

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
April 18, 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: Chair Rothhaus, Vice-Chair Peters, Board Members Hardy, Halter, and Martin. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Yarlott, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and Student Representative Vadney.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION

Chair

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to nominate Ms. Laurie Rothhaus as Chair of the School Board. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

Vice-Chair

MOTION: Chair Rothhaus made a motion to nominate Board Member Peters as Vice-Chair of the School Board.

There were no other nominations.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

As Chair Rothhaus had a medical issue concerning her hearing, she asked Vice-Chair Peters to lead the meeting.

3. COMMITMENT TO BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

Vice-Chair Peters welcomed Mr. Ken Martin and Ms. Naomi Halter as new members of the School Board.

The Board collectively read aloud from the Merrimack School Board Code of Ethics.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Vice-Chair Peters noted although the Board was no longer accepting public comments via email that would be read into the record, the Board would still read all emails sent to them by members of the public.

There was no public participation.

5. RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

6. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the Merrimack Middle School had put on a wonderful production of "Peter Pan" a few weeks prior. He also congratulated the students at the Merrimack High School for their recent production of "Once Upon a Mattress" under the direction of Mr. Matt McGuinness, Music Teacher at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated the Merrimack High School's Robotics team as they received an offer to attend the FIRST World Robotics Competition in Houston, TX. He thanked Mr. Matthew Gauge who was the advisor to the group.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the tentative last day of school for students would be June 21, 2022, noting it would be a half-day.

b. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Yarlott said the curriculum for social studies and health was in the process of being rewritten. She said the Visioning Task Force had met and they finished the research phase of the project and also met regarding UDL (Universal Design for Learning) where they did a deep data dive regarding the progression of data over the past three years.

c. Assistant Superintendent of Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell thanked the voters of Merrimack for passing the operating budget, the two teacher contracts, and the Thorntons Ferry roof project.

d. School Board Update

Chair Rothhaus welcomed the new members of the School Board, Ms. Naomi Halter, and Mr. Ken Martin.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney said the prom would be held on Friday, May 13, 2022. She also said the senior week would start the week of June 13th.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request from the U.S. Department of Education for Reeds Ferry Elementary School to Participate in an Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS)

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the survey had been done for over 20 years by the U.S. Department of Education through the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). He said school districts were randomly selected and the Reeds Ferry Elementary School had been selected for a field test study in the fall of 2022. He noted he did not see any downside to administering the survey and recommended the Board's approval.

Vice-Chair Peters noted surveys were not administered without parental permission.

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the request. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

- b. Review and Approval of the Document Entitled “General Assurances, Requirements, and Definitions for Participation in Federal Programs”

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen explained the above document required annual approval and was for any school system or agency that received federal grant funds. He said the document was a statement of assurances that the district was qualified to receive such grant funds, they were competent to spend them, they would be spent appropriately, exercise their fiduciary responsibility, and adhere to all statutory requirements.

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the document entitled General Assurances, Requirements, and Definitions for Participation in Federal Program. Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

- c. Other

Chair Rothhaus said she would like to pick a date in June when the Board could meet to discuss its goals and vision.

Chair Rothhaus also said she would be sending out committee assignments and encouraged Board members to let her know what their preference was.

9. POLICIES

- a. Review of Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process (JICD) (4th Reading)

Chair Rothhaus said she felt the policy could dig deeper in terms of what defined the level of offenses. She also said she would like to hear more about what “rewarding” students meant, and what the removal of materials meant. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he would be happy to review the suggested items.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. March 29, 2022 – Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from March 29, 2022, as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

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

- b. April 4, 2022 – Public Minutes

MOTION: Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the minutes from April 4, 2022, as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3 – 0 – 2. (Abstained – Board Member Halter & Board Member Martin)

- c. April 11, 2022 – Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Vice-Chair Peters made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from April 11, 2022, meeting, as presented. Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3 – 0 – 2. (Abstained – Board Member Halter & Board Member Martin)

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Educator Retirements

- Ms. Eileen Banfield, English Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Theresa Taylor, Special Education Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School

- b. Educator Resignations

- Mr. Stockton MacInnes, Behavior Specialist, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Lindsay Belmont, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Michelle Stover, Science Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Michelle Ettelson, Social Studies Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Clarissa McHale, World Language Teacher, Merrimack Middle School

- c. Administrator Resignation

- Ms. Michaela Champlin, Assistant Principal, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

- d. Administrator Nomination

- Ms. Amanda (Amy) Doyle, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction

- e. Approval of Administration of Federal Grant Funds Policy (DAF)

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

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

11. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

b. Correspondence

Board Member Hardy stated that Board Members Halter and Martin and herself received an email that evening from a constituent regarding the School Board reorganization.

c. Comments

Chair Rothhaus thanked the community for their support of the teachers at the Merrimack School District at the most recent election.

Board Member Martin thanked the citizens of Merrimack for their vote to seat him on the School Board.

Vice-Chair Peters said the Board had discussed the subject of Administrative Evaluations multiple times and asked Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen how that was progressing. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied they were continuing to review drafts in multiple domains and would be completed by the end of the year.

Vice-Chair Peters said she appreciated the data regarding the number of students that left and did not graduate. She asked if the leadership team had the opportunity to discuss developing a plan that they could track. She also asked what were the faculty qualifications in the HiSET (High School Equivalency) Program. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied the students took the HiSET at the Nashua Adult Learning Center and a staff member from the high school, Paula Albanese, Transitional Coordinator, administered pre-tests and provided tutoring to the students.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said one of the things they were looking at for the 2023/2224 school year was to develop a very robust Alternative Pathways Program at the high school. He said they would start the process of developing the program soon.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.