

**Merrimack School Board Meeting  
Merrimack School District, SAU #26  
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room  
Monday, November 5, 2018**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

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**Present:** Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Schneider, Board Members Guagliumi, Schoenfeld and Nunez. Also in attendance were Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell and Student Representative Puzzo.

**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. Public Participation**

Ms. Carrie Chiasson, 19 Powers Circle, addressed the Board and stated that she was present to discuss transportation for athletics in terms of responsibility, safety and the budget. She asked who was responsible for providing transportation for school practices and pointed out there was a home field six miles away from the school and was not sure why it was considered anything other than “away.”

Ms. Chiasson said the standard transportation policy stated that “shall not require a child to walk more than one mile to assigned school or bus pick-up point.” She asked if the policy should include any school-organized sports as well. She further said with regard to safety, without transportation provided to get to the home field, students were left to find their own transportation and it had been suggested that they should find a ride with an upper classman. Ms. Chiasson commented that she felt the school was claiming responsibility for any potential accidents or problems that may happen in the vehicle. She further commented this should never be suggested or asked of any student, as it was a risk to everyone involved. Ms. Chiasson stated there were 250 buses scheduled for all of the teams but in soccer alone there were over 100 kids who had to look for their own transportation and suggested that the school board budget for an adequate number of buses.

**3. Administration's Response to High School Athletic Transportation in Board's Budget Message**

(Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell & Mr. Mike Soucy)

- **Transportation for After School Athletic Practices**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell thanked Mr. Soucy, Athletic Director as well as Mr. Bancroft, Co-Manager at Student Transportation of America, as they had put together a tentative budget which indicated it would cost approximately \$64,000 per year if they were to fulfill all of the obligations pertaining to buses for after school practices. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented that cost was not the only mitigating factor. He said there was an overall shortage of bus drivers nationwide which may put a strain on their system as it currently was because their first priority was the regular bus routes. He noted that many of the practices occurred while the regular elementary school routes were running. He further noted it would be easier if there were a plethora of bus drivers available and they could guarantee it and go ahead and put \$64,000 in the budget, but he was concerned about the lack of drivers.

Mr. Mike Soucy, Athletic Director, addressed the Board and stated that in his experience, they were not providing transportation to most of the practices which were outside of Merrimack High School, although there were some exceptions. He noted that the boys and girls soccer teams had the opportunity to get on a regular route bus and go to Reed's Ferry Elementary School for practices. He further said they had provided that service for many years and the same opportunity was available to freshmen when they had games at Reeds Ferry Elementary School. Mr. Soucy said the field at the high school could not sustain the number of games that would be played on it which is why they rented field time at Global Premier Soccer (GPS) in Bedford. He said in the past, they tried to provide some transportation for teams to get to GPS but they had a difficult time securing busses and drivers during the 2:30 p.m. timeframe.

Mr. Soucy pointed out that they provided transportation to Alpine Ski but it was only a couple of times per week but they did not provide transportation for anything else. He said there was so much that took place off-campus during the winter but in the spring, the boys and girls lacrosse teams had the same opportunity as the soccer teams did.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the State of New Hampshire recognized the bus driver shortage and created a commission who released a report on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said they were looking at offering drivers the ability to collect unemployment compensation during the summer months to attract new drivers. He further said another issue was that it took six to eight weeks to train prospective

drivers. He noted the article indicated “the shortage caused some districts to delay start times and suspend extra-curricular activities the previous year.”

Chair Barnes asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board.

Board Member Nunez commented that her biggest concern was the liability with regard to students driving other students. She said for her, a teenager driving younger students to practices was not an option and felt there had to be a plan B if Student Transportation of America (STA) was not a viable option. Board Member Nunez asked if there were any rules or regulations which pertained to coaches and if there was a way they could have coaches, assistant coaches or designated persons who could be instructed to be in charge of the transportation.

Board Member Nunez asked if there were other fields in Merrimack that might be able to accommodate some of the games. Mr. Soucy replied in the past, soccer games were played at the Budweiser fields but to his knowledge those fields had “gone away.” He further replied that other fields would present the same type of challenges because they were not located on-campus and therefore, still be looking for transportation for the kids to get to the fields.

Board Member Nunez asked what happened to the unused funds from the original budget that was set aside for bussing. Mr. Soucy replied the budget which was set forth for transportation was based on a “best guess scenario.” Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell added that unused funds were put back to reduce taxes.

Board Member Guagliumi asked, as it related to soccer, if a turf field would solve the issue. Mr. Soucy replied a turf field would certainly solve a lot of the problem.

Board Member Guagliumi asked how much they paid GPS for the use of their fields. Mr. Soucy replied it was approximately \$6,000 per year for soccer.

Board Member Guagliumi asked Mr. Soucy how much a turf field would improve the existing issues for soccer. Mr. Soucy replied it would probably solve 100% of the issues for soccer as well as lacrosse.

Board Member Guagliumi asked Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell what the estimated cost for the turf field was. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied it was approximately \$1.8 million.

Board Member Guagliumi asked when it was going to be put in.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) was in process.

Board Member Guagliumi stated that she knew of some districts who purchased a bus for the sole purpose of transporting for athletics and perhaps they could find someone within the district privately who would be interested in becoming a driver. Mr. Soucy replied he was not sure how cost effective that would be and he did not know how easy it would be to get a driver for that particular bus. He further stated that it would only be a solution for a small percentage of what they needed. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented that the driver would need to have a commercial driver's license. Board Member Guagliumi commented that another option might be to purchase smaller buses where a commercial driver's license was not required.

Mr. Soucy replied it would require multiple buses to meet their needs and most of their teams would not fit on a 12-passenger bus.

Board Member Guagliumi stated that she felt they needed to figure out a solution to the problem because she was not comfortable with students driving other students.

Mr. Soucy commented that he echoed everyone's concerns and the Athletic Department was not promoting students transporting other students. He also commented that he did his best to let parents know that they did not provide transportation.

Board Member Guagliumi said her other suggestion was to work with the Booster Clubs as it related to some of the transportation because it may have given parents the opportunity to plan ahead for carpools.

Board Member Guagliumi said Ms. Chiasson had asked who was responsible to provide the transportation and it sounded like the answer to that was a combination of the school and families. Mr. Soucy replied that was correct.

Board Member Guagliumi asked about the one-mile rule as it related to transportation. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied if they took all of the bus stops in Merrimack and made kids walk one mile, there would not be enough room in this facility to see all the parents who would be upset over it. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said there was also a rule that if you lived within two miles of a school, transportation was not required. He said it was a statute in the RSA that they chose not to abide by.

Chair Barnes clarified that it was not that they did not abide by the statutes, but they exceeded the minimum expectations. She said if there was a one-mile requirement to go to the bus stop, how could there be a six-mile expectation to get to an end point.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied attending school was compulsory and after school activities were a choice and therefore, not regulated under the statute.

Board Member Nunez asked if a student chose to be a part of an extra curricular activity, if that meant they no longer assumed any liability for that child even though it was part of a school athletic program. She said one of her biggest concerns was if the absolute worst happened and they had two teenage drivers driving to a game who happen to hit a tree, who would be liable in that situation. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied a few years ago, they received a legal opinion from their Legal Counsel, Ms. Kathy Peahl, and because it was not mandatory, the district would not be legally liable for any injury if a student provided his/her own transportation to an activity.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if there was a penalty if the bus company was not able to provide a service that was pre-arranged. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied the contract was for "X" amount of school days which was the regular transportation. He said there were additional field trips and other activities which were requested of them and that was usually at a different hourly rate. He further said there would be a penalty if they were unable to meet their needs during the regular transportation times but anything else would not incur a penalty. Board Member Guagliumi asked if they could put a penalty clause on the contract the next time the contract came up. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied they could take a look at that.

Board Member Schoenfeld stated that her first reaction to the idea of a penalty was they could certainly look at that for a variety of reasons but if there was no driver then there was no driver.

Board Member Schoenfeld clarified that safety was paramount regardless of liability. She asked what other school districts typically did regarding transportation for the extra curricular events. Mr. Soucy replied the vast majority of schools were in the same situation as Merrimack.

Vice Chair Schneider commented if they were to get a few of the smaller buses and offer transportation for certain things that would then mean that the school would pick-up liability. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied if they were to get a few of the smaller buses he would have to have copies of a driver's license, fingerprints would have to be on file and they would have to be put on their policy, which would be an additional cost.

Vice Chair Schneider said they gave the Planning and Building Committee a charge regarding the turf field about a year ago and it was presently on the Capital

Improvement Plan not for this budget year but the next. He said one of the ways they could get that kick-started would be to get parents who were very passionate about it to work with the school board and the Planning and Building Committee in an effort to look at creative ways to get money to make it happen.

Chair Barnes asked if the lack of transportation impacted the recruiting and participation with the sports teams. Mr. Soucy replied he had not received any pushback from anyone who indicated they would not participate due to a lack of transportation.

Board Member Nunez commented that the turf field might be the ideal scenario but in the interim, they had fields at the Merrimack Middle School, Bishop Field and Reeds Ferry Elementary School with Reeds Ferry being the only one that had lights. She said instead of bussing the teams to Bedford, would it be more cost effective and easier for all involved, if they invested in adding lights to one or more of those fields or extending the field at Bishop Field. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied that Bishop Field was on town property and not the school district's property. He further replied they could look at installing lights at the middle school. Mr. Soucy pointed out that there were challenges with the middle school field and other fields. When it rained it completely saturated the fields and they became unusable. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that he did look into drainage to help mitigate the challenge but the issue was that some of the fields had clay bases.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if there was bussing to Wasserman Park for the students who played tennis. Mr. Soucy replied he thought they did provide some transportation for students to get to Wasserman Park but it had not been taken advantage of the previous spring.

Board Member Nunez asked if they paid rent to utilize the GPS field. Mr. Soucy replied yes. Board Member Nunez asked if it would make more sense to apply those funds towards improving our own fields to avoid having to utilize town fields. Mr. Soucy replied anything was an option and he was open to any suggestions for consideration. He noted in an ideal world he would like to have everything on their own campus.

Board Member Guagliumi inquired regarding the games at GPS being postponed until later in the day so they could take advantage of utilizing the buses for the home games.

Mr. Soucy replied that GPS was a huge soccer club and they conducted their own training later in the day which would make it very difficult for them to renegotiate the game times.

**4. Board's Response to Memo of Understanding Between the Merrimack School District and Town of Merrimack Regarding the Skate Park**

(Chair Barnes and Superintendent Chiafery)

Chair Barnes commented that a Memo of Understanding (MOU) was prepared to deal with the liabilities that were managed as a result of having the skate park. She read aloud from that memo as summarized below:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the Merrimack School District (District) and the Town of Merrimack (Town.)

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize a joint undertaking between the District and the Town to operate a recreational skateboard park for members of the community and student population to access free of charge.
- II. **Timeframe:** The revocable license shall be in effect for one-year following the executive date of this MOU and shall renew automatically for successive one-year terms unless terminated by either party prior to the annual expiration date. The terminating party shall endeavor to provide 60 days advance written notice to the non-terminating party.
- III. **Rights & Responsibilities:**
  - The District grants the Town a revocable license to occupy District owned premises, described more specifically as the Merrimack Skate Park, located on O'Gara Drive (Town Map 5-D3, lot 128)
  - The District shall retain ownership of said premises.
  - The Town will retain ownership of the skate park equipment.
  - The Town of Merrimack will:
    - a. Maintain the equipment, fencing and signage,
    - b. Remove all trash and graffiti,
    - c. Install and monitor a video only (no audio) camera at the location, and
    - d. Conduct or obtain an annual safety inspection of the park.
  - The parties agree to confer in good faith regarding any issues that arise concerning this MOU.
  - In the event of termination of this MOU, the Town shall remove the skate park equipment and restore the premises.

- IV. **Immunities:** Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as a waiver or limitation on any immunity available to the parties.
- V. **No Third Party Beneficiaries:** Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to create any third party rights.
- VI. **Integration & Amendments:** This MOU constitutes the entire agreement of the parties. Modifications to this MOU shall be made by written amendment signed by duly authorized representative of each party.

The parties hereby execute this MOU through their authorized representatives.

Chair Barnes asked if there were any members of the Board who had questions or comments.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if something came up that was a monumental safety concern and they needed to get out of the MOU earlier than 60 days, would they be able to do that. Vice Chair Schneider replied that concern was covered under the fifth bullet above "The parties agree to confer in good faith regarding any issues that arise concerning this MOU."

Vice Chair Schneider asked if it should be added that the Town of Merrimack would maintain the surfaces and sub-surfaces, like tar or cement, inside of the skate park. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell agreed that the Town should be responsible for the base surface.

Vice Chair Schneider also said that he felt the Town should be responsible for plowing and other maintenance of the parking area as well.

Board Member Nunez commented that her biggest issue with the park being located on school property was the potential for drug and/or alcohol use. She said if that were consistently a challenge then it would be beneficial if there was a way they could close the park on a temporary basis until they could decide what the best course of action would be.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she would provide the Attorney with the proposed modifications, ask that MOU be recrafted and bring it back to the Board at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that the skate park was located in a drug free school zone and that should be part of the MOU. Chair Barnes indicated that she agreed.



Superintendent Chiafery added that the School Board would review the document in full, prior to the Town Council. She said if the modified MOU met with Board's approval, it would be put on the Consent Agenda for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and she would notify Ms. Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if the Board was happy with the draft that Superintendent Chiafery brought them on the 19<sup>th</sup>, if they could propose waiving the two-week rule and approve it that night. Superintendent Chiafery replied that if they were all in agreement they could certainly do that.

Chair Barnes stated if the Board thought of anything else regarding the MOU to please send an e-mail to Superintendent Chiafery and copy her on it.

**5. Guaranteed Maximum Rate for Health and Dental Insurance for 2019 – 2020**  
(Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell )

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said every year, for budgeting purposes; they were given a guaranteed maximum rate that they could use to put the budget together. He said the District was given the guaranteed maximum rate in the fall and given the actual rate in the spring. He further said they were currently looking at a guaranteed maximum rate for health insurance of 13.7% and a guaranteed maximum rate for dental of 2.3%. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the range for the current year was an approximate 10% to 18% increase as a whole and that was what they would use to build the budget.

Chair Barnes commented that they had a joint meeting with Town Council in which they looked to see if there were opportunities to save money as a community. She said where they could combine costs, they always did so. She further said that health insurance was one of the most impactful costs they had as a district outside of salaries. Chair Barnes commented that pooling the two groups of employees (School District and Town) together would create a larger pool which might be advantageous and lower the cost of health insurance. She said technically, they would not be changing any of the offerings of insurance for each of the parties, but the risk pool would be combined. She further said they were going into it with an open mind but were mindful of some understanding that some higher risk pool candidates were on the Town side of the ledger, specifically fire and police. She added they were not obligated to take the combined risk pool and combine the policies, although it may save the Town money, it may spike District policies.

Chair Barnes commented that the needed to authorize the Superintendent to send HealthTrust a letter to perform an analysis and determine what they would be looking at in terms of a combined risk pool.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to authorize Superintendent Chiafery to send a letter to HealthTrust directing them to perform an analysis of the joint risk pool between the two entities.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

#### **6. Board's Initial Response to Honeywell Phase V Energy Project Proposal**

(Chair Barnes)

Chair Barnes mentioned at the last meeting they received a presentation from Honeywell regarding all of the different things they could do to improve their facilities, noting that some were things they had to keep an eye on like 50-year old boilers as well as environmental improvements. She said it was unlikely they could do everything on the list but asked the Board for their feedback.

Board Member Guagliumi commented that she would like to get some input from Mr. Tom Touseau, Director, Maintenance Department because he knew the buildings inside and out.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that Mr. Touseau was in receipt of the comprehensive report.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said they had a conversation with Mr. Jim Lucy, Mr. Touseau and Superintendent Chiafery. He said they were looking at doing some basic items which they thought would avoid future potential failures.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that they wanted to consolidate eight heating pumps into a single pair of 100% redundant pumps with variable devices at the James Masticola Elementary School and the James Masticola Upper Elementary School.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell also said they would like to remove the two existing boilers and provide two new gas fired boilers at the James Masticola Elementary School.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the last item was to provide a back-up pump at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School. He said the proposed upgrades would be to consolidate the pumps and provide a second pump as a backup.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented that they were looking to get a figure for the items mentioned above to possibly bring before the Board and potentially include it in the operating budget.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that he did not think it should be included in the operating budget. He said he would like to make sure they saw what the overall cost was before it became part of the operating budget. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied there was \$320,000 in the 2017–2018 facilities budget to repair the bleachers behind the high school but the project had not yet started because of weather and engineering work. He said there was approximately \$975,000 in Mr. Touseau’s budget. The \$320,000 was not included in that figure.

Superintendent Chiafery commented that the leadership team was going to try to figure out what might be appropriate for a Warrant Article and what might be appropriate to put in the operating budget. She said they considered the boilers a need and would suggest starting off by putting them in the operating budget. She further said if the Board decided to take them out and put them on the Warrant, her greatest fear was that the answer would be no and they would not get to do it. Superintendent Chiafery pointed out that she would prefer to pull the drainage and the paving at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School from the budget and ask the public what they wished to do; that was a site where they went to vote.

Vice Chair Schneider said that he would like to understand what projects Mr. Touseau considered to be critical.

Chair Barnes stated that they had tapped their emergency fund multiple times and it was pretty low. She wanted to know what the cost would be if they were without a furnace and they did not have the emergency fund in which to draw from.

Board Member Guagliumi said there were many things that came up at the last meeting which were of a surprise to her, especially the lack of ventilation in the various schools. She further said she felt they needed to take the information, prioritize it and then spread it out and add it to the Capital Improvement Plan in an effort to continue taking care of their schools and in controlling the taxpayer impact.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if they could get a price for installing air conditioning in the library at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied he would do that.

Chair Barnes asked if there were any other members of the Board who had questions or comments. There was none.

## 7. Revised School Board Policy

- **First Reading Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds** (Superintendent Chiafery)

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she was bringing forward a revised model policy by the New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA) regarding tobacco products. She further stated the policy was revised to include definitions and prohibitions relative to e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine.

Superintendent Chiafery read aloud the revised policy as summarized below:

### **TITLE: TOBACCO PRODUCTS BAN USE AND POSSESSION IN AND ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS**

State law prohibits the use of any tobacco product, e-cigarette or liquid nicotine in any facility or upon any grounds maintained by the District. Students and minors are further prohibited from possessing such items in or upon facility, school vehicle, or grounds owned or maintained by the District.

#### **A. Definitions**

**"Tobacco product(s)"** means any product containing tobacco including, but not limited to, cigarettes, smoking tobacco, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and smokeless cigarettes, as well as any other product or item included in RSA 126-K:2, XI as the same may be amended or replaced from time-to-time.

**"E-cigarette"** means any electronic smoking device composed of a mouth piece, a heating element, a battery and electronic circuits that provides a vapor of pure nicotine mixed with propylene glycol to the user as the user simulates smoking. This term shall include such devices whether they are manufactured as e-cigarettes, e-cigars or e-pipes, or under any other product name as well as any other product or item included in RSA 126-K:2, II-a as the same may be amended or replaced from time-to-time.

**"Liquid nicotine"** means any liquid product composed either in whole or in part of pure nicotine and propylene glycol and manufactured for use with e-cigarettes, as well as any other product or item included in RSA 126 K:2, IIIa as the same may be amended or replaced from time-to-time.

**"Facility"** is any place which is supported by public funds and which is used for the instruction of students enrolled in preschool programs and in all grades maintained by the District. This definition shall include all administrative buildings, offices and areas within facilities supportive of instruction and subject to educational administration, including, but not limited to, lounge areas, passageways, rest rooms, laboratories, classrooms, study areas, cafeterias, gymnasiums, maintenance rooms, libraries and storage areas.

**B. Students**

No student shall purchase, attempt to purchase, possess or use any tobacco product in any facility, in any school vehicle or anywhere on school grounds maintained by the District.

Enforcement of the prohibition against students shall initially rest with building principals, or their designees, who may also report any violation to law enforcement, for possible juvenile, criminal or other proceedings as provided under state law. Additional consequences may be administered pursuant to printed student conduct rules.

**C. Employees**

No employee shall use any tobacco product, e-cigarette or liquid nicotine, in any facility, in any school vehicle or anywhere on school grounds maintained by the District.

Initial responsibility for enforcement of this prohibition shall rest with building principals, or their designees. Any employee(s) who violate(s) this policy is subject to disciplinary action which may include warning, suspension or dismissal. Violations may also be referred to appropriate law enforcement and/or other appropriate agencies for criminal or other proceedings as provided under state law.

**D. All Other Persons**

No visitor, contractor, vendor or other member of the public shall use any tobacco product, e-cigarette or liquid nicotine in any facility, in any school vehicle, or anywhere on school grounds maintained by the District.

The building principal, and where appropriate, other site supervisor (such as the Athletic Director) or their designee, shall have the initial responsibility to enforce this section, by requesting that any person who is violating this policy to immediately close the use of tobacco products, e-cigarette or liquid nicotine. After this request is made, if any person refuses to refrain from using such products in violation of this policy, the principal site supervisor or designee may contact the appropriate law enforcement agency(ies) for possible criminal or other proceedings as provided under state law.

**E. Implementation and Notice - Administrative Rules and Procedures**

The Superintendent shall establish administrative rules and procedures to implement this policy, which rules and procedures may be building level and/or districtwide. Rules and procedures relating to student violations and resulting disciplinary consequences should be developed in consultation with building principal(s).

The Superintendent, working with the building principal(s), shall provide annual notice to employees, students and parents of the pertinent provisions of this policy (e.g. student or staff handbook) along with applicable administrative regulations and procedures, which may include prescribed consequences for violations of this policy. Such notice should include information that violation of this policy could lead to criminal or other such proceeding.

Signs shall be placed by the District in all buildings, facilities and school vehicles stating that the use of tobacco products is prohibited.

Chair Barnes asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he felt the District should also place signs on the grounds. Superintendent Chiafery replied that she agreed with that.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked where the skate park would fall in relation to the ban because the Town would be maintaining it. Chair Barnes replied it was still the District's property.

Chair Barnes stated that it would be on the Consent Agenda for the first meeting in December.

#### **8. Approval of October 15, 2018 Minutes**

Board Member Schoenfeld moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2018, minutes.

The motion passed 4-0-1 (Abstained - Vice Chair Schneider).

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

(Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell)

- Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers to Merrimack High School for \$1,375.00

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented that Mr. Jim Forbes, Treasurer, New Hampshire Woodworkers, 31 Mill Pond Road, Kittery, ME, made a gift in the amount of \$1,375.00 to expand the Lathe Turning Curriculum, specifically, in the area of hollow form and bowl turning. He said the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers asked that a press release to local news outlets occur which showcased Merrimack High School students newly acquired skills.

Vice Chair Schneider asked who was responsible for making sure there was a press release. Superintendent Chiafery replied Mr. Phil Carle would be responsible for the press release.

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the gift from the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers with their sincere gratitude.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

#### **10. Consent Agenda**

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stated that there was one teacher nomination, Elizabeth Compton, for the position of Library Media Specialist at the James Masticola Elementary School.

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

The motion passed 5-0-0.

#### **11. Other**

##### a) Correspondence

Board Member Schoenfeld stated that she was contacted by a parent regarding summer homework and its influence on grades. She said she had not yet had the opportunity to follow up but she looked forward to doing so.

##### b) Comments

Superintendent Chiafery said the Blue Ribbon and Gold Circle Partners Ceremony occurred on October 26<sup>th</sup> and was pleased to point out that six out of six schools were recognized for the extraordinary efforts of the school volunteer program. She further said that all four elementary schools were recognized because of the Gold Circle Partners that they had, which meant they were collaborating with businesses or organizations in town.

#### **12. New Business**

There was none.

#### **13. Committee Reports**

Mr. Puzzo said that the Merrimack football team was going to play in the semi-final round against Bedford on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Board Member Guagliumi stated that the previous week Superintendent Chiafery and she met with the District Parent's Group Committee and discussed a variety of activities going on in the District including fundraising opportunities. She mentioned that Lynn Lyons, whose work was focused on the topic of anxiety, would give a presentation on February 13<sup>th</sup> in the high school cafeteria.

Board Member Guagliumi said there was also a Safeguard Meeting and the Be Bold from Bedford Group was scheduled to attend but they had to cancel at the last minute. She said they would be attending the meeting on December 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the St. James Church. She further said the SADD community was gaining great momentum at the school and one of the members of SADD talked about an event regarding vaping which would be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Merrimack High School Little Theater.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that there was a SERESC Board of Directors meeting held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. He said SERESC provided a lot of the consulting for many of the special needs areas that Merrimack and other Districts used and they were interested in extending the services which they provided.

Vice Chair Schneider commented that, with regard to SNHU (Southern New Hampshire University), he was interviewed by five members of a cohort who wanted input for one of their classes.

Board Member Nunez said Parks & Recreation hosted a Halloween night and they did a great job. She said they also updated their website and it looked amazing.

#### **14. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Ms. Joellen Manhardt, 9 Ballard Road, addressed the Board and said she wanted to encourage the Board to look into researching other ways to fund the field.

Mr. Richard Foote, 129 Indian Rock Road, addressed the Board and stated that the skateboard park annoyed him a little because the people who used it did not always keep it clean. He also noted there were already some signs that said tobacco use was prohibited but he frequently saw people smoking or vaping anyway.

Ms. Carrie Chiasson, 19 Powers Circle, addressed the Board and commented that student safety should be their first thought in every decision made. She said she hoped they were not choosing to not use one of the school fields because it might rain, she hoped they would not try to schedule buses because there might not be a driver and that they did not feel responsible because they were not liable. She further said that the soccer team needed their field on school property.



Mr. Manny Gonzalves, 10 Wasserman Heights, addressed the Board and said there were about 100 kids that needed a field to play sports on and he did not understand why they were not using the fields that surrounded the school's property.

Ms. Jenna Hardy, 59 Peaslee Road, addressed the Board and stated that she wanted to add her voice to the discussion. She said she did not agree that upper classmen should drive the younger students to games and she and the other parents were committed to help raise whatever money they could to get a turf field.

Ms. Jennifer Dutton, 30 Raymond Drive, addressed the Board and pointed out that it had been stated that the school was not liable for kids that were getting rides home from other parents or kids which took the school off the hook. Kids driving kids was not only dangerous but it put the liability on the parents. She said she wanted the Board to work with the parents to come up with a solution.

#### **15. Manifest**

The Board members signed the manifest.

#### **9:00 P.M. – Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) & (c) – In-Training Classroom**

- **Student Welfare**
- **Negotiations**

At 9:03 p.m. Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) & (c).

The motion passed 5-0-0 by roll call vote.

#### **16. Adjournment**

At 10:20 p.m. Board member Nunez moved (seconded by Board member Guagliumi) to adjourn the public session.

The motion passed 5-0-0.