

**Merrimack School Board Meeting  
Merrimack School District  
School Administrative Unit #26  
(Tuesday) January 22, 2019  
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room**

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

**Absent:** Student Representative Puzzo was excused from the meeting.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Barnes called the meeting to order.

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**3. Administration’s Response to Board’s Request to Consider Adding Back Items from Cut List to 2019-2020 Budget**

Superintendent Chiafery stated that two proposed positions were cut, a student wellness coordinator and a benefits coordinator.

The proposed additions to the 2019-2020 budget from the 2019-2020 budget cuts are as follows:

1. 2 split air-conditioning units	\$30,000
2. Whiteboards (DW)	\$15,000
3. Crackfill playground areas (RFS)	\$17,700
4. Office window replacement (RFS)	\$77,000
4. Office window replacement (TFS)	\$77,000
5. Wood post replacement (RFS)	\$ 6,375
6. Aluminum tables (JMUES)	\$ 2,100
7. Aluminum tables (MHS)	\$ 2,100
8. Crackfill student parking lots (MHS)	\$16,800

This totals \$244,075.

Chair Barnes stated that her preference would be to choose the Option B cuts in the proposed budget.

Vice Chair Schneider preferred Option A. He took a broader look at the budget that included bonded debt and potential warrant articles. Also, moving all of the roofing to next year creates strong concerns about the impact on next year’s budget.

Board Members Nunez, Guagliumi and Schoenfeld all preferred Option B.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that the \$60,385 reduction in the bid quote would only be realized if the contract is accepted now.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to select Option B cuts in the 2019-2020 school operating budget in the amount of \$755,805.

The motion passed 4-1-0.

Vice Chair Schneider voted in opposition.

The board discussed the Option A and B cut lists.

Vice Chair Schneider asked that the items be individually voted on.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell noted that both item #4's include window replacement and air conditioning.

Superintendent Chiafery spoke in strong favor of adding the window replacements back into the budget.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Chair Barnes) to add back into the budget items 1-7 on the cut list.

The motion passed 4-1-0.

Vice Chair Schneider voted in opposition.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell noted that the new proposed operating budget figure is \$77,654,036, putting it \$133,532 below the default budget.

#### **4. Board's Final Response to Proposed 2019-2020 School District Budget**

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to approve the proposed operating budget of \$77,654,036.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

#### **5. Board's Response to Draft Warrant Article (#7) on 2019 Warrant**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell read aloud the proposed warrant article with the newly adjusted proposed budget figure of \$77,654,036.

Board Member Schoenfeld moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to accept the warrant article as revised.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

## **6. Second Quarter Curriculum Review**

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin presented the work of the Curriculum Committee.

He opened by noting the difference between a student's knowing something and understanding it. Additionally, the state assessment has changed every year for the past three years.

The World Language Department has been working on developing essential questions that lead to an enduring understanding; with a goal of being able to communicate effectively. This work is being done by the grades 5-12 team. This team is also working on a scope and sequence for these grades. Attention is being given to how to integrate students who do not take foreign language in middle school. The term "entrance ramps" is being used in this area.

The Physical Education Department is currently undertaking an inventory of material and equipment and will be presenting their revised curriculum to the board soon. One new component of the new curriculum is a fitness tracking program of written directions.

The Adaptive Physical Education Program is also in revision. The challenges are to take the existing standards based program and adapt it for a variety of student needs.

The Social Studies Department has just begun their work. They are beginning by asking the question, "What is the purpose of social studies?" This involves undertaking an assessment of both the current world and United States history programs.

There is now a full-time K-8 Language Arts coordinator. The program has evolved since the Collaborative Assessment Project (CAP) years with the updated phonics and reading components.

The Envisions Math Program continues to be implemented. There is a continued emphasis on professional development for teachers.

Chair Barnes noted the value of the curriculum updates for both the school board but also for the public.

She thanked Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin for his presentation.

## **7. Approval of January 7, 2019 Minutes and January 8, 2019 Minutes**

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to accept the January 7, 2019 minutes.

The motion passed 4-0-1 with Board Member Schoenfeld abstaining

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Chair Barnes) to accept the January 8, 2019 minutes.

Vice Chair Schneider requested the following change: remove Board Member Thompson's name from those present at the meeting.

The motion passed 3-0-2 with Board Members Schoenfeld and Nunez abstaining.

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

• **Claire Graham to James Mastricola Elementary School for \$200**

Assistant Superintendent for Business presented a gift in the amount of \$200.00 from Clair Graham of Merrimack to the James Mastricola Elementary School. The funds are to be used to help single parent families struggling to pay for lunch account balances due to divorce or the death of a parent.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to accept the gift.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

**9. Other**

**a) Correspondence**

Board Member Guagliumi heard from a parent in regards to the cost of high school lunches.

**b) Comments**

There were no comments.

**10. New Business**

There was no new business.

**11. Committee Reports**

Vice Chair Schneider attended the SERESC Board of Directors meeting on January 14, 2019. There was a discussion on stabilizing program delivery.

**12. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**13. Manifest**

The board signed the manifest.

At 8:20 p.m. Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II (c).

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

At 8:46 p.m. Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to adjourn the meeting.