

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District
School Administrative Unit #26
April 16, 2018
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, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell and Student Representative Puzzo.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. School Board Reorganization

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to nominate Chair Shannon Barnes as chairperson of the 2018-2019 school year.

The motion passed 4-1-0. Board Member Thompson voted in opposition.

Board Member Thompson moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to nominate Vice Chair Andy Schneider as vice-chair of the 2018-2019 school year.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

3. Commitment to Board Code of Ethics

Board members took turns reading the code of ethics aloud and then signed and returned their copies to Chair Barnes.

***Merrimack School Board
Code of Ethics***

As a member of the Merrimack School Board, I shall promote the best interests of the District by adhering to the following ethical standards and affix my signature to the same:

Trustworthy in Responsibilities

- ❖ *I will always remember that my first and greatest concern will be the educational welfare of the students in the Merrimack School District.*
- ❖ *I will be accountable to the public by accurately representing District policies, programs, priorities, and progress.*
- ❖ *I will be responsive to the community by seeking its involvement in District affairs and by communicating its priorities and concerns.*

- ❖ *I will work to ensure prudent and accountable use of District resources and never lose sight of the fiscal responsibility owed to the taxpayers of the District.*
- ❖ *I will make no personal promise or take private action that may compromise my performance or my responsibilities or those of my fellow Board members.*
- ❖ *I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my board position for personal or partisan gain.*

Honor In Conduct

- ❖ *I will be honest, fair, just, and impartial in all my decisions and actions.*
- ❖ *I will encourage and respect open dialogue and listen with an open mind while working for consensus.*
- ❖ *I will respect the majority decision as the decision of the Board.*

Integrity of Character

- ❖ *I will consistently uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and District procedures.*
- ❖ *I will not disclose information that is confidential by law or that will undermine the District.*

Commitment to Service

- ❖ *I will focus my attention on fulfilling the Board's responsibilities of goal setting, policymaking, and evaluation.*
- ❖ *I will diligently prepare for and attend Board meetings.*
- ❖ *I will avoid personal involvement in activities the Board has delegated to the Superintendent.*
- ❖ *I will inform myself about relevant educational issues.*

4. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

5. O'Gara Drive Amenity Update from the Department of Public Works

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell referred to a letter sent to the Town Manager Cabanel from Department of Public Works Director Fox that provided a status update on the O'Gara Drive projects. It reads as follows:

The following is an update on the status of the projects associated with the removal of facilities from the School District parcel on O'Gara Drive that has been leased to the Town.

- *The electrical service for the lights at the tennis court and ice rink areas are going to be removed by Eversource within the next week. I have coordinated a complete removal of the meter, telephone pole, and wiring. We will salvage the electric panel for use on other projects.*

- *CSSI is scheduled to begin removal of the tennis courts on April 9. The work will include removing the light poles and bases, the net posts, the asphalt surface, and the three sides of fencing that do not affect the enclosure of the skate park. The ground will be graded smooth as requested by the district. The cost for this work is \$8,500. CSSI could remove the basketball court while they are there for an additional \$500 – it would cost approximately \$1,000 for the court removal at a separate time due to the remobilization.*
- *In order to maintain the passive recreation aspect of the area, we will place two picnic tables in the area of the removed tennis courts until the lease officially runs out.*
- *The skating rink walls will be removed and stored by Highway as is done every year. The remaining skating rink infrastructure (shed, lights, etc. will be removed by Highway crews in April).*
- *Highway crews will begin work on the volleyball/ice rink area at Watson Park this spring. In preparation of that work, we have contacted an environmental engineer to give us a proposal on developing the soil management and worker safety plans required by the AUR on Watson Park. We had a coordination meeting with MVD to discuss the waterline extension into the park to facilitate watering of the ice rink, and MVD will develop a cost estimate for the materials needed to accomplish the effort. In general, it will involve running an extension of 2” plastic water line from the hydrant at the front of Watson Park to the location of the ice rink – approximately 700 feet.*

Board Member Guagliumi recalled from the joint meeting in November that it was requested that the Town Council take a vote on what they wanted from the School Board in regards to the skate park. She would like to see the School Board follow-up on this.

Chair Barnes stated that the issue cannot be discussed until August 1st; after the lease has expired.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell noted that at a minimum it would be advisable to be in a possession of a certificate of insurance for that segment of the property.

Board Member Thompson asked if the School Board must formally take possession of the property at the end of the lease and close it until they meet again with the Town Council. If so, he would like to see public outreach to explain the process.

Superintendent Chiafery advised waiting until April 30th to see if the amenity plan has been completed and then discuss follow-up.

Board Member Guagliumi agreed with Board Member Thompson.

Vice Chair Schneider recalled that Town Manager Cabanel was emphatic that no discussion can take place on either side before the lease has expired. He suggested a special School Board meeting with this as a single agenda item.

Chair Barnes noted that August 1st falls on a Wednesday and she will reach out to and attempt to plan a joint meeting with the Town Council for this date.

Student Representative Puzzo asked for clarification on the status of the skate park. He has heard requests from students that the skate park location stay close to the schools.

6. Third Quarter Curriculum Review

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin began with a report on the new math program. It is a continuous scope and sequence for grades K-10 and updated curriculum for algebra I and II and geometry.

The chief reference is the college and career ready standards. The four main areas of focus are facts and fluency, number sense, problem solving, and the practical application of math to real world situations.

Additional training has also been made available via a train-the-trainer program.

Physical Education and Health should have a completed curriculum ready for review by December. One of the tenets of this program is lifelong health and wellness. Tracking tools will be available for teachers to use in their teaching.

Video has also been incorporated into the curriculum.

Next month a new world language curriculum committee will be formed and it will include grades 5 and 6 for the first time. During these meetings conversations will address the viability of all languages now taught in the district and the addition of possible new languages.

Also next month a new social studies committee will convene to develop a new curriculum for grades K-12. This was the first district developed using the *Understanding By Design* (UBD) protocol. Twelve years have passed and it now needs updating.

Language Arts is under constant review. Strategies for teaching comprehension and places where processes are introduced is ongoing.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked what world languages are now available at each school level.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin responded that grades 5-12 offer Spanish and French, and the high school also offers Arabic, Mandarin, and Latin.

Chair Barnes asked if there is still a half year Spanish/half year French offering in grades 5-6 and was told yes.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if this is still a best practice and was told it is going to be evaluated.

Board Member Guagliumi noted the strength of the world language program and would like to see all of the languages possibly extended down through the grades.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that the social studies program's maps are current and that necessary materials are updated as needed and the existing curriculum is relevant.

Board Member Thompson asked that if any curriculum is changed, that the supporting materials be made available when the program is rolled out.

Chair Barnes asked if there will be college credit for world languages and teacher certifications will be evaluated to accomplish this for students.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin responded that this is already in discussions within the world language department.

7. Request to Initiate Water Filtration System for Six Schools to Meet September Deadline

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell updated the board on the water filtration system.

With the passing of the operating budget there are now funds to address the PFOA levels in the schools. Vendors were approached and Secondwind Water Systems of Manchester, NH was the only one that worked in commercial applications. They were willing to spend time, efforts and energy designing possible solutions. This resulted in a price estimate and specifications owned by Secondwind.

Secondwind was recommended by the NH Department of Environmental Services.

There is a goal of reaching a PFOA level of zero.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell asked the board if they would prefer to buy the specifications outright from Secondwind and having the project bid over the spring and summer; or to award the contract now to Secondwind so the project is completed by September 1st.

Vice Chair Schneider noted that there appears to only be one available vendor. He wanted to ensure that this would also be financially a good decision.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that in his discussions with other commercial customers they all chose the same route due to the specialization of the work.

Vice Chair Schneider stated his concern that the continued maintenance is handled with expertise.

Board Member Thompson recommended moving forward with Secondwind.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked if any other companies have been identified to handle this work and was told none to date.

Board Member Guagliumi expressed concern that the district does its due diligence and asked if more school districts be contacted before a decision is made.

Superintendent Chiafery asked that the board take action at the May 7th meeting in order for the project to be completed before the next school year begins.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell will gather and share more information before the next school board meeting.

Board Member Thompson commented that the due diligence to date has been thorough and that the board is only asking for some additional information.

8. Request to Appeal the School Board Decision of March 12, 2018 Regarding the Homework Protocol by Robert Bevill

Superintendent Chiafery stated that this is the next step in the process in responding to a complaint by Robert Bevill.

Mr. Bevill is appealing the school board's decision to his March 12, 2018 complaint. There will be a pre-hearing and potential mediation before the appeal reaches the state board. The appeal is set for April 23, 2018, during school vacation week. Legal counsel for this appeal, Dean Eggert, has notified the DOE that this is not a good time and offered several dates in May as alternatives.

Board Member Guagliumi asked what the obligation of the School Board is during this process and was told that Attorney Eggert will be the guiding force going forward.

Superintendent Chiafery will represent the School Board at the table and she will ask that Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin be a witness.

Board Member Thompson asked if this will be a public open hearing.

Superintendent Chiafery will get this information from Attorney Eggert and forward it to the School Board.

9. Approval of April 2, 2018 Public Minutes and April 5, 2018 Non-Public Minutes

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Thompson) to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting.

Board Member Guagliumi requested the following changes to the minutes:

Page 4, line 160: at the end of the sentence add: "...in tiers 2 and 3 allowing for our resources the ability to support more kids in the district."

Page 5, line 216: Change the sentence to begin: "If parents opt into the survey..."

The motion passed as amended 5-0-0.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting.

The motion passed as presented 5-0-0.

10. Consent Agenda

• Educator Resignations

- Meaghan Donegan, Grade 2 teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School
- Deb Gerber, Special Education Coordinator, Merrimack High School
- Hannah Lowell, Grade 2 teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Lei Xu, World Language teacher, Merrimack High School
- Sydney Conti, Language Arts Coordinator, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Sheila Demers, Pre-School Coordinator, Merrimack School District
- Barbara Lysy, Grade 1 teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School

• Educator Nominations

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin noted the sizeable list of nominations.

• Approval of Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires Policy

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

The motion passed 5-0-0.

11. School Board Committee Assignments

Chair Barnes asked members to notify her in the next two weeks if they would like to change assignments.

Board Member Guagliumi asked Chair Barnes to read aloud and explain the assignments.

Board Member Thompson asked that committees outside the School Board be removed from the list.

Chair Barnes acknowledged the request.

12. Other

a) Correspondence

Board Member Guagliumi noted that the entire board had received correspondence in regards to questioning why the School Board ballots were not part of the mailing.

Chair Barnes was in receipt of a thank you card from Pre-School Coordinator Sheila Demers thanking the board for the long-standing support of the pre-school program.

b) Comments

There were no comments.

13. New Business

Board Member Thompson requested that the board begin to discuss the funding for a new high school field inside the track.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that the board had given a charge to Planning and Building.

Superintendent Chiafery noted that this was the third part of a three part charge. The first two have been addressed and she could arrange a meeting before the school year concludes.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin stated that letters went out today to kindergarten families notifying them that make-up days due to inclement weather are scheduled for May 24 and 25 and May 31 and June 1.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if the delay today would impact the last day of school and was told no.

Student Representative Puzzo asked if the A-OK presentation by Sarah Heimberg will be given at a school board meeting.

Superintendent Chiafery commented that she can be scheduled to present on the same night as the high school presentation on May 21st.

Chair Barnes acknowledged a letter from the NH DOE noting the Merrimack School District Special Services again received a 100% compliance score on Indicator 11: Timeliness of Initial Evaluations 2017-2018 Reporting Year.

14. Committee Reports

Board Member Guagliumi attended the Merrimack Safeguard meeting and saw Sarah Heimberg's A-OK presentation. She praised the program.

Student Representative Puzzo shared that the Robotics Team competed at district championships in Boston. They had a very successful season and will continue with off-season competitions.

Vice Chair Schneider attended the SERESC board meeting right before this meeting. Discussion ensued on the make-up of the new board.

15. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Jason Brodsky of 5 Lexi Circle commented on two items, the water filtration plan and that the PFOA level be zero. He asked that other schools who have used Secondwind be asked to share their results.

16. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

Board Member Thompson moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

The motion passed 5-0-0.