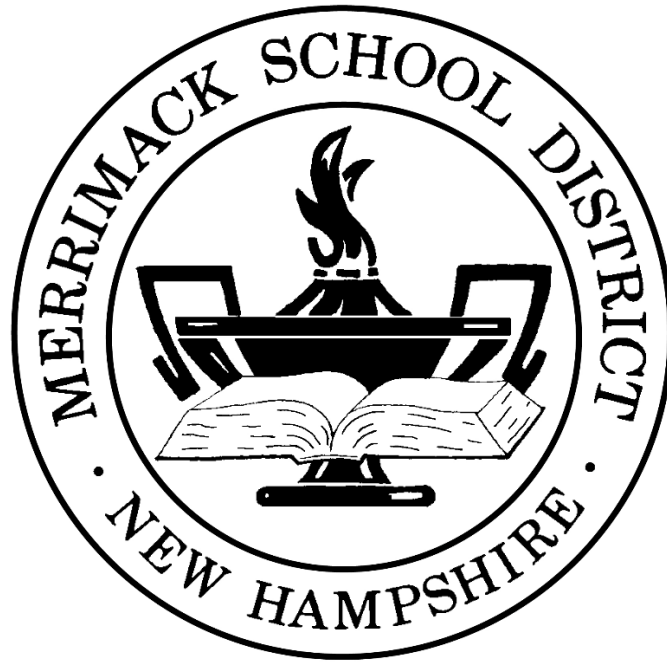


**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021
AND
PROPOSED BUDGET
JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023**



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021
AND
PROPOSED BUDGET
JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023**

DEDICATION

The Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2021
is Dedicated to the
Staff and Students of the Merrimack School District
and the Merrimack Community.

The 2020-2021 school year presented many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Education as we have known it was disrupted and replaced by both remote and hybrid instructions. Additionally, the lives and daily routines of residents were impacted by the sometimes-rapid transmission of the virus.

Throughout the difficult year, everyone worked together and supported each other in our effort to keep students, staff, friends and neighbors as safe as possible.

**ANNUAL REPORTS
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERRIMACK, NH
for the
Year Ending June 30, 2021**

DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICIALS, March 2022

MODERATOR

Lynn Christensen 2022

CLERK

Patricia Heinrich 2022

TREASURER

Jennifer Heinrich 2022

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Cinda Guagliumi, Chair 2022

Laurie Rothhaus, Vice Chair 2023

Shannon Barnes 2022

Jenna Hardy 2024

Lori Peters 2024

PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

Richard Hendricks, Chair 2024

Gage Perry, Vice Chair 2022

Shayne Albuquerque 2022

Michael Alukonis 2024

Finlay Rothhaus 2023

Naomi Schoenfeld 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Merrimack School Board	1
Report of the Merrimack School Board	1
Merrimack School Board Logic Model	3
Annual Reports	
Superintendent of Schools	4
Director of Student Services	5
Director of Technology/Library Media Services	7
Principals, Elementary Schools	8
Principal, Mastricola Upper Elementary School	9
Principal, Merrimack Middle School.	11
Principal, Merrimack High School	12
Merrimack High School Graduates – June 2021	17
Colleges Accepting MHS Graduates – June 2021	19
Report of the Planning and Building Committee	21
Annual School District Meeting Report	
Session 1: Deliberation	22
Session 2: Ballot Voting	26
Auditor’s Report	28
Comparative Enrollments	32
2022-2023 Proposed Budget	
Budget Committee	34
MS-27 State Budget Form	35
School District Warrant	45
Proposed 2022-2023 Budget Summary	47
Budget and Revenue Summary 2022-2023	48
Special Education Programs and Services Expenditures and Revenues	49

2021-2022 Merrimack School Board



(Back L-R): Cinda Guagliumi (Chair), Kaitlyn Vadney (Student Rep.), Laurie Rothhaus (Vice Chair)
(Front L-R): Shannon Barnes, Jenna Hardy, Lori Peters

2020-2021 Annual Report from the Chair

To the Citizens of Merrimack:

The 2020-2021 academic year (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) was truly another unprecedented year for the Merrimack School District, and it is my honor as your School Board Chair to share with you the highlights and challenges of our year.

First, I'd like to express gratitude. Thank you to our teachers, staff and administration for all you do to instruct and support our students; our school community families for your partnership; the Merrimack Police Department and Town of Merrimack for your work to keep our school community safe; and, the broader Merrimack community. Most importantly, I'd like to thank our students for their hard work and commitment to learning, which is truly the reason we all do what we do.

Throughout the year, we continued to navigate through the COVID pandemic. The district began its year allowing families to choose between attending school in a hybrid in-school option or fully remote. Unfortunately, the entire district had to go fully remote for a several weeks after Thanksgiving break, and finally it was able to bring most students back to school before the completion of the academic year.

At the beginning of the year, the Merrimack School Board had two new members. Given COVID, the town and district had just completed its town meeting (election) in June, and Mrs. Laurie Rothhaus joined the board. Additionally, just prior to the school year, Mrs. Brandi Nunez resigned from the board. The board accepted applicants from the public to replace Mrs. Nunez, and after an interview process, the board appointed Mrs. Jenna Hardy to fill her seat until the 2021 election. Mrs. Cinda Guagliumi was elected the Chair by the board, and Mrs. Shannon Barnes was elected Vice Chair.

In addition, as we embarked on this new school year, a primary focus was the district task forces that were put in place to prepare for reopening including fall athletics. The district also created a REAL (Remote Education for Academic Learning) Academy Coordinator to support those students and families that opted for remote learning.

The year ended with the resignation of the district superintendent and the board secured a superintendent search firm to replace the position.

Improved Initiatives from the School Board

We remained mindful that all district operations are focused on achieving optimal student outcomes and the School Board supported key initiatives such as: Project-Based Learning, Also, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum remained a top priority; and, of course, the continuous refinement of the curriculum from K-12 to prepare students for college and career readiness.

As it relates to the district's technology, there were initiatives such as: 1:1 device initiative, and licensing Canvas as part of the New Hampshire State cohort kindergarten through grade 12. Title funds, trust funds, and funds from the CARES Act were used to pay for some of the technology. Switches and cabling work was completed at James Masticola Upper Elementary School as was a review of wireless vendors. Finally, there was a more aggressive review/replacement of routers and switches to ensure uptime and the ability to adjust to increase loads.

Additionally, as we began this year, there was a surplus due to COVID of \$4,456,390.89 that went, in its entirety, to reduce the December tax bill.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the School Board – Laurie Rothhaus, Shannon Barnes, Jenna Hardy, Lori Peters and myself, as well as our Student Representative Kaitlyn Vadney, we thank you for entrusting us in our roles and look forward to refining our mission of academic excellence and innovation along with taxpayer service in the next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cinda Guagliumi

**Merrimack School District Logic Model
A Roadmap for Success**

<p align="center">INPUTS Describes state/district plans/resources currently in place</p>	<p align="center">STRATEGIES Describes ongoing activities to meet district goals</p>	<p align="center">OBJECTIVES Describes what will be accomplished over the next two years</p>	<p align="center">GOALS Describes what will be in place in five to seven years</p>	<p align="center">IMPACTS Describes long-term results</p>
<p>Improvement Plans: - Focused Monitoring Plan</p>	<p>Provide consistent and sustainable professional development to support anticipated short and long term impacts of the Logic Model.</p>	<p>Students are actively and purposefully engaged through educators employing a repertoire of research-based strategies.</p>	<p>Educators employ consistent systems of support to facilitate student transitions.</p>	<p>Students demonstrate growth in reading and writing achievement.</p>
<p>School Board Policies and Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>Leverage communication tools to keep district stakeholders/ staff abreast of instructional practices, research, professional development experiences and student performance.</p>	<p>Educators facilitate learning through consistent instructional approaches and the use of data from assessments to meet the needs of each student.</p>	<p>Educators continuously monitor student progress for understanding.</p>	<p>Students demonstrate growth in math, science and social studies achievement.</p>
<p>Program and Curriculum Revision and Implementation Process - Standards and Assessments - Competencies and Competency-Based Assessments - Response to Intervention (RTI)</p>	<p>Integrated instructional practices are informed by data and differentiated in response to students' needs.</p>	<p>Students' needs are met through systematic tiered interventions based on academic and behavioral data that provides multiple opportunities for students to learn in a standards and competency-based environment.</p>	<p>Educators model appropriate use of information and technology.</p>	<p>Students leverage appropriate information and technology throughout their learning disciplines and are well-prepared for future applications.</p>
<p>State and Federal Accountability: - Standards for Public School Approval - Common Core State Standards/ College and Career Readiness Standards - New Hampshire Teacher Effectiveness Framework - Special Education Regulations</p>	<p>Collaboration among teams supports professional growth and builds shared responsibility for the social/emotional and academic needs of all students.</p>	<p>Students and educators work collaboratively to leverage information and technology, thus enhancing learning within and beyond the classroom.</p>	<p>Educators and the community collaborate to create a safe learning environment for all students.</p>	<p>Students, parents and staff promote an environment that fosters self-directed, life-long learners.</p>
<p>Educator Support Models/Plans - Educator Performance Evaluation Model - Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) - Torchbearer Program - Service Learning Projects</p>	<p>Leverage appropriate tools and resources to <i>support</i> instruction and use data to <i>inform</i> instruction.</p>	<p>Students engage in rigorous educational opportunities that will expose them to experiential, co-curricular and global perspectives and learning.</p>		
<p>District Plans - Technology Plan - Professional Development Master Plan - Capital Improvement Plan</p>	<p>Educate staff in the development and use of tiered interventions.</p>	<p>Students articulate and take ownership of individual learning goals through open dialogue, real world application and reflection.</p>		
<p>Operating Budget/Grant Support - Parent Group Support - School Board Support</p>	<p>Utilize communication tools to keep parents informed about the teaching/learning process.</p>	<p>Educators communicate their learning expectations for students to parents.</p>	<p>Educators communicate consistently with parents.</p>	
<p>Surveys - Parent</p>				

**Merrimack School District
Superintendent's Annual Report
2020-2021**

The 2020-2021 school year was an extraordinarily challenging year for our students, staff, and parents. The COVID-19 virus continued its impact on communities and school districts throughout the nation and Merrimack was no exception. The concern for the health and safety of all students and staff created a need for alternative models of teaching and learning. Throughout the year flexibility and adaptability of everyone were vital to successfully providing core academic instruction, and support services to students.

The school year began with remote, and hybrid (in-person and online) instruction. Students were divided into cohorts such that only half of the students were in school at one time in the hybrid teaching and learning model. This allowed for the important virus mitigation action of distancing in an effort to reduce the possibility of virus transmission. Some teachers were involved with concurrent learning which involved teaching to both those students who were in their respective class, and some who were participating in the class remotely. The rate of transmission of the COVID-19 virus forced the school district to conduct remote teaching and learning for several weeks of the Thanksgiving holiday. The recurring transitions in teaching and learning were particularly challenging to our students with disabilities along with students in preschool and kindergarten. I must commend the staff for their commitment to staying connected with students and families during the school year.

To facilitate the teachers' ability to meet changing instructional conditions, the district created a one-year position of Coordinator of Remote Learning to assist staff across the district in providing remote instructional services to students. The Canvas Learning Management System was instrumental in allowing students to access curriculum units throughout the year and the staff is to be commended for its dedication to learning how to effectively use this learning management program.

In March, students and staff were able to return to in-person learning with the continued COVID-19 mitigation measures of masking, distancing, hand hygiene, disinfecting school facilities and buses, increasing ventilation, and contact tracing. With the attention of everyone spread between academics and health and safety procedures, the incidence of student and staff anxiety significantly increased. Pediatricians throughout the nation expressed concern over the mental health impact to children of all ages in the spring (2021). A Health and Safety Task Force was formed to assist in planning for developing a reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The Task Force work was invaluable in providing guidance toward maintaining the health and safety of all facility occupants while maintaining instructional services and school operations.

Throughout our lives we learn something from extremely challenging events. Over the course of the school year, we learned to be flexible, patient, persistent and supportive of one another. We learned that we were more resilient than we thought. Additionally, we learned new and efficient ways to incorporate technology into teaching and learning, with an ever present understanding of the importance of maintaining strong connections with students, colleagues and families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Everett V. Olsen, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

Student Services Annual Report 2020-2021

The Merrimack School District's Office of Student Services is fully committed to the belief that all students can achieve their fullest potential. Through perseverance and dedication, we fully commit ourselves to providing the tools, knowledge, and compassion to assist our children and youth to achieve their goals. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and education of our children and youth with disabilities by creating trusting partnerships with their families, our community, and state agencies to develop, communicate and deliver essential skills, knowledge and value through research-based best practices, teaching, and service.

The Merrimack School District's Office of Student Services is required to provide special education and related services to students with educational disabilities according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) along with the New Hampshire Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities. These Federal and State mandates require school districts to evaluate students suspected as having educational disabilities, provide students with Individual Education Programs (IEP's), and provide students with specialized instruction including reading and math programs, speech and language services, occupational and physical therapy, counseling services, behavioral therapy and intervention, transition services, social work, mental health supports, along with other special services. These services are to be delivered in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) providing access to non-disabled peers and the general education curriculum. To meet this legal mandate, the Merrimack School District has developed a wide continuum of programming supports to meet the unique needs of children within our public schools, and when necessary, in out-of-district placements.

Merrimack School District continues to maintain the highest rating on the Determination of NH District Implementation of IDEA with a perfect score and final district determination of "Meets Requirement" for all Indicators and IDEA grant management. This Determination Report looks at several State of NH Performance Plan Indicators identified by the United States Department of Education. The indicators are: Preschool Outcomes, Disproportionate Representation of Disability, Disproportionate Representation based on Race, Suspension and Expulsion Rates for students with Disabilities, Child Find, Early Childhood Transition, Secondary Transition and Timelines of Initial/Ongoing evaluations. In addition, we must meet federal auditing criteria in grant management, maintenance of effort and overall fiscal audit submitted to the NHDOE. Merrimack School District has achieved this ranking of "Meets Requirements" for all indicators for the past 17 years due to the commitment, dedication, and partnership between special education, general education, administration at the building and district level and our parents and community.

Over the past year we focused on our continued collaboration and engagement with our parent community. We hosted afternoon and evening events with Parent Information Center, NAMI, Alison Roy, Peg Dawson, and Polly Bath, to name a few, to address parent survey requests for information, training, and workshops. Topics have included special education processes, social-emotional learning (SEL), executive functioning, etc. We developed a daylong onboarding and annual review of best practices for our paraeducators to support employee retention and capacity building around special education.

We continue to offer a full array of extended school year (ESY) opportunities tailored to the unique needs of individual students beyond the traditional five-week programs and have begun to explore offering ESY during the school year for some of our students who have significant learning loss/gaps. Transitional services were expanded to include opportunities for students to receive support throughout the summer and in the week leading up to the beginning of school this year. This was identified as a priority by our families and educators who reported elevated levels of anxiety and worry in our student population. We piloted SEL skill building opportunities for students in our elementary and secondary summer programs. Our focus on prevention and skill building in this area provided students with the readiness skills to be prepared for learning as they came back to school this year, some of them for the first time since March of 2020.

Student Services has partnered with Literacy Learning Solutions to support five Merrimack special educators in earning their certification as Orton Gillingham Dyslexia Instructors. We are working across our lower elementary schools to improve our specialized instruction in all areas of literacy by adding specific programs, tools, software, and evaluations to increase our ability to respond to the complex literacy needs of our students with specific learning disabilities. Aligning our programs for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities across our school district has been another priority. We continue to look at our systems and supports in special education and student services to provide high quality services and educational support that are efficient and cost effective. We were awarded a Promising Futures Grant through the NHDOE that provided funds to improve prevention, universal supports and skill building for all students in grades K-12 as part of a multitiered system of support (MTSS). By creating a tiered system of support for academic, behavioral, and socioemotional needs, we can offer universal support to all students, and improved outcomes for our most vulnerable students.

It is with the greatest appreciation for this work that I have been charged with that I respectfully submit this annual report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Barker, Director

**Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services
Annual Report
2021-2022**

Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services Department provides services for the students, staff, classrooms, offices, and business operations of the district. We continue to add devices for student-use, to evaluate and improve our infrastructure supporting learning through the use of technology, research, and reading materials, as well as to work with our staff to ensure they have what they need in the fulfillment of their roles.

The 2021-2022 school year was unique to Merrimack as this marked the first full school year where every student had a device to use within the classroom and at home. We have seen some amazing work and learning come out of the ability to have consistent access to devices and online resources that hasn't been possible at this scale before. We are looking forward to expanding on and providing students and teachers with more resources and techniques to leverage technology in and out of the classroom.

Canvas, our new Learning Management System, has been implemented and is being used district wide to help administer and record learning outcomes as well as foster collaboration and communication between teachers, students, and parents. We are evaluating the templates that have been created and pushed out to educators to see if we can make adjustments to make the experience for everyone more meaningful and impactful in the following school years. We have seen how having a centralized location to house classroom information and the content has helped to streamline the educational process.

Last but not least, the Technology and Library Media Services Department has a few new faces. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jessica Gott as our new High School Library Media Specialist. Jessica might be new to our department but is still a familiar face to the high school where she taught English for many years. Another new face is our Network Administrator Brenden Collins who came to us from Epping School District. Brenden has many years of experience working in schools and has an extensive background in network and data security. I joined the Merrimack Leadership in the fall of 2021 as the Director of Technology and Learning Systems. I came to Merrimack from the Litchfield School District and have experience in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

As always, the Technology and Library Media Services Department is privileged to serve all the Merrimack students, faculty, and staff. We are energized and eager to continue to help learning through the use of technology and research.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Pelletier, Director of Technology and Learning Systems
Matthew Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Merrimack Elementary Schools
Mastricola, Reeds Ferry, Thorntons Ferry
Annual Report
2020-2021

The 2020-2021 school year kicked off with the staff participating in professional development designed to support student learning in both hybrid and remote learning settings. Educators participated in professional development focused on Universal Design for Learning, Social Emotional Learning, Digital Learning Platforms, and Professional Learning Team collaboration.

As the pandemic progressed, our students experienced a different schedule for schooling in order to ensure continued health and safety. Our students, staff and families demonstrated flexibility with teaching and learning occurring in a variety of settings including: hybrid, full-remote online learning and the return to in-person learning for most students in March of 2021. Some of our students with special education needs received in-person schooling during periods of fully teaching remote teaching to address their specific needs that could only be provided by in-person teaching and learning. We greatly appreciate all the collaboration amongst parents and staff in ensuring that our students' academic, social and emotional needs were met during this period of great transition.

An important focus at all three elementary schools throughout the year was to ensure that all students and families felt a part of their school community, even though they may not have been physically present within the buildings. Educators found unique and creative ways to make special connections with families, including Digital Town Hall Meetings, recorded morning announcements, drive by parades for our fourth-grade students, remote graduation for our fourth graders, drive by Hawk Walks, virtual Art Shows and Fun and Field Days. Educators leveraged the new Learning Management System, Canvas, along with many other digital resources, to deliver instruction and maintain connections with all students and families.

We are excited to share that in 2020-2021, kindergarten through six grades, implemented a new Standards-Based Report Card. This new and improved report card reflected the culmination of extensive research and work done by the District Report Card Committee. This committee was comprised of representatives from all grades, schools, and subject areas. The purpose of this report card is to communicate with parents/guardians and students the achievement of specific standards-based learning goals. It identifies students' levels of progress, relative to those goals, areas of strengths, and areas where additional time and effort are needed. In addition, educators worked through the summer of 2020 and the school year to identify Essential Learning Competencies (ELCs) for each trimester. These competencies represent the most critical learning standards for success at each grade level.

The 2020-2021 school year reflected the importance of flexibility, creativity, collaboration, safety, health and wellness for all students and families at Reeds Ferry School, Thorntons Ferry School and Mastricola Elementary School. We appreciate the outstanding work on the part of all staff to deliver education to the Merrimack students during a highly challenging time. Likewise, our students demonstrated a tremendous amount of perseverance and grit!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Painchaud, Principal, Reeds Ferry School
Julie DeLuca, Principal, Thorntons Ferry School
Michelle Romein, Principal, Mastricola Elementary School

James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Annual Report
2020-2021

The James Mastricola Upper Elementary School (JMUES) completed its seventeenth year of meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of Merrimack's fifth and sixth grade students. We have reflected on the work we have done to refine our academic practices and positive school culture during this unique school year. It is through the unwavering commitment of our educators, support personnel, and Parent Faculty Association (PFA) that our students received a comprehensive Upper Elementary educational experience.

During the 2020-2021 school year, students experienced in-person, remote, and/or concurrent learning. Our educators provided instruction using a variety of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies and guidelines to meet the individual needs of each learner. We applied our knowledge of the UDL practices and continued to foster expert learners by supporting their skills in goal setting, resiliency, and resourcefulness. Our building administrators participated in the statewide UDL Leadership Academy, a professional learning series to guide them in designing systems and structures to support school wide UDL implementation. Some educators on our school based UDL team participated in statewide coaching to share their experiences and knowledge.

Throughout the year, JMUES students were provided experiences and instruction to support social-emotional learning based on lessons from the Second Step[®] program. This year we implemented two new annual campaigns to promote respect, responsibility, safety, and kindness. Students participated in both an anti-bullying and a "Kindness Counts" campaign. On October 21, 2020 students and staff wore orange to celebrate Unity Day to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. Additionally, each student and staff member created an anti-bullying badge, which was displayed in the front entrance as a reminder of our commitment to be bully-free. Kindness posters illustrating the 2020-2021 school theme of, "Kindness is showing someone they matter" were submitted and shared with the school community. Winning posters were framed and displayed in the main office hallway for all to see.

Students continued to benefit from our collaboration with the Merrimack Police Department through the Police and Children Together (PACT) Program. This program, provided by Detective William Vandersyde, is comprised of a variety of lessons that encourage students to make good life choices. After successfully completing the program, students were recognized by administration, teachers and Detective Vandersyde for their efforts.

JMUES students had opportunities to participate in several school-wide activities. Our band director worked creatively to provide students with experiences that complied with safety measures and social distance requirements. Additionally, Merrimack TV assisted us in filming concerts so that family and community members could experience the musical performances in a safe remote setting. Students experienced a virtual author's visit with Odds Bodkins, famed storyteller, musician, and writer. Many students provided pictures of their furry and scaly friends to line the hallway of the "JMUES Wall of Pets."

During the spring, JMUES hosted the Jaguar Jamboree, both in-person and via zoom. Both the virtual and in-person formats led to a fun-filled field day for all students. In June, Mrs. McGill and Dr. Rheault were very excited to be able to visit all of the fourth-grade classrooms at Mastricola Elementary School, Reeds Ferry Elementary School, and Thorntons Ferry

Elementary School to begin the transition process to the Masticola Upper Elementary School. Additionally, a Moving-On Ceremony was held to celebrate our grade six students. The event was held outside to provide parents the opportunity to attend in person.

While challenges and adapting to a changing world were ever-present throughout the 2020-2021 school year, educators, staff, and students achieved numerous accomplishments through perseverance, determination and a can-do attitude. The JMUES administration applauds the partnerships formed between parents and educators to work together to meet students' needs during this very unique year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha McGill, Principal

**Annual Report
Merrimack Middle School
2020-2021**

The 2020-2021 school year was a year that required creativity, change, collaboration, and flexibility at an extraordinary level in order to meet the educational and social emotional needs of Merrimack Middle School students. These challenges required the consistent rethinking and modification of instruction, schedules, and the day to day operations of the school. Through it all, the Merrimack Middle School community banded together to make 2020-2021 a positive year.

One of the changes this school year was the need to move between hybrid, remote, and concurrent instructional models. While these models were born of necessity, given the information related to the pandemic, it was an opportunity to look at our schedule and the structure of the educational day. In an effort to eliminate as many transitions as possible, Merrimack Middle School adopted a block schedule for core instruction. Class times were increased to 90-minute blocks and subjects were rotated on a quarterly basis. The end result was a significant revamping of our schedule that allowed for the covering of content, while also creating a safe learning environment.

In a similar fashion to the rethinking of the schedule, we were able to review and revamp the curriculum and instructional components. Staff used a process of identifying different skills, concepts, and standards that had implications beyond the current school year. These different key skills, concepts, and standards were introduced as Essential Learning Competencies (ELCs). Efforts to identify and agree on these ELCs began in the summer and continued throughout the school year and allowed for a very focused approach that helped to narrow and synchronize the skills and concepts that were considered to be essential for a student's success, now, and for years to come.

Merrimack Middle School also entered into its third year of partnering with CAST, as we continued with the implementation of the ideas related to Universal Design for Learning (UDL). As with our sister school James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, we were selected to be a "Learning Hub" whereby different schools and teachers would come and participate in Instructional Rounds and other UDL activities. While the plan to have other schools visit and learn with us was unable to occur, due to the pandemic, staff were able to continue to access resources provided by CAST in order to continue exploring and deepening their understanding of UDL. While extra-curricular activities and events were limited, there were some clubs and activities that occurred virtually went virtual. Students had the opportunity to participate in the Merrimack Middle School Drama Club's presentation of "Animal Farm". The final presentation was an online event which parents and the community were invited to stream directly to their homes. There were also many students who participated, virtually, in the Science Olympiad Team, Spoons and Zoom (baking club), Photography Club, Yoga Club, and the Student Council. Students participated in after school interscholastic sports, as well as a Hiking Club that explored the many trails in the Grater Woods surrounding the school. These activities helped to provide our MMS students with an opportunity to engage with their friends and teachers beyond the school day as a means of keeping everyone connected.

In reflecting on this school year and the many obstacles that stood in our way, it was great to be able stand together; staff, students, parents, and the entire community. Throughout the ups and downs and difficulties, moving from remote to hybrid, it was a wonderful year to learn, rethink, and move forward. Thank you to our amazing staff, families, and students for their efforts throughout this school year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Caragher, Principal

Merrimack High School
Annual Report
2020-2021 School Year

The educational program at Merrimack High School has been designed to prepare students for further education, entry into the work world, or other areas of interest and training. The 2020-2021 school year began in a hybrid learning model, with students sorted into A and B Cohorts to maintain social distancing recommendations and lessen the pandemic's impact. Families could also opt to enroll their children into a fully remote model. Hybrid students received two days of in-person instruction, two days of remote instruction, and a day for enrichment or remediation as needed. From the Thanksgiving holiday until the end of the first semester, students were fully remote. The hybrid model resumed in mid-January, and by mid-April students were back in school five days a week. Graduation was able, with the help of class advisors, teachers, and office staff, to return to a more traditional ceremony, with parents on the field proudly watching their graduates receive diplomas.

The daily attendance rate for the 2020-21 school year was 94.7%. MHS graduated 264 students; 68% of whom continued their education after high school in a four-year institution, with 22% attending a two-year college or seeking other post-secondary education, 4% going directly into a career and 2% joining the military, leaving 4% undecided. One hundred fifty-two (152) students took 185 Advanced Placement exams in 18 subjects. Seventy percent (70%) of these exams scored a 3 or higher. Students received the following AP Scholar Awards: fourteen students received the AP Scholar Award, five received the AP Scholar with Honor Award, and four received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award.

Scholarships were awarded to seventy-eight (78) MHS Seniors on Awards Night, totaling \$148,569.70.00. Merrimack graduated 160 New Hampshire Scholars in the class of 2021, which represents 58% of the class. The National Honor Society inducted 40 members for the 19-20 school year. The graduating class of 2021 included Valedictorian, Clara Schaefer; Salutatorian, Abbigail Cote; and Class President, Maeve Jackson. Our special guest Graduating Senior was Kira Matthews. Class Officers were Maeve Jackson, President, Vice-President Lorin Wandell, Secretary Catherine Selby, and Summer Lucas, Treasurer. The No Bell Award for the 2020-2021 school year was presented to music teacher, Patricia Cunningham.

The following educators joined the Merrimack High School team during the 2020/21 School year.

Stephanie Carberry – Teacher, Social Studies
Michelle Ettelson – Teacher, Social Studies
Tayler LaHaise – Teacher, World Language (Latin)
Scott Riddell – Learning Support Coordinator
Felicia Schulman – Teacher, Special Education (Get Set program)
Adam Suits – Teacher, Mathematics
Paige Webster – Teacher, English
Brett Wilson – Teacher, Special Education

Athletics: The 2020-2021 athletic year saw a drop in participation with 484 athletes competing in 16 sports among 35 teams. The drop off can be attributed to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our teams made post season play as the NHIAA changed to open

tournaments for the entire year. Our boys' ice hockey and wrestling teams advanced to the semifinals of their respective tournaments.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the indoor track season, individual wrestling and tennis tournaments. We continued to offer indoor track as a club and those athletes were able to compete in an end of season meet at the Hampshire Dome in Milford.

We had some outstanding individual performances during the 2020-2021 athletic year: Samuel Epstein became the State Champion in pole vault, clearing 13'6" at the Meet of Champions. Meredith Lubelczyk was runner-up in the 200 individual medley and Allie Marvell was runner-up in the 500 freestyle events at the division 1 swimming championships.

Merrimack High School had thirty-four (34) seniors recognized as scholar-athletes by the NHIAA. These student-athletes lettered in at least two varsity sports and had a cumulative GPA of a B+ or higher.

Overall, it was a challenging year for athletics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud to have offered, and successfully completed, every sport during the 2020-2021 school year.

Department Highlights:

English: There were eighty-eight (88) students enrolled in Running Start English 12 during the 2020/2021 school year. In the spring of 2021 the school's literary magazine, *Spilt Ink*, was produced by a hard-working team of three students - Ariel DiVietro, Bethany Fisher, and Lulu Regal. English department members Paige Webster and Naomi Halvorson assisted the students in the creation and production of the publication which was distributed school wide in both paper and digital formats.

Art: We Inducted twenty (20) Members into the MHS National Art Honor Society - pic of Induction Night. We hosted a trip to Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art. The students supported 'world bee day' by hosting a bee awareness campaign at our school and at the park...artwork was made, seeds were sowed, and we had a beekeeper present to the public. Students made 'cards for the troops' for the holidays. Students made logo designs for the Merrimack annual Marathon. The department awarded Abigail Elliot and Ajay George 'outstanding art student' awards during Awards night.

Music: As most of the music world was turned upside down due to the pandemic, the MHS Music department was still very active. All music festivals were virtual. Thirteen MHS music students were selected for several All-State music ensembles. A total of thirty-six (36) entries submitted recordings for the NH Solo & Ensemble Festival in February with the vast majority receiving "A" ratings. Merrimack High continues to have, by far, the highest number of participants from the entire state. The Marching Band performed at four football games. Merrimack TV aired three performances of the Concert Band, Chorus and Jazz Band. The Concert Band and senior Chorus members also performed at graduation.

Social Studies: American Studies 2 was added to the official Program of Studies for 2021-2022. We added three new teachers to our department - Stephanie Carberry, Michelle Ettelson, and Breda Holland. Trevor Knight became the new Department Chair. Educators Melanie Hedlund, Mallory Niemaszyk, and Lucas Woods made individual contributions to the creation of our

department's ELCs (Essential Learning Competencies) beyond the extensive group work of the entire department. The creation of Flex Fridays allowed for extensive, weekly, highly effective collaboration among role-alike teachers. Despite Covid-19, Mallory Niemaszyk, who is the advisor of SADD, orchestrated Michael Shaughnessy's creation of a video for the Mock Crash, starring the local police, firefighters, and MHS students, and organized two separate days for the Mock Crash for Seniors. Because of the need created by the pandemic, Harley Hall became the Online Learning Liaison for guidance in addition to his teaching duties and was a leader in Canvas professional development for the school and the department. When we returned and introduced the hybrid model, Trevor Knight worked with Mark Merrifield to create an instructional video on how to set up the VDO 360 cameras in the classroom.

Business: Awarded four (4) academic scholarships to members of the Class of 2021 and awarded one academic scholarship in memory of Merrimack Graduate Danielle Bonner. The online school store provided new opportunities for students, parents, staff, and the community to order spirit wear. Our National Business Honor Society graduated eight members in the class of 2021. Forty-five students received three Running Start college credits from NCC for FREE! Seventeen students earned three (3) college credits from SNHU (Southern New Hampshire University) for \$100 per student.

Technology Education: We live in a world that is changing more rapidly than ever before. Much of what we learn today will be obsolete tomorrow. Success depends on our students' abilities to think and act creatively. The Technology Department courses embrace the concept of teaching and learning to imagine creatively, reason systematically, work collaboratively and learn continuously. Whether technology students are in a class of Photography, Videography, Woodworking, Automotive, Game Design, 3D Modeling and Animation or Computer Technology, all, will be found actively working on projects - generating innovative ideas, designing, making improvements, and creating final products through social activity, sharing ideas, collaborating on projects - trying new things, tinkering with materials, testing boundaries, taking risks, repeatedly.

Advances in technology create an opportunity for the Technology Department to revise, update, and develop new courses that will mirror the needs of our society. Our department has been researching and developing new courses that would encompass the skills of 2D Animation, which is a formidable force in the marketing world, and Engineering Design courses which could be integrated with the opportunity of developing a Maker Space for Merrimack High School students.

Merrimack High School Woodworking students' projects were submitted to the Deerfield Fair and earned four 1st place awards; one 2nd place award and one 3rd place award were awarded for lathe turning & bandsaw box entries. In the New England Wood Carvers October event, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards as well as Best of Level were awarded for lathe turned bowl submissions.

Woodworking and Photography both participated in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition in November 2021. Woodworking entries in lathe turning/sculpture resulted in one (1) gold key winner, three (3) silver key winners and one (1) honorable mention. Photography submissions included four (4) gold key winners, six (6) silver key winners and eight (8) honorable mentions. Noteworthy recognition is for Merrimack High School students who received 1st Place at the Deerfield Fair with their technology display.

The MHS Film Arts department had our 4th annual film festival in May of 2021. Awards were given to students who showed prominent levels of excellence in filmmaking. They were as follows: No

Silence Media Award presented to Lily Fanchiang, Labrosse Performance Award presented to Jenny Epstein, Film Arts Society Alumni Award presented to Katherine Janicki, Merrimack TV Directors Award presented to Cayden Castle, Merrimack TV Industry Award presented to David Roy, MHS Staff Award presented to Giselle Santiago.

In partnership with the Broadcast Club, the What's Up Merrimack News program completed their second successful season. This program highlights accomplishments of students and news from around the MHS community. Past episodes may be seen from this link:

<https://www.schooltube.com/channel/What%27s+Up+Merrimack/146000911>

School Climate

Garden Club: Gardening is a wonderful learning experience. It is also an exercise in patience, trial, and error, and working with uncontrollable variables like the weather. We started off with planting pumpkins for our homeroom's Halloween Decorating Activity, then moved into working with planting annual and perennial flowering plants. In June, garden club members, in coordination with Eversource, offered an additional activity during Senior Service Day. Seniors planted dogwood saplings along the edge of the high school football field and at Wildcat Falls. Eversource also donated and planted two mature dogwood trees near the entrance to the high school.

GSA:(Gay Straight Alliance) is a student run group that works toward promoting the civil rights of all students and offers an inclusive environment for members and allies of the LGBTQIA+ Community. The GSA provides recreational and social activities, fundraising for important causes, opportunities for social activism, and participates in the Annual Day of Silence that focuses on the harassment and violence directed at students because of their sexual identity, whether actual or perceived. During the 2020-2021 year, the GSA provided all high school staff with "Safe Space" stickers to indicate certain areas as inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ Community and show support. The club collaborated on an awareness presentation about the LGBTQIA+ Community that was presented to MHS staff at their January staff meeting and hosted a Valentine's Day Candygram Fundraiser at the beginning of February.

Random Acts of Kindness: (RAOK) is a service club created by students in 2001. This group of students strive to make a difference in their school, their community, and their world through kindness. We believe in the power of kindness to create change to how people see and experience the world. Many students from our club have gone on to be leaders in advocacy with many diverse projects and careers. In spirit of the season of gratitude & love, Random Acts of Kindness asked homerooms and clubs to join them in making our annual no-sew blankets for the less fortunate. We had over 50 blankets that were hung on the public fence at Veteran's Park in Manchester on 12/22. For Halloween, the club outdid themselves decorating the main lobby and sold candy-grams for students to purchase for a friend. For Valentine's Day, members placed 1,321 cut-out hearts on every student's locker with inspiring, sometimes cheesy and humorous messages. The members last project was holding a supply drive for the Humane Society of Greater Nashua, over 100 items were donated.

Model UN (MUN) advised by Emily Hartmann: student Chase Rheault won the "Chris Gidopoulos '95 People's Choice Award" for her role as Spain in the Treatment of Sexual Gender Minorities. Kishan Sreenivasan won the "Austin Martin Distinguished Delegate Award" for the role as Belgium for Stabilization of the Middle East. At a second virtual competition hosted by Alvirne High School, Joslyn Fowler won best delegate for her role as Germany in the Security Council Committee on

Refugees in Europe, and Jack Pikora won best delegate for his role as Iran in the Middle East Refugee Committee. The students all dressed up in their professional attire for their zoom conference, though some students admitted to wearing their slippers! Members attended weekly meetings (in-person and remote) and attended three virtual conferences during the 2020-2021 school year hosted by Plymouth State University, Boston College High School, and Westwood High School. MHS MUN gave out its 3rd scholarship (\$300 Diplomacy Award) last year to Sarah Gordon.

The **FIRST Robotics** time (Chop Shop) is excited to be back meeting in person and building robots. While we are just starting our competition season, we have been busy since the end of the last school year. We designed and built a new robot over the summer and fall to learn how to build, program and drive a swerve bot, which is a drive system that gives us a lot of flexibility and mobility. We used this robot in two off-season competitions over the fall and competed over the summer at WPI in their annual BattleCry event. We have also hosted FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge for New Hampshire FIRST over the past two months. We even had one of our students interview Dean Kaman, the founder of FIRST, as part of the FRC season kickoff video. Most importantly, we have rebuilt our team after having had the dream shrink due to COVID-19.

Quiz Bowl: went virtual this year, for practices and for competitions. All NH Quiz Bowl League (NH QBL) tournaments were held via Zoom. MHS won the tournament held on April 17th with a record 9-1 earning a spot in the state championship tournament, where we came in fourth.

Merrimack Mentors SADD: For the 2020-2021 school year, SADD could not hold certain events due to pandemic restrictions and guidelines. However, one event that we, as an organization and community, were able to be creative with was our Mock Crash presentation. SADD members, Mrs. Niemaszyk and administration teamed up with Mr. Shaughnessy, MHS Videography teacher, to create a virtual presentation of the crash. We had two viewings of the film to keep within (at the time) CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines. For our students who were remote last year, we were able to send out a Zoom link for them to attend. After the video viewing, we had members of the community speak. We had our school's SRO Ryan Milligan, State Farm (Merrimack Branch) Dan Bantham, Jim Bailey from Bailey's Auto shop, and a motivation speaker and Merrimack alumni Ed Gerety. These speakers gave an added voice to the power and message of the presentation to remind our soon to be graduates of the dangers their decisions can bring to not just themselves, but others as well.

Granite State Challenge: The Granite State Challenge team competed against 36 other teams in November to earn the top-seeded spot on the televised Granite State Challenge competition. The season taped in January and continued airing through May. The team of Nick Gacharna, Aidan Remick Jack Pikora, Michael Clark, Allison Pikora, and Aris Corman-O'Reilly ultimately triumphed, defending Merrimack's Granite State Challenge trophy, and bringing home the school's first back-to-back championship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Claire, Principal

Merrimack High School 2021 Graduates

Samuel Agnew	Andrew Coco	Kendall Gennell
Rami Aldrich	Tyler Coimbra	Loryn Gettler
Adele Alexander	Samantha Cota	Raelene Giordano
Sophia Amblo	Abbigail Cote	Nathalia Giraldo
Caylie Anderson	Olivia Cote	Loren Glover
Vanessa Andrews	Declan Covell	Sean Golden
Mitchell Aneckstein	Paige Coviello	Lily Gonyea
Haylee Aresco	Lilli Dabilis	Eric Gonzalez
Rhylee Ashford	Colin Dambaugh	Sarah Gordon
Simon August	Hudson Davis	Lauryn Gray
Kaleb Aviles	Hunter Davis	Benjamin Guagliumi
Erin Barnes	Jason De Beaucourt	Hannah Gulino
Zachary Barsh	Alexis DeCarteret	Arkorup Gupta
Chiara Bartunek	Aziz Defaa	Julianna Hackney
Daniel Bartus	Dominick DeMaggio	Jameson Haddad
Chloe Batts	Shannon Dennehey	Daniel Hancock
Addison Berkeley	Joseph DeSimone	Benjamin Hardy
Torin Berry	Anson Dewar	Sarah Hardy
Daniel Best	Nicolaus Dini	Sawyer Hardy
Casey Bevis	Nicholas DiPiero	Caleb Hartford
Brianna Bigelow	Chloe Dorf	Max Hayes-Hunsicker
Keira Bike	Haley Dotolo	Nathan Hennas
Sarah Bornas	Isabella Doucette	Ian High
Devon Boucher	Taylor Douzanis	Cameron Higham
Arianna Brisson	Lauren Dovas	John Hilliard
Vitalia Brock	Chloe Doyon	Jeremy Honkala
Asia Brodie	Hannah Doyon	Jason Hostler
Molly Brody	Mackenzi Drouin	Chelsea Huckins
Patrick Browning	Aydan Durant	Lindsey Hui
Kevin Bull	Marie Edmond	Andrea Hunt
Nathaniel Bult	Mackenzie Elledge	Ariana Iandolo
Jacob Bunis	Abigail Elliott	Maeve Jackson
Wyatt Burke	Kelsey Fair	Katherine Janicki
Ethan Burns	Ashley Farrar	Colin Jones
Dylan Callahan	William Feltus	Hanna Jordan
Alexis Cardin	Shea Ferguson	Dominique Joslin
Biron Carlson	Erick Fitzgerald-Ferrini	Madeleine Kachmar
Ryan Carlson	Ben Flanders	Chloe Kapsambelis
Stephanie Caron	Nathan Fleming	Cody Keefe
Dominic Carozza	Paige Flint	Arianna Kelly
Adam Carr	Madison Flynn	Robert Kennedy
Cayden Castle	Madeleine Forhan	Mohammad Khalilullah
Matthew Chamberlain	Justin Fournier	Erin Knauer
Zachary Chiasson	Joslyn Fowler	Aarush Kolli
Michael Clark	Nicholas Gacharna	Jacob Korsak
Alexis Close	Alyssa Gangemi	Vanessa Kozinski

Merrimack High School 2021 Graduates

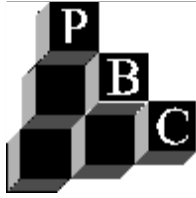
Jaden LaBrosse	Faziha Mohammed	Joao Sena
Joshua Laflotte	Anthony Monty	Alyssa Shattuck
Connor Lanigan	Kelly Mooney	Rachel Sherman
Alex Lapointe	Daniel Morin	Olivia Silamba
Aiden LaPorte	Sean Morrilly	Zackary Silveira
Connor Lash	Alyssa Morse	Kyle Slate
Joseph LeBlanc	Ryder Morse	Juliana Smart
Sydney LeCours	Zachary Murphy	Haley Smethurst
Kylie Lelievre	Nyla Nguyen	Isabella Smith
Nathan Lemire	Aileen O'Brien	Ryan Somers
Madisyn Lenderman	Kaiden Orme	Rohan Sreenivasan
Griffin Livingstone- Crooker	Abigail Osborne	Alison Steines
Rosendo Lopez	Emily Parenteau	Nicole Stevens
Summer Lucas	Ethan Park	Tobin Stevens
Christian Luke-Martinez	Aidan Parzych	Olivia Stuart
Michael Lyna Jr	Benjamin Pencinger	Michael Suarez
Amber Lyons	Allison Perigny	Samuel Surprenant
Grace MacIntyre	Taryn Perry	Victoria Tacito
Anthony Maglio	Steven Petz	Kaitlyn Tevepaugh
Molly Major	Grace Phillips	Hunter Thibault
Annabelle Maloney	Joseph Pillsbury	Alanna Tobin
Ryan Manhardt	Alexander Pittman	Jake Trahan
Madylin Marchetti	Ariyah Proulx	Taylor Trethewey
Andrew Martin	Connor Randall	Sean Trimper
Eliot Martin	Sarah Ranieri	Julia Tsatsa
Konnor Mason	Aidan Remick	Andrew Vail
Michael Matheson	Isabella Repp	Mary Vance
Kira Matthews	Matthew Risitano	Lucas Verrington
Jesse Mayhew	Hailee Rivera	Olukpe Viakinnou
Justin Mayhew	Vincent Robidoux	Gabriel Victal
Meghan McCormack	Cole Robinson	Gillian Waller
Lillian McDonough	Lindsay Rolls	Tyler Walsh
John McLain	Melinda Rolls	Lorin Wandell
Mackenzie McLaughlin	Daniella Rossetti	Trevor Watkins
Halley McMahan- Emond	Tyler Saari	Dillan Webb
Siobhan McMakin	Dylan Sadowski	Donovan Webster
Glynn McNay	Jazmine Saenz-Naranjo	Jackson Weinbeck
Logan Megalaitis	Kayla Salcito	Mariah Wells
Ava Melinn	Blake Sawyer	Florian Werner
Gauri Menon	Brandon Sawyer	Colby Wheeler
Gayathri Menon	Tyler Saxton	Vincent Wheeler
Brett Michalewicz	Jacob Scavarelli	Ethan Zebuhr
Tyler Michaud	Clara Schaefer	Carolyn Zucowska
Serena Miller	Nicholas Schmitt	
	Lucien Searles	
	Catherine Selby	

Colleges students have been accepted to:

Adirondack Community College
American International College
American University
Anna Maria College
Arizona State University-Tempe
Assumption College
Bentley University
Bryant University
California College of the Arts (Oakland)
Castleton University
Cedarville University
Champlain College
Charleston Southern University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby-Sawyer College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia University - Montreal
Curry College
Dartmouth College
Drexel University
East Carolina University
Eastern Nazarene College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Fashion Institute of Technology (Fashion Design)
Fitchburg State University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Franklin Pierce University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology (Engineering)
Gettysburg College
Grand Valley State University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Huntington University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
James Madison University
Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)
Johnson & Wales University-Providence
Keene State College
Lasell College
Lesley University
Long Island University
Lynn University
Maine College of Art
Manchester Community College
Manchester Community College - New Hampshire
Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Marymount University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Merrimack College
Michigan State University
Nashua Community College
New England College
NHTI-Concord's Community College
Niagara University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northern Vermont University
Norwich University
Ohio University-Main Campus
Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
Pepperdine University
Plymouth State University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rivier University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University-Camden
Rutgers University-Newark
Saint Anselm College
Saint John Fisher College
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Saint Michael's College
Salve Regina University
San Diego State University

San Jose State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Simmons University
Southern New Hampshire University
Springfield College
St John's University-New York
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY Buffalo State
SUNY Cortland
Syracuse University
Syracuse University (College of Engineering &
Comp. Science)
Temple University
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee-Knoxville
University of Texas at San Antonio
Union College
University of Colorado Boulder (College of
Engineering & Applied Science)
University of Colorado Denver (UC Denver)
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Massachusetts-Boston
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
University of Memphis
University of New England
University of New Hampshire at Manchester
University of New Hampshire-Main Campus
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of North Dakota
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Portland
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester

University of Scranton
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of South Florida-Main Campus
University of Southern Maine
University of Utah
University of Vermont
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
(Engineering)
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Virginia University
Western New England University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Young Harris College



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District

<http://www.sau26.org/PBC/>

Report to the Citizens of Merrimack March 2022

The Planning and Building Committee was created by the voters of Merrimack to provide long-term strategic research and planning for the Merrimack School District. It is the only School District Planning Committee in New Hampshire whose members are elected by the voters.

In 2021, the Merrimack School District continued facing the challenges of Covid which mean that the School Board continued its focus on day-to-day issues of educating children rather than long-range planning. However, a warrant article at the 2020 Annual School District Meeting passed which appropriated funds for hiring an engineering firm to design a Master Plan for the entire high school campus. The firm of Keach-Nordstrom was selected and began discussions with the Administration and the Planning and Building Committee looking at locations for a new central office building, possible demolition of existing buildings, traffic flow and parking lot re-design as well as other needs and possible community recreational uses at the high school.

The Committee appreciates your continued support and needs your participation: one of the next steps before the Master Plan is finalized is community input. You can contact the Committee via the email link on the Committee website: <https://www.sau26.org/domain/23>.

Sincerely,

Richard Hendricks, Chair,
Gage Perry, Vice-Chair
Shayne Albuquerque
Michael Alukonis
Naomi Schoenfeld
Finlay Rothhaus

Merrimack School District
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Session 1: Deliberative Session
March 2, 2021

Present: School Board members: Cinda Guagliumi, Shannon Barnes, Laurie Rothhaus, Andy Schneider, and Jenna Hardy; Superintendent Dr. Mark McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent for Business Matthew Shevenell; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum John Fabrizio and Legal Counsel Kathy Pehl.

At 7:05 P.M., Moderator Lynn Christensen called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Christensen explained the procedures to be followed during the meeting and asked School Board Chair Cinda Guagliumi to introduce the officials present.

Mrs. Christensen stated Article 1 was election of officers, which would take place by official ballot on April 13th and recognized C. Guagliumi who read Article 2 and moved the article as read. Second: Mrs. Rothhaus.

Article 2

Shall the Merrimack School Board be authorized to accept on behalf of the District, without further action by the voters, gifts, legacies and devises of personal or real property which may become available to the District during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

Mrs. Guagliumi spoke to her motion by explaining that this article appears on the warrant every year and gives the School Board authority to accept gifts of personal or real property.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article. There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 2 moved to the ballot and recognized Mrs. Barnes who read Article 3 and moved it as read. Second: Mrs. Hardy.

Article 3

Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Merrimack School Board and the Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association which calls for the following net increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Amount
2021-2022	\$253,920
2022-2023	\$257,813
2023-2024	\$267,499

and further raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$253,920) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

Mrs. Barnes spoke to her motion by explaining that this is a three-year contract between the School District and the Support Staff. She said support staff includes custodians, mechanics, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, kindergarten instructional assistants, library assistants, Title 1 tutors and food service personnel. The contract contains a 3.25% pay increase and a 1% decrease in the amount that the School District contributes toward employee health insurance in each year of the contract which will result in a savings of approximately \$63,000 each year of the contract.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article. There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 3 moved to the ballot and recognized Mrs. Hardy who read Article 4 and moved it as read. Second: Mrs. Barnes.

Article 4

Shall the District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

Mrs. Hardy spoke to her motion by saying that should Article 3 fail, this article gives the School Board the option of holding a special meeting to discuss cost items only without the need to petition the Superior Court to hold a meeting.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article. There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 4 moved to the ballot and recognized Mr. Schneider who read Article 5 and moved it as printed. Second: Mrs. Guagliumi.

Article 5

Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a 10 year lease agreement in the amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for the purpose of improving classroom ventilation through the purchase and installation of unit ventilators and associated controls for the Merrimack School District and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$98,566) for the first year's payment for that purpose? This lease agreement contains an "escape" clause. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

Mr. Schneider said plans to address ventilation issues within the schools have been discussed for several years. He said a survey of the schools identified 56 classrooms that exceed 1,000 PPM of CO₂: Merrimack High – 24 rooms, Masticola Upper Elementary – 8 rooms, Masticola Elementary – 7 rooms, Reeds Ferry – 8 rooms and Thorntons Ferry – 9 rooms. Mr. Schneider said that the only school that does not have air quality issues is the middle school. He stated that the project will be completed over a two-year period and will be paid for over a ten year period. He also said that once the project is completed, there will be on-going air quality evaluation conducted. Mr. Schneider clarified that an escape clause is a legal clause that is required by statute in lease agreements and that the School Board considered using Cares Act funding for the ventilation project but the amount received would not be sufficient to cover the entire project and the time parameters under which the project had to be completed precluded this.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

Tom Koenig (Danforth Road) asked for clarification regarding how many units were being purchased for \$4 million dollars. Mr. Schneider said 56 units were being purchased and these units were permanent, not portable. Mr. Schneider indicated the total project cost also included installation costs as well.

Mr. Koenig asked why the District is proposing a lease purchase rather than a bond. Mr. Schneider said the School Board had originally planned to complete the project over several years. He said the cost of doing the project over several years was approximately \$1 million dollars more than doing the entire project at one time and given the current pandemic, the School Board decided to do the entire project now. He also said the lease cost was \$60,000 less than the bond cost and since a lease only requires a majority, it seemed the right choice.

Mrs. Christensen asked Mr. Schneider about a typographical error in the warrant.

Mr. Schneider made a MOTION to amend the article to read “Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$98,566)”. Second: Mrs. Guagliumi.

Mr. Schneider explained that the number words on the warrant “Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars” do not match the numbers “\$98,566” and the correct amount is “\$98,566.”

Moderator called for a vote on the amendment and declared the AMENDMENT PASSED.

Article 5

Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a 10 year lease agreement in the amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for the purpose of improving classroom ventilation through the purchase and installation of unit ventilators and associated controls for the Merrimack School District and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$98,566) for the first year's payment for that purpose? This lease agreement contains an "escape" clause. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

The Moderator asked if there was any additional discussion. There was no further discussion.

Mrs. Christensen moved Article 5 to the ballot as amended and recognized Gary Krupp (Ministerial Drive) who moved Article 6 as printed. Second: Scott Sabens (Dumas Lane)

Article 6

(By Petition) Shall the District, pursuant to RSA 32:14,V, rescind the adoption of Article 7 of the 2006 School District Warrant that established a school district budget committee?

Mr. Krupp spoke to his motion by stating that this was a petitioned warrant article to eliminate the School District Budget Committee. He stated a petitioned warrant article established the School District Budget Committee in 2006 after the Town Charter eliminated the Municipal Budget Committee. He explained further that a petitioned warrant article in 2012 to eliminate the Budget Committee had narrowly failed. Mr. Krupp said he felt eliminating the Budget Committee would improve efficiency since the Committee adds 4 – 6 weeks to the Budget Review process. He also said in recent years, recommendations made by the Budget Committee have not been followed by the School Board and changes made to proposed budgets by the

Budget Committee have been insignificant. He said the Budget Committee was a waste of time and reminded the voters that they can make changes to the proposed budget at the Deliberative Session.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

Chuck Mower (Depot Street) said he was speaking as a member of the public and not as chair of the Budget Committee. He said the Budget Committee was a committee of 12 Merrimack citizens who wanted to participate in their town. He stated that each member was another set of eyes to review the budget and another person to ask questions about the budget as well as to provide additional perspectives to be considered. Mr. Mower said another benefit of the Committee was that members of the committee visit each administrator, principal and department head to confirm their budgetary needs. He said he opposed the article.

There were no additional speakers.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 6 moved to the ballot and recognized Mr. Mower who read Article 7 and moved it as read. Second: Brian Stisser (Middlesex Road)

Article 7

Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$81,870,163? (Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$ 81,918,937 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only)? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

Mr. Mower introduced the members of the Budget Committee and explained that the Budget Committee vote listed on the warrant for this article should have been 11-0-0, which is what he said when he read and moved the article as read. He said the proposed budget was up 1.43% from the current year's budget and most of the increase was due to benefits. Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 7 moved to the ballot as read.

Mrs. Christensen thanked the voters for their attendance at the Deliberative Session.

Mrs. Barnes made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: Mrs. Hardy.

Mrs. Christensen called for a vote on the motion.

Mrs. Christensen declared the MOTION PASSED and adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Session 2: Ballot Voting

On April 1, 2021, the School District Clerk received a certified sworn affidavit from Ashley Poulin, who had filed paperwork to run for a one-year seat on the Budget Committee, that she had moved out of Merrimack and was no longer a qualified candidate. Her name was removed from all official ballots and all remaining absentee ballots.

April 13, 2021

The Town Moderator and Assistant Moderators opened the polls at 7:00 AM. At 7:00 PM, the Moderators closed the polls and allowed those present to finish voting. At 11:30 PM, after all results were tallied, School District Moderator Lynn Christensen announced that 4,829 voters had cast ballots with the following results:

School Board – three years, two seats

David Sydow – 774 votes
Michelle Bronchuk – 925 votes
Jenna Hardy – 1,588 votes
Kenneth Martin – 1,109 votes
Chandra Miller – 703 votes
Lori Peters – 1,255 votes
Scott Sabens – 1,087 votes

The Moderator declared Jenna Hardy and Lori Peters elected.

School Board – one year, one seat

Jamie Von Schoen – 878 votes
Cinda Guagliumi – 1,213 votes
Jennifer McCormack – 1,152 votes
Rachel Paepke – 474 votes

The Moderator declared Cinda Guagliumi elected.

Planning & Building Committee – three years, two seats

Michael Alukonis – 2,846 votes
Richard Hendricks – 2,938 votes

The Moderator declared Michael Alukonis and Richard Hendricks elected.

Planning & Building Committee – one years, one seat

Shayne Albuquerque – 3,008 votes

The Moderator declared Shayne Albuquerque elected

Budget Committee – three years, four seats

Ellen Wilson – 2,692 votes
Shayne Albuquerque – 2,556 votes
Mackenzie Murphy – 2,875 votes
Gillian Savitch – 2,551 votes

The Moderator declared Ellen Wilson, Shayne Albuquerque, Mackenzie Murphy and Gillian Savitch elected.

Budget Committee – two years, one seat

Naomi Schoenfeld – 3,040 votes

The Moderator declared Naomi Schoenfeld elected.

Budget Committee – one year, two seats

Ashley Poulin – 264 votes

Brian Stisser – 2,946 votes

The Moderator declared Brian Stisser elected.

The Moderator said the votes recorded for Ashley Poulin were from absentee ballots that had been distributed to voters before Ms. Poulin was declared unqualified.

The Moderator further stated that since there was no other qualified candidate listed on the ballot, the qualified voter who has received the most write-in votes will be declared the winner of the 2nd one-year Budget Committee seat as soon as the write-in votes are tallied and confirmed.

Article 2: Yes – 3,670 votes No – 826 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 2 passed.

Article 3: Yes – 3,168 votes No – 1,298 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 3 passed.

Article 4: Yes – 3,342 votes No – 1,087 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 4 passed.

Article 5: Yes – 3,129 votes No – 1,304 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 5 passed.

Article 6: Yes – 1,541 votes No – 2,498 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 6 failed.

Article 7: Yes – 3,433 votes No – 938 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 7 passed.

On April 16, 2021, School District Clerk Patricia Heinrich announced that 180 write-in votes had been cast with the following write-in results:

Budget Committee – one year, one seat

Scott Adler – 76 votes

Gina Groff – 25 votes

Mrs. Heinrich declared Scott Adler elected to the one year seat.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Heinrich
School District Clerk



PLODZIK & SANDERSON

Professional Association/Certified Public Accountants

193 North Main Street • Concord • New Hampshire • 03301-5063 • 603-225-6996 • FAX- 603-224-1380

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the School Board
Merrimack School District
Merrimack, New Hampshire

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Merrimack School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Merrimack School District, as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the general and grants funds for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information – Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the following be presented to supplement the basic financial statements:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis,
- Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability,
- Schedule of School District Contributions – Pensions,
- Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability,

***Merrimack School District
Independent Auditor's Report***

- Schedule of School District Contributions – Other Postemployment Benefits,
- Schedule of Changes in the School District's Total Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios, and
- Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information – Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Merrimack School District's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 4, 2022 on our consideration of the Merrimack School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Merrimack School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Merrimack School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

March 4, 2022



PLODZIK & SANDERSON
Professional Association

EXHIBIT C-3
MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General	Grants	Permanent	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
School district assessment	\$55,645,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$55,645,671
Other local	708,438	-	1,019,103	172,870	1,900,411
State	17,756,210	59,262	-	15,659	17,831,131
Federal	309,620	3,148,635	-	433,684	3,891,939
Total revenues	<u>74,419,939</u>	<u>3,207,897</u>	<u>1,019,103</u>	<u>622,213</u>	<u>79,269,152</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
Instruction	30,141,701	1,292,898	129,120	153,602	31,717,321
Support services:					
Student	4,196,690	636,340	-	-	4,833,030
Instructional staff	1,568,557	1,042,376	-	-	2,610,933
General administration	162,119	94,800	-	-	256,919
Executive administration	1,478,451	-	37,408	-	1,515,859
School administration	2,392,187	-	-	-	2,392,187
Business	367,414	-	-	-	367,414
Operation and maintenance of plant	3,771,865	141,468	-	-	3,913,333
Student transportation	3,341,608	-	-	-	3,341,608
Other	21,241,271	-	-	-	21,241,271
Noninstructional services	31,853	-	-	859,426	891,279
Debt service:					
Principal	1,070,000	-	-	-	1,070,000
Interest	98,746	-	-	-	98,746
Facilities acquisition and construction	344,571	-	-	-	344,571
Total expenditures	<u>70,207,033</u>	<u>3,207,882</u>	<u>166,528</u>	<u>1,013,028</u>	<u>74,594,471</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>4,212,906</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>852,575</u>	<u>(390,815)</u>	<u>4,674,681</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	-	299,321	299,321
Transfers out	(299,321)	-	-	-	(299,321)
Capital lease	235,283	-	-	-	235,283
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(64,038)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,321</u>	<u>235,283</u>
Net change in fund balances	4,148,868	15	852,575	(91,494)	4,909,964
Fund balances, beginning	5,944,745	7,930	4,529,516	250,255	10,732,446
Fund balances, ending	<u>\$10,093,613</u>	<u>\$ 7,945</u>	<u>\$ 5,382,091</u>	<u>\$ 158,761</u>	<u>\$15,642,410</u>

The Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

EXHIBIT D-1
MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
REVENUES			
School district assessment	\$ 55,645,671	\$ 55,645,671	\$ -
Other local	75,000	705,395	630,395
State	17,126,760	17,756,210	629,450
Federal	20,000	309,620	289,620
Total revenues	<u>72,867,431</u>	<u>74,416,896</u>	<u>1,549,465</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Instruction	33,363,437	29,906,418	3,457,019
Support services:			
Student	4,367,883	4,196,690	171,193
Instructional staff	1,711,766	1,568,557	143,209
General administration	143,300	178,119	(34,819)
Executive administration	1,469,318	1,478,451	(9,133)
School administration	2,374,409	2,392,187	(17,778)
Business	377,766	363,701	14,065
Operation and maintenance of plant	4,285,434	3,771,865	513,569
Student transportation	4,110,488	3,341,608	768,880
Other	23,762,529	21,296,396	2,466,133
Debt service:			
Principal	1,070,000	1,070,000	-
Interest	125,332	98,746	26,586
Facilities acquisition and construction	478,050	1,032,119	(554,069)
Noninstructional	-	31,853	(31,853)
Total expenditures	<u>77,639,712</u>	<u>70,726,710</u>	<u>6,913,002</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(4,772,281)</u>	<u>3,690,186</u>	<u>8,462,467</u>
OTHER FINANCING USES			
Transfers out	(150,001)	(449,321)	(299,320)
Total other financing uses	<u>(150,001)</u>	<u>(449,321)</u>	<u>(299,320)</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ (4,922,282)</u>	3,240,865	<u>\$ 8,163,147</u>
Decrease in committed fund balance		150,000	
Increase in assigned fund balance (non-encumbrance)		(77)	
Unassigned fund balance, beginning		4,772,282	
Unassigned fund balance, ending		<u>\$ 8,163,070</u>	

The Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Comparative Enrollments

Grade	Enrolled 9/2021	Enrolled 1/2022	Estimated 9/2022
K	253	259	265
1	245	246	264
2	258	257	247
3	277	273	253
4	248	244	278
<hr/>			
Sub Total	1281	1279	1307
5	242	248	246
6	264	269	229
<hr/>			
Sub Total	506	517	475
7	274	276	271
8	286	282	270
<hr/>			
Sub Total	560	558	541
9	262	263	283
10	279	277	258
11	276	272	283
12	352	327	296
<hr/>			
Sub Total	1169	1139	1120
Spec. Ed. (Out-of-District Placements and Students Ages 3 and 4)	132	143	132
<hr/>			
GRAND TOTAL	3648	3636	3575
<hr/> <hr/>			

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Merrimack, New Hampshire

2022-2023
PROPOSED BUDGET

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

2021-2022

Chuck Mower, Chair	2023
Naomi Schoenfeld, Vice Chair	2023
Scott Adler	2022
Shayne Albuquerque	2024
Dan Coakley	2023
(Carl) Lee French	2022
Gina Groff	2022
Carol Lang	2022
Mackenzie Murphy	2024
Gillian Savitch	2024
Brian Stisser	2022
Ellen Wilson	2024

Ex-Officio School Board

Lori Peters
Jenna Hardy (alternate)

Pat Heinrich, Secretary



Proposed Budget

Merrimack Local School

For School Districts which have adopted the provisions of RSA 32:14 through RSA 32:24
Appropriations and Estimates of Revenue for the Fiscal Year from:
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Form Due Date: 20 Days after the Annual Meeting

This form was posted with the warrant on: 2/22/2022

SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE CERTIFICATION

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined the information contained in this form and to the best of my belief it is true, correct and complete.

Name	Position	Signature
Naomi Schoenfeld	V. Chair	<i>Naomi Schoenfeld</i>
CARL French (Lee)	member	<i>Carl French</i>
Gillian Savitch	member	<i>Gillian Savitch</i>
CHARLES H. MOWER	C.H.A.A	<i>Charles H. Mower</i>
Daniel J. Coakley	member	<i>Daniel J. Coakley</i>
Brian Stissot	Member	<i>Brian Stissot</i>
Shayne Albuquerque	Member	<i>Shayne Albuquerque</i>

This form must be signed, scanned, and uploaded to the Municipal Tax Rate Setting Portal:
<https://www.proptax.org/>

For assistance please contact:
NH DRA Municipal and Property Division
(603) 230-5090
<http://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/>



New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration

2022
MS-27

Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Expenditures for period ending 6/30/2021	Appropriations as Approved by DRA for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
Instruction								
1100-1199	Regular Programs	08	\$17,527,138	\$18,663,701	\$18,763,284	\$0	\$18,763,284	\$0
1200-1299	Special Programs	08	\$11,141,537	\$13,486,222	\$13,942,844	\$0	\$13,942,844	\$0
1300-1399	Vocational Programs	08	\$8,793	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
1400-1499	Other Programs	08	\$567,732	\$682,289	\$742,787	\$0	\$742,787	\$0
1500-1599	Non-Public Programs	08	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1600-1699	Adult/Continuing Education Programs	08	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
1700-1799	Community/Junior College Education Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1800-1899	Community Service Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Instruction Subtotal		\$29,245,200	\$32,878,212	\$33,494,915	\$0	\$33,494,915	\$0
Support Services								
2000-2199	Student Support Services	08	\$4,187,988	\$5,191,939	\$5,436,281	\$0	\$5,436,281	\$0
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	08	\$1,488,850	\$1,758,693	\$1,828,862	\$0	\$1,828,862	\$0
	Support Services Subtotal		\$5,676,838	\$6,950,632	\$7,265,143	\$0	\$7,265,143	\$0
General Administration								
0000-0000	Collective Bargaining		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2310 (840)	School Board Contingency	08	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	08	\$161,772	\$143,300	\$143,300	\$0	\$143,300	\$0
	General Administration Subtotal		\$161,772	\$243,300	\$243,300	\$0	\$243,300	\$0



Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Expenditures for period ending 6/30/2021	Appropriations as Approved by DRA for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
Executive Administration								
2320 (310)	SAU Management Services	08	\$693,691	\$696,095	\$709,865	\$0	\$709,865	\$0
2320-2399	All Other Administration	08	\$750,006	\$786,112	\$815,270	\$0	\$815,270	\$0
2400-2499	School Administration Service	08	\$2,331,252	\$2,393,845	\$2,535,481	\$0	\$2,535,481	\$0
2500-2599	Business	08	\$358,578	\$379,406	\$393,636	\$0	\$393,636	\$0
2600-2699	Plant Operations and Maintenance	08	\$3,783,865	\$4,175,176	\$4,526,847	\$0	\$4,526,847	\$0
2700-2799	Student Transportation	08	\$3,292,347	\$4,098,658	\$4,175,629	\$0	\$4,175,629	\$0
2800-2999	Support Service, Central and Other	08	\$22,258,382	\$25,491,603	\$25,042,793	\$0	\$25,042,793	\$0
	Executive Administration Subtotal		\$33,468,121	\$38,020,895	\$38,199,521	\$0	\$38,199,521	\$0
Non-Instructional Services								
3100	Food Service Operations	08	\$793,472	\$1,421,707	\$1,421,706	\$0	\$1,421,706	\$0
3200	Enterprise Operations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Non-Instructional Services Subtotal		\$793,472	\$1,421,707	\$1,421,706	\$0	\$1,421,706	\$0
Facilities Acquisition and Construction								
4100	Site Acquisition		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4200	Site Improvement	08	\$0	\$0	\$8,260	\$0	\$8,260	\$0
4300	Architectural/Engineering		\$87,788	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4400	Educational Specification Development		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4500	Building Acquisition/Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4600	Building Improvement Services	08	\$309,571	\$98,566	\$469,320	\$0	\$469,320	\$0
4900	Other Facilities Acquisition and Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Facilities Acquisition and Construction Subtotal		\$397,359	\$98,566	\$477,580	\$0	\$477,580	\$0
Other Outlays								
5110	Debt Service - Principal	08	\$1,070,000	\$775,000	\$775,000	\$0	\$775,000	\$0
5120	Debt Service - Interest	08	\$98,746	\$80,416	\$62,000	\$0	\$62,000	\$0
	Other Outlays Subtotal		\$1,168,746	\$855,416	\$837,000	\$0	\$837,000	\$0



Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Expenditures for period ending 6/30/2021	Appropriations as Approved by DRA for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
Fund Transfers								
5220-5221	To Food Service	08	\$149,321	\$1	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0
5222-5229	To Other Special Revenue	08	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0
5230-5239	To Capital Projects		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5254	To Agency Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5300-5399	Intergovernmental Agency Allocation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9990	Supplemental Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9992	Deficit Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Transfers Subtotal			\$1,649,321	\$1,500,001	\$1,500,001	\$0	\$1,500,001	\$0
Total Operating Budget Appropriations					\$83,439,166	\$0	\$83,439,166	\$0



Special Warrant Articles

Account	Purpose	Article	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)
5251	To Capital Reserve Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5252	To Expendable Trust Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5253	To Non-Expendable Trust Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4600	Building Improvement Services	06	\$1,600,500	\$0	\$1,600,500	\$0
<i>Purpose: Roofing Project - Thornton's Ferry</i>						
Total Proposed Special Articles			\$1,600,500	\$0	\$1,600,500	\$0



Individual Warrant Articles

Account	Purpose	Article	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
1100-1199	Regular Programs	03 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract</i>	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000	\$0
1100-1199	Regular Programs	05 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract Market Adjustment</i>	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000	\$0
1200-1299	Special Programs	05 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract Market Adjustment</i>	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
1200-1299	Special Programs	03 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract</i>	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	05 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract Market Adjustment</i>	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	03 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract</i>	\$297,930	\$0	\$297,930	\$0
Total Proposed Individual Articles			\$2,197,930	\$0	\$2,197,930	\$0



New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration

2022
MS-27

Revenues

Account	Source	Article	Revised Revenues for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023	Budget Committee's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023
Local Sources					
1300-1349	Tuition	08	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
1400-1449	Transportation Fees		\$0	\$0	\$0
1500-1599	Earnings on Investments	08	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
1600-1699	Food Service Sales	08	\$1,321,707	\$1,321,707	\$1,321,707
1700-1799	Student Activities		\$0	\$0	\$0
1800-1899	Community Service Activities		\$0	\$0	\$0
1900-1999	Other Local Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Sources Subtotal			\$1,396,707	\$1,396,707	\$1,396,707
State Sources					
3210	School Building Aid	08	\$321,000	\$232,500	\$232,500
3215	Kindergarten Building Aid		\$0	\$0	\$0
3220	Kindergarten Aid		\$0	\$0	\$0
3230	Special Education Aid	08	\$528,885	\$528,885	\$528,885
3240-3249	Vocational Aid		\$2,000	\$0	\$0
3250	Adult Education		\$0	\$0	\$0
3260	Child Nutrition	08	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
3270	Driver Education		\$0	\$0	\$0
3290-3299	Other State Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
State Sources Subtotal			\$871,885	\$781,385	\$781,385



**New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration**

**2022
MS-27**

Revenues

Account	Source	Article	Revised Revenues for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023	Budget Committee's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023
Federal Sources					
4100-4539	Federal Program Grants	08	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
4540	Vocational Education	08	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
4550	Adult Education		\$0	\$0	\$0
4560	Child Nutrition	08	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
4570	Disabilities Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0
4580	Medicaid Distribution	08	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
4590-4999	Other Federal Sources (non-4810)		\$0	\$0	\$0
4810	Federal Forest Reserve		\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Sources Subtotal			\$1,600,000	\$1,602,000	\$1,602,000
Other Financing Sources					
5110-5139	Sale of Bonds or Notes		\$0	\$0	\$0
5140	Reimbursement Anticipation Notes		\$0	\$0	\$0
5221	Transfer from Food Service Special Revenue Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0
5222	Transfer from Other Special Revenue Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5230	Transfer from Capital Project Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5251	Transfer from Capital Reserve Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5252	Transfer from Expendable Trust Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5253	Transfer from Non-Expendable Trust Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5300-5699	Other Financing Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
9997	Supplemental Appropriation (Contra)		\$0	\$0	\$0
9998	Amount Voted from Fund Balance		\$0	\$0	\$0
9999	Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	08	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Other Financing Sources Subtotal			\$0	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Total Estimated Revenues and Credits			\$3,868,592	\$7,780,092	\$7,780,092



Budget Summary

Item	School Board Period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee Period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)
Operating Budget Appropriations	\$83,439,166	\$83,439,166
Special Warrant Articles	\$1,600,500	\$1,600,500
Individual Warrant Articles	\$2,197,930	\$2,197,930
Total Appropriations	\$87,237,596	\$87,237,596
Less Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$7,780,092	\$7,780,092
Less Amount of State Education Tax/Grant	\$10,551,098	\$10,551,098
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$68,906,406	\$68,906,406



Supplemental Schedule

1. Total Recommended by Budget Committee	\$87,237,596
Less Exclusions:	
2. Principal: Long-Term Bonds & Notes	\$775,000
3. Interest: Long-Term Bonds & Notes	\$62,000
4. Capital outlays funded from Long-Term Bonds & Notes	\$0
5. Mandatory Assessments	\$0
6. Total Exclusions (<i>Sum of Lines 2 through 5 above</i>)	\$837,000
7. Amount Recommended, Less Exclusions (Line 1 less Line 6)	\$86,400,596
8. 10% of Amount Recommended, Less Exclusions (<i>Line 7 x 10%</i>)	\$8,640,060
Collective Bargaining Cost Items:	
9. Recommended Cost Items (Prior to Meeting)	\$2,197,930
10. Voted Cost Items (Voted at Meeting)	\$2,197,930
11. Amount voted over recommended amount (Difference of Lines 9 and 10)	\$0
12. Bond Override (RSA 32:18-a), Amount Voted	\$0
Maximum Allowable Appropriations Voted at Meeting: (Line 1 + Line 8 + Line 11 + Line 12)	
	\$95,877,656

Merrimack School District School District Warrant

March 8, 2022 (Deliberation)
and April 12, 2022 (Voting)
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Merrimack, County of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in School District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School in said District on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. for Session 1 (Deliberation), to discuss the matters to be voted on by official ballot; and to meet at the designated polling sites, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, Merrimack Middle School, or St. John Neumann Church on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Session 2 (Voting) for the choice of School District officers elected by ballot and any other action required to be inserted on said official ballot. The polls for the election of school district officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will open on said date at 7:00 a.m. and will not close earlier than 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1 To elect all necessary school district officers for the ensuing year. (Vote by Ballot.)

ARTICLE 2 Shall the Merrimack School Board be authorized to accept on behalf of the District, without further action by the voters, gifts, legacies and devises of personal or real property which may become available to the District during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

ARTICLE 3 Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Merrimack Teachers Association which calls for the following net changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Amount
2022-2023	\$1,247,930

and further raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Two Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,247,930) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? (Majority vote required (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

ARTICLE 4 Shall the District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

ARTICLE 5 Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Merrimack Teachers Association which calls for the following net changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year for a market adjustment added to base salary beginning in 2022-2023 to position the Merrimack Teachers Association at competitive rates in regards to surrounding districts in the amount of up to Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$950,000), said sum not to exceed Twenty Five Percent (25%) of the unencumbered surplus funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021-2022? (Majority vote required (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

NOTE: This Article represents a one-time salary adjustment to the scale for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and if approved will be imbedded into the salary schedule from 2022-2023 forward. It is not cumulative.

ARTICLE 6 (Special Warrant Article) Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,400,500) for the purpose of roof replacement at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

ARTICLE 7 Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in any fiscal year, in an amount not to exceed 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b,II? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 4-1-0).

ARTICLE 8 Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$83,439,166? (Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$ 83,174,461 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only)? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

2022-2023 Proposed Budget

Description	2021-2022 Budget	2022-2023 Proposed Budget	Difference 2021-2022 vs, 2022-2023
District Wide	61,603,242	61,702,863	\$ 99,621
Technology and Library	609,989	616,381	\$ 6,392
Maintenance	2,135,412	2,686,555	\$ 551,143
Special Services	13,129,583	13,661,486	\$ 531,903
Mastricola Elementary School	103,637	118,536	\$ 14,899
Reeds Ferry Elementary School	120,712	131,333	\$ 10,621
Thorntons Ferry Elementary School	136,902	140,333	\$ 3,431
Mastricola Upper Elementary School	151,512	154,998	\$ 3,486
Merrimack Middle School	\$ 171,930	\$ 181,396	\$ 9,466
Merrimack High School	\$ 1,138,023	\$ 1,123,579	\$ (14,444)
Food Service	\$ 1,421,707	\$ 1,421,706	\$ (1)
Federal Funds	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
Total Operating Budget Article	\$ 82,222,649	\$ 83,439,166	\$ 1,216,517
MTA Contract Part A		\$ 1,247,930	\$ 1,247,930
MTA Contract Part B		\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000
TFS Roof		\$ 1,400,500	\$ 1,400,500
Grand Total	\$ 82,222,649	\$ 87,037,596	\$ 4,814,947

82,222,649 83,439,166 \$ 1,216,517

\$ - \$ -

BUDGET AND REVENUE SUMMARY 2022-2023

Description	2021-2022 Approved Budget	2022-2023 Bud Comm. Budget	Dollar Variance 2021-2022 vs. 2022-2023	Percent Variance 2021-2022 vs. 2022-2023
	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023
General Fund Operating Budget	79,300,942	80,517,460	1,216,518	1.53%
Food Service	1,421,707	1,421,706	(1)	0.00%
Federal Funds	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	0.00%
Total Budget	82,222,649	83,439,166	1,216,517	1.48%
Warrant Articles				
MTA Contract Part A		1,247,930	1,247,930	
MTA Contract Part B		950,000	950,000	
TFS Roof		1,400,500	1,400,500	
Total Appropriations	82,222,649	87,037,596	4,814,947	5.86%
Less: Revenue				
Tuition	30,000	30,000	-	
Interest	45,000	45,000	-	
Food Service Sales	1,321,707	1,321,707	-	
Student Activities	-	-	-	
Building Aid	232,500	232,500	-	
Catastrophic Aid	528,885	528,885	-	
Vocational Aid	2,000	2,000	-	
Food Service - State	20,000	20,000	-	
Federal Funds	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	
Child Nutrition -Federal	80,000	80,000	-	
Medicaid	20,000	20,000	-	
Fund Balance - Capital Reserve	-	-	-	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	8,163,070	4,000,000	(4,163,070)	-51.00%
Total Revenues	11,943,162	7,780,092	(4,163,070)	-34.86%
Net District Assessment (Total Appropriations - Total Revenues)	70,279,487	79,257,504	8,978,017	12.77%
Less: State Education Grant (Current Law)	9,445,332	10,551,098	1,105,766	11.71%
Less: State Education Tax Assessment	7,180,915	7,437,911	256,996	3.58%
Local School Tax Assessment	53,653,240	61,268,495	7,615,255	14.19%
(Local School + State Education Tax)	60,834,155	68,706,406	7,872,251	12.94%

Merrimack School District

Special Education Programs and Services Expenditures and Revenues

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 per RSA 32:11-a

Expenditures

Function	Purpose of Appropriation	Expended 2019-2020	Expended 2020-2021
1200-1299	Special Education	12,440,806	12,207,763
2000-2199	Student Support Services	3,930,644	2,999,045
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	7,566	8,265
2320-2399	Other Executive Administration	707,531	752,336
2700-2799	Student Transportation	1,549,277	1,323,560
TOTAL		18,635,824	17,290,969

Revenues

Account Description	2019-2020	2019-2020
State Aid	1,266,335	1,357,144
Tuition	17,178	15,360
Special Education Aid	856,206	923,016
Medicaid Reimbursement	64,586	309,620
TOTAL	2,204,305	2,605,140

DEDICATION

The Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2021
is Dedicated to the
Staff and Students of the Merrimack School District
and the Merrimack Community.

The 2020-2021 school year presented many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Education as we have known it was disrupted and replaced by both remote and hybrid instructions. Additionally, the lives and daily routines of residents were impacted by the sometimes-rapid transmission of the virus. Throughout the difficult year, everyone worked together and supported each other in our effort to keep students, staff, friends and neighbors as safe as possible.

**ANNUAL REPORTS
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERRIMACK, NH
for the
Year Ending June 30, 2021**

DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICIALS, March 2022

MODERATOR

Lynn Christensen 2022

CLERK

Patricia Heinrich 2022

TREASURER

Jennifer Heinrich 2022

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Cinda Guagliumi, Chair 2022

Laurie Rothhaus, Vice Chair 2023

Shannon Barnes 2022

Jenna Hardy 2024

Lori Peters 2024

PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

Richard Hendricks, Chair 2024

Gage Perry, Vice Chair 2022

Shayne Albuquerque 2022

Michael Alukonis 2024

Finlay Rothhaus 2023

Naomi Schoenfeld 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Merrimack School Board	1
Report of the Merrimack School Board	1
Merrimack School Board Logic Model	3
Annual Reports	
Superintendent of Schools	4
Director of Student Services	5
Director of Technology/Library Media Services	7
Principals, Elementary Schools	8
Principal, Mastricola Upper Elementary School	9
Principal, Merrimack Middle School.	11
Principal, Merrimack High School	12
Merrimack High School Graduates – June 2021	17
Colleges Accepting MHS Graduates – June 2021	19
Report of the Planning and Building Committee	21
Annual School District Meeting Report	
Session 1: Deliberation	22
Session 2: Ballot Voting	26
Auditor’s Report	28
Comparative Enrollments	32
2022-2023 Proposed Budget	
Budget Committee	34
MS-27 State Budget Form	35
School District Warrant	45
Proposed 2022-2023 Budget Summary	47
Budget and Revenue Summary 2022-2023	48
Special Education Programs and Services Expenditures and Revenues	49

2021-2022 Merrimack School Board



(Back L-R): Cinda Guagliumi (Chair), Kaitlyn Vadney (Student Rep.), Laurie Rothhaus (Vice Chair)
(Front L-R): Shannon Barnes, Jenna Hardy, Lori Peters

2020-2021 Annual Report from the Chair

To the Citizens of Merrimack:

The 2020-2021 academic year (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) was truly another unprecedented year for the Merrimack School District, and it is my honor as your School Board Chair to share with you the highlights and challenges of our year.

First, I'd like to express gratitude. Thank you to our teachers, staff and administration for all you do to instruct and support our students; our school community families for your partnership; the Merrimack Police Department and Town of Merrimack for your work to keep our school community safe; and, the broader Merrimack community. Most importantly, I'd like to thank our students for their hard work and commitment to learning, which is truly the reason we all do what we do.

Throughout the year, we continued to navigate through the COVID pandemic. The district began its year allowing families to choose between attending school in a hybrid in-school option or fully remote. Unfortunately, the entire district had to go fully remote for a several weeks after Thanksgiving break, and finally it was able to bring most students back to school before the completion of the academic year.

At the beginning of the year, the Merrimack School Board had two new members. Given COVID, the town and district had just completed its town meeting (election) in June, and Mrs. Laurie Rothhaus joined the board. Additionally, just prior to the school year, Mrs. Brandi Nunez resigned from the board. The board accepted applicants from the public to replace Mrs. Nunez, and after an interview process, the board appointed Mrs. Jenna Hardy to fill her seat until the 2021 election. Mrs. Cinda Guagliumi was elected the Chair by the board, and Mrs. Shannon Barnes was elected Vice Chair.

In addition, as we embarked on this new school year, a primary focus was the district task forces that were put in place to prepare for reopening including fall athletics. The district also created a REAL (Remote Education for Academic Learning) Academy Coordinator to support those students and families that opted for remote learning.

The year ended with the resignation of the district superintendent and the board secured a superintendent search firm to replace the position.

Improved Initiatives from the School Board

We remained mindful that all district operations are focused on achieving optimal student outcomes and the School Board supported key initiatives such as: Project-Based Learning, Also, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum remained a top priority; and, of course, the continuous refinement of the curriculum from K-12 to prepare students for college and career readiness.

As it relates to the district's technology, there were initiatives such as: 1:1 device initiative, and licensing Canvas as part of the New Hampshire State cohort kindergarten through grade 12. Title funds, trust funds, and funds from the CARES Act were used to pay for some of the technology. Switches and cabling work was completed at James Masticola Upper Elementary School as was a review of wireless vendors. Finally, there was a more aggressive review/replacement of routers and switches to ensure uptime and the ability to adjust to increase loads.

Additionally, as we began this year, there was a surplus due to COVID of \$4,456,390.89 that went, in its entirety, to reduce the December tax bill.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the School Board – Laurie Rothhaus, Shannon Barnes, Jenna Hardy, Lori Peters and myself, as well as our Student Representative Kaitlyn Vadney, we thank you for entrusting us in our roles and look forward to refining our mission of academic excellence and innovation along with taxpayer service in the next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cinda Guagliumi

**Merrimack School District Logic Model
A Roadmap for Success**

<p align="center">INPUTS Describes state/district plans/resources currently in place</p>	<p align="center">STRATEGIES Describes ongoing activities to meet district goals</p>	<p align="center">OBJECTIVES Describes what will be accomplished over the next two years</p>	<p align="center">GOALS Describes what will be in place in five to seven years</p>	<p align="center">IMPACTS Describes long-term results</p>
<p>Improvement Plans: - Focused Monitoring Plan</p>	<p>Provide consistent and sustainable professional development to support anticipated short and long term impacts of the Logic Model.</p>	<p>Students are actively and purposefully engaged through educators employing a repertoire of research-based strategies.</p>	<p>Educators employ consistent systems of support to facilitate student transitions.</p>	<p>Students demonstrate growth in reading and writing achievement.</p>
<p>School Board Policies and Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>Leverage communication tools to keep district stakeholders/ staff abreast of instructional practices, research, professional development experiences and student performance.</p>	<p>Educators facilitate learning through consistent instructional approaches and the use of data from assessments to meet the needs of each student.</p>	<p>Educators continuously monitor student progress for understanding.</p>	<p>Students demonstrate growth in math, science and social studies achievement.</p>
<p>Program and Curriculum Revision and Implementation Process - Standards and Assessments - Competencies and Competency-Based Assessments - Response to Intervention (RTI)</p>	<p>Integrated instructional practices are informed by data and differentiated in response to students' needs.</p>	<p>Students' needs are met through systematic tiered interventions based on academic and behavioral data that provides multiple opportunities for students to learn in a standards and competency-based environment.</p>	<p>Educators model appropriate use of information and technology.</p>	<p>Students leverage appropriate information and technology throughout their learning disciplines and are well-prepared for future applications.</p>
<p>State and Federal Accountability: - Standards for Public School Approval - Common Core State Standards/ College and Career Readiness Standards - New Hampshire Teacher Effectiveness Framework - Special Education Regulations</p>	<p>Collaboration among teams supports professional growth and builds shared responsibility for the social/emotional and academic needs of all students.</p>	<p>Students and educators work collaboratively to leverage information and technology, thus enhancing learning within and beyond the classroom.</p>	<p>Educators and the community collaborate to create a safe learning environment for all students.</p>	<p>Students, parents and staff promote an environment that fosters self-directed, life-long learners.</p>
<p>Educator Support Models/Plans - Educator Performance Evaluation Model - Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) - Torchbearer Program - Service Learning Projects</p>	<p>Leverage appropriate tools and resources to <i>support</i> instruction and use data to <i>inform</i> instruction.</p>	<p>Students engage in rigorous educational opportunities that will expose them to experiential, co-curricular and global perspectives and learning.</p>		
<p>District Plans - Technology Plan - Professional Development Master Plan - Capital Improvement Plan</p>	<p>Educate staff in the development and use of tiered interventions.</p>	<p>Students articulate and take ownership of individual learning goals through open dialogue, real world application and reflection.</p>		
<p>Operating Budget/Grant Support - Parent Group Support - School Board Support</p>	<p>Utilize communication tools to keep parents informed about the teaching/learning process.</p>	<p>Educators communicate their learning expectations for students to parents.</p>	<p>Educators communicate consistently with parents.</p>	
<p>Surveys - Parent</p>				

**Merrimack School District
Superintendent's Annual Report
2020-2021**

The 2020-2021 school year was an extraordinarily challenging year for our students, staff, and parents. The COVID-19 virus continued its impact on communities and school districts throughout the nation and Merrimack was no exception. The concern for the health and safety of all students and staff created a need for alternative models of teaching and learning. Throughout the year flexibility and adaptability of everyone were vital to successfully providing core academic instruction, and support services to students.

The school year began with remote, and hybrid (in-person and online) instruction. Students were divided into cohorts such that only half of the students were in school at one time in the hybrid teaching and learning model. This allowed for the important virus mitigation action of distancing in an effort to reduce the possibility of virus transmission. Some teachers were involved with concurrent learning which involved teaching to both those students who were in their respective class, and some who were participating in the class remotely. The rate of transmission of the COVID-19 virus forced the school district to conduct remote teaching and learning for several weeks of the Thanksgiving holiday. The recurring transitions in teaching and learning were particularly challenging to our students with disabilities along with students in preschool and kindergarten. I must commend the staff for their commitment to staying connected with students and families during the school year.

To facilitate the teachers' ability to meet changing instructional conditions, the district created a one-year position of Coordinator of Remote Learning to assist staff across the district in providing remote instructional services to students. The Canvas Learning Management System was instrumental in allowing students to access curriculum units throughout the year and the staff is to be commended for its dedication to learning how to effectively use this learning management program.

In March, students and staff were able to return to in-person learning with the continued COVID-19 mitigation measures of masking, distancing, hand hygiene, disinfecting school facilities and buses, increasing ventilation, and contact tracing. With the attention of everyone spread between academics and health and safety procedures, the incidence of student and staff anxiety significantly increased. Pediatricians throughout the nation expressed concern over the mental health impact to children of all ages in the spring (2021). A Health and Safety Task Force was formed to assist in planning for developing a reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The Task Force work was invaluable in providing guidance toward maintaining the health and safety of all facility occupants while maintaining instructional services and school operations.

Throughout our lives we learn something from extremely challenging events. Over the course of the school year, we learned to be flexible, patient, persistent and supportive of one another. We learned that we were more resilient than we thought. Additionally, we learned new and efficient ways to incorporate technology into teaching and learning, with an ever present understanding of the importance of maintaining strong connections with students, colleagues and families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Everett V. Olsen, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

Student Services Annual Report 2020-2021

The Merrimack School District's Office of Student Services is fully committed to the belief that all students can achieve their fullest potential. Through perseverance and dedication, we fully commit ourselves to providing the tools, knowledge, and compassion to assist our children and youth to achieve their goals. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and education of our children and youth with disabilities by creating trusting partnerships with their families, our community, and state agencies to develop, communicate and deliver essential skills, knowledge and value through research-based best practices, teaching, and service.

The Merrimack School District's Office of Student Services is required to provide special education and related services to students with educational disabilities according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) along with the New Hampshire Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities. These Federal and State mandates require school districts to evaluate students suspected as having educational disabilities, provide students with Individual Education Programs (IEP's), and provide students with specialized instruction including reading and math programs, speech and language services, occupational and physical therapy, counseling services, behavioral therapy and intervention, transition services, social work, mental health supports, along with other special services. These services are to be delivered in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) providing access to non-disabled peers and the general education curriculum. To meet this legal mandate, the Merrimack School District has developed a wide continuum of programming supports to meet the unique needs of children within our public schools, and when necessary, in out-of-district placements.

Merrimack School District continues to maintain the highest rating on the Determination of NH District Implementation of IDEA with a perfect score and final district determination of "Meets Requirement" for all Indicators and IDEA grant management. This Determination Report looks at several State of NH Performance Plan Indicators identified by the United States Department of Education. The indicators are: Preschool Outcomes, Disproportionate Representation of Disability, Disproportionate Representation based on Race, Suspension and Expulsion Rates for students with Disabilities, Child Find, Early Childhood Transition, Secondary Transition and Timelines of Initial/Ongoing evaluations. In addition, we must meet federal auditing criteria in grant management, maintenance of effort and overall fiscal audit submitted to the NHDOE. Merrimack School District has achieved this ranking of "Meets Requirements" for all indicators for the past 17 years due to the commitment, dedication, and partnership between special education, general education, administration at the building and district level and our parents and community.

Over the past year we focused on our continued collaboration and engagement with our parent community. We hosted afternoon and evening events with Parent Information Center, NAMI, Alison Roy, Peg Dawson, and Polly Bath, to name a few, to address parent survey requests for information, training, and workshops. Topics have included special education processes, social-emotional learning (SEL), executive functioning, etc. We developed a daylong onboarding and annual review of best practices for our paraeducators to support employee retention and capacity building around special education.

We continue to offer a full array of extended school year (ESY) opportunities tailored to the unique needs of individual students beyond the traditional five-week programs and have begun to explore offering ESY during the school year for some of our students who have significant learning loss/gaps. Transitional services were expanded to include opportunities for students to receive support throughout the summer and in the week leading up to the beginning of school this year. This was identified as a priority by our families and educators who reported elevated levels of anxiety and worry in our student population. We piloted SEL skill building opportunities for students in our elementary and secondary summer programs. Our focus on prevention and skill building in this area provided students with the readiness skills to be prepared for learning as they came back to school this year, some of them for the first time since March of 2020.

Student Services has partnered with Literacy Learning Solutions to support five Merrimack special educators in earning their certification as Orton Gillingham Dyslexia Instructors. We are working across our lower elementary schools to improve our specialized instruction in all areas of literacy by adding specific programs, tools, software, and evaluations to increase our ability to respond to the complex literacy needs of our students with specific learning disabilities. Aligning our programs for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities across our school district has been another priority. We continue to look at our systems and supports in special education and student services to provide high quality services and educational support that are efficient and cost effective. We were awarded a Promising Futures Grant through the NHDOE that provided funds to improve prevention, universal supports and skill building for all students in grades K-12 as part of a multitiered system of support (MTSS). By creating a tiered system of support for academic, behavioral, and socioemotional needs, we can offer universal support to all students, and improved outcomes for our most vulnerable students.

It is with the greatest appreciation for this work that I have been charged with that I respectfully submit this annual report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Barker, Director

**Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services
Annual Report
2021-2022**

Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services Department provides services for the students, staff, classrooms, offices, and business operations of the district. We continue to add devices for student-use, to evaluate and improve our infrastructure supporting learning through the use of technology, research, and reading materials, as well as to work with our staff to ensure they have what they need in the fulfillment of their roles.

The 2021-2022 school year was unique to Merrimack as this marked the first full school year where every student had a device to use within the classroom and at home. We have seen some amazing work and learning come out of the ability to have consistent access to devices and online resources that hasn't been possible at this scale before. We are looking forward to expanding on and providing students and teachers with more resources and techniques to leverage technology in and out of the classroom.

Canvas, our new Learning Management System, has been implemented and is being used district wide to help administer and record learning outcomes as well as foster collaboration and communication between teachers, students, and parents. We are evaluating the templates that have been created and pushed out to educators to see if we can make adjustments to make the experience for everyone more meaningful and impactful in the following school years. We have seen how having a centralized location to house classroom information and the content has helped to streamline the educational process.

Last but not least, the Technology and Library Media Services Department has a few new faces. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jessica Gott as our new High School Library Media Specialist. Jessica might be new to our department but is still a familiar face to the high school where she taught English for many years. Another new face is our Network Administrator Brenden Collins who came to us from Epping School District. Brenden has many years of experience working in schools and has an extensive background in network and data security. I joined the Merrimack Leadership in the fall of 2021 as the Director of Technology and Learning Systems. I came to Merrimack from the Litchfield School District and have experience in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

As always, the Technology and Library Media Services Department is privileged to serve all the Merrimack students, faculty, and staff. We are energized and eager to continue to help learning through the use of technology and research.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Pelletier, Director of Technology and Learning Systems
Matthew Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Merrimack Elementary Schools
Mastricola, Reeds Ferry, Thorntons Ferry
Annual Report
2020-2021

The 2020-2021 school year kicked off with the staff participating in professional development designed to support student learning in both hybrid and remote learning settings. Educators participated in professional development focused on Universal Design for Learning, Social Emotional Learning, Digital Learning Platforms, and Professional Learning Team collaboration.

As the pandemic progressed, our students experienced a different schedule for schooling in order to ensure continued health and safety. Our students, staff and families demonstrated flexibility with teaching and learning occurring in a variety of settings including: hybrid, full-remote online learning and the return to in-person learning for most students in March of 2021. Some of our students with special education needs received in-person schooling during periods of fully teaching remote teaching to address their specific needs that could only be provided by in-person teaching and learning. We greatly appreciate all the collaboration amongst parents and staff in ensuring that our students' academic, social and emotional needs were met during this period of great transition.

An important focus at all three elementary schools throughout the year was to ensure that all students and families felt a part of their school community, even though they may not have been physically present within the buildings. Educators found unique and creative ways to make special connections with families, including Digital Town Hall Meetings, recorded morning announcements, drive by parades for our fourth-grade students, remote graduation for our fourth graders, drive by Hawk Walks, virtual Art Shows and Fun and Field Days. Educators leveraged the new Learning Management System, Canvas, along with many other digital resources, to deliver instruction and maintain connections with all students and families.

We are excited to share that in 2020-2021, kindergarten through six grades, implemented a new Standards-Based Report Card. This new and improved report card reflected the culmination of extensive research and work done by the District Report Card Committee. This committee was comprised of representatives from all grades, schools, and subject areas. The purpose of this report card is to communicate with parents/guardians and students the achievement of specific standards-based learning goals. It identifies students' levels of progress, relative to those goals, areas of strengths, and areas where additional time and effort are needed. In addition, educators worked through the summer of 2020 and the school year to identify Essential Learning Competencies (ELCs) for each trimester. These competencies represent the most critical learning standards for success at each grade level.

The 2020-2021 school year reflected the importance of flexibility, creativity, collaboration, safety, health and wellness for all students and families at Reeds Ferry School, Thorntons Ferry School and Mastricola Elementary School. We appreciate the outstanding work on the part of all staff to deliver education to the Merrimack students during a highly challenging time. Likewise, our students demonstrated a tremendous amount of perseverance and grit!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Painchaud, Principal, Reeds Ferry School
Julie DeLuca, Principal, Thorntons Ferry School
Michelle Romein, Principal, Mastricola Elementary School

James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Annual Report
2020-2021

The James Mastricola Upper Elementary School (JMUES) completed its seventeenth year of meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of Merrimack's fifth and sixth grade students. We have reflected on the work we have done to refine our academic practices and positive school culture during this unique school year. It is through the unwavering commitment of our educators, support personnel, and Parent Faculty Association (PFA) that our students received a comprehensive Upper Elementary educational experience.

During the 2020-2021 school year, students experienced in-person, remote, and/or concurrent learning. Our educators provided instruction using a variety of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies and guidelines to meet the individual needs of each learner. We applied our knowledge of the UDL practices and continued to foster expert learners by supporting their skills in goal setting, resiliency, and resourcefulness. Our building administrators participated in the statewide UDL Leadership Academy, a professional learning series to guide them in designing systems and structures to support school wide UDL implementation. Some educators on our school based UDL team participated in statewide coaching to share their experiences and knowledge.

Throughout the year, JMUES students were provided experiences and instruction to support social-emotional learning based on lessons from the Second Step[®] program. This year we implemented two new annual campaigns to promote respect, responsibility, safety, and kindness. Students participated in both an anti-bullying and a "Kindness Counts" campaign. On October 21, 2020 students and staff wore orange to celebrate Unity Day to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. Additionally, each student and staff member created an anti-bullying badge, which was displayed in the front entrance as a reminder of our commitment to be bully-free. Kindness posters illustrating the 2020-2021 school theme of, "Kindness is showing someone they matter" were submitted and shared with the school community. Winning posters were framed and displayed in the main office hallway for all to see.

Students continued to benefit from our collaboration with the Merrimack Police Department through the Police and Children Together (PACT) Program. This program, provided by Detective William Vandersyde, is comprised of a variety of lessons that encourage students to make good life choices. After successfully completing the program, students were recognized by administration, teachers and Detective Vandersyde for their efforts.

JMUES students had opportunities to participate in several school-wide activities. Our band director worked creatively to provide students with experiences that complied with safety measures and social distance requirements. Additionally, Merrimack TV assisted us in filming concerts so that family and community members could experience the musical performances in a safe remote setting. Students experienced a virtual author's visit with Odds Bodkins, famed storyteller, musician, and writer. Many students provided pictures of their furry and scaly friends to line the hallway of the "JMUES Wall of Pets."

During the spring, JMUES hosted the Jaguar Jamboree, both in-person and via zoom. Both the virtual and in-person formats led to a fun-filled field day for all students. In June, Mrs. McGill and Dr. Rheault were very excited to be able to visit all of the fourth-grade classrooms at Mastricola Elementary School, Reeds Ferry Elementary School, and Thorntons Ferry

Elementary School to begin the transition process to the Masticola Upper Elementary School. Additionally, a Moving-On Ceremony was held to celebrate our grade six students. The event was held outside to provide parents the opportunity to attend in person.

While challenges and adapting to a changing world were ever-present throughout the 2020-2021 school year, educators, staff, and students achieved numerous accomplishments through perseverance, determination and a can-do attitude. The JMUES administration applauds the partnerships formed between parents and educators to work together to meet students' needs during this very unique year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha McGill, Principal

**Annual Report
Merrimack Middle School
2020-2021**

The 2020-2021 school year was a year that required creativity, change, collaboration, and flexibility at an extraordinary level in order to meet the educational and social emotional needs of Merrimack Middle School students. These challenges required the consistent rethinking and modification of instruction, schedules, and the day to day operations of the school. Through it all, the Merrimack Middle School community banded together to make 2020-2021 a positive year.

One of the changes this school year was the need to move between hybrid, remote, and concurrent instructional models. While these models were born of necessity, given the information related to the pandemic, it was an opportunity to look at our schedule and the structure of the educational day. In an effort to eliminate as many transitions as possible, Merrimack Middle School adopted a block schedule for core instruction. Class times were increased to 90-minute blocks and subjects were rotated on a quarterly basis. The end result was a significant revamping of our schedule that allowed for the covering of content, while also creating a safe learning environment.

In a similar fashion to the rethinking of the schedule, we were able to review and revamp the curriculum and instructional components. Staff used a process of identifying different skills, concepts, and standards that had implications beyond the current school year. These different key skills, concepts, and standards were introduced as Essential Learning Competencies (ELCs). Efforts to identify and agree on these ELCs began in the summer and continued throughout the school year and allowed for a very focused approach that helped to narrow and synchronize the skills and concepts that were considered to be essential for a student's success, now, and for years to come.

Merrimack Middle School also entered into its third year of partnering with CAST, as we continued with the implementation of the ideas related to Universal Design for Learning (UDL). As with our sister school James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, we were selected to be a "Learning Hub" whereby different schools and teachers would come and participate in Instructional Rounds and other UDL activities. While the plan to have other schools visit and learn with us was unable to occur, due to the pandemic, staff were able to continue to access resources provided by CAST in order to continue exploring and deepening their understanding of UDL. While extra-curricular activities and events were limited, there were some clubs and activities that occurred virtually went virtual. Students had the opportunity to participate in the Merrimack Middle School Drama Club's presentation of "Animal Farm". The final presentation was an online event which parents and the community were invited to stream directly to their homes. There were also many students who participated, virtually, in the Science Olympiad Team, Spoons and Zoom (baking club), Photography Club, Yoga Club, and the Student Council. Students participated in after school interscholastic sports, as well as a Hiking Club that explored the many trails in the Grater Woods surrounding the school. These activities helped to provide our MMS students with an opportunity to engage with their friends and teachers beyond the school day as a means of keeping everyone connected.

In reflecting on this school year and the many obstacles that stood in our way, it was great to be able stand together; staff, students, parents, and the entire community. Throughout the ups and downs and difficulties, moving from remote to hybrid, it was a wonderful year to learn, rethink, and move forward. Thank you to our amazing staff, families, and students for their efforts throughout this school year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Caragher, Principal

Merrimack High School
Annual Report
2020-2021 School Year

The educational program at Merrimack High School has been designed to prepare students for further education, entry into the work world, or other areas of interest and training. The 2020-2021 school year began in a hybrid learning model, with students sorted into A and B Cohorts to maintain social distancing recommendations and lessen the pandemic's impact. Families could also opt to enroll their children into a fully remote model. Hybrid students received two days of in-person instruction, two days of remote instruction, and a day for enrichment or remediation as needed. From the Thanksgiving holiday until the end of the first semester, students were fully remote. The hybrid model resumed in mid-January, and by mid-April students were back in school five days a week. Graduation was able, with the help of class advisors, teachers, and office staff, to return to a more traditional ceremony, with parents on the field proudly watching their graduates receive diplomas.

The daily attendance rate for the 2020-21 school year was 94.7%. MHS graduated 264 students; 68% of whom continued their education after high school in a four-year institution, with 22% attending a two-year college or seeking other post-secondary education, 4% going directly into a career and 2% joining the military, leaving 4% undecided. One hundred fifty-two (152) students took 185 Advanced Placement exams in 18 subjects. Seventy percent (70%) of these exams scored a 3 or higher. Students received the following AP Scholar Awards: fourteen students received the AP Scholar Award, five received the AP Scholar with Honor Award, and four received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award.

Scholarships were awarded to seventy-eight (78) MHS Seniors on Awards Night, totaling \$148,569.70.00. Merrimack graduated 160 New Hampshire Scholars in the class of 2021, which represents 58% of the class. The National Honor Society inducted 40 members for the 19-20 school year. The graduating class of 2021 included Valedictorian, Clara Schaefer; Salutatorian, Abbigail Cote; and Class President, Maeve Jackson. Our special guest Graduating Senior was Kira Matthews. Class Officers were Maeve Jackson, President, Vice-President Lorin Wandell, Secretary Catherine Selby, and Summer Lucas, Treasurer. The No Bell Award for the 2020-2021 school year was presented to music teacher, Patricia Cunningham.

The following educators joined the Merrimack High School team during the 2020/21 School year.

Stephanie Carberry – Teacher, Social Studies
Michelle Ettelson – Teacher, Social Studies
Tayler LaHaise – Teacher, World Language (Latin)
Scott Riddell – Learning Support Coordinator
Felicia Schulman – Teacher, Special Education (Get Set program)
Adam Suits – Teacher, Mathematics
Paige Webster – Teacher, English
Brett Wilson – Teacher, Special Education

Athletics: The 2020-2021 athletic year saw a drop in participation with 484 athletes competing in 16 sports among 35 teams. The drop off can be attributed to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our teams made post season play as the NHIAA changed to open

tournaments for the entire year. Our boys' ice hockey and wrestling teams advanced to the semifinals of their respective tournaments.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the indoor track season, individual wrestling and tennis tournaments. We continued to offer indoor track as a club and those athletes were able to compete in an end of season meet at the Hampshire Dome in Milford.

We had some outstanding individual performances during the 2020-2021 athletic year: Samuel Epstein became the State Champion in pole vault, clearing 13'6" at the Meet of Champions. Meredith Lubelczyk was runner-up in the 200 individual medley and Allie Marvell was runner-up in the 500 freestyle events at the division 1 swimming championships.

Merrimack High School had thirty-four (34) seniors recognized as scholar-athletes by the NHIAA. These student-athletes lettered in at least two varsity sports and had a cumulative GPA of a B+ or higher.

Overall, it was a challenging year for athletics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud to have offered, and successfully completed, every sport during the 2020-2021 school year.

Department Highlights:

English: There were eighty-eight (88) students enrolled in Running Start English 12 during the 2020/2021 school year. In the spring of 2021 the school's literary magazine, *Spilt Ink*, was produced by a hard-working team of three students - Ariel DiVietro, Bethany Fisher, and Lulu Regal. English department members Paige Webster and Naomi Halvorson assisted the students in the creation and production of the publication which was distributed school wide in both paper and digital formats.

Art: We Inducted twenty (20) Members into the MHS National Art Honor Society - pic of Induction Night. We hosted a trip to Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art. The students supported 'world bee day' by hosting a bee awareness campaign at our school and at the park...artwork was made, seeds were sowed, and we had a beekeeper present to the public. Students made 'cards for the troops' for the holidays. Students made logo designs for the Merrimack annual Marathon. The department awarded Abigail Elliot and Ajay George 'outstanding art student' awards during Awards night.

Music: As most of the music world was turned upside down due to the pandemic, the MHS Music department was still very active. All music festivals were virtual. Thirteen MHS music students were selected for several All-State music ensembles. A total of thirty-six (36) entries submitted recordings for the NH Solo & Ensemble Festival in February with the vast majority receiving "A" ratings. Merrimack High continues to have, by far, the highest number of participants from the entire state. The Marching Band performed at four football games. Merrimack TV aired three performances of the Concert Band, Chorus and Jazz Band. The Concert Band and senior Chorus members also performed at graduation.

Social Studies: American Studies 2 was added to the official Program of Studies for 2021-2022. We added three new teachers to our department - Stephanie Carberry, Michelle Ettelson, and Breda Holland. Trevor Knight became the new Department Chair. Educators Melanie Hedlund, Mallory Niemaszyk, and Lucas Woods made individual contributions to the creation of our

department's ELCs (Essential Learning Competencies) beyond the extensive group work of the entire department. The creation of Flex Fridays allowed for extensive, weekly, highly effective collaboration among role-alike teachers. Despite Covid-19, Mallory Niemaszyk, who is the advisor of SADD, orchestrated Michael Shaughnessy's creation of a video for the Mock Crash, starring the local police, firefighters, and MHS students, and organized two separate days for the Mock Crash for Seniors. Because of the need created by the pandemic, Harley Hall became the Online Learning Liaison for guidance in addition to his teaching duties and was a leader in Canvas professional development for the school and the department. When we returned and introduced the hybrid model, Trevor Knight worked with Mark Merrifield to create an instructional video on how to set up the VDO 360 cameras in the classroom.

Business: Awarded four (4) academic scholarships to members of the Class of 2021 and awarded one academic scholarship in memory of Merrimack Graduate Danielle Bonner. The online school store provided new opportunities for students, parents, staff, and the community to order spirit wear. Our National Business Honor Society graduated eight members in the class of 2021. Forty-five students received three Running Start college credits from NCC for FREE! Seventeen students earned three (3) college credits from SNHU (Southern New Hampshire University) for \$100 per student.

Technology Education: We live in a world that is changing more rapidly than ever before. Much of what we learn today will be obsolete tomorrow. Success depends on our students' abilities to think and act creatively. The Technology Department courses embrace the concept of teaching and learning to imagine creatively, reason systematically, work collaboratively and learn continuously. Whether technology students are in a class of Photography, Videography, Woodworking, Automotive, Game Design, 3D Modeling and Animation or Computer Technology, all, will be found actively working on projects - generating innovative ideas, designing, making improvements, and creating final products through social activity, sharing ideas, collaborating on projects - trying new things, tinkering with materials, testing boundaries, taking risks, repeatedly.

Advances in technology create an opportunity for the Technology Department to revise, update, and develop new courses that will mirror the needs of our society. Our department has been researching and developing new courses that would encompass the skills of 2D Animation, which is a formidable force in the marketing world, and Engineering Design courses which could be integrated with the opportunity of developing a Maker Space for Merrimack High School students.

Merrimack High School Woodworking students' projects were submitted to the Deerfield Fair and earned four 1st place awards; one 2nd place award and one 3rd place award were awarded for lathe turning & bandsaw box entries. In the New England Wood Carvers October event, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards as well as Best of Level were awarded for lathe turned bowl submissions.

Woodworking and Photography both participated in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition in November 2021. Woodworking entries in lathe turning/sculpture resulted in one (1) gold key winner, three (3) silver key winners and one (1) honorable mention. Photography submissions included four (4) gold key winners, six (6) silver key winners and eight (8) honorable mentions. Noteworthy recognition is for Merrimack High School students who received 1st Place at the Deerfield Fair with their technology display.

The MHS Film Arts department had our 4th annual film festival in May of 2021. Awards were given to students who showed prominent levels of excellence in filmmaking. They were as follows: No

Silence Media Award presented to Lily Fanchiang, Labrosse Performance Award presented to Jenny Epstein, Film Arts Society Alumni Award presented to Katherine Janicki, Merrimack TV Directors Award presented to Cayden Castle, Merrimack TV Industry Award presented to David Roy, MHS Staff Award presented to Giselle Santiago.

In partnership with the Broadcast Club, the What's Up Merrimack News program completed their second successful season. This program highlights accomplishments of students and news from around the MHS community. Past episodes may be seen from this link:

<https://www.schooltube.com/channel/What%27s+Up+Merrimack/146000911>

School Climate

Garden Club: Gardening is a wonderful learning experience. It is also an exercise in patience, trial, and error, and working with uncontrollable variables like the weather. We started off with planting pumpkins for our homeroom's Halloween Decorating Activity, then moved into working with planting annual and perennial flowering plants. In June, garden club members, in coordination with Eversource, offered an additional activity during Senior Service Day. Seniors planted dogwood saplings along the edge of the high school football field and at Wildcat Falls. Eversource also donated and planted two mature dogwood trees near the entrance to the high school.

GSA:(Gay Straight Alliance) is a student run group that works toward promoting the civil rights of all students and offers an inclusive environment for members and allies of the LGBTQIA+ Community. The GSA provides recreational and social activities, fundraising for important causes, opportunities for social activism, and participates in the Annual Day of Silence that focuses on the harassment and violence directed at students because of their sexual identity, whether actual or perceived. During the 2020-2021 year, the GSA provided all high school staff with "Safe Space" stickers to indicate certain areas as inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ Community and show support. The club collaborated on an awareness presentation about the LGBTQIA+ Community that was presented to MHS staff at their January staff meeting and hosted a Valentine's Day Candygram Fundraiser at the beginning of February.

Random Acts of Kindness: (RAOK) is a service club created by students in 2001. This group of students strive to make a difference in their school, their community, and their world through kindness. We believe in the power of kindness to create change to how people see and experience the world. Many students from our club have gone on to be leaders in advocacy with many diverse projects and careers. In spirit of the season of gratitude & love, Random Acts of Kindness asked homerooms and clubs to join them in making our annual no-sew blankets for the less fortunate. We had over 50 blankets that were hung on the public fence at Veteran's Park in Manchester on 12/22. For Halloween, the club outdid themselves decorating the main lobby and sold candy-grams for students to purchase for a friend. For Valentine's Day, members placed 1,321 cut-out hearts on every student's locker with inspiring, sometimes cheesy and humorous messages. The members last project was holding a supply drive for the Humane Society of Greater Nashua, over 100 items were donated.

Model UN (MUN) advised by Emily Hartmann: student Chase Rheault won the "Chris Gidopoulos '95 People's Choice Award" for her role as Spain in the Treatment of Sexual Gender Minorities. Kishan Sreenivasan won the "Austin Martin Distinguished Delegate Award" for the role as Belgium for Stabilization of the Middle East. At a second virtual competition hosted by Alvirne High School, Joslyn Fowler won best delegate for her role as Germany in the Security Council Committee on

Refugees in Europe, and Jack Pikora won best delegate for his role as Iran in the Middle East Refugee Committee. The students all dressed up in their professional attire for their zoom conference, though some students admitted to wearing their slippers! Members attended weekly meetings (in-person and remote) and attended three virtual conferences during the 2020-2021 school year hosted by Plymouth State University, Boston College High School, and Westwood High School. MHS MUN gave out its 3rd scholarship (\$300 Diplomacy Award) last year to Sarah Gordon.

The **FIRST Robotics** time (Chop Shop) is excited to be back meeting in person and building robots. While we are just starting our competition season, we have been busy since the end of the last school year. We designed and built a new robot over the summer and fall to learn how to build, program and drive a swerve bot, which is a drive system that gives us a lot of flexibility and mobility. We used this robot in two off-season competitions over the fall and competed over the summer at WPI in their annual BattleCry event. We have also hosted FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge for New Hampshire FIRST over the past two months. We even had one of our students interview Dean Kaman, the founder of FIRST, as part of the FRC season kickoff video. Most importantly, we have rebuilt our team after having had the dream shrink due to COVID-19.

Quiz Bowl: went virtual this year, for practices and for competitions. All NH Quiz Bowl League (NH QBL) tournaments were held via Zoom. MHS won the tournament held on April 17th with a record 9-1 earning a spot in the state championship tournament, where we came in fourth.

Merrimack Mentors SADD: For the 2020-2021 school year, SADD could not hold certain events due to pandemic restrictions and guidelines. However, one event that we, as an organization and community, were able to be creative with was our Mock Crash presentation. SADD members, Mrs. Niemaszyk and administration teamed up with Mr. Shaughnessy, MHS Videography teacher, to create a virtual presentation of the crash. We had two viewings of the film to keep within (at the time) CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines. For our students who were remote last year, we were able to send out a Zoom link for them to attend. After the video viewing, we had members of the community speak. We had our school's SRO Ryan Milligan, State Farm (Merrimack Branch) Dan Bantham, Jim Bailey from Bailey's Auto shop, and a motivation speaker and Merrimack alumni Ed Gerety. These speakers gave an added voice to the power and message of the presentation to remind our soon to be graduates of the dangers their decisions can bring to not just themselves, but others as well.

Granite State Challenge: The Granite State Challenge team competed against 36 other teams in November to earn the top-seeded spot on the televised Granite State Challenge competition. The season taped in January and continued airing through May. The team of Nick Gacharna, Aidan Remick Jack Pikora, Michael Clark, Allison Pikora, and Aris Corman-O'Reilly ultimately triumphed, defending Merrimack's Granite State Challenge trophy, and bringing home the school's first back-to-back championship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Claire, Principal

Merrimack High School 2021 Graduates

Samuel Agnew	Andrew Coco	Kendall Gennell
Rami Aldrich	Tyler Coimbra	Loryn Gettler
Adele Alexander	Samantha Cota	Raelene Giordano
Sophia Amblo	Abbigail Cote	Nathalia Giraldo
Caylie Anderson	Olivia Cote	Loren Glover
Vanessa Andrews	Declan Covell	Sean Golden
Mitchell Aneckstein	Paige Coviello	Lily Gonyea
Haylee Aresco	Lilli Dabilis	Eric Gonzalez
Rhylee Ashford	Colin Dambaugh	Sarah Gordon
Simon August	Hudson Davis	Lauryn Gray
Kaleb Aviles	Hunter Davis	Benjamin Guagliumi
Erin Barnes	Jason De Beaucourt	Hannah Gulino
Zachary Barsh	Alexis DeCarteret	Arkorup Gupta
Chiara Bartunek	Aziz Defaa	Julianna Hackney
Daniel Bartus	Dominick DeMaggio	Jameson Haddad
Chloe Batts	Shannon Dennehey	Daniel Hancock
Addison Berkeley	Joseph DeSimone	Benjamin Hardy
Torin Berry	Anson Dewar	Sarah Hardy
Daniel Best	Nicolaus Dini	Sawyer Hardy
Casey Bevis	Nicholas DiPiero	Caleb Hartford
Brianna Bigelow	Chloe Dorf	Max Hayes-Hunsicker
Keira Bike	Haley Dotolo	Nathan Hennas
Sarah Bornas	Isabella Doucette	Ian High
Devon Boucher	Taylor Douzanis	Cameron Higham
Arianna Brisson	Lauren Dovas	John Hilliard
Vitalia Brock	Chloe Doyon	Jeremy Honkala
Asia Brodie	Hannah Doyon	Jason Hostler
Molly Brody	Mackenzi Drouin	Chelsea Huckins
Patrick Browning	Aydan Durant	Lindsey Hui
Kevin Bull	Marie Edmond	Andrea Hunt
Nathaniel Bult	Mackenzie Elledge	Ariana Iandolo
Jacob Bunis	Abigail Elliott	Maeve Jackson
Wyatt Burke	Kelsey Fair	Katherine Janicki
Ethan Burns	Ashley Farrar	Colin Jones
Dylan Callahan	William Feltus	Hanna Jordan
Alexis Cardin	Shea Ferguson	Dominique Joslin
Biron Carlson	Erick Fitzgerald-Ferrini	Madeleine Kachmar
Ryan Carlson	Ben Flanders	Chloe Kapsambelis
Stephanie Caron	Nathan Fleming	Cody Keefe
Dominic Carozza	Paige Flint	Arianna Kelly
Adam Carr	Madison Flynn	Robert Kennedy
Cayden Castle	Madeleine Forhan	Mohammad Khalilullah
Matthew Chamberlain	Justin Fournier	Erin Knauer
Zachary Chiasson	Joslyn Fowler	Aarush Kolli
Michael Clark	Nicholas Gacharna	Jacob Korsak
Alexis Close	Alyssa Gangemi	Vanessa Kozinski

Merrimack High School 2021 Graduates

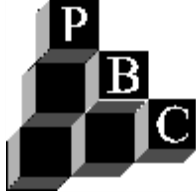
Jaden LaBrosse	Faziha Mohammed	Joao Sena
Joshua Laflotte	Anthony Monty	Alyssa Shattuck
Connor Lanigan	Kelly Mooney	Rachel Sherman
Alex Lapointe	Daniel Morin	Olivia Silamba
Aiden LaPorte	Sean Morrilly	Zackary Silveira
Connor Lash	Alyssa Morse	Kyle Slate
Joseph LeBlanc	Ryder Morse	Juliana Smart
Sydney LeCours	Zachary Murphy	Haley Smethurst
Kylie Lelievre	Nyla Nguyen	Isabella Smith
Nathan Lemire	Aileen O'Brien	Ryan Somers
Madisyn Lenderman	Kaiden Orme	Rohan Sreenivasan
Griffin Livingstone- Crooker	Abigail Osborne	Alison Steines
Rosendo Lopez	Emily Parenteau	Nicole Stevens
Summer Lucas	Ethan Park	Tobin Stevens
Christian Luke-Martinez	Aidan Parzych	Olivia Stuart
Michael Lyna Jr	Benjamin Pencinger	Michael Suarez
Amber Lyons	Allison Perigny	Samuel Surprenant
Grace MacIntyre	Taryn Perry	Victoria Tacito
Anthony Maglio	Steven Petz	Kaitlyn Tevepaugh
Molly Major	Grace Phillips	Hunter Thibault
Annabelle Maloney	Joseph Pillsbury	Alanna Tobin
Ryan Manhardt	Alexander Pittman	Jake Trahan
Madylin Marchetti	Ariyah Proulx	Taylor Trethewey
Andrew Martin	Connor Randall	Sean Trimper
Eliot Martin	Sarah Ranieri	Julia Tsatsa
Konnor Mason	Aidan Remick	Andrew Vail
Michael Matheson	Isabella Repp	Mary Vance
Kira Matthews	Matthew Risitano	Lucas Verrington
Jesse Mayhew	Hailee Rivera	Olukpe Viakinnou
Justin Mayhew	Vincent Robidoux	Gabriel Victal
Meghan McCormack	Cole Robinson	Gillian Waller
Lillian McDonough	Lindsay Rolls	Tyler Walsh
John McLain	Melinda Rolls	Lorin Wandell
Mackenzie McLaughlin	Daniella Rossetti	Trevor Watkins
Halley McMahan- Emond	Tyler Saari	Dillan Webb
Siobhan McMakin	Dylan Sadowski	Donovan Webster
Glynn McNay	Jazmine Saenz-Naranjo	Jackson Weinbeck
Logan Megalaitis	Kayla Salcito	Mariah Wells
Ava Melinn	Blake Sawyer	Florian Werner
Gauri Menon	Brandon Sawyer	Colby Wheeler
Gayathri Menon	Tyler Saxton	Vincent Wheeler
Brett Michalewicz	Jacob Scavarelli	Ethan Zebuhr
Tyler Michaud	Clara Schaefer	Carolyn Zucowska
Serena Miller	Nicholas Schmitt	
	Lucien Searles	
	Catherine Selby	

Colleges students have been accepted to:

Adirondack Community College
American International College
American University
Anna Maria College
Arizona State University-Tempe
Assumption College
Bentley University
Bryant University
California College of the Arts (Oakland)
Castleton University
Cedarville University
Champlain College
Charleston Southern University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby-Sawyer College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia University - Montreal
Curry College
Dartmouth College
Drexel University
East Carolina University
Eastern Nazarene College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Fashion Institute of Technology (Fashion Design)
Fitchburg State University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Franklin Pierce University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology (Engineering)
Gettysburg College
Grand Valley State University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Huntington University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
James Madison University
Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)
Johnson & Wales University-Providence
Keene State College
Lasell College
Lesley University
Long Island University
Lynn University
Maine College of Art
Manchester Community College
Manchester Community College - New Hampshire
Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Marymount University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Merrimack College
Michigan State University
Nashua Community College
New England College
NHTI-Concord's Community College
Niagara University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northern Vermont University
Norwich University
Ohio University-Main Campus
Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
Pepperdine University
Plymouth State University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rivier University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University-Camden
Rutgers University-Newark
Saint Anselm College
Saint John Fisher College
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Saint Michael's College
Salve Regina University
San Diego State University

San Jose State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Simmons University
Southern New Hampshire University
Springfield College
St John's University-New York
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY Buffalo State
SUNY Cortland
Syracuse University
Syracuse University (College of Engineering &
Comp. Science)
Temple University
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee-Knoxville
University of Texas at San Antonio
Union College
University of Colorado Boulder (College of
Engineering & Applied Science)
University of Colorado Denver (UC Denver)
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Massachusetts-Boston
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
University of Memphis
University of New England
University of New Hampshire at Manchester
University of New Hampshire-Main Campus
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of North Dakota
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Portland
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester

University of Scranton
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of South Florida-Main Campus
University of Southern Maine
University of Utah
University of Vermont
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
(Engineering)
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Virginia University
Western New England University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Young Harris College



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District

<http://www.sau26.org/PBC/>

Report to the Citizens of Merrimack March 2022

The Planning and Building Committee was created by the voters of Merrimack to provide long-term strategic research and planning for the Merrimack School District. It is the only School District Planning Committee in New Hampshire whose members are elected by the voters.

In 2021, the Merrimack School District continued facing the challenges of Covid which mean that the School Board continued its focus on day-to-day issues of educating children rather than long-range planning. However, a warrant article at the 2020 Annual School District Meeting passed which appropriated funds for hiring an engineering firm to design a Master Plan for the entire high school campus. The firm of Keach-Nordstrom was selected and began discussions with the Administration and the Planning and Building Committee looking at locations for a new central office building, possible demolition of existing buildings, traffic flow and parking lot re-design as well as other needs and possible community recreational uses at the high school.

The Committee appreciates your continued support and needs your participation: one of the next steps before the Master Plan is finalized is community input. You can contact the Committee via the email link on the Committee website: <https://www.sau26.org/domain/23>.

Sincerely,

Richard Hendricks, Chair,
Gage Perry, Vice-Chair
Shayne Albuquerque
Michael Alukonis
Naomi Schoenfeld
Finlay Rothhaus

Merrimack School District
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Session 1: Deliberative Session
March 2, 2021

Present: School Board members: Cinda Guagliumi, Shannon Barnes, Laurie Rothhaus, Andy Schneider, and Jenna Hardy; Superintendent Dr. Mark McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent for Business Matthew Shevenell; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum John Fabrizio and Legal Counsel Kathy Peahl.

At 7:05 P.M., Moderator Lynn Christensen called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Christensen explained the procedures to be followed during the meeting and asked School Board Chair Cinda Guagliumi to introduce the officials present.

Mrs. Christensen stated Article 1 was election of officers, which would take place by official ballot on April 13th and recognized C. Guagliumi who read Article 2 and moved the article as read. Second: Mrs. Rothhaus.

Article 2

Shall the Merrimack School Board be authorized to accept on behalf of the District, without further action by the voters, gifts, legacies and devises of personal or real property which may become available to the District during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

Mrs. Guagliumi spoke to her motion by explaining that this article appears on the warrant every year and gives the School Board authority to accept gifts of personal or real property.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article. There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 2 moved to the ballot and recognized Mrs. Barnes who read Article 3 and moved it as read. Second: Mrs. Hardy.

Article 3

Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Merrimack School Board and the Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association which calls for the following net increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Amount
2021-2022	\$253,920
2022-2023	\$257,813
2023-2024	\$267,499

and further raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$253,920) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

Mrs. Barnes spoke to her motion by explaining that this is a three-year contract between the School District and the Support Staff. She said support staff includes custodians, mechanics, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, kindergarten instructional assistants, library assistants, Title 1 tutors and food service personnel. The contract contains a 3.25% pay increase and a 1% decrease in the amount that the School District contributes toward employee health insurance in each year of the contract which will result in a savings of approximately \$63,000 each year of the contract.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article. There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 3 moved to the ballot and recognized Mrs. Hardy who read Article 4 and moved it as read. Second: Mrs. Barnes.

Article 4

Shall the District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

Mrs. Hardy spoke to her motion by saying that should Article 3 fail, this article gives the School Board the option of holding a special meeting to discuss cost items only without the need to petition the Superior Court to hold a meeting.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article. There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 4 moved to the ballot and recognized Mr. Schneider who read Article 5 and moved it as printed. Second: Mrs. Guagliumi.

Article 5

Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a 10 year lease agreement in the amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for the purpose of improving classroom ventilation through the purchase and installation of unit ventilators and associated controls for the Merrimack School District and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$98,566) for the first year's payment for that purpose? This lease agreement contains an "escape" clause. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

Mr. Schneider said plans to address ventilation issues within the schools have been discussed for several years. He said a survey of the schools identified 56 classrooms that exceed 1,000 PPM of CO₂: Merrimack High – 24 rooms, Masticola Upper Elementary – 8 rooms, Masticola Elementary – 7 rooms, Reeds Ferry – 8 rooms and Thorntons Ferry – 9 rooms. Mr. Schneider said that the only school that does not have air quality issues is the middle school. He stated that the project will be completed over a two-year period and will be paid for over a ten year period. He also said that once the project is completed, there will be on-going air quality evaluation conducted. Mr. Schneider clarified that an escape clause is a legal clause that is required by statute in lease agreements and that the School Board considered using Cares Act funding for the ventilation project but the amount received would not be sufficient to cover the entire project and the time parameters under which the project had to be completed precluded this.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

Tom Koenig (Danforth Road) asked for clarification regarding how many units were being purchased for \$4 million dollars. Mr. Schneider said 56 units were being purchased and these units were permanent, not portable. Mr. Schneider indicated the total project cost also included installation costs as well.

Mr. Koenig asked why the District is proposing a lease purchase rather than a bond. Mr. Schneider said the School Board had originally planned to complete the project over several years. He said the cost of doing the project over several years was approximately \$1 million dollars more than doing the entire project at one time and given the current pandemic, the School Board decided to do the entire project now. He also said the lease cost was \$60,000 less than the bond cost and since a lease only requires a majority, it seemed the right choice.

Mrs. Christensen asked Mr. Schneider about a typographical error in the warrant.

Mr. Schneider made a MOTION to amend the article to read “Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$98,566)”. Second: Mrs. Guagliumi.

Mr. Schneider explained that the number words on the warrant “Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars” do not match the numbers “\$98,566” and the correct amount is “\$98,566.”

Moderator called for a vote on the amendment and declared the AMENDMENT PASSED.

Article 5

Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a 10 year lease agreement in the amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for the purpose of improving classroom ventilation through the purchase and installation of unit ventilators and associated controls for the Merrimack School District and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$98,566) for the first year's payment for that purpose? This lease agreement contains an "escape" clause. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

The Moderator asked if there was any additional discussion. There was no further discussion.

Mrs. Christensen moved Article 5 to the ballot as amended and recognized Gary Krupp (Ministerial Drive) who moved Article 6 as printed. Second: Scott Sabens (Dumas Lane)

Article 6

(By Petition) Shall the District, pursuant to RSA 32:14,V, rescind the adoption of Article 7 of the 2006 School District Warrant that established a school district budget committee?

Mr. Krupp spoke to his motion by stating that this was a petitioned warrant article to eliminate the School District Budget Committee. He stated a petitioned warrant article established the School District Budget Committee in 2006 after the Town Charter eliminated the Municipal Budget Committee. He explained further that a petitioned warrant article in 2012 to eliminate the Budget Committee had narrowly failed. Mr. Krupp said he felt eliminating the Budget Committee would improve efficiency since the Committee adds 4 – 6 weeks to the Budget Review process. He also said in recent years, recommendations made by the Budget Committee have not been followed by the School Board and changes made to proposed budgets by the

Budget Committee have been insignificant. He said the Budget Committee was a waste of time and reminded the voters that they can make changes to the proposed budget at the Deliberative Session.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

Chuck Mower (Depot Street) said he was speaking as a member of the public and not as chair of the Budget Committee. He said the Budget Committee was a committee of 12 Merrimack citizens who wanted to participate in their town. He stated that each member was another set of eyes to review the budget and another person to ask questions about the budget as well as to provide additional perspectives to be considered. Mr. Mower said another benefit of the Committee was that members of the committee visit each administrator, principal and department head to confirm their budgetary needs. He said he opposed the article.

There were no additional speakers.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 6 moved to the ballot and recognized Mr. Mower who read Article 7 and moved it as read. Second: Brian Stisser (Middlesex Road)

Article 7

Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$81,870,163? (Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$ 81,918,937 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only)? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

Mr. Mower introduced the members of the Budget Committee and explained that the Budget Committee vote listed on the warrant for this article should have been 11-0-0, which is what he said when he read and moved the article as read. He said the proposed budget was up 1.43% from the current year's budget and most of the increase was due to benefits. Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 7 moved to the ballot as read.

Mrs. Christensen thanked the voters for their attendance at the Deliberative Session.

Mrs. Barnes made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: Mrs. Hardy.

Mrs. Christensen called for a vote on the motion.

Mrs. Christensen declared the MOTION PASSED and adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Session 2: Ballot Voting

On April 1, 2021, the School District Clerk received a certified sworn affidavit from Ashley Poulin, who had filed paperwork to run for a one-year seat on the Budget Committee, that she had moved out of Merrimack and was no longer a qualified candidate. Her name was removed from all official ballots and all remaining absentee ballots.

April 13, 2021

The Town Moderator and Assistant Moderators opened the polls at 7:00 AM. At 7:00 PM, the Moderators closed the polls and allowed those present to finish voting. At 11:30 PM, after all results were tallied, School District Moderator Lynn Christensen announced that 4,829 voters had cast ballots with the following results:

School Board – three years, two seats

David Sydow – 774 votes
Michelle Bronchuk – 925 votes
Jenna Hardy – 1,588 votes
Kenneth Martin – 1,109 votes
Chandra Miller – 703 votes
Lori Peters – 1,255 votes
Scott Sabens – 1,087 votes

The Moderator declared Jenna Hardy and Lori Peters elected.

School Board – one year, one seat

Jamie Von Schoen – 878 votes
Cinda Guagliumi – 1,213 votes
Jennifer McCormack – 1,152 votes
Rachel Paepke – 474 votes

The Moderator declared Cinda Guagliumi elected.

Planning & Building Committee – three years, two seats

Michael Alukonis – 2,846 votes
Richard Hendricks – 2,938 votes

The Moderator declared Michael Alukonis and Richard Hendricks elected.

Planning & Building Committee – one years, one seat

Shayne Albuquerque – 3,008 votes

The Moderator declared Shayne Albuquerque elected

Budget Committee – three years, four seats

Ellen Wilson – 2,692 votes
Shayne Albuquerque – 2,556 votes
Mackenzie Murphy – 2,875 votes
Gillian Savitch – 2,551 votes

The Moderator declared Ellen Wilson, Shayne Albuquerque, Mackenzie Murphy and Gillian Savitch elected.

Budget Committee – two years, one seat

Naomi Schoenfeld – 3,040 votes

The Moderator declared Naomi Schoenfeld elected.

Budget Committee – one year, two seats

Ashley Poulin – 264 votes

Brian Stisser – 2,946 votes

The Moderator declared Brian Stisser elected.

The Moderator said the votes recorded for Ashley Poulin were from absentee ballots that had been distributed to voters before Ms. Poulin was declared unqualified.

The Moderator further stated that since there was no other qualified candidate listed on the ballot, the qualified voter who has received the most write-in votes will be declared the winner of the 2nd one-year Budget Committee seat as soon as the write-in votes are tallied and confirmed.

Article 2: Yes – 3,670 votes No – 826 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 2 passed.

Article 3: Yes – 3,168 votes No – 1,298 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 3 passed.

Article 4: Yes – 3,342 votes No – 1,087 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 4 passed.

Article 5: Yes – 3,129 votes No – 1,304 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 5 passed.

Article 6: Yes – 1,541 votes No – 2,498 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 6 failed.

Article 7: Yes – 3,433 votes No – 938 votes.

The Moderator declared Article 7 passed.

On April 16, 2021, School District Clerk Patricia Heinrich announced that 180 write-in votes had been cast with the following write-in results:

Budget Committee – one year, one seat

Scott Adler – 76 votes

Gina Groff – 25 votes

Mrs. Heinrich declared Scott Adler elected to the one year seat.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Heinrich
School District Clerk



PLODZIK & SANDERSON

Professional Association/Certified Public Accountants

193 North Main Street • Concord • New Hampshire • 03301-5063 • 603-225-6996 • FAX- 603-224-1380

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the School Board
Merrimack School District
Merrimack, New Hampshire

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Merrimack School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Merrimack School District, as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the general and grants funds for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information – Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the following be presented to supplement the basic financial statements:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis,
- Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability,
- Schedule of School District Contributions – Pensions,
- Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability,

***Merrimack School District
Independent Auditor's Report***

- Schedule of School District Contributions – Other Postemployment Benefits,
- Schedule of Changes in the School District's Total Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios, and
- Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information – Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Merrimack School District's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 4, 2022 on our consideration of the Merrimack School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Merrimack School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Merrimack School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

March 4, 2022



PLODZIK & SANDERSON
Professional Association

EXHIBIT C-3
MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General	Grants	Permanent	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
School district assessment	\$55,645,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$55,645,671
Other local	708,438	-	1,019,103	172,870	1,900,411
State	17,756,210	59,262	-	15,659	17,831,131
Federal	309,620	3,148,635	-	433,684	3,891,939
Total revenues	<u>74,419,939</u>	<u>3,207,897</u>	<u>1,019,103</u>	<u>622,213</u>	<u>79,269,152</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
Instruction	30,141,701	1,292,898	129,120	153,602	31,717,321
Support services:					
Student	4,196,690	636,340	-	-	4,833,030
Instructional staff	1,568,557	1,042,376	-	-	2,610,933
General administration	162,119	94,800	-	-	256,919
Executive administration	1,478,451	-	37,408	-	1,515,859
School administration	2,392,187	-	-	-	2,392,187
Business	367,414	-	-	-	367,414
Operation and maintenance of plant	3,771,865	141,468	-	-	3,913,333
Student transportation	3,341,608	-	-	-	3,341,608
Other	21,241,271	-	-	-	21,241,271
Noninstructional services	31,853	-	-	859,426	891,279
Debt service:					
Principal	1,070,000	-	-	-	1,070,000
Interest	98,746	-	-	-	98,746
Facilities acquisition and construction	344,571	-	-	-	344,571
Total expenditures	<u>70,207,033</u>	<u>3,207,882</u>	<u>166,528</u>	<u>1,013,028</u>	<u>74,594,471</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>4,212,906</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>852,575</u>	<u>(390,815)</u>	<u>4,674,681</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	-	299,321	299,321
Transfers out	(299,321)	-	-	-	(299,321)
Capital lease	235,283	-	-	-	235,283
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(64,038)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,321</u>	<u>235,283</u>
Net change in fund balances	4,148,868	15	852,575	(91,494)	4,909,964
Fund balances, beginning	5,944,745	7,930	4,529,516	250,255	10,732,446
Fund balances, ending	<u>\$10,093,613</u>	<u>\$ 7,945</u>	<u>\$ 5,382,091</u>	<u>\$ 158,761</u>	<u>\$15,642,410</u>

The Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

EXHIBIT D-1
MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
REVENUES			
School district assessment	\$ 55,645,671	\$ 55,645,671	\$ -
Other local	75,000	705,395	630,395
State	17,126,760	17,756,210	629,450
Federal	20,000	309,620	289,620
Total revenues	<u>72,867,431</u>	<u>74,416,896</u>	<u>1,549,465</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Instruction	33,363,437	29,906,418	3,457,019
Support services:			
Student	4,367,883	4,196,690	171,193
Instructional staff	1,711,766	1,568,557	143,209
General administration	143,300	178,119	(34,819)
Executive administration	1,469,318	1,478,451	(9,133)
School administration	2,374,409	2,392,187	(17,778)
Business	377,766	363,701	14,065
Operation and maintenance of plant	4,285,434	3,771,865	513,569
Student transportation	4,110,488	3,341,608	768,880
Other	23,762,529	21,296,396	2,466,133
Debt service:			
Principal	1,070,000	1,070,000	-
Interest	125,332	98,746	26,586
Facilities acquisition and construction	478,050	1,032,119	(554,069)
Noninstructional	-	31,853	(31,853)
Total expenditures	<u>77,639,712</u>	<u>70,726,710</u>	<u>6,913,002</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(4,772,281)</u>	<u>3,690,186</u>	<u>8,462,467</u>
OTHER FINANCING USES			
Transfers out	(150,001)	(449,321)	(299,320)
Total other financing uses	<u>(150,001)</u>	<u>(449,321)</u>	<u>(299,320)</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ (4,922,282)</u>	3,240,865	<u>\$ 8,163,147</u>
Decrease in committed fund balance		150,000	
Increase in assigned fund balance (non-encumbrance)		(77)	
Unassigned fund balance, beginning		4,772,282	
Unassigned fund balance, ending		<u>\$ 8,163,070</u>	

The Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Comparative Enrollments

Grade	Enrolled 9/2021	Enrolled 1/2022	Estimated 9/2022
K	253	259	265
1	245	246	264
2	258	257	247
3	277	273	253
4	248	244	278
<hr/>			
Sub Total	1281	1279	1307
5	242	248	246
6	264	269	229
<hr/>			
Sub Total	506	517	475
7	274	276	271
8	286	282	270
<hr/>			
Sub Total	560	558	541
9	262	263	283
10	279	277	258
11	276	272	283
12	352	327	296
<hr/>			
Sub Total	1169	1139	1120
Spec. Ed. (Out-of-District Placements and Students Ages 3 and 4)	132	143	132
<hr/>			
GRAND TOTAL	3648	3636	3575
<hr/> <hr/>			

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Merrimack, New Hampshire

2022-2023

PROPOSED BUDGET

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

2021-2022

Chuck Mower, Chair	2023
Naomi Schoenfeld, Vice Chair	2023
Scott Adler	2022
Shayne Albuquerque	2024
Dan Coakley	2023
(Carl) Lee French	2022
Gina Groff	2022
Carol Lang	2022
Mackenzie Murphy	2024
Gillian Savitch	2024
Brian Stisser	2022
Ellen Wilson	2024

Ex-Officio School Board

Lori Peters
Jenna Hardy (alternate)

Pat Heinrich, Secretary



Proposed Budget

Merrimack Local School

For School Districts which have adopted the provisions of RSA 32:14 through RSA 32:24
Appropriations and Estimates of Revenue for the Fiscal Year from:
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Form Due Date: 20 Days after the Annual Meeting

This form was posted with the warrant on: 2/22/2022

SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE CERTIFICATION

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined the information contained in this form and to the best of my belief it is true, correct and complete.

Name	Position	Signature
Naomi Schoenfeld	V. Chair	<i>Naomi Schoenfeld</i>
CARL French (Lee)	member	<i>Carl French</i>
Gillian Savitch	member	<i>Gillian Savitch</i>
CHARLES H. MOWER	C.H.A.A	<i>Charles H. Mower</i>
Daniel J. Coakley	member	<i>Daniel J. Coakley</i>
Brian Stissot	Member	<i>Brian Stissot</i>
Shayne Albuquerque	Member	<i>Shayne Albuquerque</i>

This form must be signed, scanned, and uploaded to the Municipal Tax Rate Setting Portal:
<https://www.proptax.org/>

For assistance please contact:
NH DRA Municipal and Property Division
(603) 230-5090
<http://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/>



New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration

2022
MS-27

Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Expenditures for period ending 6/30/2021	Appropriations as Approved by DRA for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
Instruction								
1100-1199	Regular Programs	08	\$17,527,138	\$18,663,701	\$18,763,284	\$0	\$18,763,284	\$0
1200-1299	Special Programs	08	\$11,141,537	\$13,486,222	\$13,942,844	\$0	\$13,942,844	\$0
1300-1399	Vocational Programs	08	\$8,793	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
1400-1499	Other Programs	08	\$567,732	\$682,289	\$742,787	\$0	\$742,787	\$0
1500-1599	Non-Public Programs	08	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1600-1699	Adult/Continuing Education Programs	08	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
1700-1799	Community/Junior College Education Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1800-1899	Community Service Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Instruction Subtotal			\$29,245,200	\$32,878,212	\$33,494,915	\$0	\$33,494,915	\$0
Support Services								
2000-2199	Student Support Services	08	\$4,187,988	\$5,191,939	\$5,436,281	\$0	\$5,436,281	\$0
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	08	\$1,488,850	\$1,758,693	\$1,828,862	\$0	\$1,828,862	\$0
Support Services Subtotal			\$5,676,838	\$6,950,632	\$7,265,143	\$0	\$7,265,143	\$0
General Administration								
0000-0000	Collective Bargaining		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2310 (840)	School Board Contingency	08	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	08	\$161,772	\$143,300	\$143,300	\$0	\$143,300	\$0
General Administration Subtotal			\$161,772	\$243,300	\$243,300	\$0	\$243,300	\$0



Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Expenditures for period ending 6/30/2021	Appropriations as Approved by DRA for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
Executive Administration								
2320 (310)	SAU Management Services	08	\$693,691	\$696,095	\$709,865	\$0	\$709,865	\$0
2320-2399	All Other Administration	08	\$750,006	\$786,112	\$815,270	\$0	\$815,270	\$0
2400-2499	School Administration Service	08	\$2,331,252	\$2,393,845	\$2,535,481	\$0	\$2,535,481	\$0
2500-2599	Business	08	\$358,578	\$379,406	\$393,636	\$0	\$393,636	\$0
2600-2699	Plant Operations and Maintenance	08	\$3,783,865	\$4,175,176	\$4,526,847	\$0	\$4,526,847	\$0
2700-2799	Student Transportation	08	\$3,292,347	\$4,098,658	\$4,175,629	\$0	\$4,175,629	\$0
2800-2999	Support Service, Central and Other	08	\$22,258,382	\$25,491,603	\$25,042,793	\$0	\$25,042,793	\$0
	Executive Administration Subtotal		\$33,468,121	\$38,020,895	\$38,199,521	\$0	\$38,199,521	\$0
Non-Instructional Services								
3100	Food Service Operations	08	\$793,472	\$1,421,707	\$1,421,706	\$0	\$1,421,706	\$0
3200	Enterprise Operations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Non-Instructional Services Subtotal		\$793,472	\$1,421,707	\$1,421,706	\$0	\$1,421,706	\$0
Facilities Acquisition and Construction								
4100	Site Acquisition		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4200	Site Improvement	08	\$0	\$0	\$8,260	\$0	\$8,260	\$0
4300	Architectural/Engineering		\$87,788	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4400	Educational Specification Development		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4500	Building Acquisition/Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4600	Building Improvement Services	08	\$309,571	\$98,566	\$469,320	\$0	\$469,320	\$0
4900	Other Facilities Acquisition and Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Facilities Acquisition and Construction Subtotal		\$397,359	\$98,566	\$477,580	\$0	\$477,580	\$0
Other Outlays								
5110	Debt Service - Principal	08	\$1,070,000	\$775,000	\$775,000	\$0	\$775,000	\$0
5120	Debt Service - Interest	08	\$98,746	\$80,416	\$62,000	\$0	\$62,000	\$0
	Other Outlays Subtotal		\$1,168,746	\$855,416	\$837,000	\$0	\$837,000	\$0



Appropriations

Account	Purpose	Article	Expenditures for period ending 6/30/2021	Appropriations as Approved by DRA for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
Fund Transfers								
5220-5221	To Food Service	08	\$149,321	\$1	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0
5222-5229	To Other Special Revenue	08	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0
5230-5239	To Capital Projects		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5254	To Agency Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5300-5399	Intergovernmental Agency Allocation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9990	Supplemental Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9992	Deficit Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Transfers Subtotal			\$1,649,321	\$1,500,001	\$1,500,001	\$0	\$1,500,001	\$0
Total Operating Budget Appropriations					\$83,439,166	\$0	\$83,439,166	\$0



Special Warrant Articles

Account	Purpose	Article	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended) (Not Recommended)
5251	To Capital Reserve Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5252	To Expendable Trust Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5253	To Non-Expendable Trust Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4600	Building Improvement Services	06	\$1,600,500	\$0	\$1,600,500	\$0
<i>Purpose: Roofing Project - Thornton's Ferry</i>						
Total Proposed Special Articles			\$1,600,500	\$0	\$1,600,500	\$0



Individual Warrant Articles

Account	Purpose	Article	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	School Board's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee's Appropriations for period ending 6/30/2023 (Not Recommended)
1100-1199	Regular Programs	03 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract</i>	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000	\$0
1100-1199	Regular Programs	05 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract Market Adjustment</i>	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000	\$0
1200-1299	Special Programs	05 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract Market Adjustment</i>	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
1200-1299	Special Programs	03 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract</i>	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	05 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract Market Adjustment</i>	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
2310-2319	Other School Board	03 <i>Purpose: Teacher Contract</i>	\$297,930	\$0	\$297,930	\$0
Total Proposed Individual Articles			\$2,197,930	\$0	\$2,197,930	\$0



New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration

2022
MS-27

Revenues

Account	Source	Article	Revised Revenues for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023	Budget Committee's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023
Local Sources					
1300-1349	Tuition	08	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
1400-1449	Transportation Fees		\$0	\$0	\$0
1500-1599	Earnings on Investments	08	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
1600-1699	Food Service Sales	08	\$1,321,707	\$1,321,707	\$1,321,707
1700-1799	Student Activities		\$0	\$0	\$0
1800-1899	Community Service Activities		\$0	\$0	\$0
1900-1999	Other Local Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Sources Subtotal			\$1,396,707	\$1,396,707	\$1,396,707
State Sources					
3210	School Building Aid	08	\$321,000	\$232,500	\$232,500
3215	Kindergarten Building Aid		\$0	\$0	\$0
3220	Kindergarten Aid		\$0	\$0	\$0
3230	Special Education Aid	08	\$528,885	\$528,885	\$528,885
3240-3249	Vocational Aid		\$2,000	\$0	\$0
3250	Adult Education		\$0	\$0	\$0
3260	Child Nutrition	08	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
3270	Driver Education		\$0	\$0	\$0
3290-3299	Other State Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
State Sources Subtotal			\$871,885	\$781,385	\$781,385



**New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration**

**2022
MS-27**

Revenues

Account	Source	Article	Revised Revenues for period ending 6/30/2022	School Board's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023	Budget Committee's Estimated Revenues for period ending 6/30/2023
Federal Sources					
4100-4539	Federal Program Grants	08	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
4540	Vocational Education	08	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
4550	Adult Education		\$0	\$0	\$0
4560	Child Nutrition	08	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
4570	Disabilities Programs		\$0	\$0	\$0
4580	Medicaid Distribution	08	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
4590-4999	Other Federal Sources (non-4810)		\$0	\$0	\$0
4810	Federal Forest Reserve		\$0	\$0	\$0
	Federal Sources Subtotal		\$1,600,000	\$1,602,000	\$1,602,000
Other Financing Sources					
5110-5139	Sale of Bonds or Notes		\$0	\$0	\$0
5140	Reimbursement Anticipation Notes		\$0	\$0	\$0
5221	Transfer from Food Service Special Revenue Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0
5222	Transfer from Other Special Revenue Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5230	Transfer from Capital Project Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5251	Transfer from Capital Reserve Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5252	Transfer from Expendable Trust Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5253	Transfer from Non-Expendable Trust Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0
5300-5699	Other Financing Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
9997	Supplemental Appropriation (Contra)		\$0	\$0	\$0
9998	Amount Voted from Fund Balance		\$0	\$0	\$0
9999	Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	08	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
	Other Financing Sources Subtotal		\$0	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
	Total Estimated Revenues and Credits		\$3,868,592	\$7,780,092	\$7,780,092



Budget Summary

Item	School Board Period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)	Budget Committee Period ending 6/30/2023 (Recommended)
Operating Budget Appropriations	\$83,439,166	\$83,439,166
Special Warrant Articles	\$1,600,500	\$1,600,500
Individual Warrant Articles	\$2,197,930	\$2,197,930
Total Appropriations	\$87,237,596	\$87,237,596
Less Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$7,780,092	\$7,780,092
Less Amount of State Education Tax/Grant	\$10,551,098	\$10,551,098
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$68,906,406	\$68,906,406



Supplemental Schedule

1. Total Recommended by Budget Committee	\$87,237,596
Less Exclusions:	
2. Principal: Long-Term Bonds & Notes	\$775,000
3. Interest: Long-Term Bonds & Notes	\$62,000
4. Capital outlays funded from Long-Term Bonds & Notes	\$0
5. Mandatory Assessments	\$0
6. Total Exclusions (Sum of Lines 2 through 5 above)	\$837,000
7. Amount Recommended, Less Exclusions (Line 1 less Line 6)	\$86,400,596
8. 10% of Amount Recommended, Less Exclusions (Line 7 x 10%)	\$8,640,060
Collective Bargaining Cost Items:	
9. Recommended Cost Items (Prior to Meeting)	\$2,197,930
10. Voted Cost Items (Voted at Meeting)	\$2,197,930
11. Amount voted over recommended amount (Difference of Lines 9 and 10)	\$0
12. Bond Override (RSA 32:18-a), Amount Voted	\$0
Maximum Allowable Appropriations Voted at Meeting: (Line 1 + Line 8 + Line 11 + Line 12)	
	\$95,877,656

Merrimack School District School District Warrant

March 8, 2022 (Deliberation)
and April 12, 2022 (Voting)
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Merrimack, County of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in School District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School in said District on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. for Session 1 (Deliberation), to discuss the matters to be voted on by official ballot; and to meet at the designated polling sites, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, Merrimack Middle School, or St. John Neumann Church on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Session 2 (Voting) for the choice of School District officers elected by ballot and any other action required to be inserted on said official ballot. The polls for the election of school district officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will open on said date at 7:00 a.m. and will not close earlier than 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1 To elect all necessary school district officers for the ensuing year. (Vote by Ballot.)

ARTICLE 2 Shall the Merrimack School Board be authorized to accept on behalf of the District, without further action by the voters, gifts, legacies and devises of personal or real property which may become available to the District during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

ARTICLE 3 Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Merrimack Teachers Association which calls for the following net changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Amount
2022-2023	\$1,247,930

and further raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Two Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,247,930) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? (Majority vote required (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

ARTICLE 4 Shall the District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

ARTICLE 5 Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Merrimack Teachers Association which calls for the following net changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year for a market adjustment added to base salary beginning in 2022-2023 to position the Merrimack Teachers Association at competitive rates in regards to surrounding districts in the amount of up to Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$950,000), said sum not to exceed Twenty Five Percent (25%) of the unencumbered surplus funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021-2022? (Majority vote required (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

NOTE: This Article represents a one-time salary adjustment to the scale for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and if approved will be imbedded into the salary schedule from 2022-2023 forward. It is not cumulative.

ARTICLE 6 (Special Warrant Article) Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,400,500) for the purpose of roof replacement at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

ARTICLE 7 Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in any fiscal year, in an amount not to exceed 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b,II? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 4-1-0).

ARTICLE 8 Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$83,439,166? (Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$ 83,174,461 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only)? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 11-0-0).

2022-2023 Proposed Budget

Description	2021-2022 Budget	2022-2023 Proposed Budget	Difference 2021-2022 vs, 2022-2023
District Wide	61,603,242	61,702,863	\$ 99,621
Technology and Library	609,989	616,381	\$ 6,392
Maintenance	2,135,412	2,686,555	\$ 551,143
Special Services	13,129,583	13,661,486	\$ 531,903
Mastricola Elementary School	103,637	118,536	\$ 14,899
Reeds Ferry Elementary School	120,712	131,333	\$ 10,621
Thorntons Ferry Elementary School	136,902	140,333	\$ 3,431
Mastricola Upper Elementary School	151,512	154,998	\$ 3,486
Merrimack Middle School	\$ 171,930	\$ 181,396	\$ 9,466
Merrimack High School	\$ 1,138,023	\$ 1,123,579	\$ (14,444)
Food Service	\$ 1,421,707	\$ 1,421,706	\$ (1)
Federal Funds	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
Total Operating Budget Article	\$ 82,222,649	\$ 83,439,166	\$ 1,216,517
MTA Contract Part A		\$ 1,247,930	\$ 1,247,930
MTA Contract Part B		\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000
TFS Roof		\$ 1,400,500	\$ 1,400,500
Grand Total	\$ 82,222,649	\$ 87,037,596	\$ 4,814,947

82,222,649 83,439,166 \$ 1,216,517

\$ - \$ -

BUDGET AND REVENUE SUMMARY 2022-2023

Description	2021-2022 Approved Budget	2022-2023 Bud Comm. Budget	Dollar Variance 2021-2022 vs. 2022-2023	Percent Variance 2021-2022 vs. 2022-2023
	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023
General Fund Operating Budget	79,300,942	80,517,460	1,216,518	1.53%
Food Service	1,421,707	1,421,706	(1)	0.00%
Federal Funds	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	0.00%
Total Budget	82,222,649	83,439,166	1,216,517	1.48%
Warrant Articles				
MTA Contract Part A		1,247,930	1,247,930	
MTA Contract Part B		950,000	950,000	
TFS Roof		1,400,500	1,400,500	
Total Appropriations	82,222,649	87,037,596	4,814,947	5.86%
Less: Revenue				
Tuition	30,000	30,000	-	
Interest	45,000	45,000	-	
Food Service Sales	1,321,707	1,321,707	-	
Student Activities	-	-	-	
Building Aid	232,500	232,500	-	
Catastrophic Aid	528,885	528,885	-	
Vocational Aid	2,000	2,000	-	
Food Service - State	20,000	20,000	-	
Federal Funds	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	
Child Nutrition -Federal	80,000	80,000	-	
Medicaid	20,000	20,000	-	
Fund Balance - Capital Reserve	-	-	-	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	8,163,070	4,000,000	(4,163,070)	-51.00%
Total Revenues	11,943,162	7,780,092	(4,163,070)	-34.86%
			-	
Net District Assessment (Total Appropriations - Total Revenues)	70,279,487	79,257,504	8,978,017	12.77%
Less: State Education Grant (Current Law)	9,445,332	10,551,098	1,105,766	11.71%
Less: State Education Tax Assessment	7,180,915	7,437,911	256,996	3.58%
Local School Tax Assessment	53,653,240	61,268,495	7,615,255	14.19%
(Local School + State Education Tax)	60,834,155	68,706,406	7,872,251	12.94%

Merrimack School District

Special Education Programs and Services Expenditures and Revenues

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 per RSA 32:11-a

Expenditures

Function	Purpose of Appropriation	Expended 2019-2020	Expended 2020-2021
1200-1299	Special Education	12,440,806	12,207,763
2000-2199	Student Support Services	3,930,644	2,999,045
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	7,566	8,265
2320-2399	Other Executive Administration	707,531	752,336
2700-2799	Student Transportation	1,549,277	1,323,560
TOTAL		18,635,824	17,290,969

Revenues

Account Description	2019-2020	2019-2020
State Aid	1,266,335	1,357,144
Tuition	17,178	15,360
Special Education Aid	856,206	923,016
Medicaid Reimbursement	64,586	309,620
TOTAL	2,204,305	2,605,140

**Merrimack School District
Voting Day – Tuesday April 12, 2022
7:00AM to 7:00PM**

**James Masticola Upper Elementary School
Merrimack Middle School
St. John Neumann Church**

Elections, Voting, and Poling Locations
<https://www.merrimacknh.gov/elections-voting>

SUMMARY OF WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1: Election of School District Officials

The names of candidates for elected offices for the Merrimack School District will appear on the ballot. Candidate names are those seeking the offices for School Board, School District Planning and Building Committee and School District Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 2: Accepting Gifts on Behalf of the School District

This article would allow the Merrimack School Board to accept gifts of personal or real property during the year such as land. This article appears on the ballot every year to allow the School Board to accept property on behalf of the District. If this article was not approved, all non-cash donations would have to come before the voters. This does not negate public discussion by the School Board and would still require a vote of the Board.

TAX IMPACT: NONE

This article has been recommended by the School Board.

ARTICLE 3: Merrimack Teachers Association Contract

This article seeks to provide a 3.75% increase for the 22-23 school year for the teachers of Merrimack. It is a one-year only contract that acts as the beginning of our attempt to become somewhat competitive in the market for professional staff to serve the children of Merrimack. Currently, compared to 12 districts in our area, those being Amherst, Bedford, Bow, Brookline, Concord, Derry, Hollis, Londonderry, Milford, Nashua, Salem, and Windham, we are from \$4,000 to over \$12,000 dollars behind the area average of those districts. We compete in those markets and are in a dire struggle to keep what we have and attract what we need.

With the passage of this warrant article, we will be able to somewhat close the salary gap and just begin to become competitive with the gap for beginning teachers still \$3,000 behind and an experienced highly educated professional still being \$11,000 behind those of our competition. For a cost of \$76 on a \$300,000 house, it is well worth the investment in our school district and our children.

TAX IMPACT - \$.25 cents increase per thousand or a total of \$76.00 dollars on a 300K house.

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 4: Merrimack Teachers Association Contract (Special Meeting)

This article gives the School Board the option of calling one special meeting to discuss cost items only in the negotiated agreement if not passed by the voters. If this article is not on the warrant, the School Board would have to petition Superior Court to get approval for a special meeting. The court only grants such special meetings for emergency purposes.

TAX IMPACT: None.

This article has been recommended by the School Board.

ARTICLE 5: Merrimack Teachers Association Contract – Market Adjustment

This article seeks to provide a market adjustment over Article 3 in the 22-23 school year for the teachers of Merrimack. As stated before, compared to 12 districts in our area, those being Amherst, Bedford, Bow, Brookline, Concord, Derry, Hollis, Londonderry, Milford, Nashua, Salem and Windham, even if article 3 passes will still be \$3,000 to over \$11,000 dollars behind the area average of those districts. We compete in those markets and are in a dire struggle to keep what we have and attract what we need. This represent an additional 3% increase.

With the passage of this warrant article, we will be able to close the salary gap even more and begin to become competitive with the gap for beginning teachers at \$1,700 behind and an experienced highly educated professional still being \$7,500 behind those of our competition.

For a cost of \$58 on a \$300,000 house, it is well worth the investment in our school district and our children.

TAX IMPACT – up to \$.19 cents per thousand or a total of \$58.00 dollars on a 300K house.

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 6: Thorntons Ferry Elementary School Roof Replacement

This article seeks to replace 38,571 square feet of roof at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School that is in the process of failing. The consequences of not taking such action at this time could be deck rot and the potential for mold in classrooms at a cost of \$1,400,500.

The sections to be replaced were constructed in 1994 and have been out of warranty since 2009. These sections are a built-up roofing of tar and gravel that was applied on top of the original 1970 roof when the school was first constructed.

The roof is currently telegraphing potentially urgent problems with the insulation below. There are areas where the morning frost has melted immediately adjacent to unmelted areas. This indicates that the insulation in the melted areas were likely saturated from leakage at the surface. These areas also corresponded with the areas where there was leakage into the classrooms below.

Saturated insulation has no insulating value and can lead to mold problems and damage the metal deck below. We must pass this article to ensure that the current issue does not become an emergency that cannot be taken care of in a controlled fashion during the summer of 2022.

TAX IMPACT – up to \$.29 cents per thousand or a total of \$86.00 dollars on a 300K house.

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

The picture below is of stained ceiling tiles that have since been replaced due to failure of the roofing system at Thorntons Ferry.



ARTICLE 7: Authorization to Retain Year-End Unassigned General Fund Surplus

This article seeks to allow the School Board at a public meeting to retain 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment. The net assessment is the amount to be raised by taxes net of all revenues. This year, the net assessment was \$53,653,239 therefore the maximum allowable surplus that could have been retained would be \$2,682,000. That amount or a lesser amount would have been the subject of a school board vote.

Here is an excerpt from the statute - a school district, by a vote of the legislative body, may authorize the school district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general fund balance provided that the total amount does not exceed 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment.

Prior to spending these funds, the school board shall hold a prior public hearing.

Last year the District, due to COVID driven shortfalls in hiring and expenses, returned \$8.1 million to reduce the school portion of the tax rate for the 20-21 school year. The normal amount that we return is approximately \$3 million dollars. This will create a dip and then a spike in your tax rate having returned to normal operations in 2021-2022. If we had this article last year, the district could have retained some of the \$8.1 million dollar surplus to avoid dips and spike in the future. It could also use these funds for any emergency purposes after a public hearing and a school board vote.

The Town of Merrimack already has this ability to avoid volatility in the town portion of the tax rate. This is considered prudent, best practices to ensure fiscal stability.

The School District would like to have the same option as afforded to all towns in New Hampshire. Passage of this article would allow us the mechanism to put these measures in place.

TAX IMPACT: TBD

This article has been recommended by the School Board.

ARTICLE 7: Merrimack School District Operating Budget

This article is to raise and appropriate \$83,439,166 to support the operation of the School District. This budget represents a 1.48% increase over the 2021-2022 operating budget and was derived through a series of public meetings with the School Board, Budget Committee, and voters at the Deliberative Session. If this article is defeated, the School District will revert to a default budget which is \$ 83,174,461.

BUDGET AND REVENUE SUMMARY 2022-2023				
Description	2021-2022	2022-2023	Dollar	Percent
	Approved	Bud Comm.	Variance	Variance
	Budget	Budget	2021-2022 vs.	2021-2022 vs.
	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023
General Fund Operating Budget	79,300,942	80,517,460	1,216,518	1.53%
Food Service	1,421,707	1,421,706	(1)	0.00%
Federal Funds	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	0.00%
Total Budget	82,222,649	83,439,166	1,216,517	1.48%

2022-2023 Proposed Budget		83,439,166
2022-2023 Default Budget		83,174,461
Over Default		264,705

TAX IMPACT - \$.25 cents increase per thousand or a total of \$76.00 dollars on a 300K house. This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER
WORKSHEET**

ARTICLE 2: Accepting Real Property
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 3: Teachers Contract
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 4: Special Meeting Collective Bargaining Agreement
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 5: Teachers Contract Market Adjustment Contract
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 6: Thorntons Ferry Elementary School Roof Replacement
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 7: Authorization to Retain Year-End Unassigned General Fund Surplus
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 8: Operating Budget
YES - NO -

For more information, please visit us online at - <http://www.sau26.org>

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VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

School District Election

April 12, 2022 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Merrimack Middle School
St. John Neumann Church