

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
June 6, 2022**

Present: Chair Rothhaus, Vice-Chair Peters, Board Member Hardy, and Board Member Halter. 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: Board Member Martin - Excused

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. The School Board then had a moment of silence for all of those who lost their lives in the recent tragedy in Texas.

The National Anthem was performed by members of the saxophone choir of the James Masticola Upper Elementary School.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

3. RECOGNITIONS

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen presented a certificate to each member of the below teams:

- a. Granite State Challenge Team
- b. Quiz Bowl Team

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

- a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen thanked Dr. Sara Campbell for being an extraordinary professional.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen gave his sincere thanks to all Veterans in honor of Memorial Day.

c. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Yarlott said they continued to work on the curriculum updates and the Vision of a Learner statement was on target to be shared with the Board in September. She added there were two professional development days scheduled in June and would be focused on compliance and safety.

d. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the concession stand that was made possible by the Laura Wolf Foundation was coming along nicely.

e. School Board Update

Chair Rothhaus thanked the administration for their quick follow-up and proactive attitude.

f. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney relayed some date reminders regarding "Student Week."

5. OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Peters said she and Chair Rothhaus would be having a pre-meeting with Primex to set the parameters of the goal's meeting that the Board would have later in June.

6. NEW BUSINESS

e. Student Highlights

Ms. Painchaud said the theme of their presentation was about "the power of student choice and student's voice" which aligned with their ongoing efforts to delve deeper into UDL (Universal Design for Learning) and develop flexible learning opportunities and environments for all students.

The following people participated in providing the School Board with a presentation.

- James Mastricola Elementary School – Ms. Alisha Hansen-Proulx, Asst. Principal
- Reeds Ferry Elementary School – Ms. Bonnie Painchaud, Principal
- Thorntons Ferry Elementary School – Ms. Julie DeLuca, Principal
- James Mastricola Upper Elementary School – Ms. Marsha McGill, Principal

b. Graduation Plans and Information

Mr. Steve Claire, Principal, Merrimack High School said the graduation was scheduled for Saturday, June 18th beginning at 10:00 a.m. and he reviewed the activities that would occur during senior week.

c. Scheduling Surveys

Mr. Claire requested approval for a student survey regarding scheduling and how it currently served the social/emotional and academic interests of the students & staff.

Ms. Angela Maslanka, Teacher of World Languages, addressed the Board and suggested the structure of the school day might be changed to better suit the students, noting it had been over twenty years since the last schedule was adopted. She said they would like to be able to collect some data from staff and students.

Ms. Maslanka said both student and staff surveys would be anonymous and would consist of two parts, noting that the student survey would have two questions regarding:

- Availability to receive extra help.
- Club or extracurricular activities.

Ms. Maslanka said the questions pertaining to staff would pertain to:

- How often meeting with students.
- Have students expressed reluctance to meet for extra help.

Ms. Maslanka said a common question for both staff and students would include thoughts regarding the current schedule and comments about a different variation of the schedule.

Vice-Chair Peters commented that she felt the parents should be included in the survey as well, as it pertained to the questions being asked of the students.

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the student, staff, and parent surveys, as presented. Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

d. Request to Conduct Dissertation Research

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he received an email from Ms. Tawnie Arnold, a Psy.D student at Rivier University, and was requesting permission to conduct research utilizing the staff and faculty of the Merrimack School District.

Ms. Arnold said her dissertation was on self-compassion, trait mindfulness, and burnout in human service professionals in schools. She said all data would be confidential and would like to send the survey out in the fall.

Chair Rothhaus said the School Board had just received the information that day and she would like more time to review the questions on the survey.

Vice-Chair Peters said the item would be on the next meeting's agenda under "Old Business."

e. High School Library Renovation Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said all of the materials for the renovation had been ordered and would share the plans with the Board at a future meeting.

f. Thorntons Ferry Elementary School Playground Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said all of the design work was finished and a site meeting was held the previous week. He said the parents of Thorntons Ferry had done an amazing job raising funds.

g. NHSBA Call for 2022 Resolutions

Vice-Chair Peters stated that the Board had copies of the resolutions that were adopted at the last Delegate Assembly. She said the School Board could submit a resolution if they wanted but they would need to submit it by July 15th.

h. Other

There were no other items to discuss under "New Business."

7. POLICIES

There were no policies to discuss.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 16, 2022 – Public & Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from May 16, 2022, as presented. Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

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

Vice-Chair Peters commented the vote to approve the May 16, 2022, public meeting minutes would be tabled until the next meeting to clarify a question.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

a. MTA Resignations

- Ms. Jennifer Lavinge, Math Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Abby White, Grade 1 Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School

b. Support Staff Retirements

- Ms. Lynn Spencer, Paraeducator, 25 Years of Service – JMUES
- Ms. Laura Palm, Paraeducator, 20 Years of Service – JMES

- Ms. Janet Bogle, Paraeducator, 13 Years of Service – RFS
- Ms. Paulette Enos, Administrative Assistant, 27 Years of Service – MMS
- Ms. Karen Sapienza, Paraeducator, 15 Years of Service – MHS
- Ms. Lina Mayo, Paraeducator, 16 Years of Service – RFS
- Mr. Rene Beaulieu, Mechanic 38 Years of Service – Maintenance

c. Support Staff Retirements

- Ms. Cassidy Downs, Grade 4 Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Debra Desilets, Behavior Specialist, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Kara Jutras, Grade 2 Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School
- Ms. Sara Guilmette, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Morgen Bailey, Special Education Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Kimberly Morgan, Science Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Lisa Martin, Library Media Specialist, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Sherry MacKenzie-Burbank, Out-of-District Coordinator, Student Services
- Ms. Andrea Inamorati, Grade 1 Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School

d. Educator Resignations

- Ms. Stephanie Brann, Speech Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Carissa Carrier, Grade 4 Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School
- Ms. Alisha Chapman, Physical Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Morgan Ireland, Grade 2 Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School

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

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

10. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

Chair Rothhaus said she attended the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting where they discussed the Fourth of July celebration and were still looking for certified lifeguards.

b. Correspondence

Chair Rothhaus said she received correspondence regarding the lack of availability of gym space during the summer.

c. Comments

Chair Rothhaus said she had attended the Reeds Ferry Art Show where there was a great turnout.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Heather Robitaille, 45 Springfield Circle, addressed the Board and expressed her gratitude to the administration and staff for keeping the students safe.

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: At 8:41 p.m. Board Member Halter made a motion to go into a non-public session. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

- Staff Welfare
- Legal

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

MOTION: At 9:04 p.m. Vice-Chair Peters made a motion to adjourn the public session. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.