

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

6:45 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING: TO ACCEPT/EXPEND GIFTS/GRANTS FOR \$5,000 AND OVER

- **Anonymous Donor to Merrimack School District for \$10,000 – Marge Chiafery**

Present: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Schneider, Board Members Guagliumi, Schoenfeld and Nunez. Also in attendance were Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin (not present during the public hearing), Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell and Student Representative Puzzo.

Chair Barnes invited school administrators and guests to the table.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that an anonymous donor had come forward and was very interested in helping the district's homeless students. She said the donor asked the district to calculate what the amount might be to take care of some of their initial needs. She also mentioned that Ms. Jodi Hanley was the homeless liaison for the district and her background was in social work. Superintendent Chiafery noted that Ms. Hanley had established relationships with many of the district's homeless families. She said there were a total of 22 students, as of June 30, 2018, who were homeless, ten at the elementary school, two at the middle school and ten at the high school. She said in the past, Ms. Hanley had purchased gift cards to stores such as Walmart which allowed the family to purchase what was necessary for them, noting that receipts were kept. Superintendent Chiafery said they determined there would be a \$200 allowance for elementary school students, \$275 allowance for middle school students and a \$375 allowance for high school students. She pointed out that it would include gas cards for students who might need to drive to work after school. Superintendent Chiafery stated that there would also be money to supplement the students' free lunches which would help with providing snacks.

Superintendent Chiafery said that occasionally they were asked about providing temporary lodging for families. She said they inquired what the daily rates were from some area hotels so if they found that a family was in jeopardy they would be able to provide them with lodging for a brief period of time.

Superintendent Chiafery said the donor felt the proposed distribution of the money was very reasonable and was willing to make a very generous donation of \$10,000. She said that Ms. Hanley monitored all of the spending.

Chair Barnes asked if there were questions or comments.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if there would be some money available to help if there were additional homeless students identified. Superintendent Chiafery replied the donation was capped at \$10,000 but she felt that might be an initial gift. She said the donor asked the district to identify some of the needs of the homeless students and to provide a dollar amount.

Board Member Guagliumi said she thought the donation was very thoughtful and generous.

Board Member Schoenfeld added that she too thought it was a very generous donation.

Chair Barnes commented that she felt the anonymous donor was very gracious and it was humbling.

Chair Barnes asked if there were anyone else who wished to comment or had any questions. There was none.

Chair Barnes closed the public hearing at 6:56 p.m. noting there would be a short recess prior to the regular School Board meeting began.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introduction of School Board Recorder

Chair Barnes introduced Trish Gedziun as the new School Board Recorder.

3. Public Participation

There was none.

4. Board's Response to Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts/Grants of \$5,000 and Over

Chair Barnes stated that the Board had previously held a public hearing to review a gift in the amount of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor to service the homeless students within the school district. She further stated that the Board had to formally accept the gift.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the gift of \$10,000 from the anonymous donor.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Schneider said that as was discussed during the public hearing, the generosity of the gift was off the charts and noted the care that had been taken by the administration to come up with a total that would meet the needs of the students.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Preliminary Discussion Regarding Short/Long Term Utilization - Brentwood Building

Chair Barnes stated that the Merrimack School District had purchased the Brentwood building on July 17, 2018.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that the Brentwood School, or what was referred to as the red building, was located directly across from the high school and was owned by the Southeastern Regional Service Center (SERESC). He further stated that SERESC had operated the Brentwood School for quite some time but they chose to move away from that type of business a few years ago and SERESC had subsequently gotten out of the business of owning real estate and into providing services for districts within the area. He said as a result of that, they put the Brentwood building on the market and after some negotiation; it was put on the school district's ballot in April of 2018, and purchased for \$275,000. Vice Chair Schneider said that there was a lot of discussion over the years as to what to do with the SAU offices as well as the special education offices. He noted they were currently housed in two buildings that were in the same proximity as the building they had just purchased and both were very old. He said there were various proposals but none had reached agreement and were also fairly pricey.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that the Merrimack School District currently owned the entire complex that it had a lot of intrinsic value. He further stated that the question before them was what to do with the building. He said the building was functional and was used as a school with classrooms, a half sized gym, a kitchen, storage and office areas. Vice Chair Schneider said the Board needed to start talking about a timeline and what they would like to do with the building in terms of short and long-term approaches.

Vice Chair Schneider mentioned that a tour of the building had been given and asked how many people were able to attend from the Planning & Building Committee. Mr. Gage Perry, Vice Chair of the Planning & Building Committee, addressed the Board and stated that four people from the Planning & Building Committee were present for the tour. Superintendent Chiafery commented that everyone was in attendance except for Ms. Sue Sheridan.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that the next step was to make sure that the Board had a chance to see the inside of the building and that the Planning & Building Committee had a chance to see it as well. She said part of what made the building interesting was that it had multiple additions.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if Board Member Nunez had the opportunity to tour the building because she was a new school board member. Superintendent Chiafery replied she had not but ensured that she would have that opportunity.

Mr. Perry said the building was certainly interesting and had multiple additions. He said he was not sure in its present state that it would meet much of their needs. He further said that the infrastructure would be challenging at best and there was no single attic or basement, pointing out that the utilities were run along the gutters and eaves.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that his initial thought was that the district needed to take a serious look at the property to determine what it would take to address the SAU & SPED housing problem. He said there was one drawing that an architect proposed which was to reconstruct the building with the existing footprint. He further said that his personal opinion was that they needed to look at all of the different options available and see what made sense. He commented that he did not think they should rush the process to get it on the April 2019, ballot. Vice Chair Schneider stated that he felt the Board should come up with a proposed timeline so it could be brought to the voters in April of 2020. He further stated that they should also come up with a plan, working with the administration, of what kind of programs or opportunities could be utilized in the building for the next two school years without doing any major changes.

Superintendent Chiafery agreed with the notion of waiting so it could be done well. She said she felt they should revisit the original drawing and perhaps do some re-configurations, noting that one of the things they realized was that they would not have a room dedicated to professional development. She further said they decided they needed one bigger room which could accommodate leadership team meetings and the like. Superintendent Chiafery said that people would expect a well thought out, whole plan which spoke to all of the dwellings on the property and that might include re-configuring the parking lot in the front of the high school.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she would welcome having someone come in and look at the project and tell them it is just not worth renovating because of x, y and z or it should be reconstructed. She further stated that whatever they did had to be done well, and last a very long time.

Mr. Perry said they had probably spent more money in repairs on the existing blue and green structures than what they originally cost and there was not a lot of value in them.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that the very back of the Brentwood building touched the property line of the house next to it. Mr. Perry asked if anyone had seen a copy of the deed. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied that he did see a copy of the deed and Keach-Nordstrom, who did the site survey, had seen the deed. Vice Chair Schneider said his understanding was that the fence was actually on the abutter's property but it was grandfathered

in. He said he felt they needed to look at all of the options and what the impact would be if the building were renovated with the existing footprint. Mr. Perry said they had to check everything because the minute the property was disturbed it may mean having to bring it up to code.

Vice Chair Schneider said that he would like the Board to agree on a timeline and to brainstorm some ideas as to how use the building. He further said he felt they needed to engage with the Planning & Building Committee.

Board Member Guagliumi said that one place to start might be to address the formal requirements and that it was agreed upon by the Board as well as the Planning & Building Committee. Vice Chair Schneider stated that there was a document which outlined the need and it should be revisited to see if it was still valid.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he would like to see the Planning & Building Committee have formal meetings which were recorded because it added to the transparency. Mr. Perry replied that all of the meetings were public meetings.

Chair Barnes said she felt a lot of what their constituents did was to come back to them based on what they saw on the recorded meetings. She also said that the minutes of their meetings were done pretty quickly so there was reasonable access for content. She further said they would love to see how the deliberations went in the Planning & Building Committee meetings to better help enable them to understand what their thought processes were.

Chair Barnes commented that when the Board asked the voters to purchase the Brentwood property, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. She said the site's valuation was \$1.1 million and it was purchased for \$275,000. She further said that they were focused on making sure that the administrative and student services offices had the facilities they needed to be productive and compliant. Chair Barnes stated that she felt the Board should set a goal so it could be voted on at the April 2020 election which would give them a timeline to formulate a needs assessment, a facilities assessment and to formulate a plan regarding how they would responsibly utilize the investment that they made.

Chair Barnes also said there were some short-term needs that the facility could accommodate. She further said that there were some things that special services could not do in their existing building that perhaps they could do in the new building for the short-term.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the engineer's report indicated that within the next year there was nothing major that had to be done to the building in order to maintain it.

Board Member Guagliumi said that one of the short-term uses could be the adult education classes, tutoring for the students or perhaps students that wished to practice an instrument. She further said that it might also serve as an opportunity to use it for other district meeting spaces.

Chair Barnes stated the next step would be a charge for a timeline for the Planning & Building Committee with updates to ensure they received the exact data they needed to present it in final form. She further stated that she felt they should allow a time period of one year and at the end of that year, they would deal with communications planning, touring and anything else which would help them plan for the budget season.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he felt they needed to meet with the Planning & Building Committee to let them know the approach they were taking so everyone was on the same page. He said if Planning & Building could meet sometime within the next month then it could be presented at the October 1, 2018, meeting.

Chair Barnes asked if it made sense to ask for quarterly updates. Vice Chair Schneider replied that would be fine to start with but as time went on it, the updates might be more frequent.

Vice Chair Schneider suggested that it would be helpful if the administration attended that meeting and provided some ideas on how to use the building for the short-term. Superintendent Chiafery replied she was taking the comments made at the meeting under advisement. She said Ms. Laura Bobbitt was the Director of Adult Education and she wanted to give her an opportunity to look at the space. She also said that would be true of anyone else that was interested.

Board Member Guagliumi said she would also recommend reaching out to out of town organizations to see if they might have a use for it, i.e. the Merrimack Youth Association (MYA) or Town Council.

Chair Barnes stated that they would extend those ideas with Town Council when they had their joint meeting.

Mr. Perry said the next scheduled meeting for the Planning & Building Committee was September 24, 2018. Vice Chair Schneider suggested that they have the meeting in the Brentwood building.

6. Data Security and Privacy Plan Development During the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Nancy Rose, Director of Technology & Library Media Services, addressed the Board and stated that House Bill 1612, which resulted in paragraph five of RSA:189-66, was a law which stated by June 30, 2019, the local education agency needed to produce a data and security plan that was reviewed and approved by the Board. She further said the plan needed to include a full security audit, which would be an onerous thing to do with a small staff. Ms. Rose said they also needed to identify their data types and agree to the categories of the data and what they considered was the use of that data. She further said that it became a bit tricky because there

was language in the RSA which indicated that the state would produce some of the definitions but there was nothing which indicated when they would produce it. Ms. Rose said there would be things like directory information which was essentially name, address and phone number. She further said that personally identifiable information took things a step further, especially if it was secure information, i.e. anything regarding Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), education records or anything that would tie data to an individual. Ms. Rose said there was also the role of what was called a “school authority” which was when the school district determined that an entity was a school authority because it performed a task on behalf of the district. She said PowerSchool acted as a school authority in a way because it maintained their data. She said Microsoft Office could also be considered a school authority because it did the task of producing documents that they requested it to produce. Ms. Rose stated that they needed to be very clear about how they defined different data types, what they allowed vendors to do with the data, how long they kept the data and if their terms of service were in agreement with what the district wanted. She further said that a lot of states were developing privacy laws and a lot of it had to do with how much vendors and education were monetizing the data they were getting from schools. Ms. Rose commented that the law was very well intended but it was a big deal to take on.

Ms. Rose said the law was partially responsive to FERPA but the other law that had an impact was COPPA (Children’s On-line Privacy Protection Act). She said when school districts’ used a system for students who were under the age of thirteen; they were essentially saying that they had secured the parents approval to use those systems. She further said even if a student was over thirteen years old, if there was a data breach, it would create a grey area.

Ms. Rose stated that it was a very confusing and complex issue. She said another component of the plan was developing a full list of software applications, including the terms of use and compliance with standards. She noted that the language read:

“The department shall establish minimum standards for privacy and security of student/employee data based on best practices for local education agencies.”

Ms. Rose said there had to be a plan in place that the Board had reviewed and approved by June 30, 2019. She further said that it appeared as though definitions would be provided to the district but they were only one year out from a very comprehensive plan that needed to be developed and they did not yet have those definitions. Ms. Rose said she and her colleagues were working on trying to figure out whom they needed to speak with regarding that. She further said that they would had to have the ability to identify sites, applications and products used, the terms of service for them, what they were being used for, if there was an account of what the data points were and what they were used for, what the vendors intended to do with any data they received and screen the applications so teachers knew whether or not it was okay to use them.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked if anytime a teacher wanted to use a web page that had some type of interactive component if it fell under this category. Ms. Rose replied she thought so because the list was very inclusive. She noted that it read “all software applications, digital tools and extensions.”

Board Member Schoenfeld commented that she felt part of it would be the importance of planning ways for teachers to work with that because it sounded very stifling. Ms. Rose replied there were software solutions that would do some of the pre-vetting.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if it was something that New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA) could help with because it seemed to be very complex.

Chair Barnes commented that whenever there was a change in law that affected the delivery of education, the NHSBA did its best to provide a sample policy to be used as the framework. She said there was a NHSBA meeting on the 19th and an Executive Meeting on the 10th and she would bring it up.

7. Preliminary Discussion Regarding Communication Strategies for 2018-2019 School Year

Chair Barnes pointed out that Ms. Rose was the Chair of the Communications Committee and Board Member Guagliumi was the liaison to that committee. She invited Board Member Nunez to become involved with the committee, as she was a communications consultant.

Ms. Rose said the Communication Committee was formed about two years ago and they did an initial parent survey to get a sense of what people were hoping to see regarding communication. She said as a result of that survey they became aware of the issues around transitioning between schools and they needed to focus on that area. She further said that keeping PowerSchool up-to-date was an issue and there had already been some work done regarding that.

Ms. Rose indicated that the committee had drafted a vision statement which was sent to the Leadership Team the previous year. She said one of the goals was to make sure that the communication was two-way so people felt like they were heard and represented.

Ms. Rose stated that the district did not have a communications person. She said they had a lot of discussion about communication at the leadership retreat. She further said one example was that they just started full-day kindergarten and how and what should they report back to the community regarding it. She also said the redevelopment of the Brentwood building was a fantastic opportunity to show growth in the district.

Ms. Rose suggested conducting another survey to target how people would like to be communicated with. She said the initial survey was done two years ago and in that timeframe, how people worked with social media had changed. Ms. Rose stated that it was a new territory for them and a bit tricky to do as a public entity. She further stated that they did a lot of great things in the schools and it was a great opportunity to share that with the community.

Chair Barnes pointed out that there were parents in the district who did not have a cell phone or an e-mail on record so doing a blast e-mail would not work for everyone. She said a consistent platform was very important and people needed to know where to go to find “x” or where to find a child’s upcoming homework or grades.

Chair Barnes said they wanted a portal for constructive feedback from the community. She said when they presented a budget for \$75 million she would rather not feel she was doing that in a bubble but that there was a place for constructive conversation. She further said that the Board all had e-mail address and telephone numbers which were not utilized much by the constituents and when people were disappointed in the budget presented, they did it without any proactive data regarding what they were expecting. She said they might not always be able to accommodate but they could at least communicate. Chair Barnes stated that was one of the communication challenges the Board had and felt there was a lot the Communications Committee could do to help facilitate that conversation. She further said that she thought surveys were a great way to go to get ideas fostered but they needed a consistent approach to be able to evolve the communications.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin commented that he agreed with the statements Chair Barnes had made. He said that the vision statement purposefully used some words that he felt were meaningful, for instance, “in partnership with families and the community.” He further said that communication was a two-way street and a lot of the dialogue was about the district doing a better job pushing information out and certainly it was but there had to be a willingness to share constructive feedback through mechanisms that were or could be made available. Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin said the vision statement also mentioned, “to create a foundation of trusting and meaningful relations between home, school and community...” He said the community deserved to have a relationship with their schools where they trust the information they received. Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin said he invited people to engage in a proactive, positive, forward-thinking communication. He further said the communication needed to be both ways if it was going to work.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he just realized that the school district had a Facebook page. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said he had posted something regarding the water filtration system and sent Vice Chair Schneider the Facebook link. He said Vice Chair Schneider then shared the link and they reached almost 3,000 people and received 92 likes and 24 loves.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the district had about 94% of parents e-mail addresses at each school so it was much easier to reach the parents if they needed to.

Chair Barnes commented that the social media invitation pages were private pages, she continued to say that you had to be allowed in by a moderator and they also controlled the content so if they did not like what you said they took it down. She said she did not consider that transparency and open communication and felt they needed to be careful about what the pages were designed to do.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he was a member of the School Board and was pretty tech savvy and was not aware there was a Facebook page so there was an opportunity to promote that one existed. He said if things were not promoted or advertised then they would go unnoticed. He suggested that a blast e-mail could be sent out to parents to let them know that the Facebook page existed.

Board Member Nunez commented that she felt it was fantastic that the school district valued communication the way that it did. She said communication was something that even adults could struggle with at times which was why she was a big believer of over communicating. Board Member Nunez stated that she felt they had a lot of opportunity for growth relative to communications in various areas and what worked in kindergarten through grade four might not work in the high school years. She further stated that she would love to participate on the Communications Committee and push as much information out as they could.

Board Member Guagliumi stated the challenge was that people wanted to be communicated with in different ways and a lot of places struggled with that. She said they should try to get the message out via a variety of ways. Ms. Rose replied that it was interesting to see how many people wanted to receive everything via e-mail versus people who wanted the information never to be delivered via e-mail.

Board Member Guagliumi commented that she was very appreciative of Ms. Rose's leadership on the committee and was serving the entire district and community very well.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if comments were turned off on the Facebook page. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied that comments could be left but a back and forth discussion was not possible. Board Member Guagliumi said that pushing out mini press releases or important information would be a good idea.

Board Member Schoenfeld commented that with the sheer number of ways that people currently communicated, there was always going to be someone who asked why are you not using "x." She said she felt it was becoming more important for the Board to have reasoned responses as to why something was taken off the table.

Ms. Rose commented that a lot of what was discussed was surrounding emergency communications. She further commented that in the case of an emergency communication the

primary goal was to make sure the situation was handled and students and teachers were safe as well as to keep people informed in a timely manner.

Board Member Nunez said that she really liked the Merrimack School District's app and further commented that she felt there should be one central location in which people went for information. Ms. Rose replied that she was in agreement, however, the district had a website for a long time and they had changed frameworks. She said the framework that they currently had did not have an app feature but something called Responsive that was supposed to work really well with phones but that was questionable. Ms. Rose noted that they had different systems in place but they were now talking about a consolidated effort to overthink how they conveyed information on a daily basis which was a change in practice. She further said that involved changing what they asked from each building. Ms. Rose said the feedback she was getting was very helpful.

8. Establish Date and Tentative Agenda Topics for Join Meeting with Town Council

Chair Barnes stated that she and Town Council Chair Finlay Rothhaus had taken an attendance poll and Board Member Schoenfeld was the only member who could not make the meeting on September 20, 2018.

Chair Barnes said that some of the items to be considered at the meeting were:

- The school resource officer at the middle school. The grant was no longer funding that position so the discussion would be around funding the position to keep it going and that had to be vetted between the two bodies because the police officer was an employee of the Town of Merrimack.
- Discussion on the skate park.
- The budget process had not yet started so it was a good time to hold a joint meeting.
 - Collective bargaining with the Merrimack Teachers Association would commence in the fall and they knew it would be a Warrant Article.
 - What Town Council had coming up.
- The Brentwood building

Chair Barnes said at the end of the day, when they asked the taxpayers how much they could bare, they should speak in unison.

Chair Barnes asked if there were any board members who wished to add items to the agenda. There was none.

Chair Barnes asked members to e-mail Superintendent Chiafery if they thought of any items to add and to copy her on the e-mail.

9. August Academy Outcomes

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin addressed the Board and stated that the first day of August Academy was dedicated to math training. He said the entire elementary staff were in the second year of the implementation of Envisions Math and consultants attend the academy. He further said that the teachers had a lot of questions around maximizing the technology component, the language base of the program and how to continue supporting it.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin commented that there was an adoption of a secondary math program which was Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, pointing out that it was the first year for that. He said there was also a consultant who worked with those teachers as well.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stated that the high school worked on New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin said that the specialists, i.e. art, music, physical education, etc. districtwide had several projects they worked on; one was integrating full-day kindergarten into the program.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stated that a nationally renowned organizational manager, Kimberly Miller, attended the academy and worked with them regarding having open dialogue as to where their strengths were and where their challenges were. He said they discussed issues surrounding what made every teacher a leader who embraced opportunities and challenges and what it took to realize that.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin commented that they also addressed how they could take a pro-active role in telling the story of what they do for students every day and how they should respond when days were not great. He said he felt that would resonate for years to come.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that the Board had given the administration the ability to promote the beta test and asked if that was promoted during the August Academy. Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin replied that it did not receive as much promotion as they might have liked due to the heavy schedule but the leadership team was well aware of it and it would be available to teachers in late October or early November. He said they consulted with the Merrimack Teachers Association and it was very well received and Dr. Saenz was delighted that Merrimack could continue to partner with them on the initiative.

10. Update on Summer Maintenance Projects (Part II)

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that as things had always happened in the past, over the last few weeks before the beginning of school, it all came together.

He said there was some shelving for the art room that came in that was not correct. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, referring to a slide presentation, described the projects as summarized below:

- The roof at Reeds Ferry Elementary School was complete.
- The new parking lot at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School was installed.
- The water filtration units – Everything came back non-detectable but they would be doing a re-test at Reeds Ferry Elementary School and Merrimack High School.
- New cabinetry/case work/new tables
- New sinks

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that everything that was a capital improvement had been completed with the exception of the bleachers in back of the high school which would be done after the football season.

11. Approval of Minutes - August 20, 2018

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to accept the minutes from the August 20, 2018, as amended.

Chair Barnes asked the members of the Board if there were any emendations to the minutes before them.

Discussion:

Page 2, line #73 – “and how the vision cannot be accomplished with a Student Wellness Coordinator” was deleted – Board Member Guagliumi

Page 2, line #74 – Sentence beginning with “Identify tasks with Mental Health Committee....” was changed to “She also would like tasks identified that the Mental Health Committee members are doing that are taking time away from their important work with students.” – Board Member Guagliumi

Page 7, line #309 – the word “request” was deleted – Board Member Guagliumi

Page 7, line #313 – the words “expressed concern over” was changed to “asked how the survey” – Board Member Guagliumi

Page 8, line #349 – the words “and taxpayers” was added to the first line after the word “district” – Board Member Guagliumi

The motion passed 5-0-0.

12. Consent Agenda

a. Educator Resignations

Ms. Jennifer Adams, Math Teacher, Merrimack Middle School

Ms. Catherine Pires, Library Media Specialist, Masticola Elementary School

b. Educator Nominations

Ms. Mariel Carmelo, World Language Teacher, Merrimack High School

Ms. Samantha Demers, Grade 1 Teacher, Reeds Ferry School

Ms. Alicia Dionne, Science Teacher, Merrimack High School

Ms. Stephanie Womersley, Preschool Teacher, Masticola Elementary School

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to accept the Consent Agenda as read.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

13. Other

a. Correspondence

Vice Chair Schneider stated that several parents had reached out to him regarding the water filtration systems at the schools and once he was notified of the completion of the systems, he got back to the parents to let them know. He said there were many communications and e-mails from the parents who were thankful for what they had done and very happy that they were so proactive.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she was in receipt of correspondence from Ms. Ann Marie Banfield, regarding the Right-to-Know Law (RSA 91-A:1) who asked questions regarding the article that was in the Union Leader about the districts social and emotional learning curriculum which was being piloted at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if the Right-to-Know Law applied for people who lived outside of the district. Superintendent Chiafery replied it was a question that needed to be further explored but she felt she would respond to it. She said she had never received a like request from a person who lived outside of the district.

b. Comments

Chair Barnes commented that Superintendent Chiafery and she were contacted by the Union Leader regarding a study by Governor Sununu which would require schools to start after Labor Day. She said that was something that Merrimack did because it was right for them, noting that 88% of parents were in favor of it. She further said that they both said they felt it was about local control, it being up to the individual district and would not want to impose what was best for Merrimack on others.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that there was an article in the Union Leader entitled “Schools see fallout from student’s home lives, take on trauma” of which Ms. Julie DeLuca was included. She further stated that the district had a Project GROW grant, as did the Town of Laconia, and both were referenced in the article. Superintendent Chiafery commented that she felt Ms. DeLuca did a great job representing Merrimack.

14. New Business

There was none.

15. Committee Reports

There was none.

16. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There was none.

17. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

18. Adjournment

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to adjourn.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.