

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
March 7, 2022**

6:00 p.m. Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91 – A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Merrimack TV Training Classroom

- **Staff Welfare**

Present: Vice-Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Hardy, Board Member Barnes, and Board Member Peters. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Yarlott, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and Student Representative Vadney.

Not Present: Chair Guagliumi – Excused

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Rothhaus called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair Rothhaus pointed out that the School Board would accept public comment via email and to do those members of the public could send emails to publiccomment@sau26.org.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Heather Robitaille, 45 Springfield Circle, addressed the Board and recognized Ms. Jen Sayward, Physical Education Teacher, Thorntons Ferry School for all of her creativity and thought she put into the physical education classes.

Mr. Dan Ricker, Director of MYA Basketball (Board Member Barnes read the following email into the record)

Recently it has come to my attention that the basketball courts on O’Gara Drive fall under the Merrimack School District’s property. With a lack of outdoor basketball facilities in the area, I would like to open discussions on how MYA basketball and the school district can improve this court. Please let me know the next steps to begin this process.

Ms. Sheana DeBourke, Belmont Drive (Board Member Barnes read the following email into the record)

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) eliminated the mandate that masks be worn on school buses effective February 25th, children are no longer required to wear masks. As the CDC states, this is in line with the updated guidance that no longer recommends universal indoor masking. Unless a school district requires masks on school buses, children no longer need to wear a mask unless they would like to do so.

Bill has communicated that he is going to recommend to the Board that masks remain optional but from what the CDC has stated, they are already optional unless the Board decides to continue to force a medical device on our children while riding the school bus to school.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions.

4. **INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said several middle school students would participate in the “Winni Dip” at Lake Winnepesaukee on Monday, March 14th. He said they had already raised \$664.00.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated the high school students who were going to the finals of the “FinLit 300” (Financial Literacy) Competition on March 30th.

b. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Yarlott explained that just before the vacation the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) chairpersons from each building along with the administrative team performed a deep data dive where they looked at all of the data collected from instructional rounds throughout the year.

c. Assistant Superintendent of Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the Deliberative Session would be held the following evening, March 8th at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

d. School Board Update

Vice-Chair Rothhaus said the filing period for school offices was over and the individuals running would be available on the school district’s website.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney reported that there would be a lot of prom information that would be sent home with students on the following Wednesday.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated, for the record, that the school district’s position regarding school transportation and masking was:

The CDC had recently come out with revised guidance concerning wearing masks on school buses and vans and had indicated that it is no longer mandatory.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said as late as February 24th the NH Department of Health and Human Services in its “Health Alert #57” indicated that a face mask continues to be required on school buses and vans under federal regulations. He said as of February 25th they were no longer requiring masks on school buses and vans. He added the information was confirmed by the Commissioner.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he felt the policy should be changed from masks being required on school buses and vans to masks being optional on school buses and vans.

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to have masks optional while on all school transportation and to waive the two-week rule. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion carried 4 – 0 – 0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The Vision of a Merrimack High School Graduate

To be presented at the next meeting.

7. POLICIES

- a. Second Review of Revised Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process Policy (JICD)

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said to date the district had not received public comment on the proposed policy that complied with the requirements.

Board Member Barnes requested that the policy be placed on the next meeting's Consent Agenda.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. February 15, 2022 – Public Minutes

Edit(s):

Page 3 – “Ms. Cathy Komar” was changed to “Ms. Kathy Komar” – Board Member Peters

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022, meeting, as amended. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

- b. February 21, 2022 – Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from February 21, 2022, as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3 – 0 – 1. (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Administrator Retirements
- Mr. Peter J. Bergeron, Assistant Principal, Merrimack High School
 - Ms. Marsha McGill, Principal, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
 - Ms. Kimberly Yarlott, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- b. Approval of Revised Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools Policy (GBEC)
- c. Approval of Employment References and Verification (GADA)

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

10. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS/GRANTS UNDER \$5,000

- a. Health Trust to Merrimack School District for \$3,000

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to accept the gift from the Health Trust in the amount of \$3,000 with the School Board's sincere gratitude. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

- b. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

- c. Comments

The Board collectively thanked all of the retirees for their work in the district and wished the very best for their futures.

Board Member Barnes pointed out that although the district owned the land that the basketball court was on, they did not have stewardship of the property, it was the town's responsibility.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

At approximately 7:40 p.m. Board Member Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.