

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Monday, August 19, 2020**

Due to the state of emergency declared by Governor Sununu regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, and the subsequent Emergency Order #12, Chair Guagliumi determined that the physical presence of a quorum within the time required for School Board action was not reasonably practical, and therefore, the members of the School Board participated remotely.

Present: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Barnes, Board Members Schneider, and Rothhaus. Also present were Superintendent McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Fabrizio, and Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell.

Excused: Board Member Nunez

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chair Guagliumi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Participation Guidelines for Remote Meetings

Chair Guagliumi stated public comments could be sent to publiccomment@sau26.org or by going to sau26.org where a meeting link was provided. She said all comments would be read and written into the record but noted the name and address of the speaker had to be provided.

2. Opening Comments by School Board Chair

Chair Guagliumi thanked the community for all of their support during such a challenging time. She commented there were many topics to get through and she anticipated the meeting to last approximately 4 ½ hours. She asked people to be thoughtful and succinct when they spoke.

3. Merrimack School Reopening Plan – Path to Graduation

Ms. Sharon Putney, Principal, Merrimack High School addressed the Board and stated the two choices students had with respect to going back to school were remote and hybrid learning, pointing out both options would lead students to graduation.

Ms. Putney said every student, whether remote or hybrid would be assigned to a homeroom advisory with regular check-ins and activities. She said academic supports would be

provided to students through online supports and skill centers, inside of the building, and virtually.

Ms. Putney added that school counselors would be available through in-person meetings, e-mail, and telephone calls for students as well as parents.

Mr. Rich Zampieri, Assistant Principal, stated students with last names beginning with A through K would attend school on-campus on Mondays and Tuesdays for three or four block periods and students with last names beginning with L through Z would attend school on-campus on Wednesdays and Thursdays. He added when students were at home they would be expected to do remote independent work.

Mr. Zampieri commented they also designed classes for those students who chose remote-only learning who would follow the same schedule as the students who chose the hybrid option. He said Friday's would be a day for students to do independent extension work and receive supports if necessary.

Ms. Putney stated that seniors would be expected to earn 20 credits and underclassmen would work toward the regular 21 Merrimack High School credits. She said students would be assessed on Essential Learning Competencies (ELC) and would not have mid-term or final exams.

Ms. Putney pointed out that all students would receive "a guaranteed curriculum" which would consist of the required courses in the areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and required electives. She further pointed out that all students would have the opportunity to take online courses. However, Ms. Putney stated due to staffing issues students may not be able to take an exact course which they requested.

Mr. Peter Bergeron, Assistant Principal, stated school safety was a top priority and each and every day the schools would be kept clean.

4. Third Review of Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy

Superintendent McLaughlin read aloud the third review of the Student/Staff mask policy as follows:

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY

General Requirements

All staff shall wear medical masks or cloth face coverings at all times when in school buildings and District offices.

Classes shall be configured so that when possible, educators may be able to have a socially distanced location in the room for general instruction.

All visitors on campus shall be required to wear a mask upon entry to any school building and will be required to wear their mask at all times throughout their stay in any school building or District office.

No person, including a student, shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents them from doing such. In such cases, documentation of the disability or medical condition will be required and in such cases, alternative precautions will be sought in order to achieve the same or similar safety benefits.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with deaf students or hard of hearing students, students learning to read, and students who rely on lip-reading shall wear clear masks with visors/clear face shields which enhance service provision.

The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for students and staff who do not have access to a mask or cloth face covering.

The New Hampshire State Department of Health and Human Services guidelines on masks and cloth face coverings shall be made available to all staff. Masks shall not be required during outdoor recess, outdoor physical education, and designated mask breaks provided social distancing is in place.

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12

All students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 shall be required to wear a mask or face covering at all times and in all locations throughout the designated school day except during designated mask breaks. This includes when on a school bus or other student transportation when entering or exiting a school building or District office, when in corridors for any reason, or transitioning from class to class, and in such other settings and environments as the District deems appropriate based on evolving data.

Any student who is deemed by school staff to present a risk of contagion or a health hazard to themselves or others by virtue of not wearing a mask shall be removed from the classroom setting or not permitted to enter the classroom setting and the parents shall be required to pick up their child. (See NH RSA 200:39)

Any student in the circumstances listed above who is not wearing a mask shall be asked to wear a mask. Any student who is not wearing a mask or is wearing a mask in an improper fashion shall be asked to don a mask or to wear their mask properly, which is safely covering both mouth and nose.

Any student who refuses to do such shall be deemed a health hazard to themselves and others, shall be removed from the school building, their parent/guardian shall be contacted and required to take their children, unless and until such time as they are willing to comply with the face mask or cloth covering requirement. (See NH RSA 200:39)

Duration

This policy will be enacted in cases of widespread health concerns as defined by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. It will remain in place until the warning is lifted or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

Legal References

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, IIG, Superintendent Services, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/htrnl/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htrn>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/htrnl/XV/200/200-39.htrn>

Emergency Order #2020-04_, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020 - 15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

1st Reading: July 29, 2020

2nd Reading: August 10, 2020

3rd Reading: August 19, 2020

Adoption:

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to adopt the mask policy as presented and to waive the two-week rule.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

5. Merrimack School District Review for Fall Sports Proposal

Mr. Mike Soucy, Athletics Director, addressed the Board and said the goal was to minimize the exposure of students when it came to playing sports but noted it was a difficult task to do.

Mr. Soucy commented there were some fall sports that could be offered as follows:

Golf, Cross Country, and Sideline Cheerleading – Low Risk
Field Hockey, Soccer, and Volley Ball – Moderate Risk
Football and Competitive Cheerleading – High Risk

Mr. Soucy said the School District was prepared to offer cross country, field hockey, golf, soccer, cheerleading (sideline), and volleyball with some reasonable modifications to mitigate the possible spread of respiratory droplets which would include a wellness questionnaire and a temperature check. He added that transportation would be difficult for the District to provide so he would ask families to assist players with that.

Mr. Soucy stated he was not comfortable with recommending a football season for the 2020 season.

Board Member Schneider moved (seconded by Vice Chair Barnes) to accept the proposal presented by the Athletic Director to move forward with all sports programs utilizing proper safety precautions with the exception football which shall be revisited at a future meeting; however, football shall be allowed to move forward to the next phase – practicing.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

6. Reopening Update

Superintendent McLaughlin stated families would receive a packet with their classroom and teacher assignments by the end of the current week. He also said information developed by the School District's nurses would be included to assist in determining the conditions under which a parent/guardian would or would not send a potentially sick student to school.

Ms. Heather Barker, Director of Student Services said all educators would be back on August 31st, the paraprofessionals, related service providers, and support staff would return to schools on September 3rd to assist with the planning and preparation of the students return to school.

Ms. Barker said they would offer an inclusive pre-school program for three to five-year-old kids which would begin on September 16th. She added that the students who had educational disabilities that were part of the pre-school program had already been put into cohort groups.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Fabrizio shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board which updated his teams' progress. Further, he said he was happy with how everything was coming together.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell provided the Board with a list of safety equipment and noted the items in green were complete, and those that were not would be completed in a timely fashion.

7. Second Reading of Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment and District Anti-Discrimination Plan (AC) Policy

Chair Guagliumi stated the agenda item would be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

8. First Reading of Communicable and Infectious Diseases Policy (EBCG)

Superintendent McLaughlin read aloud the Communicable & Infectious Diseases policy into the record as summarized below:

A. Policy

Students and employees of the District are expected to attend the schools of the District without being infected with serious communicable diseases. Nonetheless, the Board recognizes that staff, students, volunteers, and others may come in contact with bloodborne pathogens, viruses and other communicable diseases during the school day or school-sponsored activities or may carry those pathogens, viruses, and diseases unknowingly into the school community. The Board adopts this policy as a means to minimize risk and respond to these health concerns while respecting the rights of all students and employees, including those who are so infected.

RSA 200:39 permits the exclusion from school of students who exhibit symptoms of contagion or are a hazard to him/herself or others. Determinations as to inclusion or exclusion of students or employees with communicable diseases from school will take into account the educational implications for the student and others with whom he or she comes into contact, recommendations from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services ("NHDHHS"), the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the United States Public Health Services Centers for Disease Control ("CDC"). Diseases which will implicate this policy, include, but are not necessarily limited to, HSV related diseases such as Chickenpox, Shingles, Hepatitis B, and Infectious Mononucleosis, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Cytomegalovirus (CMV), or Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), and other diseases which are from time-to-time identified by public health agencies such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and the New Hampshire DHHS (NH DHHS).

1. Students

It is the policy of the District that students with communicable diseases should not be excluded from attending school in their regular classrooms so long as their attendance results in a situation where the risk of transmission of illness to students or employees of the School District, or hazard to themselves, is negligible. All decisions regarding inclusion or exclusion shall be made consistent with this section and the procedures set forth in section B of this policy.

2. Employees

It is the policy of the School Board that employees (which for the purposes of this policy will include individual consultants/contractors, and volunteers) with communicable diseases not be excluded from attending to their customary employment and duties so long as they are physically able to perform tasks assigned to them and so long as their employment results in a situation where the risk of transmission of illness to students or other employees of the District, or hazard to themselves, is negligible.

3. Special Circumstances and Conditions

The School Board recognizes that some students or employees, because of age, disability, or other special conditions, may pose greater risks for the transmission of communicable diseases than other persons infected with the same illness. Examples include children who display biting behavior and students and employees who are unable to control their body fluids or have uncovered wounds. These conditions need to be taken into account and considered in assessing the risk of transmission of the disease and the resulting effect upon the educational program of the student or employment of the employee.

In the instance of diseases causing suppressed immunity, attendance may be denied to a child with suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of the child with suppressed immunity when others in the school have an infectious disease which, although not normally life-threatening, could be life-threatening to the child with suppressed immunity.

B. PROCEDURES WHEN COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IS SUSPECTED:

- 1. Reporting:** School District employees, including contracted individuals and/or agencies who are performing contracted responsibilities for the School District, and who become aware of a communicable disease or other potentially serious health problem regarding themselves, or of students or other employees, unless prohibited by statutory confidentiality, they will report it to the school nurse, or building Principal/designee.
- 2. Response:** The health risk to others in the school district environment from the presence of a student or employee with a communicable disease shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. In all cases in which the school nurse, or other person designated by the Superintendent, becomes aware that a student or employee of the School District has contracted a communicable disease of the kind in section A of this policy, s/he will take the following steps:

- a. The parent/guardian(s) of a student will be contacted in order to discuss the situation and determine whatever facts are available; the same information will be communicated promptly among the Superintendent/designee, school nurse, and Principal/designee.
- b. Upon receiving written consent from the parent(s) or guardian of a student or, in the case of an employee, the employee or his/her health care agent (i.e., adult to whom authority to make health care decisions is delegated under an advance directive meeting the requirements of RSA 137-J:20), the school nurse/Superintendent's designee will attempt to confer with the treating physician, if any, in order to determine any significant medical facts concerning the diagnosis of the disease or factors affecting the possible transmission of the disease.
- c. Notify and consult with the health care professionals knowledgeable about the particular disease. Following such consultation, the school nurse, Superintendent, or his/her designee, shall determine the immediate, short-term action to be taken relative to the educational placement of the student or work assignment for the employee.
- d. When a communicable disease of the kind identified in section A of this policy is suspected or confirmed in an individual, the school nurse shall consult with the Superintendent or designee and appropriate public health officials, to determine whether a student or employee shall be excluded from school or from attending to their customary employment and whether additional measures are required to protect other members of the school population. Factors specific to individuals, such as biting behaviors, lack of control of body fluids, the existence of uncovered wounds, or other medically identifiable conditions may also be considered. Recommendations regarding the least restrictive educational placement for a student or continued attendance at work for an employee may be sought on a case by case basis.

In addition to the information obtained in steps a-c, decisions to exclude shall consider criteria from New Hampshire DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease included in its publication *"When Children Should be Excluded or Dismissed from a Childcare Setting"*, or the American Academy of Pediatrics' *"Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases"*, or other general or specific guidance from the New Hampshire DHHS or the United States Centers for Disease Control.

- i. Decisions regarding students. Unless the school nurse is unavailable, the ultimate decision to exclude a child from school under this policy due to a contagious or communicable illness shall be made by the school nurse after consulting with the Superintendent/designee and Principal/designee.

If the school nurse is unavailable, a decision to exclude shall be made by the Superintendent/designee.

If the student is a student with an IEP, 504 plan, or other such individualized learning plans, then decisions regarding alternative settings shall be made according to the applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Students who are aggrieved by the education plan determinations may appeal said determinations pursuant to state and federal special education law if the infected student is eligible for or claims that s/he is eligible for special education or special education and related services. Excluded students who do not claim that they are eligible for special education or special education and related services, but who are aggrieved by the Superintendent's determinations, may appeal said determinations to the Board.

- ii. Decisions regarding employees. Determinations regarding exclusion or reassignment of employees shall be made by the Superintendent/designee. Absent significant risk to the employee or risk of transmission to students or other employees, the Superintendent shall not alter the job assignment of the infected person. Volunteers are subject to any directives issued by the administration, as are contractors and consultants, subject to the terms of their respective agreements.

If the Superintendent/designee, after taking the steps above, determines that there is a medically recognized risk of transmission of disease in the School setting or that a significant health problem restricts the infected person's ability to work, or presents a substantial hazard to the employee, the Superintendent/designee shall, if necessary, develop an individually tailored plan to accommodate the staff member if possible. Additional persons may be consulted if necessary for gaining additional information, but the infected person must approve of the notification of any additional persons who are informed of the infected person's identity. The Superintendent/designee may consult with legal counsel to ensure that any official action is consistent with state and federal law. If an individually tailored plan is necessary, said plan should be medically, legally, educationally, and ethically sound.

- iii. Testing, Social Distancing and Other Extraordinary Measures. Some infectious diseases, viruses, etc., may be so dangerous and or the risk of casual transmission so great, that effective response will require broader measures. Based upon specific recommendations official, state and/or federal health authorities, the Superintendent is authorized to implement such additional, extraordinary emergency measures as may be necessary, and appropriate to address the health risk: e.g., school closure, population exclusion (stay-at-home type instructions), mandatory screenings, mandatory use of personal protective equipment (PPE's),

social distancing orders, administrative leaves or temporary adjustments in duties. These provisions are intended to complement, not replace any provisions of Board policy *Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies*. Such measures should be taken with prior notice to the Board, if practicable, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board Chair may determine that the circumstances, or the measures implemented by the Superintendent, warrant a special or an emergency meeting of the School Board.

3. Practices to Minimize Contamination in Schools

Good hygiene practices as recommended by local, county, and state health authorities are to be followed at all times when handling blood or other body fluids of any student or employee. Parents and employees are not generally required to advise the school if their child has a communicable disease. (Some exceptions may exist under specific legislation or Executive/emergency orders, in which, such legislation or Executive orders shall supersede this policy to the extent necessary to remove any conflict.) Because the District may not rely on self-reporting, it is appropriate to adopt procedures for the handling of body fluids from any child or employee. This also eliminates the need to notify all maintenance, transportation, and building personnel if the District becomes aware of a student or employee with communicable diseases. It is recommended the following procedures be used on a routine basis when blood or any other body fluids including vomitus and fecal or urinary incontinence are involved.

- a. Gloves should be worn when cleaning up any body fluids.
- b. Spills should be cleaned up, the affected area washed with soap and water and disinfected with bleach (one-part bleach to ten parts water), or another disinfectant.
- c. All disposable materials, including gloves and diapers, should be discarded into a plastic bag before discarding in a conventional trash system. The mop should also be disinfected with the bleach solution described in B above.
- d. Toys and other personal non-disposable items should be cleaned with soap and water followed by disinfection with the bleach solution before passing to another person. A normal laundry cycle is adequate for other non-disposable items.
- e. Persons involved in the clean-up should wash their hands afterward.

Additional precautions may be recommended or required in certain instances (e.g., social distancing, masks, etc.).

4. Confidentiality and Data Privacy

Public concern regarding communicable diseases is neither an excuse nor defense for the violation of data privacy rights of students or employees who have or are rumored to have such illnesses.

- a. Personally identifiable health information regarding students is private data and is not to be disseminated to the public or to staff without the strict observance of student privacy rights.
- b. Personally identifiable health data and information regarding employees is private data and may not be released to the public nor to fellow employees without strict observance of privacy rights of public employees.
- c. Parents of other children attending the school, or other school employees, may only be notified of a possible exposure to a communicable disease to the extent permitted, or required, under applicable law, regulations, or Executive order. In general, such information will not identify a particular student or employee who has the disease.
- d. Any District employee who violates the confidentiality provisions of this policy shall be subject to discipline. Confidentiality breached by an independent contractor/consultant could result in termination of the contract for cause.

5. Staff and Student Education

The School Board recognizes that the education of its residents, staff, and students regarding the risks involved in the spread of infectious diseases in the school setting will help to minimize the risk of transmission to other students and employees while protecting the rights of infected students and employees.

- a. All school district employees should receive instruction regarding appropriate hygienic practices for use in school settings, precautions to be employed where contagious diseases may be encountered, and community resources for referral and information.
- b. Any information provided as part of a student's instruction pertaining to sexually transmitted diseases shall comply with Board policy IHAM.

6. Implementation.

The Superintendent is authorized to implement this policy through and procedures, or administrative directives which s/he deems necessary or appropriate.

Legal References:

RSA 189:1-a, Duty to Provide Education
RSA 189:31, Removal of Teacher
RSA 186-C, Special Education
RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil
RSA 193:3, Change of School or Assignment, Manifest Educational Hardship or Best Interest, Excusing Attendance
RSA 200:32, Physical Examination of Student
RSA 200:36, Medical Examination of School Personnel RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School
NH DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease's: "When Children Should be Excluded or Dismissed from a Childcare Setting," may be found at:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/childrendismissed.pdf>

1st Reading: August 19, 2020

2nd Reading:

Adoption:

9. First Reading of Temporary Emergency Policy: Travel Guidance for Students and Staff

Superintendent McLaughlin read aloud from the first reading of the Temporary Emergency Policy as summarized below:

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY POLICY: TRAVEL GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

As early as July 22, 2020, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Bureau of Infectious Disease Control updated guidance regarding travel outside of New England. Guidance to be found here:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/employee-travel-guidance.pdf>

In response to this, the Merrimack School District has adopted the following guidance.

- Non-essential international and out of state domestic business travel (conferences, workshops) are not permitted until further notice.
- Personal international travel, travel outside of the New England states, and travel on cruise ships is discouraged; the CDC has provided a level 3 Global Pandemic Travel Notice.

- Employees and students who travel internationally, including Canada, or domestically outside of the New England States (New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, or Rhode Island) will be required to report their travel and quarantine in accordance with the procedures below.

Employees

Following CDC and state guidance, all staff will be subject to a daily screening process for on-site work. Such screening will include questions related to international travel or travel outside of the New England states.

Any employee who anticipates any travel that will require them to quarantine upon return and will result in missed workdays must report that anticipated travel to Human Resources as soon as possible in advance of said travel. If the travel was unexpected due to an emergency, the employee must notify Human Resources as soon as possible and, in all cases, prior to returning to the workplace.

An employee returning from international travel, travel via a cruise ship, or domestic travel outside of New England, must quarantine for a period of 14 days before returning to work or present a written release from a medical provider that permits the employee to return to work following a COVID-19 test with a negative result, whichever occurs first.

Accrued sick leave, vacation, or personal leave may be used in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreement for any missed work time during the employee's quarantine following personal travel. Depending on the nature of the employee's job, with the supervisor's approval, the employee may be permitted to work remotely during the period of quarantine.

Students

The parent of any student who any travel that will require the student to quarantine upon return and will result in missed in-person instruction, must report the anticipated travel to the building administrator as soon as possible in advance of said travel. If the travel was unexpected due to an emergency, the parent must notify the building administrator as soon as possible and, in all cases, prior to the student returning to the school.

Any student returning from international travel, travel via a cruise ship, or domestic travel outside of New England, may not attend in-person instruction at school or participate in any school activities but shall be able to continue their education in a remote environment, for a period of 14 days after return from said travel, or until presentation of a written release from a medical provider stating the student can return to the classroom after travel, whichever occurs first.

Duration

This is a temporary policy based on a health emergency. This policy shall remain in place until such time as the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) restrictions on travel are lifted, or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk to such travel, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

1st Reading: August 19, 2020

2nd Reading:

Adoption:

10. Approval of July 13, 2020, July 28, 2020, and August 10, 2020 Minutes

- **July 13, 2020 Minutes**

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2020 meeting as presented.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

- **July 28, 2020 Minutes**

Board Member Rothhaus moved (seconded by Vice Chair Barnes) to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting as amended.

Edits

Lines #20 and #22 – “Chair Barnes” was changed to “Chair Guagliumi” – Barnes

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

- **August 10, 2020 Minutes**

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2020 meeting as presented.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

11. Consent Agenda

- **Educator Resignation**

Ms. Lindsey DeLorenzo, Technical Education Teacher, Merrimack High School

- **Educator Nominations**

Ms. Danielle Jordan, Science Teacher, Merrimack Middle School

Mr. Craig Merrifield, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School

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

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

12. Other

a) Correspondence

Vice Chair Barnes noted she received a communication which stated masks would determine their decision whether or not to send their child back to school or go remote and also asked what the options were if they chose to change their mind.

Vice Chair Barnes said a constituent had asked for a membership list and minutes from the Professional Development Committee.

Vice Chair Barnes also said she received a question from a constituent regarding why the “flex day” wouldn’t be on Wednesday in order to thoroughly clean the buildings in between batches of kids.

Further, Vice Chair Barnes said she received a communication asking if the Technical Education Programs were on hold.

Board Member Schneider commented that he was asked when the School Board would return to “in-person” meetings.

Chair Guagliumi reviewed the following communications that were sent to the entire School Board as well as administration:

- 1 – Against facemask.
- 8 – Consider masks for the younger kids or mandatory masks for all.
- 1 – Support for the encouragement but not mandatory use of masks.
- 1 – Reconsidering the decision to send a student full-time.
- Concern for band camp canceling as well as concern for fall sports.

b) Comments

Superintendent McLaughlin commented that band camp was canceled in the spirit of safety.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

14. Committee Reports

Board Member Schneider commented there had been two Budget Committee Meetings. He said the Committee reorganized the Board at one meeting and discussed filling the two open positions. Board Member Schneider reported that Mr. Brian Stister and Ms. Ellen Wilson filled the two open positions.

Vice Chair Barnes commented that the Parks & Recreation Committee met that day and would provide a report to the School Board at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Barnes shared that she was the New Hampshire delegate for the New Hampshire School Board's Association Delegate Assembly which was voting on the platform and the resolutions for the organization for 2020 – 2021.

15. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Vice Chair Barnes read aloud from public comments received via email.

Ms. Dianne Connelly, 12 Vanden Road

I want to thank everyone for the tremendous amount of thought, consideration, and work that has gone into the decisions regarding the upcoming school year. With regard to the recent decision to cancel the high school band camp due to safety concerns, I am wondering how the Board feels confident about in-person classes. If Dr. McLaughlin feels it is unsafe for approximately 100 kids to attend band camp, which is held outside for less time than a school day and was planned with safety measures to include social distancing, kids wearing masks when not playing, and all instruments were being outfitted with specialized special equipment, how will it be safe for hundreds of kids to be inside of a building all day.

What will the plan be for band this year? Just as many students depend on athletic scholarships many students depend on band for their future endeavors as well. I hope that is considered as future decisions are made.

Ms. Sue Corman & Ms. Mary O'Reilly, 25 Davidson Avenue

We wish to encourage that you reinstate band camp for next week. Sports teams are conditioning and there is little reason to prevent the band from doing so. Mrs. Cunningham has provided a comprehensive plan to keep the kids safe. Band is a unique situation and requires a reconsideration of the order. They need to rehearse together and are able to do so with adequate social distancing.

Ms. Carolyn Morin, 12 Brenda Lane

Marching band needs to be afforded the same opportunity to practice and condition as fall sports, especially if we are moving into Phase III with more contact. If 90 soccer players can condition out on the field in small groups then the band which also has a very thorough plan in place with safety in mind. Please allow the band to reconvene and come together. They haven't had a chance to play as an ensemble since March. There are so many social and emotional reasons.

Ms. Jenny Poisson, 7 Ries Drive

Regarding the rules for travel outside of New England for teachers and students, will individuals be required to stay quarantined for 14 days, can they show a negative COVID-19 test and return sooner. Also Governor Sununu said quarantining does not have to start in NH (Bike Week), would this also be the case for the 14-day quarantine rule for schools?

When can parents expect to learn what group their child is in?

Ms. Nancy Murphy, 20 Brenda Lane

I am a parent and grandparent to several children in the District. I wanted to make two points. My first is my deep appreciation and thanks to the District's administration, school staff, the School Board, parents, and students for their collaborative efforts under very challenging circumstances. We all want things to get back to normal and to that end, I will make my second point. With a shared goal of a return to normal as quickly as possible and to decrease to and to protect the health of teachers, children, bus drivers, and all employees and contracted service providers, in the absence of statewide school reopening guidelines, I support the Merrimack School District in all efforts to institute the science-based public health protective precautions (hand-washing, mandatory masks, minimum of 6-foot social distancing, etc.) which are known to minimize the risk of exposure and spreading of the COVID-19. The education of the Merrimack students is of course a primary focus of the Merrimack School District. During these unprecedented times, protecting the health of all students and those who interact with them must be an equal priority.

At 11:45 p.m. Chair Guagliumi ended the meeting. There was no motion and vote to record.