

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting  
Merrimack School District, SAU #26  
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room  
May 2, 2022**

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**6:30 p.m. – Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) (I)  
Merrimack TV Training Classroom**

- **Staff Welfare**
- **Legal**

**Present:** Chair Rothhaus, Vice-Chair Peters, Board Member Hardy, Board Member Halter, and Board Member 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**

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

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Rosemarie Rung, 21 Ministerial Drive, addressed the Board and shared that she had recently attended a college graduation party for a student who attended school in the Merrimack School District. She explained that he had been diagnosed with autism when he was two years old and at the time, his parents were told that he would never speak or be potty trained. She said she wanted to share the story and expressed her sincere appreciation to all of the teachers who helped the young man achieve the milestone.

Mr. Robbie Reisman, Iris Drive, addressed the Board and said he also wanted to express his appreciation to the teachers and welcomed the new School Board members.

**3. RECOGNITIONS**

There were no recognitions.

**4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE**

a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated the Merrimack Robotics team “Chop Shop 166” for attending their first World Championship in Houston. He said although the team lost in the quarterfinals, they did an outstanding job!

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen also congratulated the students at the Merrimack Middle School who submitted artwork to the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation & Design Program.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted it was National Teacher Appreciation Week and said the teachers were the backbone of the school system. He thanked all of the teachers and staff for their hard work and for believing in the students.

b. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Yarlott said the schools would provide brief presentations regarding student highlights, curriculum development, and the Vision of a Learner between the next School Board meeting and the end of June.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the Trustees of Trust Funds had pledged \$159,000 to renovate/update the library at the Merrimack High School.

d. School Board Update

Chair Rothhaus said the School Board would be meeting in the near future to have a goal-setting meeting where they hoped to establish a comprehensive workforce strategy to attract and retain teachers.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney congratulated the Granite State Challenge team for their excellent season.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Presentation

Vice-Chair Peters said the UDL presentation would be placed on a future agenda.

b. School Board Committee Assignments

Vice-Chair Peters reviewed the School Board Committee assignments as follows:

Budget Committee	Naomi Halter & Ken Martin (Alternate)
Curriculum Instruction and Tech. Committee	Jenna Hardy & Ken Martin
School Bus Stop Committee	Naomi Halter
Professional Development Committee	Lori Peters & Ken Martin (Alternate)
Planning & Building Committee	Laurie Rothhaus
Wellness Policy Implementation Committee	Lori Peters
Healthcare Cost Containment Committee	Ken Martin
District Parent Group	Jenna Hardy & Ken Martin (Alternate)
Communications Committee	Jenna Hardy & Ken Martin

Superintendent Search Committee	Lori Peters, Laurie Rothhaus, and Jenna Hardy – on a rotating basis.
Collective Bargaining Teams	
• Merrimack Teachers Association	Laurie Rothhaus & Lori Peters
• Merrimack Education Support Staff	Jenna Hardy & Ken Martin
Advise and Confer	Laurie Rothhaus & Lori Peters
Grater Woods Subcommittee	Ken Martin
Town Center Committee	Matt Shevenell
Parks & Recreation	Naomi Halter & Laurie Rothhaus (Alternate)
Merrimack 275 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	Laurie Chair Rothhaus
New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate	TBD

c. Signing of the MTA Contract

Chair Rothhaus said by the School Board signing the contract it was her hope that it would be the first step in creating a supportive, and inclusive culture where all staff would feel valued and empowered.

d. Establish Summer School Board Meeting Dates

Vice-Chair Peters said the proposed dates for the summer meetings of the School Board were:

- June 6<sup>th</sup> & June 20<sup>th</sup>
- July 25<sup>th</sup>
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>

e. Request to Hire at Will

**MOTION:** Chair Rothhaus made a motion to allow the administration to hire at will during the summer months. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

f. Other

There was no other new business to discuss.

**7. POLICIES**

a. Review of Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process (JICD) (5<sup>th</sup> Reading)

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the policy was drafted by legal counsel to be in full compliance with the revised state statute and included edits/suggestions from Board members.

Chair Rothhaus, referring to page 7 of 12, said she did not agree that a parent could not appeal a suspension of five days or less, and also did not agree that the decision of the school administration was final and there was no right to appeal a suspension of ten days or less.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen suggested that the Board approve the policy as presented. He would check with legal counsel if they could allow an appeal in the future.

**MOTION:** Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process (JICD) Policy, given that it was the fifth reading, as presented. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 4 – 1 – 0. (Nay - Chair Rothhaus)**

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. April 18, 2022 – Public & Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from April 18, 2022, as presented. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Educator Retirements

- Mr. Richard Greenier, Health/PE Teacher, JMUES
- Ms. Kimberly Bolduc, Kindergarten Teacher, MES
- Ms. Collen Rush, Special Education Teacher, MUES

- b. Educator Resignations

- Ms. Laura Piccolo, Language Arts Coordinator, MUES
- Ms. Anna Boghigian, Preschool Teacher, MES
- Ms. Kerry Verrier, Special Education Teacher, TFS
- Ms. Candice Hollenbeck, Grade 1 Teacher, RFS
- Ms. Kelly Marble, Grade 1 Teacher, MES
- Ms. Eleanor Robbins, Special Education Teacher, MES (Effective Immediately)

- c. Teacher Nomination(s)

- Ms. Nichole O'Brien, Social Studies Teacher, MHS
- Ms. Kaitlyn Tedeschi, Kindergarten Teacher, TFS
- Ms. Hannah Robinson, Art Teacher, MHS
- Ms. Noella Nardino, Special Education Coordinator, JMES
- Ms. Allison Romero, Grade 3 Teacher, RFS

- d. Administrator Nomination(s)

- Ms. Jill Hanlon, Assistant Principal, MHS
- Mr. Kathleen Hoppa, Assistant Principal, MMS
- Ms. Meaghan Fowler, Assistant Principal, JMUES

**MOTION:** Chair Rothhaus 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

Chair Rothhaus said she received correspondence that stated excitement about the goals meeting and the direction the Board is going.

Board Member Martin said he received correspondence regarding the current mask policy.

Vice-Chair Peters said the topic of masks should be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

Board Member Hardy said she received a similar email regarding the mask policy as well as a comment regarding the nomination process for the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Peters said she received an email regarding if all classes could be held on the playground or if the district was still following the COVID protocol.

c. Comments

Vice-Chair Peters thanked all of the teachers and educators for their hard work, particularly during the past few years.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no public comments.

**MOTION:** At approximately 7:34 p.m. Board Member Martin made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**