

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District
School Administrative District Unit #26
December 18, 2017
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

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

Student Representative Puzzo was excused from the meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Point of Order: Chair Barnes switched the order in which agenda items 3 and 4 would be addressed.

4. Formal Hearing on Food Service Budget for 2018-2019

Chair Barnes invited Director of Food Services Dave Dziki to the table.

Director Dziki presented the proposed budget and highlighted some specific areas of need. They include display cases at the high school for hot foods and a stainless steel work table for the kitchen at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School. Both of current items have been in use for over 23 years now and are now in need of replacement.

The buying group in which Merrimack participates has expanded to 50 schools.

The food services and repairs budget has been increased, while vehicle repairs/gas/oil, laundry services, supplies, and food service travel are level funded or almost the same.

The food budget has been decreased.

The food services technology contracts will remain at \$12,500.

Vice Chair Schneider asked the purpose of the glass display cases.

Director Dziki responded that they allow for viewing and also maintain constant temperatures.

Chair Barnes had presented the question: *Based on the budgeted investments for replacement equipment that was in place for 20+ years, what other food service equipment is over 20 years old and what are the life expectancies of this equipment (thinking the way we do on roof replacement projections)?*

Director Dziki responded that the walk-in cooler, ovens, and serving tables are original at the high school and elementary school and operating well. If they continue to be serviced properly they could last long into the future.

Possible replacement items might be the compressors and these are done as needed.

Vice Chair Schneider noted that all of these repairs are paid for from monies taken in from the lunch program.

3. 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

Chair Barnes invited Betsy Houde to the table to speak on the results. She was preceded by Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin who spoke on the value of the survey to help draw a picture of the community needs.

Ms. Houde is the executive director of Nashua Youth Counsel and the project director of Merrimack Safeguard. She shared the data results and trend lines of the Spring 2017 survey that was taken by 80% of the high school students.

Marked improvements since 2007 were seen in the categories of:

- 9th graders reporting their first drink before age 13
- 30 day alcohol use for all grades combined
- Riding in a vehicle driven by someone drinking
- 9th graders reporting first alcohol use before age 13
- 30 day prescription drug use by grade

Areas of concern or negative changes since 2007 include:

- Students given alcohol by others
- 30 day marijuana use by grade
- Driving while drinking
- Texting or emailing while driving a car on one or more of the past 30 days
- Suicide and depression rates

Additional facts include:

- 23.9% of students used electronic vapor products in the past 30 days
- 35.9% of students have used a vaping device
- 19% of students do NOT feel like they matter to the community
- 6.7% of students slept away from home because they were kicked out, ran away or were abandoned
- 75.7% of students did not have 8+ hours of sleep on an average school night
- 20.1% of students were bullied electronically in the past year

Board Member Thompson asked administration if e-cigarettes are addressed in the policy.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin responded that this is an area that needs to be reviewed.

Superintendent Chiafery noted that this is an example of why the tobacco survey is so important.

Board Member Thompson expressed concern over the suicide rate and its rise.

Ms. Houde responded that she has read research that that notes that since the introduction of the I-phone; young people are having difficulty having meaningful conversations.

Vice Chair Schneider asked about the wording of the question on getting eight hours of sleep. He suggested that a more valuable wording would be to ask how many hours of sleep the student is getting.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin responded that the school nurse's professional organization states that eight hours is still the industry standard.

5. Formal Hearing on Maintenance Budget for 2018-2019

Chair Barnes invited Director of Facilities Tom Touseau to the table.

Director Touseau began by responding to previously submitted questions from board members.

Chair Barnes had submitted the question: *I am fully supportive of the proposed expenditures. I am compelled to learn of the items on the cut list and what they represent to initiatives the district has for maintenance.*

- *Camera plans are of interest (what the future budgets' cameras will cover)*
- *Sink plans (will we need to do this sooner than later in the other district buildings?)*
- *Bleachers (can we review the other locations that have older structures that have been sustained through proactive maintenance and are we on borrowed time to replace any other bleachers)?*
- *What long-term items do we need to plan for?*

Director Touseau responded that:

- Cameras have been in use in the schools for over ten years. The newer cameras provide very detailed images which is invaluable to administrators
- Twenty two sinks are needed at JMUES and they are split into two consecutive years.
- Additional bleacher projects on the CIP are the JMUES Smith Gym and APR
- Another long term item on the CIP is windows

Chair Barnes had submitted the question: In light of recent events with bats at JMUES, is there a way to screen other buildings for such issues and what would that entail? Clearly this budget was developed before the issue presented itself.

Director Touseau responded that there have always been bat issues in the district. In the Spring all of the buildings will be checked and any problems found will be addressed.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell added that flashing will be upgraded also.

Vice Chair Schneider had submitted the question: *General confirmation about the budgeting logic for natural gas and heating oil usage in the buildings. It appears as though you are basing your 2018-2019 budgeted amount on the actual usage for 2016-2017, rather than the budgeted amount for 2017-2018, correct? Any risks you see in doing this?*

Director Touseau responded that he looked at the past two years expenditures and took the highest amount.

Vice Chair Schneider had submitted the question: *Maintenance Upkeep-The budgeted amount rose by \$10K over 2017-2018, and is nearly \$40K higher than actual spend in 2016-2017. Can you share where the areas of increase come from as compared to earlier years?*

Director Touseau responded that the \$10K is due to contractual obligations with Honeywell. The \$40K covers items such as piping, boiler sections that crack and leak, and expansion tanks.

Vice Chair Schneider had submitted the question: *Art room cabinets/countertops specific item – are these items serviceable for an additional year, or do they require replacement this year?*

Director Touseau responded yes they could if necessary.

Superintendent Chiafery reminded the board that the leadership teams shape the cut lists.

Board Member Thompson had submitted the question: *Why the \$8,000 over expenditure in 2016-2017?*

Director Touseau responded that this is directly related to the new track construction at the high school and was a one-time expense.

Board Member Guagliumi had submitted the question: *Can you tell me more about the increases due to the repair budget?*

Director Touseau responded this is a line item that fluctuates.

Board Member Guagliumi had submitted a question in regards to the cameras and best prices.

Director Touseau responded that the camera prices involve wiring, installing, compatibility with existing cameras, and the warranties.

Director Touseau then spoke on four specific items. They are a portion of the high school outside bleachers, a roofing project at Reeds Ferry Elementary School, a district-wide PFOA water filtration system, and a significant increase in the upkeep and repair budget.

6. Update on Remediation of Bat Residue at James Mastricola Upper Elementary School

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell spoke on the progress of the bat remediation. All three sides of the infected brickwork have been removed and all bat residue is in the process of being removed. Once this is done the area will be washed, sealed and painted with anti-fungal paint. New insulation will be installed, air quality inspections will be done and then new brickwork will be done in January.

Board Member Thompson asked about the test results for the bat spores and the total costs for this work.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded the histo plasma was not found during testing. The total cost estimate is about \$600,000 and it is not covered by Primex, the insurance carrier

Chair Barnes asked if the new bricks will match the existing bricks and was told yes.

Vice Chair Schneider asked what the approach will be to recoup the funds.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that he is working with the state of New Hampshire and there are some state level monies available to assist with part of the costs.

Board Member Guagliumi asked what other options are being considered.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that funds might be taken from the general maintenance budget, health insurance and retirement savings.

Superintendent Chiafery added that she hopes to hear from the department of education by the end of January or early February as to any monetary assistance they might provide.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if the state legislators should be notified for their assistance on the request for assistance.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that the \$19 million dollar fund is put together by the governor for three specific areas, broadband in the north counties, life safety and general security. The application was filed under life safety.

7. Approval of December 4, 2017 Minutes

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to accept the minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

8. Consent Agenda

• Educator Nominations

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the consent agenda.

Gregory Butler, Merrimack High School, Science Teacher

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the consent agenda as read.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

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

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell presented a gift from Barnes & Noble Bookstore of Nashua to Thorntons Ferry Elementary School in the amount of \$188.72. The funds are to be deposited in a specific account and then used by the school librarian to purchase reading text books.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to accept the gift with gratitude.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

10. Other

a) Correspondence

Chair Barnes had a parent reach out to her on how the homework protocol was being implemented by the teachers.

b) Comments

Superintendent Chiafery reminded board members to submit their remaining budget questions by tomorrow, December 19th.

11. New Business

Chair Barnes read aloud the dates, times and locations of the upcoming budget and board meetings for January 2018.

12. Committee Reports

Board Member Schoenfeld had attended the kindergarten task force meeting. There will be information forthcoming.

Board Member Guagliumi had attended the Merrimack Safeguard meeting where the youth risk survey results were shared.

Vice Chair Schneider had attended the Wellness Committee informational meeting and the SERESC board of directors meeting where core functions were discussed.

Chair Barnes had attended the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee meeting and discussed biometric screenings and the January wellness fair.

13. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items

14. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

At 8:22 p.m. Board Member Thompson moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to enter non-public session per RSA A 91-A: 3, II, (c)(e).

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0-0.

At 9:29 p.m. Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board member Schoenfeld) to adjourn.