be looked at to see if it could be re-configured to add more spots.

Student Representative Sernik commented that in the beginning of the year there are fewer drivers and more are added throughout the year. The lack of parking spots could be alleviated without adding more parking spots if sophomores carpoled.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell noted there was a plan years ago to add 60 parking spaces across from the lot behind James Masticola Elementary School.

Chair Barnes noted that the environment currently allows for informal parking and her concept of re-configuring would eliminate or cut down on this.

Superintendent Chiafery noted that this project does not involve the parking lot. If the SAU (green house) and Special Services (blue house) and the alternative school were removed parking

could be increased. She would not like to see the bus loop and O’Gara Drive paving project halted over a discussion on paving the parking lot.

Board Member Thompson asked if there is money set aside for patching and was told yes.

Chair Barnes asked members to review the information and formulate questions for the next meeting. Questions can be emailed to the superintendent’s office and Chair Barnes.

**5. Update on District Communications Committee**

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin shared that the Chair of this new committee, Director of Library, Media and Technology Nancy Rose was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

He read aloud the proposed educator and parent members to date for the new committee.

Educators willing to serve are:

Holly Lubelczyk	James Mastricola Elementary School	Grade 1
Lindsey Townsend	Reeds Ferry Elementary School	Grade 2
Katie Barnfield	Thorntons Ferry Elementary School	Special Education
Cathy Goodman	James Mastricola Upper Elementary School	Grade 5
Sue Heimberg	Merrimack Middle School	Technology Education
Joe Sanborn	Merrimack High School	Science

Parents willing to serve are:

Andrea Andris	Reeds Ferry Elementary School
Christine Koss	Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
Nikki Thompson	James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Meg Vaccaro	Merrimack High School

Parent representatives are in process for the James Mastricola Elementary School and the Merrimack Middle School.

The first meeting is expected within the next two weeks.

Chair Barnes stated that the school board is still accepting applications for community-at-large members and that she can be contacted by email with a letter of intention.

Board Member Thompson asked if there needs to be a Charge to formally authorize the Communications Committee.

Chair Barnes responded that the committee as designed is intended to be an ongoing committee. A Charge usually involves a beginning and end time.

Superintendent Chiafery added that Communications Committee Chair Rose saw the committee as having short-term and long-term goals. In the short term she wanted to fully optimize PowerSchool and engage parents, students and faculty in better communication. A longer term goal would look at how the district publicizes events and other happenings.

## **6. Second Review of New Board Policy**

- **Student Members of the School Board**

Superintendent Chiafery highlighted the change on point number to ask that the student representative attend as many meetings as possible between September and June.

On the point raised at the last school board meeting in regards to the student representative representing all of the students in the district, she referred to the statutes and read aloud the relevant passage. She also conferred with attorney for the New Hampshire School Boards Association.

Board Member Thompson reiterated his position that the student representative position should represent all of the district students.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that the concept was to follow the student council experience and allow soon-to-be voters an opportunity to be involved in the board that makes decisions that impacts their educational experience.

Chair Barnes, as a point of order, stated that this policy would be part of the Consent Agenda. If Board Member Thompson wishes to vote against this item it would need to be presented as a separate agenda item.

## **7. Request for New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA)**

Chair Barnes explained to the school board members the process involved in submitting resolutions.

Petition resolutions are petitioned by local school boards for matters that would provide benefits to New Hampshire students. Examples include the No Child Left Behind Act and local controls. It is a three step process that begins with a local school board submitting a resolution for consideration by the delegate assembly. The Executive Board and the Board of Directors review the resolution and confer with attorneys on appropriate language.

Continuing resolutions are recurring.

## **8. Approval of September 6, 2016 Minutes**

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 meeting.

The motion carried as presented 5-0-0.

**9. Acceptance of Gifts/Grants Under \$5,000**

• **Parents and Teachers of Thorntons Ferry Elementary School**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell presented a gift for the board's acceptance.

The PTTF has given a gift to the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School in the amount of \$1,015.09. The funds are to be used to purchase music equipment, software and technology.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the gift with gratitude.

The motion carried as presented 5-0-0.

**10. Other**

**a) Correspondence**

Board Members Guagliumi and Thompson both received emails from constituents in regards to a lockdown situation at Reeds Ferry Elementary School.

**b) Comments**

There were no comments.

**11. New Business**

There was no new business.

**12. Committee Reports**

Vice Chair Schneider attended the Planning and Building Committee meeting the prior week at which the CIP budget was discussed.

**13. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**14. Manifest**

The Board signed the manifest.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

The motion passed 5-0-0.