

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District
School Administrative Unit #26
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Merrimack High School - Cafeteria**

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

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. Proposed Full-Day Kindergarten Presentation

Chair Barnes invited the committee of elementary school principals, teachers and parents to the table.

Principal Kim Yarlott introduced the committee and provided opening remarks along with Principal Bridey Bellamare. A PowerPoint presentation was then shown in conjunction with responses to additional questions from the school board.

Handouts provided in board members packets included an annotated bibliography of research in support of full day kindergarten and a copy of a fiscal issue brief on Senate Bill 191; an act establishing KENO and relative to funding for kindergarten.

Principal Romein began the detailed slide show. The committee had looked at the impacts on the lunch program, core academic areas and supporting curriculum.

The full-day program will allow students to move from an all direct instruction program to a direct instruction/student led activities program. A sample schedule was thoroughly explained with many of the benefits highlighted.

Parent testimonies were in strong support of all-day kindergarten.

Vice Chair Schneider thanked the committee for addressing all of the concerns the board had raised. He then asked how the committee would handle those who choose half day kindergarten.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that it is hoped that there would be a conversation with the parents to address their concerns.

Board Member Thompson asked if the committee had reached out to see if neighboring communities would be offering full-day kindergarten in the near future.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that they reached out to the Department of Education and the only option was to access the listserv or contact districts individually. She expects that going forward more districts will be moving in this direction.

Board Member Thompson asked that the administration contact districts individually to get more specifics on their position on full-day kindergarten.

Chair Barnes stated that in looking at the school board code of ethics, full-day kindergarten is in line with the code. She expressed a preference for offering only full-day kindergarten.

Chair Barnes asked the committee to send the PowerPoint presentation to the district office so that it could be uploaded to the website.

4. Update on Math Curriculum and Program Implementation Grades Kindergarten to Eight

Chair Barnes invited Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin and committee to present their updates on the elementary program.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin lauded Principal Marsha McGill for shouldering the responsibility of being the go-to person on the committee.

Background on the district's selection of the EnVisions math program was presented in a time line format.

Assessments are computer-based and some of the question and answer formats are new to students. As the students have become more comfortable with the assessments the scores have risen.

The questions are inquiry-based as opposed to fact-based. Students are required to explain their thinking.

Formative assessments are used to build the guided reading groups.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked about the first grade reading challenges and their impact on the test-taking.

Teachers sometimes read the questions aloud to the group to deal with this problem. The EnVisions program was developed with a full-day kindergarten in mind.

Board Member Thompson asked about the program implementation and what they would do differently.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin responded that the November training was more meaningful because it came after the implementation. There are a variety of on-line components and supports to the program for students and teachers.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if teachers had yet received any anecdotal feedback yet from parents.

Feedback was positive. Students are using math vocabulary at home and are demonstrating a true understanding of why the answer is correct.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin commented that the Communications Committee will be helpful in generating more feedback from parents.

Chair Barnes thanked the committee for their hard work.

5. Board's Final Response to Proposed 2018-2019 School District Budget

Chair Barnes noted that all of the departmental budgets have been reviewed and asked if there were any changes or adjustments.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to remove three tier one items from the operating budget. They are the reading texts and tutor salaries for special education and history for a total of \$22,440.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Board Member Guagliumi asked to discuss the co-curricular transportation account.

The general consensus was that this is a relatively new line item in the budget and that its availability might not yet be known to all of the co-curricular groups.

Student Representative Puzzo commented that the Chop Shop Teams have advanced to national championships and they have fundraised for their trips themselves.

Superintendent Chiafery asked that the board consider taking funds from maintenance instead of student organizations.

Vice Chair Schneider and Board Member Thompson noted that many budget questions had been answered during previous school board meetings.

Chair Barnes stated that this brings the budget proposal to \$74,811,416.

Board Member Thompson moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) that the board approves the proposed 2018-2019 budget of \$74,811,416.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the budget committee will meet from January 23rd through February 15th.

6. Establishing the Date for the Deliberative Session

Superintendent Chiafery referred to a communique she had sent to all board members on January 16 notifying them that she would like to schedule the deliberative session for Wednesday, March 7th and a back-up date of March 8th.

Chair Barnes has a work conflict on Wednesday and asked to move the date to March 8th and all agreed to the change.

7. Board's Response to Proposed New Hampshire School Board Resolutions (NHSBA)

Chair Barnes asked both Board Members Schoenfeld and Guagliumi to register on-line as there is no cost to the district.

Board Member Thompson expressed concern over the language on page 6, Alternative Resolution Proposed by NHSBA Board of Directors, number 2 describing election officials.

Vice Chair Schneider commended that the language refers to the election officials and not candidates.

Board Member Schoenfeld suggested asking for clarification.

Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) not to accept resolution thirteen.

Discussion ensued as to what was the intent of the Hampstead School Board when proposing this resolution.

The motion failed 1-4-0 with Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Schneider and Board Members Guagliumi and Schoenfeld voting in the negative.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the platform as presented.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

8. Approval of January 2, 2018 Minutes and January 8, 2018 Minutes

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to accept the January 2, 2018 minutes.

Board Member Guagliumi requested the following change to the minutes: page 5, line 198: change the sentence to read "Board Member Guagliumi asked if there was a cost share with the charter schools."

The motion passed as amended 5-0-0.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to accept the January 8, 2018 minutes.

Board Member Guagliumi requested the following change to the minutes:

- Page 3, line 133: insert the word "...math..." before "...curriculum committee..."
- Page 8, line 12: change "...intended to be provide?" to "...intended to be provided?"
- Page 8, line 366: add to the end of the sentence "...even when home games are not played in Merrimack."

The motion passed as amended 5-0-0.

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

• Julia Greenspan to Reeds Ferry Elementary School for \$100.00

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell presented a gift from Julia Greenspan of 1 Woodbine Lane in Merrimack in the amount of \$100.00. The funds are to be used to support students at Reeds Ferry Elementary School who need help paying for lunches.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to accept the very kind and thoughtful gift by Mrs. Greenspan for \$100.00.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

10. Consent Agenda

• Educator Nomination

Kelly Bennett, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, Grade 1

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

The motion passed as presented 5-0-0.

11. Other

a) Correspondence

Student Representative Puzzo has been asked by several students if there is to be another session addressing the homework policy.

This is expected to be on the agenda for February 19th.

Chair Barnes received communication from a school psychologist who previously lived in Merrimack on the benefits of full-day kindergarten.

Board Member Thompson had a request for communications from a publication that he will forward to the administration.

Superintendent Chiafery shared that the Merrimack High School team has advanced in the Granite State Challenge to the quarterfinals.

b) Comments

There were no comments.

12. New Business

Superintendent Chiafery reminded all that the warrant articles will be reviewed at the February 5th meeting.

Superintendent Chiafery noted that the homework policy will be looked at on February 19th meeting.

13. Committee Reports

Board Member Thompson had attended the Professional Development Committee meeting and noted that he continues to be impressed with the tools teachers and administrators use to do their work.

Chair Barnes had attended the Health Care Cost Containment Committee meeting on January 10th. Biometric screening goals were met for last year. The Wellness Fair and biometric screenings for staff are upcoming this week.

There was also a presentation from Life Resources showcasing their services. District volunteers are able to access these services.

14. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

15. Manifest

The board signed the manifest.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b)(c) in the Main Office Conference Room.

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

At 10:33 p.m. Board Member Schoenfeld moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to adjourn the public session.

The motion passed 5-0-0.