

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
April 19, 2021**

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

1. 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.

Chair Guagliumi welcomed new Board Member Lori Peters.

2. School Board Reorganization

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Hardy) to nominate Ms. Cinda Guagliumi for the position of Chair of the School Board.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Barnes commented she felt nominating Ms. Guagliumi was a good continuity in leadership as there were some big decisions the Board had to make.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 (Abstained – Chair Guagliumi)

Chair Guagliumi moved (seconded by Board Member Peters) to nominate Ms. Laurie Rothhaus for the position of Vice Chair.

Discussion:

Chair Guagliumi commented she nominated Board Member Rothhaus in appreciation for her experience in education over many decades as well as her desire to put students first.

Vice Chair Barnes commented that she would not vote in favor of the nomination and cited multiple reasons/concerns.

The motion passed 3 – 1 – 1 (Nay – Vice Chair Barnes/Abstained Board Member Rothhaus)

3. Commitment to Board Code of Ethics

The Merrimack School Board read aloud and signed the Code of Ethics as summarized below:

Trustworthy in Responsibilities

- I will always remember that my first and greatest concern will be the educational welfare of the student in the Merrimack School District.

- I will be accountable to the public by accurately representing District policies, programs, priorities, and progress.
- I will be responsive to the community by seeking its involvement in District affairs and by communicating its priorities and concerns.
- I will work to ensure prudent and accountable use of District resources and never lose sight of the fiscal responsibility owed to the taxpayer's of the District.
- I will make no personal promise or take private action that may compromise my performance or my responsibilities or those of my fellow Board Members.
- I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using by Board position for personal or partisan gain.

Honor in Conduct

- I will be honest, fair, just, and impartial in all my decisions and actions.
- I will encourage and respect open dialogue and listen with an open mind while working for consensus.
- I will respect the majority decision as the decision of the Board.

Integrity of Character

- I will consistently uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and District procedures.
- I will not disclose information that is confidential by law or that will undermine the District.

Commitment to Service

- I will focus my attention on fulfilling the Board's responsibilities of goal setting, policymaking, and evaluation.
- I will diligently prepare for and attend Board meetings.
- I will avoid personal involvement in activities the Board has delegated to the Superintendent.
- I will inform myself about relevant educational issues.

4. Guidelines for Public Participation for Remote Meeting

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.

5. Public Participation

Board Member Barnes stated there were communications received via email.

Mr. Chuck Mower, 4 Depot Street, was present at the meeting and said he was the Chair of the School District Budget Committee. He recommended that Board Member Peters should have the same official representation as any of the other Board Members.

Mr. Mower also commented that he hoped they could participate in a more agreeable and facilitating scheduling of the School Budget Committee when it came time to do the budget.

Mr. Mower stated he was a member of the 275th Planning Committee for the celebration of the birthday of the community. He said the committee had established a remembrance gift for the community which was to raise \$500,000 to build an authentic covered bridge at the Twin Bridges Park. Mr. Mower noted it would be helpful in seeking out grant money if there was some interaction between the School District with the 275th Planning Committee. He said it would provide an outreach for students for extended learning opportunities.

6. School Board Committee Assignments

Chair Guagliumi reviewed a draft of the School Board Committee Assignments as summarized below:

Budget Committee

- Chair Guagliumi
- Vice Chair Rothhaus
- Board Member Peters
- Board Member Hardy, Alternate

New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate (NHSBA)

- Board Member Barnes, Delegate
- Chair Guagliumi, Alternate

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology (CIT) Committee

- Board Member Hardy
- Vice Chair Rothhaus

School Bus Stop Committee

- Board Member Peters

Professional Development Committee

- Board Member Barnes
- Vice Chair Rothhaus, Alternate

Planning & Building Committee

- Vice Chair Rothhaus

Wellness Policy Implementation Committee

- Board Member Peters

Healthcare Cost Containment Committee

- Board Member Peters

District Parent Group

- Board Member Hardy
- Chair Guagliumi, Alternate

Communications Committee

- Board Member Hardy
- Board Member Peters

Superintendent Search Committee

- Chair Guagliumi
- Board Member Hardy

Collective Bargaining Committee

- Board Member Barnes
- Vice Chair Rothhaus

Merrimack Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) Collective Bargaining

- Board Member Barnes
- Board Member Peters

Advise and Confer

- Chair Guagliumi
- Board Member Hardy

Out-of-District Committee Assignments

Grater Woods Subcommittee

- Board Member Barnes

Town Center Committee

- Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

Parks & Recreation Committee

- Vice Chair Rothhaus
- Board Member Barnes, Alternate

Chair Guagliumi pointed out that Board Member Barnes was on the NHSBA Board of Directors, and Vice Chair Rothhaus was on the 275th Committee.

7. Update on Summer Programming

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Fabrizio reviewed the programs which would be available in the summer of 2020 – 2021.

Ms. Debbie Fournier addressed the Summer Reading Program for grades kindergarten through grade 7. She said typically they served approximately 120 students but she said that number would likely be slightly higher for the upcoming summer. She added this program was for students who were not meeting benchmarks in literacy skills. Ms. Fournier said the program would be offered remotely as well as an in-person program.

Ms. Susan Luhrs, Ms. Nicole Diggins, Ms. Laura Piccolo, Ms. Holly Lubelczyk, Ms. Jeanette Cote, and Ms. Jane Calnan addressed the Title I Digital Reading & Math Academy for grades kindergarten through grade 7. Ms. Luhrs said the program would be remote the following summer.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Fabrizio added the Gifted & Talented Program would be offered both in-person as well as remote from July 5th through August 5th for three days per week.

Ms. Barker explained they would also offer ESY (Extended School Year) and the IEP team would determine which students were in need of it.

8. Process for Selection of New Superintendent

Chair Guagliumi noted a very important next step for the Board was to search for a new Superintendent. She said she felt it was important to include all stakeholders in the search. She asked Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell to collect and procure some proposals that would allow them to quickly move forward with professional support. She added time was of the essence and an emergency School Board meeting would have to be held.

9. Approval of School Board Minutes

- **March 30, 2021**

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Vice Chair Rothhaus) to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2021 meeting.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

- **April 1, 2021 – Non-Public Meetings**

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Vice Chair Rothhaus) to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021, non-public meeting.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

- **April 5, 2021**

Vice Chair Rothhaus moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

- **April 9, 2021 – Non-Public Meetings**

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Vice Chair Rothhaus) to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2021, non-public meeting.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

10. Consent Agenda

- **Educator Resignation/Retirement**

Ms. Kathy Marvelle, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School
Ms. Carolyn Rordam, Art Teacher, Merrimack High School
Ms. Morgan Messina, Kindergarten Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Hardy) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

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

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Hardy) to accept the gift in the amount of \$100.00 from Laura's World Fund with the Board's sincere gratitude.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

12. Other

- a. Correspondence

Board Member Barnes commented she received one communication from a parent who was requesting information about masks and she said she redirected the parent to the website which detailed more information.

Board Member Hardy also commented she received a communication from a parent who asked a question regarding masks and she also directed them to the website.

Board Member Hardy said she had a conversation with a parent who was concerned about security on district devices and she directed her to Ms. Nancy Rose.

Vice Chair Rothhaus shared that Melanie Curran reached out to her with concerns regarding the varsity baseball program.

Chair Guagliumi also shared she received a communication regarding masks and she brought it to the attention of Superintendent McLaughlin who responded to the parent.

b. Comments

There was none.

13. New Business

Chair Guagliumi suggested the graduation advisor attend the next School Board meeting to speak about graduation plans.

Board Member Hardy asked if there was any further information about the Student Representative for the School Board. Superintendent McLaughlin replied he would connect with Ms. Putney.

14. Committee Reports

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented the 275th Committee was moving forward with fundraising and were hoping to get students involved.

Board Member Hardy said the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee meeting was canceled but she did report that the committee was still doing the weekly raffles for five \$25.00 Shaw's gift cards.

15. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Board Member Barnes stated there were no public comments received via email.

Chair Guagliumi asked if there were members of the public who were present that had questions or comments. There were none.

At approximately 8:20 p.m. Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Hardy) to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA-91-A:3(II) (a)(b)(c).

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0 by a roll call vote.

At approximately 9:15 p.m. Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Hardy) to adjourn the public meeting.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.