2021-2022 Annual Report from the Chair

To our Merrimack Community,

The School Board and School Administration started the year off establishing District Goals to improve the overall quality of education for all students.

It has been a true honor for me to serve as the School Board Chairman and I am pleased to share with you the Boards focus for the year and the many positive highlights and accomplishments we have worked through.

In June, the Board, along with District Administration, met at the Middle School Library for a full day event dedicated to a goals setting session focusing on expected results.

Our first priority was to create an engaged, inclusive, and collaborative School District culture built on mutual trust and respect.

To meet our first goal, our priority was to offer Mr. Everett Olsen a two-year contract continuing his role as our Chief Educational Officer in order to continue to have his high level of leadership and educational talent lead our district. The Merrimack School District has a leader who has the highest level of ethical values and the depth of knowledge to bring our district to the next level. Mr. Olsen has continuously demonstrated the skills to develop and support our leadership teams with his influence and example.

The goals meeting was held to give our board a vision with purpose and intended results.

- Establish short- and long-term goals that are measurable
- Move the district vision forward
- Set goals and strategic objectives
- Be the Change
- Deliver a high-quality education that is measured and results driven
- Open lines of communication
- Identify needs and re-evaluate our current policies and practices

School safety was identified as a priority of the Board and the School District is in the process of hiring a consultant to do a full district study on the current state of affairs.

The School Board and the Budget committee held the first ever joint meeting in November to set a clear understanding of our vision and the needs of the School District.

The board remained mindful that all District operations are focused on achieving optimal student outcomes and meeting the needs of all student learners. Key initiatives that the Board desired and Administration has continued to support and develop are pathways to graduation, social and emotional learning, project-based learning, extended learning opportunities and the encouragement of our students to explore other pathways such as CTE programs. Also, by reviewing current curriculum so it aligns with state standards, and to improve our vision for all students to be career and college ready.

Our School Districts Technology plan was returned to the CIP so the District can continue initiatives such as 1:1, Canvas and to meet our future technology goals.

The High School Principal Steve Claire was instrumental in creating a new updated student handbook.

The School Board and the Merrimack Teachers Association reached an agreement that would bring our district closer to having a competitive wage scale so we can attract and keep highly qualified teachers.

The board is grateful for all the parents who volunteer in our District. Every volunteer is **appreciated**. The Thornton's Ferry PTTF playground committee raised $122,000 to improve the playground under the co-chairs Rachel Paepke and Kim Desmarais. Laura's World Fund with Chair Jennifer DeFelice and Dr. Rob Wolf raised funds to build a student memorial concession stand at the high school.

Our student body continues to represent our District in many positive ways. Our students continue to engage in the school community by participating in one of the many clubs within our schools, or community organizations such as becoming an Eagle Scout, a member of the successful Granite State Challenge Team, the First Team, Student Council, SADD, becoming a member of an athletic team, a member of the band or drama club, volunteering in other organizations or even testifying at the New Hampshire State House on a Bill they crafted.

I would like to thank our teachers, staff, and our administration for their depth of knowledge, commitment, and desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

In conclusion, on behalf of the highly functioning and respectful Board of Education who worked together and supported each other's ideas–my very helpful and competent Vice Chair, Lori Peters, Jenna Hardy, Ken Martin, and Naomi Halter, as well as our highly regarded Student Representative Kaitlyn Vadney. I thank you for entrusting us as your School Board Representatives, as we move forward meeting our goals.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Rothhaus