

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District
School Administrative Unit #26
February 4, 2019
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

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

Student Representative Puzzo was excused from the meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

3. Presentation of Proposed Plan to Reconstruct the Parking Lot Area off School Street at the Masticola Complex

Chair Barnes welcomed Steve Keach of Keach Nordstrom and Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to the table.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell opened by stating that this project is going to be a warrant article on the April 2019 ballot.

The project will encompass a re-design of the parking areas in front of James Masticola Upper Elementary School (MUES) and James Masticola Elementary School (MES) focusing on drainage, cracks in the paving, and egresses into parts of the building to ensure American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

He referred to a partial site plan that was included in school board members' packets.

Mr. Keach spoke about the ongoing problems due to poor grading that allows water to drain towards the building. The corrugated pipe that was installed is most likely clogged and rotted.

Another concern is the limited amount of parking that lot now handles. More spots would be added, increasing the capability from 38 to 61 spots. The design will include new materials such as pavers, ramps, and bricks to provide visual breaks. These changes will guide motorists in drop-off, parking spots and walking areas.

Mr. Keach stressed the significant need to re-direct the water drainage for disposal and retention.

The projected budget for this is \$324,869.72.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if the re-design would still allow for busses to make the turn near the Smith gym and was told yes.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell added that the plan includes dedicated lights in the parking lot. The lot will extend toward the houses and some brush but no trees are expected to be removed. The light-emitting diode (LED) lights should not negatively impact abutters.

Board Member Schoenfeld asked if there is any landscaping not included in the plan that should be.

Mr. Keach responded that there will be opportunities for small landscaping projects separate from this project.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell added that Director of Facilities Tom Touseau has asked for one particular area to be left available for snow storage.

Board Member Nunez asked how drop-off will be impacted during voting and if there be congestion problems.

Mr. Keach responded that this can be addressed by all parties involved in the voting process.

Chair Barnes asked how long the project will last.

Mr. Keach responded that the plan is to begin in early July and be finished by mid-August.

Mr. Keach noted that the contract will be put out on a unit basis. He would like to go into the project with about a \$10,000 contingency.

Chair Barnes thanked Mr. Keach for the presentation.

4. Consideration of Modification to the Approved Capital Improvement Plan Given Changes to the 2019-2020 Budget

Superintendent Chiafery reminded the board of the roofing project modification to MES and asked if the board would like to change the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to match the 2019-2020 budget so that when it is presented to the Planning Board that both are in sync.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reviewed the changes.

First was to move the MES roof project to 2020-2021. This was budgeted for \$655,805.

Second was the turf field now going on a warrant article in 2019. This was budgeted for one million dollars. The new budget number is 1.2 million dollars.

Vice Chair Schneider asked if it is prudent to push these projects out for another year.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell has spoken with Director of Facilities Touseau and both agree that nothing is in an emergency situation and are confident with waiting another year.

Board Member Guagliumi asked that the turf field be highlighted as a warrant article for the Planning Board presentation.

Chair Barnes stated that the bonded debt will be significantly decreased in a few years and if projects need to be doubled up that it could happen in 2022-23 without impacting the tax rate.

All adjustments made to the budget will be posted to the school district website in a timely manner.

Vice Chair Schneider stressed the importance of making voters aware of the difference between a warrant article being presented and being approved.

Chair Barnes stated that if the warrant article fails, that the CIP be immediately updated.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to present the revised CIP for a final vote with an edit for Board Member Guagliumi's footnote.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Highlighting House Bills Submitted to the House Education Committee to be Shared with the Merrimack Delegation at a Subsequent Board Meeting

Chair Barnes invited New Hampshire House of Representative Rosemary Rung to the table.

Representative Rung recommended that the school board meet with the delegation in the Fall to review any potential or wanted changes. Public hearings are then conducted each January.

She noted the value of putting the legislators on the agenda as a standing item.

This year there are thirty-two education related House Bills to be presented for vote.

Superintendent Chiafery asked about the status of HB 447 which relates to school calendar open/close dates. She noted the importance the Merrimack School District places on local control.

Representative Rung responded that she will get the specific answer and email the answer. The hearing has been completed and it now awaits the Executive Board decision.

6. Review of the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Chair Barnes invited Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin to the table.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin presented the data via a PowerPoint.

He began by reviewing the 2017 results that covered the years 2007-17 and the areas of concern.

The Merrimack School District, Merrimack Safeguard and other community partners have been working together to address areas of common concern.

Activities conducted so far include the creation and implementation of a Merrimack School District Mental Health Committee, and community events such as Putting the Pieces Together, Be Responsible Merrimack (A-OK Campaign), and a panel discussion on the dangers of vaping.

Proposed activities include continuing the work of the Mental Health Committee, a presentation titled Hidden in Plain Sight, Chaos and Kindness (Recycled Percussion), Breathe, NH, and speakers on topics such as social/emotional challenges, opioid abuse, and early brain development.

In regards to Merrimack Safeguard; this evolved from funds from a long term grant that expires in September 2019. The community received over one million dollars. The above noted programs and the school resource officer at the middle school were funded through this grant.

Going forward, all community partners are invited to be a part of the conversation as to how to move forward. Merrimack Safeguard meets at St. James Church the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that he has been involved with Merrimack Safeguard for five years and cited other examples such as the drug take-back day as activities and programs in place. He sees an opportunity to involve parents who have concerns with opioids and vaping.

Board Member Nunez suggested a Facebook invitation to the community reminding them of the Merrimack Safeguard meeting dates.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that there is already a Facebook page for Merrimack Safeguard and suggested linking the pages.

Chair Barnes appreciated all of the work done to make resources available to students and families.

7. Approval of January 14, 2019 and January 22, 2019 Minutes

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Board Member Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Nunez) to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

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

- **Fidelity Education Matching Gift to Education Program to Thorntons Ferry Elementary School for \$2,000**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell presented a gift to Thorntons Ferry Elementary School from Fidelity Education matching gifts in the amount of \$2,000. The amount of \$1,000 was given by the Trudeau Family. The funds are to be used for educational purposes at the discretion of school administration.

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

The motion passed 5-0-0.

9. Consent Agenda

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin presented the consent agenda for approval.

- **Administrator Resignation/Retirement**

Rachel Schneider, Assistant Principal, Reeds Ferry Elementary School

Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Schoenfeld) to accept the resignation.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

10. Other

a) Correspondence

Board Member Guagliumi received correspondence from a parent of an incoming kindergartener in regards to the lice policy. She provided the parent with a copy of the district policy on lice and offered to be of further assistance if desired.

Chair Barnes received correspondence from a parent of an incoming kindergartener in regards to an Open House at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School which she forwarded to administration.

b) Comments

There were no comments.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Committee Reports

Board Member Schoenfeld had attended the New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA) Delegate Assembly. She suggested a future board conversation on the role of the attendee. Currently there is no freedom to change a position on an issue.

Chair Barnes would support this discussion.

13. Public Comments on Agenda Items

New Hampshire State Representative Rosemarie Rung spoke about the value that comes with connecting with the legislators. She cited specific issues such as vaping and the opioid crisis.

Richard Front, 129 Indian Rock Road asked why it mattered whether school started before or after Labor Day.

Superintendent Chiafery explained that the date is chosen based on parental input.

14. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

At 9:52 p.m. Vice Chair Schneider moved (seconded by Board Member Guagliumi) to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II (c).

The motion passed 5-0-0.

At 10:21 p.m. Board Member Schoenfeld moved (seconded by Vice Chair Schneider) to adjourn the public session.

The motion passed 5-0-0.