

**Merrimack School Board Meeting  
Merrimack School District, SAU #26  
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room  
Monday, December 17, 2018**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

---

---

**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. Chrissy Boucher of 4 Halletts Way addressed the Board and stated that she felt the addition of a turf field would benefit the players, the school as well as the community.

Ms. Jo-Ellen Manhardt, 9 Pollard Road, addressed the Board and stated that she was very much in favor of the town installing a turf field.

Ms. Lynn Angelo, 98 Bedford Road, addressed the Board and stated she felt there was a type of disconnect when she had to travel to another school to watch her kids play sports and noted there were very few spectators in attendance to support the team.

Chair Barnes asked if there were further comments from the public. There was none.

**3. Parents' Response to the Board Regarding Fundraising Efforts to Support Turf Field at Merrimack High School (MHS)**

(Ms. Carrie Chiasson, Ms. Ashley Coleman and Ms. Jennifer Savickas)

Ms. Chiasson, addressed the Board and stated that Mr. Brian Miller and Ms. Reagan Lopez were also present to discuss the proposed turf field.

Ms. Chiasson commented that many of the games were played off-site because the district only had a grass field. She said they were very excited about the opportunity of getting a turf field which would allow almost year-round use, and be utilized for multiple sports.

Mr. Miller stated that he was the head coach for the boy's Lacrosse team at the Merrimack High School for seven years. He further stated that there were approximately 50 boys on the Lacrosse team and they spent a lot of time fundraising which enabled them to rent out fields in neighboring communities.

Mr. Miller said they usually spent \$3,000 - \$8,000 each spring for turf rentals. He further said a turf field would allow them more time to practice on the field and more access to it.

Ms. Chiasson said a turf field would provide opportunities for the MYA (Merrimack Youth Association). She further said the district would save money on bus transportation which was \$325 each time they bussed the students to an off-site field.

Ms. Lopez commented they had already started the fundraising campaign and were working on a petition, which required a minimum of 25 signatures, for a Warrant Article. She further commented they had approached corporate donors as well as local businesses and their hope was to alleviate whatever they could from the taxpayers.

Ms. Chiasson read aloud from the petition for a Warrant Article as follows:

*Shall the district raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200,000 for the design, construction, purchase, installation and original equipping of a new artificial turf field for Merrimack High School and further, to authorize the School Board and school community support groups, apply for and obtain any donations, gifts, devices, bequests, grants, etc., which may be available for said project and expand any such donations, gifts, devices, bequests, grants, etc., for the purpose of designing, constructing, purchasing, installing and equipping the new artificial turf field.*

Vice Chair Schneider commented the turf field would be utilized quite a bit and felt the efforts the parents were making to raise money for the turf field was important, and hoped taxpayers understood that. He asked Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to explain how they would handle receiving donations, sponsorships, etc., both in the current year as well as future years.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated the Warrant Article was worded such that the entire \$1.2 million needed to be raised and then it would be dependent upon how the group collected the pledged monies. He said they would have to wait for the Article to pass and collect on the pledges or create a 501c3.

Vice Chair Schneider asked how the district would receive the funds from the group. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied it would be as simple as filling out a Gifts & Grants Form. He said there would be a public hearing where it would be accepted.

Board Member Guagliumi asked how the Board could best support the groups' efforts. Chair Barnes replied there were two members of the Board who went to the initial meeting, Vice Chair Schneider, liaison for the School Board Planning and Building Committee and the Board Member Nunez liaison for the Parks and Recreation liaison.

Chair Barnes stated that Vice Chair Schneider would be the primary contact for anyone interested in the turf field committee work, fundraising efforts or organization. She also said another contact was Board Member Nunez.

Board Member Guagliumi asked Chair Barnes to review the process of the Petition Warrant Article. Chair Barnes replied there would be budget hearings throughout the next few weeks and every school and department would give presentations to the Board regarding their ticket items. She said when the budget hearings were complete they would go through the Warrant Articles. Chair Barnes noted there were two types of Warrant Articles; one was developed by the Board and one was developed via a petition. She further noted that because the groups' declared intent was for a Petition Warrant Article, the Board would take the position of not presenting a Warrant Article so there were no competing items on the ballot.

Chair Barnes commented that the Board would have one night dedicated to going through Warrant Articles - what would be on the ballot and what the Board's position would be. She said once that process was complete, the budget would go to the Budget Committee and that committee would go through a series of hearings. She further said at the end of the hearing process the Budget Committee would go through the Warrant Articles and take a vote on their position. She pointed out that the Budget Committee would not have a vote on anything which did not have an expense associated with it. Chair Barnes stated the next step would be for the Board to finalize the budget in February and then the budget would go on to the Deliberative Session which would be held in March. She further stated

anything on the preliminary ballot would be discussed in an open forum and could be edited. Chair Barnes said from that point, it would go to a final vote and whatever came from the Deliberative Session would be on the ballot as a permanent item.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented it was important for the petitioners to attend the Deliberative Session because although the Article could be amended, its purpose could not be amended.

Board Member Nunez said she felt anything they could do as a district to ensure the safety of the children was very important whether it be playing games or the transportation to the games. She also said she felt it was very important to better the facilities in which the children were playing and learning.

#### **4. Request from Reeds Ferry School Educator to Conduct Survey of Educators for Doctoral Study**

(Ms. Kristine Thibault)

Ms. Kristine Thibault, addressed the Board and stated that she was currently a kindergarten teacher at the Reeds Ferry Elementary School as well as finishing the 4<sup>th</sup> year of her doctoral program at Rivier University where she was pursuing a Doctorate in Education. She said conducting a research study was essential for the completion of her doctoral program and noted she was present to request the Boards consent to conduct the study in Merrimack.

Ms. Thibault said the purpose of the study was outlined as follows:

- Research suggests that emotional exhaustion and burnout in education can affect an educator's ability to properly prepare students to meet curriculum standards and academic achievement.
- Teaching is a profession characterized by high levels of burnout and emotional exhaustion.
- Positive psychology interventions are promising tools to enhance employee well-being and job performance as they also contribute to diminishing stress and burnout.

Ms. Thibault commented that she would like to have an experimental design study where she would concentrate on the population of teachers in pre-school through grade 6. She further said the participants would be randomly placed into two groups, an intervention

group and a control group. Ms. Thibault stated after four weeks, she would perform an analysis to ascertain whether or not there was a difference between the two groups.

Ms. Thibault said the survey would consist of three parts:

- Demographic Survey: Collecting information on age, gender, race, years of teaching experience and how long they had worked in the Merrimack School District.
- The PERMA (Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meanings and Accomplishments) Profiler: A well-being measure that is used to assess well-being across multiple domains. The Modified Differential Emotional Scale: (mDES) asks participants to recall the past two weeks and rate their strongest experience of each of twenty specific emotions on a five-point Likert scale.

Ms. Thibault pointed out that an educator could opt out at any time during the research study. She said although she would have access to the participant's e-mail addresses, all consents and surveys would be conducted online, and would, therefore be untraceable. She further said the study did not include student participation in any form.

Board Member Schoenfeld stated that she had spoken with Ms. Thibault on a few occasions regarding the survey and was in one of her classes as well. Board Member Schoenfeld further stated that IRB (Internal Review Board) approval could not be given until the site was found so the request had to go before the IRB. She said the Board could approve it pending the IRB approval.

Chair Barnes said the item would be placed on the next meeting consent agenda, which would be on January 7, 2019.

#### **5. Formal Hearing on Food Service Budget for 2019 – 2020**

(Mr. Dave Dziki, Director of Food Service)

Mr. Dave Dziki, addressed the Board and stated one of the major requests for the Food Service Department was for the purchase of replacement equipment for point of sale terminals in the six schools.

Mr. Dziki commented on the questions from members of the Board as follows:

## **Questions Regarding Food Service**

From: **Chair Barnes**

With the lessening of regulations on the quality of foods required in school lunches, what will the availability of the foods we have been purchasing be with the co-op? Will they be taking the lesser-quality routes that are now being allowed?

*Mr. Dziki replied the regulation changes would provide more flexibility to what they presently provided to the students. He said the amount of whole grains being offered was at 50%, which gave them more flexibility on some products, such as whole grain pasta and tortilla shells.*

We are facing maintenance end-of-life electrical units that have no parts and are from an out of business manufacturer. At last year's hearing, I asked for an idea of what we would be facing if our old coolers went out of commission. Can we get an idea of when end of life is a real risk for us?

*Mr. Dziki replied the coolers were maintained on a regular basis. He said some of the mechanical problems were with compressors and the like, and not so much as the actual coolers.*

## **Questions Regarding Food Service**

From: **Vice Chair Schneider**

If the new POS (Point Of Sale) systems are brought in at \$30K and we have a 5-year extended warranty with them, does that remove the ongoing/future service contract budget items subsequent budget years. It shows a drop from \$12.5K to \$8K for 2019 – 2020. Does it continue at a lower rate in the future? Does it go away?

*Mr. Dziki replied they would get a 5-year extended warranty with the purchase of the terminals. He said they would still have to maintain coverage with Heartland to cover the existing services in the three kitchens, as well as to maintain a service contract with Heartland for the software which was \$6K per year. He further replied the servers in the kitchens were the only things which would be on going for the following year.*

Vice Chair Schneider asked what the run rate would be in the future.

*Mr. Dziki replied it would be at least \$6K. He also replied if they purchased the point of sale hardware, the need for the servers in the kitchens would be eliminated because it would be stored on the cloud.*

**Questions Regarding Food Service**  
**From: Board Member Schoenfeld**

I know we touched on it last year, but can you revisit the reason there was an increase in repairs budgeted for 2018 - 2019 and proposed for 2019 - 2020.

*Mr. Dziki replied there was an increase in the repair budget and it was level funded until the following year because the amount expended in 2016 - 2017 was \$15,000.*

This item has roughly doubled, after a much lower amount in the last expenditures reported in 2017 - 2018. Is this based on recent numbers or some other estimate?

*Mr. Dziki replied the budget for the van maintenance was relatively low because it was a new van and the budgeted amount was for inspections and oil changes. He further replied the budgeted amount was increased in anticipation of the van needing new tires and/or breaks.*

Please share more information regarding the deficiencies of current equipment that necessitated this upgrade and related cost savings over time, e.g. services contracts.

*Mr. Dziki replied some of the terminals had been in place since the system was originally installed. He said the major deficiency was that the operating system was not compatible with future software upgrades which would be needed.*

Does this number and the decrease from last year, already reflect the cost savings in the purchase of new hardware mentioned in the text?

*Mr. Dziki replied the proposed budget for the contract expense would reflect the related purchase of new hardware. He said if the hardware were not approved, they would have to increase the budget.*

**6. Board's Response to Administration's Request to Withdraw \$110,000 from the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund for Replacement of Switchgear at Merrimack High School**

(Chair Barnes)

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented, as stated at the last meeting, they had some issues with the switchgear tripping at the Merrimack High School and it needed to be replaced.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said when the plans were submitted, they did not meet the current building code and the fire department viewed it as a new installation rather than a replacement.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell read aloud a portion of a letter addressed to Mr. Shawn Waterman of Custom Electric & Communications, LLC from the Merrimack Fire Department as follows:

*The plan is not approved as proposed, however, please be advised the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal may need to pre-approve this work in a public education building.*

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell pointed out that there was a meeting scheduled the following Thursday at the fire department to discuss the situation and he said he expected to have a discussion as to how they could work around the code issue and potentially receive a waiver of the 42" clearance requirement. He asked the Board to delay making a decision until after the meeting occurred.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated if they were unable to receive a waiver then the back wall where the switchgear was located would have to be demolished.

Vice Chair Schneider made a motion (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to authorize Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to withdraw up to \$110,000 from the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund to address the replacement of the switchgear at the Merrimack High School.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

## **7. Formal Hearing on Maintenance Budget for 2019 – 2020**

(Mr. Tom Touseau, Maintenance Director)

Mr. Touseau commented there were four major items he wished to bring to the Board's attention.

- 1. Transformer at the Merrimack High School**
- 2. Roof Projects at the James Mastricola Elementary School and the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School**
- 3. Replacement of two boilers at the James Mastricola Elementary School**
- 4. Switchgear replacement at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School**



Mr. Touseau commented on the questions from members of the Board as follows:

### **Questions Regarding Maintenance**

From: **Chair Barnes**

In the spirit of avoiding a spike in the tax rate from other unprojected maintenance items (boilers, switchgear, etc.), what is the risk of moving the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School/James Mastricola Elementary School roof out by one year? (\$655,805)

*Mr. Touseau replied he thought they could move the roof project out one year but that would mean they might have to double up the following year. He said the roof at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School was already 12 years over the life of the warranty and the normal was approximately 5 years. He further said the roof at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School roof was slated to be replaced. He said if both roofs had to be done the following year it would be approximately \$1,850,000.*

Chair Barnes commented that it was important to keep the budget as level as possible.

Board Member Guagliumi asked if there were options with bonded debt for some of the maintenance items to help keep the tax rate level. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied they could do a leased purchase with a non-appropriation clause and put it on a Warrant Article and it could pass by a simple majority. He noted it would be easier than doing a bond.

Board Member Schoenfeld commented that while she liked the complexity and range of options being discussed, said she wanted to voice her opinion against deferred maintenance unless they had to.

Vice Chair Schneider commented if all of the roofing projects were moved out by one year they would start to be in a better place because they would not have the bonded debt.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked what the additional possible expenses would be if there was a leak in a roof. Mr. Touseau replied if it was a big repair they would have to rip the roof off and start fixing it immediately and that would be a huge issue.

Superintendent Chiafery added if there were a leak in the roof at the James Mastricola Elementary School it would likely be in the gymnasium and she pointed out that would affect the specialized flooring that was in there.

Board Member Nunez commented that she would like to know what the cost would be to have an expert look at the roofs. Mr. Touseau replied they did work with outside vendors who inspected the roofs. He further replied he did not think they had any roof failures at the present time but there was always the possibility of having to replace two roofs the following year.

Vice Chair Schneider requested that Mr. Touseau split out the costs of the James Masticola Elementary School's gym roof and the two associated roofs in terms of cost.

Board Member Guagliumi commented she felt it was very important to use quality products which would last a long time.

### **Questions Regarding Maintenance**

From: **Andy Schneider**

Specifically with regard to the added cameras, are there any grant/state funding sources to offset the costs of the new cameras being proposed, such as what we did this past summer with the state's security infrastructure grant?

*Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied there was a public infrastructure fund grant process available. He said they received approximately \$38,000 for the \$50,000 worth of cameras they had in the current year's budget. He further said he currently had a request in for a certain amount of money for security cameras but the entire state was on hold at the present time.*

Vice Chair Schneider asked if it stayed in the budget and a similar program was instituted for the following year if they could take advantage of that.

*Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied they could.*

For natural gas for the Merrimack Middle School, the budget amount for the current year is lower than 2017 – 2018, and the proposed amount for 2019 – 2020 is the same as the previous year of \$54,512. Why was the current years' budget so much less, approximately \$9,000?

*Mr. Touseau replied it was because they took the two-year average from the last two budget years.*

Overall, across all consumable budget items for the Brentwood building, gas, oil, electric, water, etc., are these budget numbers assuming usage of the building during the coming year, keeping it heated/cooled to comfortable temperatures? If so, and if we decide to just shutter the building based on the fire engineer's report, will these numbers go down? Can you share an all-in total cost of full-use expenses vs "shuttered and keep the pipes from freezing" expense?

*Mr. Touseau replied the numbers were given to them by the former owners of the Brentwood building. He said he budgeted for approximately \$23,000 for the items and it could be closed for about \$10,000. He noted there would be a charge to open it up again.*

Vice Chair Schneider stated that one of the outstanding action items was to obtain a report from the State Fire Marshal regarding the panel that was in the Brentwood building.

*Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied the report would be available on January 7, 2019.*

### **Questions Regarding Maintenance**

From: **Board Member Schoenfeld**

Please share more information regarding why the new vendor is more expensive than the previous one.

*Mr. Touseau replied every year they put it out for bid and the vendor which had bid on the school district for the past eight years did not submit a bid which was surprising. He said they had three bids and they chose the least expensive bidder.*

Can you tell us more about this lease? Who is it leased from, and why? How is ownership of or responsibility for other transformers in the district handled?

*Mr. Touseau replied it was leased from Eversource and he had spent some time learning about what they owned and what they did not own. He said they presently had a combination of transformers which Eversource owned and some that the school district owned. He said Eversource owned the transformers at the Merrimack Middle School, the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School and the Reeds Ferry Elementary School. He further said the transformer outside of where the dumpsters were at the Merrimack High School was owned by the school district and the transformer in the front by the Student Service Office was owned by Eversource. Mr. Touseau noted that the transformer at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary*

*School was owned by the school district and the transformer at the James Mastricola Elementary School was owned by Eversource.*

*Mr. Touseau commented the \$75,000 that the district spent to replace the transformer at the Merrimack High School was the cost for a company to take away the old transformer and install a new transformer which the school district would lease from Eversource. He further commented, if the school district purchased a new transformer, it would have cost an additional \$200,000. Mr. Touseau said the cost to lease the transformer was approximately \$400 per month and if there were any issue with the transformer, Eversource would fix it.*

Vice Chair Schneider commented that he felt Mr. Touseau should be prepared to visit the Board again because there may be other questions which may arise.

Chair Barnes commented that she felt there needed to be a running tally of the ages and the life expectancies of all the transformers.

#### **8. Establish School Board Budget Hearing Dates**

(Chair Barnes)

Chair Barnes read aloud the dates for the School Board budget hearings as follows:

- Monday, December 17, 2018 – Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Room – 7:00 p.m.
  - Food Service
  - Maintenance
  
- Monday, January 7, 2019 – Merrimack High School, Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m.
  - James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
  - Technology/Library Media
  - Student Services
  
- Tuesday, January 8, 2019, Town Hall, Memorial Room - 7:00 p.m.
  - James Mastricola Elementary School/Reeds Ferry/Thorntons Ferry
  - Merrimack Middle School
  - Merrimack High School
  - District

- Monday, January 14, 2019 – **Snow Date** – Town Hall, Memorial Room – 7:00 p.m.
  - Any school or department budget that had not been presented to the Board.
- Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – Merrimack High School, Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m.
  - Additional meetings with departments, if necessary.
  - Warrant Article Discussion

Chair Barnes stated that final approval of the budget would occur either on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, or at the Board meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Vice Chair Schneider asked why the snow date was on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and the meeting on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>? He said he thought they should have the meeting on Monday and if they needed the meeting on Tuesday, they could have it then. The Board collectively agreed upon the change in meeting dates and noted the amended schedule would be available on the school's website.

Board Member Guagliumi commented that she felt it would be helpful for the public to be able to access one document that followed the entire budget process which included all of the hearing dates of both the School Board and the Budget Committee.

## **9. Proposed Communication Material and Distribution Strategy to Inform the Public about 2019 – 2020 School District Budget**

(Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin and  
Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell)

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stated that proposed communication material was developed in response to the Board's direct request, in their budget message, that the administration develop a proactive strategy for communicating the contents of the districts budget to the public.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin commented in addition to the Board's budget message, the district also had a Communications Committee. He announced the adoption an official Merrimack School District Facebook page. Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin said the goal of using the tool was to roll out pieces of information related to cost items in the budget as well as factors which the school district needed to take into account that served as a foundation for constructing a budget. He noted as an example, the public may not realize that the district had minimum standards with regard to class sizes which they had to abide by.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin said they would use School Messenger as a way to announce to people that the location for a lot of upcoming information would be on Facebook. He also said that Merrimack T.V. would run a scroll which would provide information regarding the designation of the Facebook page as a place for people to go for sources of information.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stated that the administration was going to be very careful that the information provided was sort and could be verified.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin reviewed the dates of the planned Facebook posts as follows:

December 17, 2018

Information regarding significant budget drivers related to fixed costs and maintenance projects.

January 7, 2019

Post information related to Food Service and its relationship to the operating budget.

January 14, 2019

Post information regarding how the maintenance department prioritized projects and identify needs.

January 22, 2019

Technology, Libraries and Media Infrastructure for a technology informed classroom.

January 28, 2019

Information regarding Student Services, rules, regulations and commitment.

February 4, 2019

Enrollment, minimum standards and staffing. Trends, facts and budget impacts.

February 11, 2019

Furniture plan and the importance of that line item.

February 19, 2019

Transportation and the description of the variety of obligations that the school district had.

March 4, 2019

Safety and security of the students, staff and public. (Including security cameras)

March 11, 2019

Insurance and retirement, the rate-setting process and its budgetary impact.

March 18, 2019

Personnel costs.

March 25, 2019

Parking, paving and safety.

April 1, 2019

Budget development process - 8 Months in the Making

April 8, 2019 (the day before the vote)

Synthesis of everything related to the budget.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin asked if there were questions from the Board members.

Board Member Nunez commented that she was very excited and communication was huge for the taxpayers, especially when it dealt with \$70 plus million budgets.

Board Member Schoenfeld stated that Facebook was a privately owned company who could do whatever it liked with the material put on its site. She asked if they should perhaps think about an additional access point for some of the more important things, like a blog, for example. She pointed out that not everyone used Facebook. Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin replied they would do whatever they could to help accommodate that.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented that everything which was put on Facebook would be duplicated on the website.

Vice Chair Schneider said he felt there was one piece missing which was when you looked at the overall budget overview and one of the items was federal funds, people might think we are not paying federal funds so why is it a cost. He further said he thought it was a

good topic to address early on in the process. He also said it would be good to review the amount of money the district spends and the amount of revenue the district received.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell pointed out the budget Warrant Article would include two things which did not affect the tax rate, federal funds and food service. He said he agreed that he needed to provide some type of an explanation for clarification.

Board Member Guagliumi stated that she was a member of the Communications Committee and as she recalled, the comments section would be turned off on Facebook so they did not have to be moderated. Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin replied engagement was the life of social media and he was advised that it was important to allow engagement to happen. He further replied they would have to figure out the monitoring process of it as they went along. He also said anything the district posted would be fact-based and he expected all of the comments to be respectful.

Board Member Guagliumi suggested that the district share their rules regarding respectful commenting and advised her fellow Board members to be very careful on social media because three “likes” could constitute a public meeting.

Board Member Nunez stated that she felt it would be important to set the tone that the district reserved the right to remove inappropriate or disrespectful comments and they could follow-up with a personal e-mail to anyone who had concerns directing them to contact the Board.

Board Member Nunez asked if there was a way to take the technology being used for the Facebook page and the link to the website and utilize it for the Merrimack application. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied the application was changing and they would have more control over it in the future.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2019 – 2020 Proposed Budget Overview as follows:

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the proposed budget was 2.11% over the previous years’ budget and most of it was covered by the fixed costs put upon them by items which were contractual in nature or legal in obligation.



Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the essential maintenance costs totaled \$1,230,805,000 and included items such as a transformer, a switchgear, a boiler replacement, a roof replacement and additional security cameras.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell commented that the proposed \$1.6 million budget increase included the \$1.7 million in fixed costs and the \$1.2 million in essential maintenance items. He further commented that there were three positions being affected by a reduction in force, a reduction in bonded debt, out of district tuitions and the furniture replacement because the kindergarten furniture was not included in the current years budget.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the default budget was \$414,251 less than the proposed budget and it was important to vote for the proposed budget because a lot of the essential maintenance items were tied up in the proposed budget.

#### **10. Board's Response to New Hampshire School Board Association's Proposed Resolutions**

(Vice Chair Schneider)

Chair Barnes recused herself from the discussion, as she was the President of the New Hampshire School Board Association. She further commented that Vice Chair Schneider would take her place for the purposes of the discussion.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that the Board had received a copy of all of the proposed resolutions for the New Hampshire School Board Association meeting which would occur in January. He asked the Board members if they disagreed with any of the Association's recommendations on the resolutions. There were no recommended changes.

#### **11. Approval of the December 7, 2018, Meeting Minutes**

(Chair Barnes)

Vice Chair Schneider made a motion (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to accept the minutes from the December 7, 2018, meeting.

The motion passed 4-0-1 (Board Member Guagliumi abstained).

## **12. Consent Agenda**

(Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin)

- Educator Resignation

Ms. Katelyn Harrington, School Counselor, James Masticola Elementary School

Vice Chair Schneider made a motion (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to accept the Consent Agenda as read.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

## **13. Other**

- a) Correspondence

Vice Chair Schneider stated that he received correspondence from several parents regarding the turf field.

- b) Comments

Chair Barnes commented that there were 3,853 students enrolled on the first day of school and currently there were 3,872 students enrolled.

## **14. New Business**

There was none.

## **15. Committee Reports**

Board Member Schoenfeld stated that the Budget Committee met on December 11, 2018, and Mr. Carl French (a.k.a. Lee) joined the committee by a unanimous vote.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that he attended the monthly meeting of the Southeastern Regional Education Service Center (SERESC) Board of Directors.

Vice Chair Schneider also stated that he attended the Planning and Building Committee meeting which had a full quorum on December 4, 2018. He said the intent of the meeting was to discuss the turf field and they had a very good discussion with the parent group.

Chair Barnes noted that she was unable to attend the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee meeting because she had a meeting with the New Hampshire School Board's Association Delegate Assembly break out sessions. She said the committee did meet and they welcomed members from the Oyster River School District who wanted to form a similar committee at their district.

Chair Barnes said that one of the breakout sessions at the New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate Assembly would be presented by the School Board of the Year, which was Shaker Regional out of the Belmont area. She said another session would be presented by the Mental Health Committee regarding social and emotional learning in school districts and what School Boards could do to help support the development of that curriculum in the districts to maximize student performance.

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

There was none.

#### **17. Manifest**

The Board members signed the manifest.

At 10:00 p.m. Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) & (c).

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

At 10:14 p.m. Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to adjourn the public session.

The motion passed 5-0-0.