

53 Sometimes, we all can be “loud and angry”, Sometimes we can sit back and watch or we can
54 dominate a conversation. This includes all of us; every single one of us. If you believe you are an
55 exception, you are not; and are part of the problem. Over the last few weeks the theme of
56 “compromise” has been encouraged in these School Board meetings. True compromise is not an
57 action which can solely take place in front of an audience. To be effective compromise needs to
58 be a constant; both in public and private lives.

59
60 **Positives:** I was happy to hear that Merrimack's involvement with the racist based 2Revolutions
61 was put on hold; I believe investigating more of what they are about and the relationship between
62 executive members of that organization with individual member(s) of the Merrimack School Board
63 warrant a deeper look. I have researched deeper into both points above and the deeper I dig, the
64 more troubling information I discover. I believe stopping now is in the best interest of all parties.

65
66 **Negatives:** Our community has now seen two elected officials portray actions intending to create
67 and stir division between members of our community. One was taking pictures, videotaping and
68 making snide remarks while the other took to social media to cast one sides opinion as “loud and
69 angry” and the other as “good and responsible” that post was quickly deleted after it became a
70 news story. I am writing this evening to inform the board and anyone else listening that I am all of
71 the above; Loud, Angry, Good **and** Responsible. Not necessarily in that order.

72
73 I sometimes get loud when I'm excited. Also known as passionate.

74
75 I am sometimes angry when I see my children being led down the wrong path. Also known as
76 Love.

77
78 I always choose good when given the choice between good and bad. Also known as being
79 responsible.

80
81 Just because I do not see eye to eye with each and every Board Member, does not mean what I
82 want is wrong or necessarily different, it just means I see a different path to get to the same goal.

83
84 Ms. Valerie Chaput, 191 Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and stated politics and
85 activism had no place in public schools and parents should be the ones taking care of their
86 children. She said she was not in support of 2Revolutions. Ms. Chaput also said the students
87 use of masks should be left up to the parents.

88
89 Ms. Britni Daman, Turnbuckle Lane (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

90
91 I would first like to comment on the mask policy in Merrimack School District. I will go on record
92 again, being against the mask mandates, that being said I have felt that the opt-out option has
93 shown some compromise from the Board to attempt to appease all involved. I am also aware
94 of the petition filed to include the "will not comply" statement. This was to begin on Friday,
95 October 1, 2021. I have not been informed of any specific instances where someone did not
96 comply. If this was a major issue, I would have assumed that us parents would have been
97 notified of such an event. This brings me to this new proposal for "progressive discipline" for
98 failure to comply with mask mandates. I find this proposal to be extreme and unmitigated
99 considering the lack of issue with compliance. This feels very threatening and severe for an
100 issue that has yet to happen. Considering any student to be "detrimental to the health of
101 others" is a very extreme position. As you are aware, not a single child has died from Covid
102 in NH. This seems much less like caring for the student population and more like proactively
103 discouraging any resistance to your non-founded partisan health theories.

105 As for 2Revolutions, I again go on record against this firm being brought in to "transform" the
106 education system here in Merrimack. Aside from the fact that they have not shown any tangible
107 results in education, such as graduation rates or college acceptance rates, their belief system
108 does not coincide with what I believe our education goals should be here in Merrimack. I have
109 studied their website and done extensive research into their company and cannot find any
110 indicators that would lead me to believe that they will not be harmful to our children. While people,
111 including Mr. Olsen, like to cling to the term CRT, I assure you that DEI/J which is the core belief
112 of 2Revolutions is the equivalent of CRT. Everett Olsen also sites that HR-2 does not allow for
113 such teaching in NH, while I would suggest that there are several ways around such laws. If our
114 goal is to strictly adhere to HR-2, then I would ask the question as to why a company like
115 2Revolutions, whose system is the very antithesis to HR-2, was even selected as a partner to
116 Merrimack Schools. Aside from the longtime friendship of Chair Gaugliumi and her husband with
117 Adam Rubin, co-founder of 2Revolutions. The mere fact that Mr. Olsen notified the public that
118 there has been a pause on the work being done with 2Revolutions not only proves that they were
119 already embedded with our school system, and work already being done but the sales pitch in
120 regards to the surveys and focus groups from the community will be done after 2Revolutions has
121 already dug into our schools.
122

123 This brings me to an issue that I have had with a specific school in Merrimack that is already
124 talking to children about their pronouns. My daughter received a get to know you survey from a
125 teacher asking what her preferred pronoun was. Then the paper asks "may I use these pronouns
126 when I call home"? Are we now teaching our children to lie? I mention this only because this has
127 been brought to Mr. Olsens' attention several times and he has completely ignored this. This is
128 also part of the mentoring that 2Revolutions is bringing to Merrimack and it is my belief that these
129 such questionnaires are being used by 2Revolutions to cherry-pick students to participate in
130 surveys and focus groups on their behalf. I encourage all parents to please review their website
131 2Revolutions.net and research their beliefs for yourself and perhaps check out
132 no2revolutions.com to see what they are all about. I do not believe at this point that a temporary
133 pause to this contract is sufficient. I feel that their core ideas as well as the conflict of interest with
134 the company and a School Board member should be grounds for termination of the contract.
135

136 Lastly, I wish to address the fact that all of these issues are very important to parents. I believe
137 that all parents, regardless of personal beliefs, are always acting in what they believe to be in the
138 best interest of their children. That being said, I find it remarkable that a School Board official
139 would be openly speaking on social media about these very parents. In a recent post by a School
140 Board member, dated Sept. 28, 2021, referring to taxpaying parents as "loud and angry people".
141 She encouraged her supporters to attend tonight's School Board meeting and asked them, and I
142 quote, "that everyone should show up to give these tax paying citizens a reality check" The School
143 Board ethics policy states that members states "that my first and greatest concern must be the
144 educational welfare of the students attending the public schools". This does not sound like that is
145 the objective here. This sounds as though the member is in fact not open minded and her decision
146 is a foregone conclusion regardless of any input from the citizens of Merrimack. This will only go
147 to further the divide amongst us and in no way bridge any gaps that we might have been able to
148 bridge. This is extremely unbecoming of an elected official and would typically be grounds for
149 removal from such positions.
150

151 Ms. Naomi Holter, 10 Everest Drive, addressed the Board and said she was there to support the
152 parents who would prefer that the School Board follow the public health recommendations put
153 forth by the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services. She noted she was willing
154 to accept the current policy as a compromise because there were a lot of people who felt strongly
155 in the other direction. Ms. Holter, referring to 2Revolutions, said she trusted the Board to make
156 the right decision.
157

158 Ms. Lindsay Thibeault, 19 Pleasant Street (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

159
160 I am writing to first thank the Board for listening to all of the concerned parents of this town, no
161 matter their point of view, and taking the time to let their voices be heard. Although I advocate for
162 100% parental choice, I do appreciate the compromises that have been made. I also want to thank
163 you for hearing our concerns about 2Revolutions and addressing them.
164

165 I do however want to express my frustration with a Board member's recent Facebook post that
166 identified those opposed to her views as "loud, angry people" and calling on the "good, reasonable
167 people" to show up tonight. These kind of statements are not only divisive but insulting to parents
168 that are here because we love our children and wish to do right by them. I, along with 98% of
169 others that have spoken have always been respectful and well informed, with good intention in
170 our hearts. I do not appreciate being portrayed as anything other than that. I find it totally
171 unprofessional and inexcusable for a School Board member to act this way when they are
172 supposed to be a representative of our community as a whole.
173

174 Lastly, I would like to address the charts that were released by Mr. Olsen showing the day by day,
175 test positivity/absent students due to covid related reasons, etc. It looks to me that when I see 15
176 Covid student cases in a day for the entire school district, and then see 150 absent students due
177 to hypothetical Covid related symptoms, that we need to take a look at how we are dealing with
178 cold and flu season. Cold and flu season does still exist. Not allowing kids an education by means
179 of quarantine due to a stuffy nose is not right, and having to obtain a negative Covid test every
180 time this occurs by an already exhausted medical industry is quite a feat in of itself. This approach
181 is just not sustainable anymore and has to be addressed or we will soon see the majority of our
182 children back at home with no means of education.
183

184 Mr. Michael Chaput, 191 Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and stated he was opposed
185 to 2Revolution being used in any shape or form as he felt it represented an illegal ideology that
186 should not be taught. Mr. Chaput said he felt the issue of students wearing masks should be left
187 up to the parents.
188

189 Mr. Robert Reisman, 8 Iris Drive, addressed the Board and said he agreed with the policy
190 Hudson, New Hampshire had in which they based it on numeric metrics. Regarding
191 2Revolutions, Mr. Reisman said he felt their main purpose was surrounding strategic planning
192 in an attempt to innovate the school system.
193

194 Ms. Sabrina Bebe, 81 Wire Road, stated she wanted to address what a School Board member
195 had done on Facebook. She said she felt all opinions should be respected and felt all of the
196 parents were owed an apology from the Board member.
197

198 Mr. Ken Martin, 31 Woodward Road, addressed the Board and said his child had a great start to
199 the school year and appreciated the School Board finding a compromise.
200

201 Ms. Ashley Tenhave, 75 Shelbourne Road, said she was in favor of masks and while she
202 appreciated the Board making a compromise she also reminded them that the number of cases
203 was going up.
204

205 Ms. Kathy Komar, Belmont Drive, addressed the Board and said cited percentage rates of positive
206 cases and said it was not clear to her where other numbers were coming from.
207

208 Ms. Tiffany Castelluci, Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said masks violated her
209 rights under the Constitution and said she was not sure how much further they needed to go prior

210 to a possible Civil Suit. She expressed her desire in working together with the Board. She asked
211 when the date of the Special Meeting would be.

212
213 Ms. Castelluci said she sent the entire Board an email regarding 2Revolutions and was
214 disappointed with the lack of response as well as one that was argumentative.

215
216 **3. RECOGNITIONS**

217
218 There were no recognitions.

219
220 **4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

221
222 a. Superintendent Update

223
224 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated Assistant Principal Michaela Champlin,
225 Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, who had been selected by the Girls on the Run organization
226 as one of the top 20 Most Influential People in the organization in the State of New Hampshire.

227
228 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that he had an opportunity to remotely meet with
229 the Rotary Club members.

230
231 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
232 Yarlott had begun meeting with the staff to discuss:

- 233
234
 - Developing an understanding of the needs of the students.
 - Social and emotional mental health needs.
 - Discuss priorities for the fiscal 2022 – 2023 budget.

235
236
237 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen also congratulated Kip Jackson, Football Coach, who
238 worked with a number of students and football players regarding a fundraiser for St. Joseph's
239 Hospital to benefit the Senior Behavioral Health Unit.

240
241 b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

242
243 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott stated they had their first Curriculum Instruction
244 and Assessment Committee meeting the prior week which was very productive.

245
246 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott also said a group of twelve new administrators
247 and department heads met with her regarding the Educator Evaluation Observation Training and
248 noted it was very productive. She said the following week there would be four days of training
249 regarding Cognitive Coaching.

250
251 Vice Chair Rothhaus asked if Merrimack's curriculum instruction continued to align with the state's
252 standards. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott replied all of the curricula had been
253 re-written to align with state standards but pointed out there was still some that was in the process
254 of being re-written but would also align with the standards.

255
256 c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

257
258 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said there were no new updates.

260 d. School Board Update

261
262 Chair Guagliumi stated the Board was working with McPherson & Jacobson to finalize the timeline
263 regarding the Superintendent search efforts and would share that information with the public once
264 it was received.

265
266 Chair Guagliumi said the Board was still awaiting legal feedback regarding the request for a
267 Special Meeting, however, she noted they were told they were not the only district in the state
268 who had received such a request. She added legal counsel would provide them with an update
269 during a non-public meeting at some point in the near future.

270
271 e. Student Representative Update

272
273 Kaitlyn, Student Representative said the high school was approved to have a Homecoming Dance
274 in late October. She said it would likely be an outdoor event.

275
276 **5. OLD BUSINESS**

277
278 a. Health & Safety Task Force Update

279
280 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the Town of Merrimack continued to be in a
281 “substantial transmission” phase as classified by the New Hampshire Department of Health &
282 Human Services. He said although that classification required full masking the School Board
283 adopted an opt-out policy that he felt was working quite well and he did not anticipate going to a
284 more stringent type of policy. He also said if the level of positive testing declined then he would
285 put forth a different type of recommendation.

286
287 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen recommended that the masking policy follow the state’s
288 matrix.

289
290 Vice Chair Rothhaus suggested that the vaccination rate in Merrimack was currently 63% (people
291 who had at least one dose) which put Merrimack in the top 20% in the State of New Hampshire.
292 She said she felt they should continue to monitor the vaccination rates.

293
294 Chair Guagliumi asked what the current number of opt-outs was. Interim Chief Educational
295 Officer Olsen replied at present there were 1,213 who had been opted out which was
296 approximately one-third of the student population.

297
298 b. Second Review of Update to the Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy (EBCVM)

299
300 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said in response to some questions asked at a prior Board
301 meeting, he met with the leadership team, the school nurses, as well as the Health & Safety
302 Taskforce to gain a little bit more clarity in the areas of interscholastic sports (indoors), physical
303 education, and singing. He said he recommended that masks would be worn in indoor
304 interscholastic sports while students were on the bench, however in Merrimack, when a student
305 was in direct competition masks would be optional. He noted the Merrimack School District would
306 still have to comply with other district’s mask policies. He said he viewed physical education as
307 a classroom environment so masks were expected to be work unless a student had an opt-out
308 request by their parent. Additionally, he said masks should be worn by all students at all times
309 while singing while in Chorus or in the classroom due to the amount of particles emitted while
310 singing.

311

312 Board Member Barnes said she took to heart, specifically, the testimony the Board heard
313 regarding interscholastic athletics. She said her concern was regarding kids throwing their masks
314 on the bench and then mistakenly picking up other kid's masks. Interim Chief Educational Officer
315 Olsen replied the Athletics Director suggested that each student have a bag with their name on it
316 so the risk of cross-contamination was reduced. Board Member Barnes said she did not think
317 having a bag was going to be enough in the throws of competition and she would rather see more
318 of a system put in place.

319
320 Board Member Barnes said parents who signed an opt-out for athletes were not addressed.
321 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied it was not technically a classroom environment.
322 Board Member Barnes replied she felt it was splitting hairs in that it was about the students playing
323 on a team instead of students playing in a gym.

324
325 Chair Guagliumi asked if the students wore masks when they were practicing? Interim Chief
326 Educational Officer Olsen replied his opinion was that the same guidelines would apply as when
327 the students were actually playing in a game.

328
329 Chair Guagliumi stated she agreed with Board Member Barnes in that any cross-contamination
330 would likely do more harm than good. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he would
331 look at that item again.

332
333 Chair Guagliumi said another possible exception could be in the area of foreign language
334 programs. She said she felt it was very difficult to learn a foreign language without the ability to
335 see people's lips. She suggested that if teachers of foreign languages preferred to wear a mask
336 that it be the clear mask or that masks be optional for them. Interim Chief Educational Officer
337 Olsen replied he would have that conversation with the foreign language staff.

338 339 **6. NEW BUSINESS**

340 341 a. 2021 Proposed NHSBA (New Hampshire School Board's Association) Resolutions

342
343 Chair Guagliumi stated that Board Member Barnes was the School Board's representative to the
344 NHSBA and if there were any questions or comments regarding the resolutions, members needed
345 to let her know. There were no questions or comments.

346 347 b. Other

348
349 Vice Chair Rothhaus stated at the next scheduled meeting she would make a motion to reconsider
350 the contract with 2Revolutions based not only on new information - but also, in her opinion, that it
351 would be disruptive to the school district to move forward. Chair Guagliumi replied she would be
352 sure the item was added to the next meeting's agenda.

353 354 **7. APPROVAL REQUESTS**

355 a. September 7, 2021 Minutes

356 **MOTION:** Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the
357 September 7, 2021, meeting. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

358
359 **The motion passed 3 – 0 – 0.**

361
362 b. September 20, 2021 Minutes

363 **MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the minutes from the
364 September 20, 2021, meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

365
366 **The motion passed 3 – 0 – 0.**

367
368 **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 369 a. Administrator Retirement
- 370 • Mr. William P. Morris, Coordinator of Remote Education Academy of Learning
- 371
- 372 b. Teacher Nomination
- 373 • Mr. Nicholas Pierce, Social Studies Teacher, Merrimack High School
 - 374 • Ms. Meaghan Pelletier, Elementary School Teacher (MES, Thorntons, & Reeds) One-
 - 375 year position.
- 376
- 377 c. Administrator Nomination
- 378 • Ms. Fern Seiden, Director of Student Wellness, District-Wide
- 379
- 380
- 381
- 382

383 **MOTION:** Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
384 Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

385
386 **The motion passed 3 – 0 – 0.**

387
388 b. Educator Nominations

389
390 There were none.

391
392 **9. OTHER**

393
394 a. Committee Reports

395 Vice Chair Rothhaus explained the 275th Committee was working with the Parks & Recreation
396 Committee and there were some fundraising event ideas as well as a list of upcoming events on
397 their website.

398
399 Board Member Barnes stated that the Professional Development Committee did meet but
400 because it was the first meeting and it was in-person she was not able to attend because she was
401 traveling. She asked Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott if she had anything to share.

402
403 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott said they put forward the revised Individual
404 Professional Development Plan to the Department of Education who indicated they were pleased
405 with the plan other than a few minor suggested revisions. She said they also developed a survey
406 for the professional staff and paraprofessionals regarding feedback from the August/September
407 Academies and ideas for professional development.

408

409
410 b. Correspondence

411 Chair Guagliumi said she and the entire School Board had received several emails that related to:
412
413 • The entire Board received two emails regarding 2Revolutions.
414 • The entire Board received two emails against masking requirements.
415 • One regarding masking and School Board governance.
416 • One regarding safety in schools.
417 • One regarding a grass-roots civil disobedience situation.
418 • One thanking the Board for making health & safety a priority for the students.

419 Chair Guagliumi said she received several emails directly addressed to herself that related to:
420
421 • Two were concerns about 2Revolutions.
422 • One asking for the amount of money that was expended to 2Revolutions to date.
423 • One with questions regarding 2Revolutions.
424 • Two emails against masking.
425 • Three other emails received:
426 ○ One to Vice Chair Rothhaus & herself regarding concerns about
427 2Revolutions.
428 ○ One to Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell & herself from
429 a parent who pointed out some errors in the COVID dashboard which
430 had been fixed.
431 ○ One to Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen & herself regarding a
432 concern for safety relating to the grass-roots civil disobedience threat.

433 Board Member Barnes said she received several emails directly addressed to herself that related
434 to a parent requesting that masks remain optional.
435

436 Vice Chair Rothhaus indicated she had not received any other correspondence other than the
437 correspondence Chair Guagliumi had previously mentioned.
438

439 c. Comments

440 There were no comments made.
441

442 **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

443
444 Mr. Chuck Mower, 4 Depot Street, stated he agreed that the district needed to move on from
445 2Revolutions. He added he felt it was important for the public to attend and participated in multiple
446 meetings; such as the Budget Committee.
447

448 Mr. Mower said there was a need for some financial support regarding professional development.
449 He added he had some concerns regarding separating 504 Plans from Student Services
450

451 Ms. Shannon Rand, 1 Blair Road, addressed the Board and said she was not able to find the
452 paperwork regarding the Free & Reduced Lunch Program on the website. She felt special
453 education teachers should have the option to not wear a mask or wear a clear mask. Ms. Rand
454 said she was not in favor of the athletes putting their used masks in any type of bag.

455
456 Mr. Amilio Rodriguez, Quails Way said the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) had recalled 268
457 tests; PCR and Rapid Response Tests and wanted to be sure that those tests were not being
458 used in the district's numbers. He said he did not feel the Board had the right to dictate to him
459 how to parent his child and it did not make sense.

460
461 Ms. Jen Page, Nichols Lane, said she felt the athletes should just not wear masks because of all
462 of the possible problems with cross-contamination.

463
464 Mr. Ken Martin, Woodward Road, said he was happy to hear the singers would be able to sing
465 and pointed out there were special masks that could be purchased for that specific purpose.

466
467 Ms. Lindsay Thibeault, 19 Pleasant Street (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

468
469 Can we take the \$76,000 set aside for 2Revolutions and put it toward rapid tests in our nurses'
470 offices?

471
472 Ms. Jeannie Fandozzi, Mitchell Street, said the CDC had a lot of recommendations that were
473 blatantly ignored such as wearing sunscreen, and said she wondered why the use of masks was
474 not being ignored.

475
476 Ms. Tiffany Castellucci, South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and asked how many
477 parents had pulled their children out of school. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he
478 did not know that information off the top of his head but encouraged Ms. Castelluci to send an
479 email with her request.

480
481 Ms. Kathy Komar, Belmont Drive thanked Vice Chair Rothhaus for saying she would be voting to
482 take 2Revolutions off the table.

483
484 **11. Adjournment**

485
486 **MOTION:** At approximately 8:30 p.m. Board Member Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Vice
487 Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

488
489 **The motion passed 3 – 0 – 0.**

490
491
492