ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016
AND
PROPOSED BUDGET
JULY 2017 – JUNE 2018
ANNUAL REPORTS
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERRIMACK, NH
for the
Year Ending June 30, 2016
– DISTRICT OFFICERS –

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Patricia Heinrich ................................................................. 2019

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Richard Hastings ................................................................. 2019

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Michael Thompson ............................................................ 2019
Zev Sernik, Student Representative ..................................... 2017

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Finlay Rothhaus ................................................................. 2017
Laurie Rothhaus ............................................................... 2017
Sue Sheridan ................................................................. 2018
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To the Citizens of Merrimack:

Merrimack continues to strive for improvement in every area of its operation. The year 2015-2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) was a busy year for the Merrimack School District and it is my privilege as your School Board Chair to share with you the highlights of our year.

**Logic Model:** The School Board approved an update to the school district Logic Model on October 5, 2016. It serves as a roadmap for district operations, budgeting and performance measurement. The Logic Model is broken down into five areas: Inputs, Strategies, Objectives, Goals, and Impacts. The Logic Model Can be found on our website at: [https://www.sau26.org/Page/5056](https://www.sau26.org/Page/5056).

**New Initiatives from the School Board:** In an effort to offer our constituents more transparency for the work that is happening in the district, the Board has replaced its procedure of having board liaisons to different subject areas with quarterly curriculum updates from the administration. We made this change so that the community can more easily learn what work the district does throughout the year to design, implement, and evaluate academic offerings from K-12 in regards to subject area work and the collaboration among the elementary, middle, and high school teaching staff to develop and deliver cohesive curriculum to students. These content-rich presentations replace the minimal updates school board liaisons are able to provide to the board and community. The Board also instituted a Communications Committee comprised of district personnel from each building, district parents from each building, board members and also made room for a community-at-large member. This committee is charged with evaluating communications avenues available to reach out to stakeholders--including parents and those in the community who support the district with their tax dollars--to provide a dialogue about issues important to them and to make the information of value to them accessible.

**Challenges our Board faced in 2015/2016:** Our District was faced with a number of challenges that the School Board needed to address in 2015-2016. Many of these issues were not directly impactful to curriculum but had the potential to be disruptive to district operations. In 2015, the Merrimack School District was made aware of a pipeline that Kinder Morgan was proposing that would have impacted our property at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School (TFS). The School Board took the action of formalizing a position of opposition regarding this pipeline route as it posed safety concerns to students as young as 3 years-old in our Pre-K program (established September 2016) through students in fourth grade. The school board was then faced with addressing the impact of elevated levels of Perfluorooctanoic acids(PFOAs) in the community water supply managed by the Merrimack Village District (MVD) in our schools. The Board invited experts in PFOAs from the State of New Hampshire, engineers hired by the district to test our facilities, and...
representatives from the MVD to educate us on what exposure we have to PFOAs and what is being done by our supplier to address these contaminants long-term. Soil testing was also performed at Reeds Ferry Elementary School—the closest site to Saint Gobain Performance Plastics (the identified source of the PFOA contamination). The Board will continue to monitor its facilities and work with the MVD to ensure the appropriate communication happens so we are informed customers and stewards of in-house consumers of this water—namely our students and staff. The district also took a proactive step of testing all of our facilities for lead in the water. A few isolated sites showed lead levels in the samples and those outlets had their plumbing updated immediately and retests showed the absence of lead in the samples. Finally the district tested environmental conditions for air quality and there were isolated sites with radon readings that we addressed swiftly. Our district had a commitment to address all facility concerns proactively and to swiftly resolve any areas of concern that arose.

District Initiatives to Support Students: The School District established a district-wide Mental Health Committee to address the growing portion of the student population with mental health diagnoses so that there are supports in place to address their needs while at school to provide a supportive learning environment. The Mental Health Committee made a comprehensive presentation to the school board at its November 16, 2015 meeting. Both the meeting broadcast

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZesAIKOkfBk&index=35&list=PLU6cTkLWTQDWhIv3JEIZHkTessuaf7)

and the meeting minutes


can be found online.

The School District continues to participate in Merrimack Safeguard—a community-wide organization which offers resources to assist families with tools and information about high-risk behaviors with our youth. The committee participates in community events, develops materials for parents about how to communicate with their kids about risky decisions, and much more. The committee is always looking for more support and members. For more information, contact Deborah Woelflein, Chair of Merrimack Safeguard at deborah.woelflein@sau26.org.

Accomplishments the Board wants to Acknowledge in our District: Merrimack High School was one of eight NH schools to earn a place on the Advanced Placement District Honor Roll for the 2015-2016 school year—something the high school has achieved for the fifth time in six years. To be so recognized means that last year Merrimack High School “simultaneously achieved increases in access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students and also maintained or improved the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

MaryBeth Donovan-Olson of Reeds Ferry Elementary School received the Art Teacher of the Year Award while Thorntons Ferry Elementary School was Awarded The 2016 Elementary School of Excellence from the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards Program—commonly referred to as the "ED"-ie Award at their event on June 11th.

In conclusion, on behalf of the team—Andy Schneider, our Vice Chair, Board Members Cinda Guagliumi, Michael Thompson, and Naomi Schoenfeld, PhD, and our Student Representative Zev Sernik, we thank you for entrusting us to serve you in our roles on the Merrimack School Board and look forward to continuing our mission of academic excellence and taxpayer service in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Barnes, Chair
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<th>INPUTS</th>
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<td><strong>INPUTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Improvement Plans:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provide consistent and sustainable professional development to support anticipated short and long term impacts of the Logic Model.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students are actively and purposefully engaged through educators employing a repertoire of research-based strategies.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educators employ consistent systems of support to facilitate student transitions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students demonstrate growth in reading and writing achievement.</strong></td>
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<td>- Focused Monitoring Plan</td>
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<td><strong>School Board Policies and Administrative Procedures</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leverage communication tools to keep district stakeholders/ staff abreast of instructional practices, research, professional development experiences and student performance.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educators facilitate learning through consistent instructional approaches and use of data from assessments to meet the needs of each student.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educators continuously monitor student progress for understanding.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students demonstrate growth in math, science and social studies achievement.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Program and Curriculum Revision and Implementation Process</strong></td>
<td><strong>Integrated instructional practices are informed by data and differentiated in response to students' needs.</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educators model appropriate use of information and technology.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students leverage appropriate information and technology throughout their learning disciplines and are well-prepared for future applications.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>State and Federal Accountability:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Collaboration among teams supports professional growth and builds shared responsibility for the social/emotional and academic needs of all students.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students and educators work collaboratively to leverage information and technology, thus enhancing learning within and beyond the classroom.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educators and the community collaborate to create a safe learning environment for all students.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students, parents and staff promote an environment that fosters self-directed, life-long learners.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Educator Support Models/Plans</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leverage appropriate tools and resources to support instruction and use data to inform instruction.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students engage in rigorous educational opportunities that will expose them to experiential, co-curricular and global perspectives and learning.</strong></td>
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<td>- Educator Performance Evaluation Model</td>
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<td>- Professional Development Master Plan</td>
<td><strong>Educate staff in the development and use of tiered interventions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students articulate and take ownership of individual learning goals through open dialogue, real world application and reflection.</strong></td>
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<td>- Capital improvement Plan</td>
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<td><strong>Operating Budget/Grant Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>Utilize communication tools to keep parents informed about the teaching/learning process.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educators communicate their learning expectations for students to parents.</strong></td>
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The Merrimack School Board approved the revised School District’s Logic Model in October 2015. This planning tool was developed by the district’s Leadership Team and school board members. It defines the district’s priorities for a five year period. (see page 3) The document identifies goals, objectives and strategies to meet desired outcomes for students. An expectation is that students will demonstrate growth in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies achievement. It is also important for students to acquire and apply their technology skills. Working in conjunction with parents, educators will strive to have students become self-directed and life-long learners.

Derived from the Logic Model was the need to form a District Communication Committee. Comprised of multiple stake holders including parents, educators, administrators and school board members, the committee has focused its efforts on what information needs to be shared with parents and the community-at-large and the best methods to convey the information. The committee under the direction of Nancy Rose, Director of Technology and Library Media Services is also reviewing transitions students make from one school to another with the goal of streamlining the process.

Another effort that emanated from sessions held to redevelop the Logic Model was the formulation of the District Mental Health Committee. Julie DeLuca and John Fabrizio, co-chairs of the committee along with educators from the six schools created a multi-year plan to devise a system of care and supports to address the social emotional needs of students.

In addition to the development of two district committees, the school district moved forward with other efforts. The new Educator Evaluation Model was fully implemented. Highlights of the model include increased number of observations for all professional staff and the development of a rubric that specifies four levels of performance and the expectations for each level.

A number of educators have been involved in curriculum work. After two years of targeted professional development focused on math content standards and math pedagogy, the Merrimack School District initiated a preschool through grade twelve district curriculum team charged with researching and developing a revised curriculum based on contemporary standards and knowledge of best practices. The team also began research into potential programs that might be considered to support the developing curriculum.

The district K-12 science committee continued its curriculum development work, focusing on the development of four instructional strands in support of science content standards. Newly developed science curriculum strands were then field tested in all district classrooms and teachers were asked to address areas of strength and concern. The results were communicated to the committee who responded to feedback through curriculum modifications.

The district physical education/health curriculum committee continued its curriculum development work, focusing on the integration of life long health and wellness content standards taught in the context of instructional units applied in all grade levels.

Merrimack High School continued the development of interdisciplinary courses across all departments. High school educators and administrators also began work on the development of an innovative program of collaboration between special educators and regular educators in support of all freshmen. This effort, coupled with the refinement of the Springboard to Success program, which supports the transition of eighth graders to the high school highlights a significant shift in the level of support offered to all incoming freshmen.

Another area to highlight is the recognition Thorntons Ferry Elementary School received at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The school was declared NH’s Elementary School of the Year by the NH “Edies” Award Committee. I commend the students, staff, parents and administrators for this achievement. The arduous process included a formal application, a presentation before the Awards Committee and an onsite review. Thorntons Ferry Elementary School was officially recognized at a festive ceremony in June.

A strength of the school district is the educators who have elected to spend all or a major portion of their careers in Merrimack. They have been, first and foremost, committed to their students. They have also been huge contributors to their respective schools and the district. At the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, thirteen educators who had amassed a significant number of years of service decided to retire. A debt of gratitude is extended to the following retirees: Joanne Green, Janet Hitchcock, Suzanne Wheeler and Tracy Wyman from James Mastrocola Elementary School; Dianne Macon from Reeds Ferry Elementary School; Robert Evon and Christine Nawrocki from Merrimack Middle School; Judith Brown, Virginia Crook, Lisa Leonard, Barbara Steckevicz and JoAnn Wegman from Merrimack High School and Sherry Goldberg from District Special Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie C. Chiafery
The Merrimack School District (MSD) Department of Special Services received its Annual Performance Report (APR) for the 2014-2015 academic year. The APR, and its dissemination to the public, is a requirement of the Federal Government.

**Indicator 1** measured the percent of youth with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) graduating from high school with a regular diploma. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of MSD students with disabilities graduated with a regular diploma/seventy-two percent (72%) statewide.

**Indicator 2** measured the percent of youth with IEPs dropping out of school. Approximately one percent (1%) of MSD students with disabilities dropped out/one percent (1%) statewide.

**Indicator 3** measured participation and performance of students with disabilities on statewide assessments. Ninety-three percent (93%) of MSD students participated in statewide assessments/ninety-one percent (91%) statewide. Nineteen percent (19%) of students were proficient on statewide assessments/ninety-one percent (91%) statewide. Thirteen percent (13%) of students with disabilities were proficient on statewide assessments/ninety-one percent (91%) statewide.

**Indicator 4** determined that the MSD did not have a significant discrepancy in race or ethnicity in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities compared to all students. It also determined that the MSD did not have a significant discrepancy in race or ethnicity in the rate of suspensions for greater than ten days for students with IEPs.

**Indicator 5** measured the percent of students with disabilities aged six (6) through twenty-one (21) placed in different educational environments. Approximately seventy percent (70%) of MSD students were inside the regular class/eighty percent (80%) or more of the day/seventy-two percent (72%) statewide. Six percent (6%) of MSD students were inside the regular class less than forty percent (40%) of the day/eight percent (8%) statewide. Four percent (4%) of MSD students with disabilities were served in public or private separate schools, residential placements, or homebound or hospital placements/three percent (3%) statewide.

**Indicator 6** measured the percent of children aged three through five with IEPs that attend a regular early childhood program and are receiving the majority of the special education services in the regular early childhood program. Seventy-three percent (73%) of MSD preschool students were inside the regular class/fifty-six percent (56%) statewide. Three percent (3%) of MSD district preschool students were in a separate special education class, school or residential facility/sixteen percent (16%) statewide.

**Indicator 7** measured the progress of preschoolers with disabilities who entered the preschool performing below age expectations and showed significant progress when they exited the program in the areas of social and emotional skills (90% Merrimack, 82% statewide), early language (83% Merrimack, 82% statewide), and use of appropriate behaviors (94% Merrimack, 81% statewide).

**Indicator 8** measured the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who reported that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services. Thirty-six percent (36%) reported that MSD schools facilitated parent involvement/thirty-five percent (35%) statewide.

**Indicator 9** determined that the MSD did not have disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in MSD special education programs.

**Indicator 10** determined that the MSD did not have disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories that are the result of inappropriate identification.

**Indicator 11** measured the percent of children who were evaluated and eligibility determined within sixty (60) days. One hundred percent (100%) of MSD students were evaluated within sixty (60) days/ninety-six percent (96%) statewide.

**Indicator 12** measured the percent of children referred by early intervention services prior to age three (3) who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays. One hundred percent (100%) of MSD preschool students with disabilities had an IEP in place/ninety-seven percent (97%) statewide.

**Indicator 13** measured the percent of students with IEPs aged sixteen and above with appropriate post-secondary goals and transition services. Seventy percent (70%) of MSD students over sixteen had appropriate transition plans/fifty-five percent (55%) statewide.

**Indicator 14** measured the percent of youth with disabilities who were enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school. Fifty percent (50%) of Merrimack students enrolled in higher education/thirty-nine percent (39%) statewide. Ninety percent (90%) of Merrimack students were enrolled in higher education or competitively employed/sixty-seven percent (67%) statewide.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Fabrizio
Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services supports the teaching and learning goals of the district. To this end, aided by the Technology Capital Improvement Plan, four carts of laptops were added to the Merrimack High School technology infrastructure. These carts reside in the Social Studies and English departments where they are used daily as part of instruction. They have been particularly helpful with the new interdisciplinary courses. In addition to laptop carts, the technology and library programs have worked to ensure access to classroom technology, such as document cameras and interactive devices. This year also saw a marked increase of use of the Microsoft 365 environment, which includes file storage and use of online Microsoft Office applications. This program allows users to install Office on their home devices, which supports teaching and learning beyond the school day and building.

Inquiry was the focus of the professional development program offered just prior to the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Inquiry, the asking of questions, and investigation are at the heart of the Merrimack School District’s Library Program’s mission. This theme of inquiry was explored by teachers and learners throughout the year and provided interesting opportunities to use information and technology in all settings. Students explored space, learned about migration, studied the intersection of literature and true events, and so much more. It all starts with “I wonder” questions, followed by the skills to effectively explore, learn and apply new learning.

The Thornton’s Ferry School library was renovated in the summer of 2015 in a continuing partnership with the Merrimack Town Trustees. The District provided new carpet and paint, and the Trustees generously provided funds for updated and better-suited furniture and technology. The library renovation projects rejuvenate the heart of the school and create a space designed for the students they serve. They are welcoming, flexible, information and technology-rich learning spaces that serve the entire school community.

In June 2016 we congratulated Tracy Wyman, librarian at Mastricola Elementary School, as she retired following thirty years of service. Tracy’s contribution to MES and the District Library Program are immeasurable. In July 2015 we welcomed Lisa Ziebell, a Merrimack High School alumna, to fill the new district technician position. She provides technology support service to the elementary schools. Lisa provides a much-needed resource in an area of growing demand.

The technology and library services department continues to evolve and grow to meet the ever-changing landscape of education.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rose
In the 2015-2016 school year, James Mastricola Elementary School sustained the district’s focus to create an environment of inquisitive learning. We began by asking ourselves about our hopes for our students and staff during the coming school year. What do you want your mark to be? was adopted as the critical question that challenged the JMES community to think of ways that we could make a positive mark for ourselves, our school, and our community.

The educators encouraged their students to make their mark by questioning “why”, when making connections in their daily learning. Teachers embraced the philosophy of STEAM education. STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. Students participated in learning opportunities integrating these areas. Examples of this included: coding, bridge designs, collaborative problem solving, and creating their own musical pieces.

In addition, students visited the New Hampshire State House, the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum, Parker’s Maple Barn, Brookdale Apple Orchard and a number of other field trip destinations designed to enhance the science and social studies curriculum. On-site experiences such as visits from a dog sled musher, baby ducklings and a presentation by a student about Native American regalia and dance were just some of the additional ways students connected their learning with the community.

Teachers at MES continued to meet regularly in their Professional Learning Teams to share data and to design instruction best suited for all students. The STAR assessment was utilized in both reading and math to track progress and to provide insight into the planning of instruction. The JMES Responds Team, a team committed to the implementation of Response to Instruction, continued to meet regularly to examine data and best practices for instruction.

The 2015-2016 school year brought continued opportunities to partner with Merrimack High School. Students from the high school’s Childhood Studies class interned weekly throughout the first semester. A high school senior, under the supervision of an MHS science teacher, designed and implemented grade-level science experiences throughout the first semester, as well. Through this partnership, MES students hatched frog eggs, explored the solar system from a hand-made planetarium, among a number of other activities! The MES tradition of Baseball Day was enhanced by the addition of the MHS Softball Team. Several other traditions, such as the Teddy Bear Picnic and the MHS Science Fair, were experienced by JMES students.

The JMES Parents and Teachers Together (PATT) raised funds in support of technology in the classrooms to purchase twenty-five iPads and cases. The PATT also sponsored the Artist in Residence Program (Drums Alive), Visiting Author (Jarrett Krosoczka), Discovery Museum Traveling Science Program, TIGER Theater and the first collaborative Merrimack Elementary School Color Run!

The JMES Community made its mark on our school by offering a number of extra-curricular activities during the year. The Chorus and Bells Ensemble performed concerts and over 1,000 pieces of art were displayed at our annual art show. The fourth graders performed Camp MES, showcasing a variety of fun songs and skits. Many of our fourth graders participated in the Battle of the Books, a monthly book club where fourth graders read novels over the course of the school year and then conclude the program with a final battle/competition. Our JMES Student Council organized Spirit Days, ran the school store, sponsored a Student Appreciation Week, and raised and lowered the flag daily.

Much was accomplished at James Mastricola Elementary School this year and the students, staff and parents did indeed make their mark on our community!

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie D. Carter
Reeds Ferry School had a very busy year during the 2015-2016 school year!

**Professional Development:** The staff began the school year with a week of frontloaded professional development (PD) days. The focus was on ‘inquiry’, ‘mindsets’ and technology integration. The themes of such were carried throughout the year, with various Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities. We are fortunate to have staff who are so open to new learning, and, who have ‘open mindsets’, allowing for the cultivation of reformed instructional approaches and practices that reflect the needs of our current and future students. If one were to have visited Reeds Ferry School, one would see students engaged in inquiry tasks, performance tasks, and active problem solving. As we move forward with this initiative, we, as educators, learn so much ourselves!

**The Arts:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and the Arts: Often noted in the field is the absence of ‘the Arts’ in STEM; many educators prefer the insertion of an ‘A’ and reference the initiative as STEAM. Here at Reeds Ferry School, we fully advocate for art and music integration into core instruction, in concert with technology. To this end, we were so pleased to celebrate our art teacher, Mary Beth Donovan-Olson, as the nominated and designated New Hampshire Art Educator of the year. She was recognized at the National Arts Conference in Chicago, as well as at the NH EDies.

The Arts were further enhanced by our new music teacher, Miss Emily Isaac. Parents and community delighted in seeing the students perform in various musicals. Fourth grade students visited the Currier Museum – a partnership in education that is greatly valued. Further arts enrichment occurred in the collaboration with Artist-in-Residence Lizz Van Saun, who taught the fourth graders about designing mosaics. Every student took part in cutting glass and creating a beautiful mosaic that is now placed in our front lobby. What a legacy project for our fourth graders!

**Curriculum and Instruction:** The Merrimack School District’s Logic Model continues to identify priorities in the areas of literacy, numeracy, technology, and school climate. In the area of literacy, students throughout grades Pre-K through fourth experience core instruction that is inclusive of reading, writing and word work. Likewise, a core block of uninterrupted time is dedicated to math instruction, using EveryDay Mathematics and Guided Math Centers. Many of the Reeds Ferry School professional staff participated in a book study, using the text *Guided Math in Action and Strategies for Common Core Mathematics* in order to further enhance instructional techniques.

Our Language Arts Coordinator Dianne Macon, greatly influenced the ongoing refinements in literacy instruction for the past 26 years. In June of 2016, she was honored with a Reeds Ferry School retirement party. We thank her for all the many ways she supported literacy instruction, and, for the many students she has helped to reach their reading and writing learning goals.

In support of Responsive Classroom, our school counselor, Kathleen Hoppa, and behavior specialist, Karen Astell, continued to promote the tenets of respect, responsibility and caring through many programs focused on giving to others. They worked closely with the fourth grade student council to reach out to the community. One particular highlight was the teaming up with Dr. Audrey Herod, DMD to collect over 200 pounds of Halloween candy to send overseas to our troops!

We continued to hold monthly ‘Town Meetings’ where students’ accomplishments are highlighted, as well as classroom projects. This year, our student council members took over MC’ing the meetings. It is wonderful to step aside and allow our young students to take on such big leadership roles and responsibilities.

**Community Partnerships:** Thank you to Merrimack student, Connor McBride, class of 2016 for choosing Reeds Ferry School for his Eagle Scout Project. Throughout the summer of 2015, he worked with a crew of others to build and install two picnic tables in our Nature Trail. The area is peaceful place to walk and rest, as well as serving as an ‘outdoor classroom’.

We value the many ways that the Merrimack Police Department and Fire Department avail themselves to us, through services such as reading to students, being present for opening day of school, educating our students about civic duty, and, rolling up their sleeves for our end of the Family Fun Night and Fun Day!

Should you be on our facility, please note that there is a new tree planted on the South Playground. Thank you to parent Jim Tatum, from Bartlett Tree Company, for planting the tree at the school with a class of kindergarten students.

There are many things to be excited about relative to a full year of growing, exploring, experiencing and learning throughout the 2015-2016 school year at Reeds Ferry School!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Yarlott
What is the sum of 470 + 90 + 5? Most would correctly say “565”, but in the 2015-2016 school year, we at Thorntons Ferry answered with a resounding “1”. Approximately 470 students and families, 90 TFS staff members and 5 district school partners equals Thorntons Ferry School (TFS) as #1 Elementary School in the state of New Hampshire. We are humbled and honored to have been awarded the NH Excellence in Education Award (EDies) Elementary School of the Year for 2016.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the Merrimack Library Trustees for their investment in our future through our newly revamped Thorntons Ferry Library. Our library is the hub for student learning, research and technology-led projects. Complete with new furnishings, new technology, new carpet and new paint, our Thorntons Ferry Library truly represents a space for 21st century learning and collaboration.

At TFS, we continue our deliberate and purposeful commitment to providing students with meaningful and authentic learning experiences serving to prepare them for college and career readiness. Community Council, TFS Student Ambassadors, and other students further honed their leadership skills by directing tours, student presentations to families and visitors, creating inspiring illustrations and quotes for our school building and running and directing school-wide assemblies and celebrations. Academically, we focused on student learning and growth through the collaborative development of a master schedule that is organized around what is best for kids.

We established “what I need times” for students who need additional intervention and/or enrichment opportunities, Embedded Professional Development for educators to study and research the latest in instructional strategies and learning skills and the new wonder workshop for our first graders where the students were involved in student-led inquiry activities facilitated by our specialists. In the social/emotional domains, we extended our Second Step Social and Emotional Learning pilot to broader implementation supporting our students in kindergarten and second grade classrooms. In addition to the addition of Embedded Professional Development for the staff, staff participated in the new “flipped” instruction staff meeting model that takes the lecture out of the staff meeting and replaces it with in-depth staff discussions and activities focused on student learning and development. Our flipped staff meetings entailed new learning on creativity, inquiry, social and emotional learning and difficult conversations.

Finally, our students sang their way into the hearts of our TFS school community through participation in the annual Merrimack School District’s Celebration of Song and the annual TFS chorus concerts for 3rd and for 4th grades. Amongst the memorable songs performed by our students was Philip Philips’ song, “Home”. It is in the lyrics and in the voices of our students, where we find the very reason why Thorntons Ferry School was awarded the 2016 NH School of Excellence Elementary School of the Year. Our students sang, “Hold on to me as we go (teamwork, caring), As we roll down this unfamiliar road (exploring and failing forward), and although this wave, wave is stringing us along (perseverance and courage), just know you’re not alone (helping, support and safety) “cause I’m going to make this place (TFS) your home”.

We thank the families of Thorntons Ferry for entrusting us with your children and helping make our school community a place that really does feel like home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bridey Bellemare
In 2015-2016, the JMUES community worked with artist-in-residence Joshua Winer on the final phase of our school-wide mosaic project. The mosaic was designed, created, and then installed in the entrance way of our school. Our students worked on the design and clay phase of this project during the 2014-2015 school year. Then, in December of 2015, all fifth and sixth graders worked with Mr. Winer, during their art classes, to create the actual mosaic by cutting and positioning glass tiles. Students learned how to use different tools, materials, and techniques to cut glass and, piece by piece, the large scale mosaic came to life.

In addition to time in art class, we had staff workshops, parent/student workshops, and invited alumni to work on the mosaic in afterschool workshops. It took two solid weeks with over 650 people working to cut and place the tiles. The mosaic itself was then installed in early 2016 and we continued to work on the ceramic leaf and paw portion throughout the spring. This was an inspiring community event. The art itself will serve as a symbol of community for our school for many years to come.

As we strive to meet the learning needs of all students, we continued to schedule Tiered Instructional Activities (TIA) three mornings a week to differentiate learning in reading. TIA provided an opportunity for each student to participate in small group or whole group instruction. During small group instruction, students benefited from differentiated guided reading instruction to target individualized learning goals. In the whole group setting, students engaged in independent reading with conferring to practice, apply, and extend the literacy skills they learned during classroom instruction. Additionally, the Words Their Way developmental spelling, phonics, and vocabulary program was implemented to offer a student-centered approach to teach word acquisition.

During “Power Half Hour” at the end of each day, students were offered small group and whole group instruction to differentiate learning in the area of mathematics. Students were provided with multiple opportunities to work through real world problems. They were encouraged to collaborate with peers to discuss, solve and write about their math work. Math fact fluency was also emphasized to help students become more automatic with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.

Our continued partnership with the Merrimack High School Athletics Department helped upper elementary students learn about sportsmanship first hand. In late October, members of the high school football team and their coaches spoke to students at JMUES about appropriate play at recess. Students even had an opportunity to play football with high school players. In addition, as part of this year's Project Safeguard Program, members of the girls' basketball team, the wrestling team, the lacrosse team and their coaches spoke with students about the role of good sportsmanship and school success.

JMUES students continued to benefit from our school's community partners. Through the Merrimack Police Department and Officer Kelleher, our fifth grade students participated in the PACT (Police and Children Together) Program to learn about making good choices and not giving in to peer pressure. This program culminates with a basketball game between the JMUES Staff and the Merrimack Police. In addition, JMUES hosted the yearly Fire Muster in March, sponsored by the Merrimack Fire Department. Teams from each of the four elementary schools in town competed in a series of fire safety activities.

“Every day is a fine for learning at the Upper Elementary School,” as a result of the hard work from our students, staff, parents, and community supporters.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McGill
Merrimack Middle School educators were introduced to Microsoft Office 365. This tool provides a number of different ways to support student learning as well as ease of access of materials for staff utilizing the “cloud.” Leveraging Office 365 another tool was introduced that provided a different data point related to students and their learning. This allowed staff to explore how students performed on a variety of assessments to help provide background information related to the students’ level of understanding. As part of this tool, students at MMS began participating in the STAR 360 Math and Reading assessment tool. The math assessment moved from the piloting stage in 14-15 to full implementation in 15-16 while the English Language Arts component was piloted during the 15-16 school year.

Merrimack Middle School educators also continued their work as it relates to the SCALES (Strategies for Collaboration and Learning Essential Standards) and the RtI initiative. Staff worked to gain a more formal understanding of the RtI philosophy and refine understandings related to data based decision making. SCALES teams worked to refine various assessments that included common summative assessments, common formative assessments, and reviewed the College and Career Readiness Standards as they apply to the various units within the curriculum.

Merrimack Middle School students competed on a variety of different fronts during the 15-16 school year. Some of these activities were supported by students from Merrimack High School whose objective was to provide opportunities for MMS students to engage in activities earlier than in their high school experience. Thanks to the efforts of Jack Landry and Matt Spettel, our students had the opportunity to participate in the New Hampshire Quiz Bowl, First Lego League, and STEM Club.

The Merrimack Middle School Quiz Bowl team participated in the state JV Quiz Bowl Tournament at John Stark Regional High School for the first time. Our team took second in this high school level tournament. Michael Lyna won the annual Geography Bee and Gauri Menon won the annual Watkins Spelling contest. Both of these students represented Merrimack Middle School at the state level competition.

Eleven Merrimack Middle School students were selected by the New Hampshire Band Directors Association to participate in the Middle Level Honors Band. These eleven students were selected from a pool comprised of 42 other schools and 282 applicants within the state of New Hampshire.

The Merrimack Middle School athletic programs had another successful year. The girls’ soccer, field hockey, and boys 8th grade basketball teams all finished the season in second place of the tri-county league. The 7th grade girls’ basketball team finished as champions of the tri-county league and the Spirit Team came in 2nd at the New Hampshire state level competition. Wrestler Aiden Hanning competed and earned the title of state champion in his weight class.

Merrimack Middle School students also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of afterschool experiences. During the winter, students had the opportunity to participate in the annual school musical Sasquatched. Students then had the opportunity to participate in the spring play Elephant Graveyard. Both performances were a culmination of hard work and dedication of students and staff as well as the continuous support of parents/guardians, a true community effort!

Students also had the opportunity to reach out to the community and beyond to provide support and care for those who are less fortunate. The Merrimack Middle School Student Council organized the annual Giving Tree effort to provide gifts for the local families during the holiday season while the Sew Good Sewing Club transformed pillow cases into dresses for orphans in Africa.

Through the many efforts of the Merrimack Middle School PTG and its numerous volunteers, the school received the New Hampshire Partners in Education (NHPIE) Blue Ribbon Award.

We continue to benefit from the Federal Drug Free Communities Program grant which assists with the support of a School Resource Officer/Juvenile Officer at Merrimack Middle School. During the eight years of this program, over 2000 students have been provided continuing education about drug and alcohol use as well as a powerful support and ally through this very critical age.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Caragher
Significant changes in the curriculum, including additional Advanced Placement and new interdisciplinary courses, were introduced and Merrimack High School (MHS) won its third National AP Honors Award in four years! In addition, the Comprehensive Level and Summer Institute initiatives were launched simultaneously. And, over 300 seniors sporting their Merrimack Cares/ Merrimack Gives Back shirts engaged in community service projects in the spring. The program continued to expand beyond the district, state, and country. Meanwhile, MHS hosted its sixth Challenge Day series - a nationwide program that addresses bullying and harassment, focuses on good decision-making and positive culture building.

Notably, the daily attendance rate hovered at about 96% and, of the 300 seniors who graduated, 82% continued their education after high school with 60% attending a four year college, 22% enrolling in a two-year college or seeking other post-secondary education, 10% going directly to careers, and 3% joining the military, leaving 5% undecided.

MHS students excelled academically. One hundred-twenty-nine (129) students took 273 AP exams in 20 subjects. Eight-five percent (85%) of the exams received a score of 3 or higher. Twenty-two (22) students received the President’s Award for Educational Excellence.

One hundred one scholarships were awarded to MHS students on Awards Night totaling $91,900.00. The National Honor Society, led by advisors Bill Maniotis and Jan Moynihan-Cooney, inducted 41 students who continued the tradition of volunteerism by engaging in several community service functions: the Teddy Bear Picnic for first graders, the senior citizens Holiday Dinner, a blood drive, and the Lazarus House Hike for Hope.

The Science Olympiad competed on the national level for the 8th consecutive year; the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics team competed at the Verizon Center, at regionals, and in national competition.

Students also earned honors in the performing arts. Nineteen students represented MHS at the NH All-State Jazz Festival, nineteen participated in the All-State Chorus, Band & Orchestra, while the Concert band received an “A” rating at the All-State Large Group Festival.

The MHS Theatre Department took students to the New Hampshire Educational Theatre Guild (NHETG) Theatre Workshops in October, performed Our Town in November, and, You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown in the late spring. In January, the theater group presented a Night of One Acts including, The Actor’s Nightmare, Words, Words, Words, and The Lottery —each student directed. MHS Theatre Department students were also asked to perform Locked In at the NH State Festival. The Artist-in-Residence, Carolyn Rordam, continued the stained glass project. Gifted and Talented students launched the Winter Olympics Festival and engaged in traditional activities including the Students Helping Students Tutoring program, Destination Imagination, Granite State Challenge, the Rotary Speech & Voice of Democracy contests, and International Week.

Several athletic teams engaged in social awareness projects as well. Moreover, SADD presented an anti-drinking and driving program with the cooperation of the State Liquor Commission’s Office, and sponsored Red Ribbon week discouraging teen drug use.

In New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) competition, hundreds of boys and girls participated on one of MHS 50 teams and several school records were smashed. The returning state champion girls volleyball team made it back to the semi-finals, while the boys basketball team lost a closely contested championship game. The ice hockey team also made it to the semi-finals while Ryan Downie & Kyle Feeney won first team all-state honors. Senior Jo Coffey was selected as the NH Gatorade Player of the Year for Volleyball and set a new state record for assists garnering her a first team, all-state honor! Coaches Ryan Farnsworth (Boys Soccer), and Matt Davis (Hockey) were also voted as coaches of the year. Twenty-five (25) student-athletes were recognized as scholar-athletes at the state level by the NHIAA. Thirty of our student-athletes won state honors, and, several student-athletes attended the Life of an Athlete conference in Concord this past winter.

True to tradition, MHS was chosen as a Blue Ribbon recipient for its volunteerism and as a Gold Circle school for its many business partnerships. Gifted & Talented teacher Linda Mandra received the No Bell Prize, which included a $6,000 cash award. Veteran teachers Virginia Crook, Judith Brown, Lisa Leonard, Barbara Steckevicz, and para-educators Kim Woods, Donna Hansen, and Paul Faford retired. The year ended with an impressive and respectful commencement ceremony; Mr. Johnson dedicated the ceremony to fallen police officer and Merrimack graduate, Ashley Guindon. He also delivered the traditional keynote address to the theme “Rise Up,” while valedictorian Matthew Spettel, salutatorian Emily Duval, as well as class president, Meghan Murphy along with advisors Pam Foster and Cassie Soulios chose “Go Big or Go Home” as the class theme.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth W. Johnson
MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL 2016 GRADUATES

◊† Annaliese M. Aarthun
   Alexander Joseph Ackerman
   Ryan J. Alberts
◊ Nathaniel J. Anderson
◊† Samantha W. Anderson
   Stephanie M. Aubin
   Maleena L. Aubut
◊ Noah L. Avery
   Andrew J. Azorian
   Brandon Christopher Bachand
   Cody Steven Bachand
†• Owen P. Bailey
†• Shravani Balaji
   Victor Balorce
◊ Alexei Baranov
◊ Vitali Baranov
   Katrina Y. Bardroff
   Nevyn M. Barry
   Allison M. Batchelder
◊ Emily A. Beard
◊† Alivia J. Beeten
   Kurtis J. Beeten
   Noah R. Belanger
   Cameron R. Bellerose
   Connor J. Bergin
†• Noah Michael Beygelman
   Francesca M. Bibeault
   Olivia M. Biron
   Deus M. Boerner
   Kathryn M. Boilard
   Cameron D. Bolling
◊ John P. Bory
◊ Austin D. Brancheau
◊ Logan A. Bранcheau
   Skylar Griffin Brenton
◊ Tyler A. Brewster
◊ Jourden N. Briggs
   Kathryn L. Brooks
   Jesse M. Butler
† Devyn T. Cady
   Daniel J. Card
◊ Joshua M. Caron
◊ Darwin J. Carozza
   Corey J. Chamberland
   Jacob D. Chambers
† Morgan K. Chantler
   Bryan Jonathan Charland
   Elvis Chimunya
†• Samuel C. Cho
†• Amanda Catherine Clark
   David W. Clark
   Riley R. Clark
   Connor D. Cloutier
   Aviana Coco
   Joanne S. Coffey
   Cameron A. Collins
   Shaun M. Collupy
   Kyle D. Cormier
   Sean J. Courtmanche
   William Gregory Couser
   Matthew S. Critz
   Alyssa L. Crow
   Aliza A. Cummings
   Stephanie A. Cunnington
   Victoria M. Currie
   Connor J. Cyr
   Abigail S. D'Agostino
   Katherine I. Daneau
   Victoria A. DeBenedictis
   Bianca A. DeLaMota
   Jacob C. Denver
   Mattea L. Deschene
   Isabella M. DeSimone
   Neel Dhanaraj
   Elizabeth A. DiLorenzo
   Jacinda Z. Dizzazo
   Colleen M. Dow
   Ryan D. Downie
   Spencer N. Dreikosen
   Lauren E. DuBois
   Kristi L. Dudash
   Michael J. Dudash
   Emily M. Duval
   Callie A. Dwyer
   Kathleen Nicole Elias
   Kaylee C. Eno
   Kelly E. Eno
   Julianne R. Epstein
   Austin Frederick Fall
   Hayden E. Faust
   Christopher D. Favata
   Kyle S. Feeney
   Brenna K. Field
   Ian W. Finken
   Kathryn D. Flynn
   Tyler R. Ford
   Kayla M. Franklin
   Jarron Duncan Gage
   Courtney N. Gain
   Nikiforos V. Gakis
   Christopher D. Gargone
   Cassidy J. Gaudes
   Tia Ashley Gaumont
   John P.A. Gendron
   Lauren K. Gerhard
   Zachary Noah Germano
   Nyasia Gettler
   Jake R. Giannelli
   Kathryn E. Gifford
   Brennen P. Gillis
   Kyle P. Girouard
   Melanie M. Glick
   Kevin Peter Glisson
   Adam C. Goodspeed
   Kalia Maria Gorman
   Zoe L. Goulet
   Nicholas Joseph Grinley
   Gregory Richman Guilmette
†• Jackson York Gutekunst
◊ Alicia K. Guzman
   Sarah V. Haggerty
◊ Sarah R. Hamlin
   Tyler J. Hansen
◊ Ethan B. Harrington
   Megan A. Harris
   Chelsey J. Haughey
†• Ingrid G. Havron
◊ Ashley Nicole Hayes-Hunsicker
   Scott M. Haynes
   Shane A. Heath
◊ Sean Hebert
◊ Kaitlyn G. Heidbreder
◊ Bryson D. Herring
†• Emily G. Hodgkins
   Alexi M. Hogan
   Trey Eugene Holmes
†• Sarah J. House
†• Jessica Hartman Humphrey
   Daniel D. Jagjit
   Brandon E. Jeglinski
◊ Taylor A. Jewett
◊ Sarah E. Johnson
   Nicholas C. Jones
†• Sarah A. Jones
   Cassandra Maria Jorge
◊ Bailey P. Joseph
◊ Sabrina N. Jawders
   John C. Karch
   Andrea Christina Katsioulis
◊ Abigail K. Kautz
   Matthew J. Keeler
New Hampshire Scholar
† National Honor Society
* Top 15%

†• Kelsey N. Kerouac
† Zachary A. Kerr
♦ Emma E. Klapka
† Sree Harshith Kolli
♦ Mia F. Laberge
• Amanda H. Lacefield
Tyler J. Lachance
Joshua B. LaCroix
†• Alexa T. Ladue
Taylor Rene Lamoreaux
Christopher Lamoureaux
Benjamin D. Landry
†• Jack R. Landry
Tianna Patriot Landry
†• Erica Jean Lane
Kyle Lange
♦ Eric Lapointe
Matthew S. Larson
♦ Jundee Fermilan Lawrence
Jacob J. Lemay
Molly Ann. Lenart
†• Melissa E. Lezama
♦ Cameron A. Liddell
♦ Erika S. Lillis
Faithferleen Lomwe
♦ Jessie A. Londono
Allison C. Lowry
Celia Anne Lucci
Tucker C. Lucier
♦ Sean M. Lyons
♦ Andrew Edward MacEachern
†• Mikayla R. MacIntyre
Sophia Claire Magarrell
Nathan J. Maille
Emily Rose Major
♦ Jacob Christopher Marcus
♦ Sara E. Mason
Connor H. McBride
♦ Courtney M. McCarthy
♦ Jessica Nicole McElwain
♦ Lucas P. McGrath
†• Mitchell A. McMahon
Kaitlin S. McManus
†• Jordan R. Meaney
♦ Shannon R. Meighan
♦ Jordy Mejia
♦ Jessica R. Merchant
♦ Thomas J. Monahan
Brandon M. Moquin
♦ Craig D. Mulligan
♦ Alexander M. Murphy
†• Megan G. Murphy
♦ Ashley E. Murray
♦ Riley W. Murray
†• Shaelagh M. Nelson
♦ Kyle D. Newman
♦ Tighe G. Nichols
♦ Dena T. Noisieux
♦ Addison T. Nozell
Michael F. O’Hara
♦ Toni M. O’Keefe
Kayleigh N. O’Neil
♦ Alejandro Ocampo
Sarah K. Oswald
♦ Jarrod R. Ottman
Danielle N. Ouellette
Benjamin D. Parent
♦ Ashley M. Partin
Brandon M. Pater
♦ Kaitlin A. Perkins
Olivia Christine Pettersson
♦ Jocelyn F. Phillips
♦ Morgan P. Phillips
♦ Jesse James Pickett
Skylah R. Pinet
♦ Keegan R. Porter
Benjamin Leighton Reams
♦ Cassandra L. Redfern
Jesse O. Regnier
♦ Aidan S. Reynolds
Destiny O. Rich
♦ Evan J. Ringle
♦ Andrea C. Rivera
Ian Kimball Roberts
Felicia Mae. Robinson
Brendan S. Rodi
♦ Meryl A. Rogers
Alexis M. Rondeau
♦ Kabrina L. Roy
Carlos Andres Ruiz
Brian J. Russell
Dominic V. Russo
♦ Christina M. Ryan
William D. Ryan
Seda Sailor Sam-sok
Valarie Lynne Schaffer
♦ Zoey Alexandra Schilling
Collin M. Schofield
Chad G. Seaver
Jared T. Serrentino
Hannah V. Shallah
Catherine E. Sillich
Peter J. Sillich
Sarena Darell Silvia
Ryan M. Slate
♦ Kiara M. Slide
Alden B. Somerville
Benjamin R. Soucy
Gage Michael Sousa
♦• Matthew T. Spettel
♦ Anthony M. St Lawrence
♦• Derek E. Staradub
♦• John M. Steines
♦• Pheonyx J. Stoppyra
Olivia C. Streeper
♦ Eve M. Sudol
William M. Summers
Taryn E. Sunstrom
Colin A. Surtees
Jacob R. Swafford
♦ Chase C. Sweeney
♦• Katherine A. Swonger
Aaron M. Thompson
Justin S. Thompson
♦• Rebecca L. Tobey
♦• Kaylyn Torrens
♦• Emily E. Torres
Jessica E. Tracey
Owen L. Tracey
Kyle Cecil Trask
♦• Andrew Trimmer
♦ Aaron J. Tupper
♦ Kayla E. Valluzzi
Connor W. Vance
♦• Sierra S. Walters
♦• Caitlin T. Watkins
Tearyn Makayela-Raine Vargas
Keara L. Venne
Robert A. Verdon
Gregory B. Walters
♦• Jeremy Lee Wedig
♦• Brian L. Weiner
Paige T. Wells
♦• Sydney R. Wells
♦ Ariel N. Wiegand
Matthew K. Wilder
♦• Andrew J. Wojciak
♦• Casey L. Wright
James A. Yates
♦ Madison A. Young
♦ Savannah L. Zagwyn

♦ New Hampshire Scholar
† National Honor Society
* Top 15%
Members of the Merrimack High School Class of 2016 were accepted at the following institutions of higher learning:

- Adelphi University - NY
- Arizona State University - AZ
- Assumption College - MA
- Becker College - MA
- Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology - MA
- Bentley University - MA
- Borough of Manhattan Community College of the CUNY - NY
- Boston College - MA
- Boston University - MA
- Brigham Young University - UT
- Brigham Young University, Idaho - ID
- Brooklyn College of the CUNY - NY
- Bryant University - RI
- Bunker Hill Community College - MA
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo - CA
- Carnegie Mellon University - PA
- Castleton University - VT
- Central Connecticut State University - CT
- Champlain College - VT
- City College of New York CUNY - NY
- Clark University - MA
- Clarkson University - NY
- Clemson University - SC
- Coastal Carolina University - SC
- Colby-Sawyer College - NH
- College of the Holy Cross - MA
- Columbia College Chicago - IL
- Concord's Community College - NH
- Connecticut College - CT
- Curry College - MA
- Daniel Webster College - NH
- Davidson College - NC
- Dean College - MA
- Drexel University - PA
- Eastern Nazarene College - MA
- Eckerd College - FL
- Elon University - NC
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach - FL
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott - AZ
- Emerson College - MA
- Emmanuel College - MA
- Endicott College - MA
- Fairfield University - CT
- Florida Atlantic University - FL
- Florida Institute of Technology - FL
- Florida International University - FL
- Florida International University - Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management - FL
- Florida State University - FL
- Fordham University - Lincoln Center Campus/Rose Hill Campus - NY
- Franklin Pierce University - NH
- Georgia Institute of Technology - GA
- Gordon College - MA
- Hartwick College - NY
- High Point University - NC
- Hofstra University - NY
- Howard University - DC
- Hunter College of the CUNY - NY
- Ithaca College - NY
- Johnson & Wales University (Providence) - RI
- Johnson State College - VT
- Keene State College - NH
- Keiser University - Flagship Campus - FL
- Kingsborough Community College of the CUNY - NY
- Lakes Region Community College - NH
- Lasell College - MA
- Lesley University - MA
- Lewis & Clark College - OR
- Liberty University - VA
- Lindenwood University - MO
- Lipscomb University - TN
- Lyndon State College - VT
- Lynn University - FL
- Manchester Community College - NH
- Manhattan College - NY
- Marymount Manhattan College - NY
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design - MA
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences - MA
- Merrimack College - MA
- Messiah College - PA
- Miami University, Oxford - OH
- Middlesex Community College - Lowell Campus - MA
- Montana State University, Bozeman - MT
- Mount Ida College - MA
- Nashua Community College - NH
- Nazareth College - NY
- New College of Florida - FL
- New England College - NH
- New England Culinary Institute - VT
- New Hampshire Institute of Art - NH
- New York University - NY
- Newbury College - MA
- Niagara University - NY
- Nichols College - MA
- North Carolina State University - NC
- North Dakota State University - ND
- Northeastern University - MA
- Norwich University - VT
- Ohio State University - OH
- Oklahoma State University - OK
- Pace University, New York City - NY
- Palm Beach Atlantic University - FL
- Pennsylvania State University - All Campuses - PA
- Philadelphia University - PA
- Plymouth State University - NH
- Providence College - RI
- Purdue University - IN
- Queensborough Community College of the CUNY - NY
- Quinnipiac University - CT
- Regis College - MA
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - NY
- Rivier University - NH
- Roberts Wesleyan College - NY
- Rochester Institute of Technology - NY
- Roger Williams University - RI
- Rollins College - FL
- Sacred Heart University - CT
- Saint Anselm College - NH
- Saint Michael's College - VT
- Salve Regina University - RI
Santa Barbara City College - CA
Sarah Lawrence College - NY
Savannah College of Art and Design - GA
School of the Art Institute of Chicago - IL
Seton Hall University - NJ
Simmons College - MA
Southern New Hampshire University - NH
Southern Union State Community College - AL
Springfield College - MA
Stetson University - FL
Stockton University - NJ
Stonehill College - MA
Stony Brook University - NY
Suffolk University - MA
Syracuse University - NY
Temple University - PA
The Catholic University of America - DC
The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina - SC
Thomas College - ME
Tulane University - LA
United States Air Force Academy - CO
United States Naval Academy - MD
Universal Technical Institute - MA
University of Advancing Technology - AZ
University of Akron - OH
University of Alabama - AL
University of Arizona - AZ
University of Bridgeport - CT
University of California, Irvine - CA
University of California, San Diego - CA
University of Central Florida - FL
University of Chicago - IL
University of Connecticut - CT
University of Delaware - DE
University of Hartford - CT
University of Maine - ME
University of Maine at Farmington - ME
University of Maine at Presque Isle - ME
University of Maryland, College Park - MD
University of Massachusetts, Amherst - MA
University of Massachusetts, Lowell - MA
University of Mississippi - MS
University of New England - ME
University of New Hampshire at Durham - NH
University of New Hampshire at Manchester - NH
University of New Haven - CT
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - NC
University of North Carolina at Wilmington - NC
University of Oklahoma - OK
University of Pittsburgh - PA
University of Rhode Island - RI
University of Rochester - NY
University of Scranton - PA
University of South Carolina - SC
University of South Florida, Tampa - FL
University of Southern Maine - ME
University of Tampa - FL
University of Tennessee, Knoxville - TN
University of Texas, Austin - TX
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia - PA
University of Vermont - VT

University of Washington - WA
Utica College - NY
Virginia Military Institute - VA
Virginia Tech - VA
Wagner College - NY
Washington and Lee University - VA
Wentworth Institute of Technology - MA
Western New England University - MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute - MA
Worcester State University - MA
Report to the Citizens of Merrimack

March 2016

The Planning and Building Committee is chartered with providing for long term strategic planning and research for the Merrimack School District. It is the only such committee in the state whose members are elected by the voters.

The committee evaluated several topics during this past year. Among them, we presented an update to the Board regarding the ongoing discussion for replacement of the grass athletic field at the high school with a turf field. Through interviews and information from other districts that have turf fields we submitted a report focused on how other districts have funded this project. We also researched the cost and time required for the maintenance on this type of athletic field.

The ongoing project of a suitable new central office building, the committee considered locating such a building at where presently is the tennis courts on O'Gara Drive. This only became an option now as the Town of Merrimack and the School District agreed on the transfer of such property from the Town to the District in 2018.

The need for athletic fields requires the committee looking at properties owned by the District and looking at how much space is available and any environmental concerns to see if any of them can accommodate new athletic fields on that parcel of land. A report to the Board will be forthcoming this year.

The Planning and Building Committee appreciates your continued support and participation. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Sincerely,

Richard Hendricks, Chair
Gage Perry, Vice-chair
Stan Heinrich
Finlay Rothhaus
Laurie Rothhaus
Sue Sheridan
Merrimack School District  
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
Session 1: Deliberative Session  
March 8, 2016

Present: School Board members Christopher Ortega, Shannon Barnes, Davis Powell, Andy Schneider and Cinda Guagliumi; Superintendent Marjorie Chiafery; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mark McLaughlin; Business Administrator Matthew Shevenell; and Legal Counsel Kathy Peahl.

At 7:00 PM, Moderator Lynn Christensen called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Christensen asked Mr. Ortega to introduce the School Board and other officials on stage. Mrs. Christensen explained the procedures to be followed during the meeting and stated Article 1 was election of officers, which would take place by official ballot on April 12th

Mrs. Christensen called for a motion on Article 2

**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. Christensen recognized Mrs. Barnes who moved Article 2 as written. Second: Mr. Schneider.

Mrs. Barnes spoke to her motion by saying that this article appears on the ballot every year to allow the School Board to accept non-cash gifts given to the District.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

There was none.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 2 moved to the ballot and recognized Mr. Schneider who moved Article 3 as printed. Second: Mr. Powell.

**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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>$750,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$742,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>$764,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and further raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen Dollars ($750,714) 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: 3-1-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 10-0-1).

Mr. Schneider spoke to his motion by saying the article is for approval of a 3 year contract the School Board negotiated with the Teachers Association and includes estimated costs for all three years. He said the contract is an attempt to remain competitive with surrounding communities as well as increase salaries at the masters and masters plus levels. He indicated that the health care contribution remains at 15% of the HMO plan, but the contract now allows the District to offer other health care plans at lower costs. He also said that the District increased the amount offered to staff to “opt-out” of the health care plan from $1,500 to $3,000.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

Michael Thompson (Joppa Road) had several questions about the health care “opt out”: How many staff currently opt out? What does it save? Are there any pre-requirements to opt out? Mr. Schneider replied that 45 teachers currently opt out, there are no requirements to opt out or opt in and the District currently saves about $5,000 for each single employee who opts out – more if the employee is married or on a family plan.

Jack Balcom (Pondview Drive) asked what the average pay increase proposed was. Mr. Schneider replied the salary increase averages 3%. Those at the top of the pay scale will get 2%, those at the bottom of the salary scale will get more and the middle steps are still competitive.

Jody Vaillancourt (Greenleaf Street) asked if there
would be any incentives for members to change health care plans to the new cheaper plans in the second and third years of the contract. She said she wants a year of history to figure out whether this will save the District money. Mr. Powell told her there was interest in new plans during the open enrollment period, but the District could not offer them. Mr. Schneider said that research from other Districts shows that new teachers are more interested in the cheaper “site of service” plans. Mrs. Vaillancourt said that it is possible there will be no savings and she can’t support this contract. Mr. Powell said he understood her concern but he felt there will be people who will switch to cheaper plans and there will be savings.

Tim Tenhave (Amherst Road) asked if the warrant article includes all ancillary cost increases associated with the salary increase, for example: retirement costs. Mr. Shevenell said the increased shown is a fully loaded increase. Mr. Tenhave asked what the School Board is doing to about increased retirement costs. Mr. Powell said that retirement costs are not determined by the School Board but rather the Legislature and the School Board has discussed the issue with the town’s State Representatives. Mr. Tenhave asked if teacher raises were automatic. Mr. Schneider said that all teachers on the same salary step make the same salary and the District has put an evaluation program in place to help determine which teachers are highly effective. This program is the first step toward a pay for performance plan.

There was no further discussion.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 3 moved to the ballot.

Mrs. Christensen recognized Stanley Heinrich (Edgewood Avenue) who made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. Sufficiently seconded.

Mrs. Christensen explained what passage of this motion meant and called for a vote on the motion. Mrs. Christensen declared reconsideration of Article 3 restricted and read Article 4.

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. Christensen recognized Mr. Powell who moved Article 4 as written. Second: Mrs. Guagliumi.

Mr. Powell spoke to his 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 read Article 5.

Article 5 (Special Warrant Article) Shall the District raise and appropriate an amount up to Seventy Five Thousand Dollars ($75,000) or Ten percent (10%) of the unencumbered surplus funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year 2015-2016, whichever amount is less and to transfer that amount to the School District Repair Capital Reserve Fund? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 10-0-1).

Mrs. Christensen recognized Mrs. Guagliumi who moved Article 5 as printed. Second: Mrs. Barnes.

Mrs. Guagliumi spoke to her motion by saying the Repair Capital Reserve Fund was established so the School Board could make unanticipated repairs. She said a majority vote by the School Board is needed before money from this fund can be expended and the fund was recently used to replace the high school bleachers. She indicated the current balance in the fund is $75,000.

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

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 5 moved to the ballot and read Article 6.

Article 6 Shall the District vote, pursuant to RSA 35:9-a, to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to charge any contractual management expenses incurred for the management of any District Capital Reserve funds for which the Trustees have been granted custody pursuant to RSA 35:2 against the capital reserve funds involved, rather than paying such expenses from the District general funds. Such authority shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of the District which shall not occur within five (5) years from the date of this original authorization. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

Mrs. Christensen recognized Trustee of the Trust Funds Chris Christensen who moved Article 6. Second: Mr. Balcom.
Mr. Christensen spoke to his motion by saying that the article formally approves a process the Trustees of the Trust Funds have been using for several years. He said that once this approval is in place, it cannot be rescinded for five years. He said historically the management fees have been addressed, but bank fees were not. He indicated that the bank fees for the School District Trust Funds are approximately $1,700 – $1,800 per year.

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

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 6 moved to the ballot and asked Mr. Heinrich to introduce the Budget Committee.

Mr. Heinrich introduced the members of the Budget Committee and asked the body to recognize Lisa Mooney for 4 years of service and Bill Cummings for 9 years of service on the Budget Committee.

Mr. Heinrich moved Article 7 as printed. Second: Mr. Cummings.

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 $72,283,299? (Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be $71,466,384 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: 10-0-0).

Mr. Heinrich spoke to his motion by indicating the operating budget is up due to a number of necessary capital improvements in the operating budget. He said these items include $3.1 million dollars for replacing the middle school roof, $515,000 for replacing the 40 year old heat exchanger-air ventilation system on the roof of the high school and installing a new track at the high school. He indicated the current track will not be usable after this year’s spring track season. He said the capital items total over $2 million dollars and w/out these items in the budget, the proposed budget is actually less than this year’s operating budget.

Mrs. Christensen called for discussion on the article.

Mr. Tenhave asked what the cost of the new track was. Mr. Shevenell replied $430,000.

Mr. Tenhave asked what happens if the proposed budget fails. Mr. Shevenell said the School Board would have to decide whether to accept the default budget or request a special meeting for a new budget.

Mr. Tenhave asked if there were any items in the proposed budget that would be automatically eliminated in the default. Mr. Shevenell said that all special warrant articles can only be spent on the item of the article but that the School Board could make decisions about how to spend a default budget.

Mr. Tenhave asked why the middle school roof replacement was in the proposed budget and not presented as a warrant article. Mrs. Barnes replied that the roof and the heat exchanger were infrastructure items which she felt properly belonged in the operating budget. She said the Board had not expected to replace the middle school roof for three more years, but it had developed major issues and needed to be replaced now. Mrs. Barnes said replacing the track was a safety issue and if not replaced, it will be closed. As such, she said she was not comfortable putting it in a warrant article.

Mr. Schneider said that all three capital items were critical. He said if any of these items were put on the warrant as articles which failed, the District could not spend funds that might become available to fix them. Mr. Tenhave said that he was disappointed that the Board did not trust the voters to affirm that these items were essential.

Mr. Tenhave asked how much money the School District had returned to the town as surplus from fiscal 2014-15. Mr. Shevenell explained that the School District returned a total surplus of $4.4 million dollars. He said one million dollars was the final payment from the health insurance trust reimbursement.

Mrs. Vaillancourt said that the School Board has a discussion every year about whether certain items should be warrant articles or part of the operating budget. She said she supported the School Board putting capital items in the operating budget. She said if replacing the track does not pass, it is the students who will suffer.

Mr. Thompson asked about the warranty on the roof at the middle school. Mr. Shevenell said that the roof is out of warranty. He said the last two harsh winters caused splits in several unexpected areas of the roof. He said the current roof had a 10 year warranty. He
said the middle school had been a “design/build” project and the roof had been value engineered so the building project would stay under budget. The replacement roof will have a 40 year warranty.

Rosemarie Rung (Ministerial Drive) said she thought replacing the track would have been a great warrant article and she was angry that the voters were being forced to make a decision about the track in the operating budget. She also said that the District’s administrative salaries are among the highest in the region. She asked the School Board for more communication about the administrative salary packages.

Kristen Carrillo (Greatstone Drive) said she was the President of the Merrimack Road Runners Booster Club and she was speaking in support of the track. She said if a new track is not built, the District will have to pay to rent buses to transport track athletes to other places that do have tracks. She said if the District has a track team, it should have a track. She also said the Booster Club uses revenue generated by hosting meets to support the track team.

Sarah House (Marty Drive) spoke in support of a new track.

Ericka Lane (Esquire Lane) spoke in support of a new track.

Chuck Mower (Depot Street) asked for a point of privilege to congratulate the members of the high school track team for coming to Deliberative Session and speaking in favor of the track. He also spoke in favor of the budget.

Mr. Tenhave spoke against putting capital items in the operating budget and said the District has plenty of surplus funds. Mr. Shevenell told him that the School Board cannot spend more than the appropriation, nor can it spend any of the surplus.

Mr. Christensen said he would like to see the School Board set up and use Capital Reserve Funds.

Mrs. Vaillancourt said that School District has some Capital Reserve Funds which have been depleted but, once the current roof replacement cycle ends, she thinks the District should start replenishing them. She spoke against the operating budget.

There was no further discussion.

Mrs. Christensen declared Article 7 moved to the ballot. She also commended the students from the high school for coming and participating in the meeting.

Mr. Ortega asked for a moment of silence for Ashley Guindon, a Merrimack High School graduate, who was killed on February 27th on her first day as a police officer in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Mrs. Barnes told the body that Mr. Ortega was leaving the School Board after 6 years of service and asked the body to join her in thanking him.

Mr. Heinrich made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: Mrs. Barnes.

Mrs. Christensen called for a vote on the motion.

Mrs. Christensen declared the MOTION PASSED and adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM.

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**Session 2: Ballot Voting**

**April 12, 2016**

The Town Moderator opened the polls at 7:00 AM. At 7:00 PM, the Moderator closed the polls and allowed those present to finish voting.

At 7:30 PM after results were tallied, School District Moderator Lynn Christensen announced that 1,895 voters had cast ballots with the following results:

**School Board – three years, two seats**

- Michael Thompson – 1,281 votes
- Shannon M. Barnes – 1,250 votes

The Moderator declared Michael Thompson and Shannon M. Barnes elected.

**Planning & Building Committee – three years, two seats**

- Gage Perry – 1,241 votes
- Stanley R. Heinrich – 1,182 votes

The Moderator declared Gage Perry and Stanley R. Heinrich elected.

**Budget Committee – three years, four seats**

- Carol J. Lang – 1,233 votes
- Stanley R. Heinrich – 1,147 votes

The Moderator declared Carol J. Lang and Stanley R. Heinrich elected.

Mrs. Christensen announced that there were over 125 ballots with write-in votes for the 3rd and 4th three year seats as well as the two year seat on the Budget Committee. She said results would be announced after the write-in votes were counted and confirmed.

**Moderator – three years, one seat**

- Lynn Christensen – 1,363 votes

The Moderator declared Lynn Christensen elected.
Clerk – three years, one seat
    Patricia Heinrich – 1,292 votes
The Moderator declared Patricia Heinrich elected.

Treasurer – three years, one seat
    Richard W. Hastings – 1,282 votes
The Moderator declared Richard W. Hastings elected.

Article 2: Yes – 1,522 votes No – 300 votes.
The Moderator declared Article 2 passed.

Article 3: Yes – 956 votes No – 897 votes.
The Moderator declared Article 3 passed.

Article 4: Yes – 1,203 votes No – 635 votes.
The Moderator declared Article 4 passed.

Article 5: Yes – 1,370 votes No – 461 votes.
The Moderator declared Article 5 passed.

Article 6: Yes – 1,222 votes No – 581 votes.
The Moderator declared Article 6 passed.

Article 7: Yes – 879 votes No – 952 votes.
The Moderator declared Article 7 failed.

On April 15, 2016, School District Clerk Patricia Heinrich announced the following write-in results:

Budget Committee – three years, two seats
    Heather Gage – 6 votes
    Bob L’Heureux – 4 votes
Mrs. Heinrich declared Heather Gage and Bob L’Heureux elected to the three year seats.

Budget Committee – two years, one seat
    Heather Gage – 18 votes
Mrs. Heinrich declared Heather Gage elected to the two year seat.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Heinrich
School District Clerk
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the School Board
Merrimack School District

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Merrimack School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise Merrimack School District’s basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The District's 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.

Auditors’ 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 auditors’ 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 the aggregate remaining fund information of the Merrimack School District, as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for all budgeted funds for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated December 9, 2016 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 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 District’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Melanson Heath

December 9, 2016
## MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
### GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
#### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
##### FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues:</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Permanent</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Governmental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fund</td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Fund</td>
<td>Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School district assessment</td>
<td>$ 46,086,553</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 46,086,553</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>272,094</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>272,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>18,711,202</td>
<td>1,376,043</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>289,579</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,376,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>905,399</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>905,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>9,835</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>479,191</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>489,026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>55,175</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>65,134,859</td>
<td>1,376,043</td>
<td>479,191</td>
<td>1,194,978</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>68,185,071</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures:

**Instruction:**
- Regular programs: 16,358,288
- Special programs: 11,335,543
- Vocational programs: 3,344
- Other instructional programs: 570,158
- Adult and community programs: 19,267

**Support services:**
- Student services: 3,414,963
- Instructional staff: 1,484,827
- General administration: 1,350,102
- School administration: 2,172,744
- Business: 329,588
- Operation and maintenance of plant: 3,563,893
- Student transportation: 3,328,193
- Centralized services: 99,411
- Other support services: 17,518,215
- Food service operations: -

**Debt service:**
- Principal: 1,070,000
- Interest: 354,803
- Facility acquisition and construction: 1,545,736
- Other: 7,166

**Total Expenditures:** 64,526,261

**Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures:** 608,598

**Fund Balances (Deficit), at Beginning of Year:**
- 5,381,877
- 3,316,159
- 186,238
- 8,785,074

**Fund Balances (Deficit), at End of Year:**
- $ 5,990,275
- $(1,868)
- $ 3,657,226
- $ 110,857
- $ 9,786,490

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Grants Fund</th>
<th>Permanent Trust Funds</th>
<th>Food Service Fund</th>
<th>Total Governmental Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and short-term investments</td>
<td>$ 5,104,744</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from Trustee of Trust Funds</td>
<td>670,847</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,887,226</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,358,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>157,216</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>157,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>191,368</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,832</td>
<td>237,220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from other funds</td>
<td>159,084</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46,338</td>
<td>205,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,267</td>
<td>45,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 6,126,063</td>
<td>$ 157,216</td>
<td>$ 3,887,226</td>
<td>$ 137,437</td>
<td>$ 10,107,942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

| Liabilities          |         |              |                       |                   |                          |
| Accounts payable     | $ 89,450 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 149 | $ 89,599 |
| Other liabilities    | -       | - | - | 26,431 | 26,431 |
| Due to other funds   | 46,338 | 159,084 | - | - | 205,422 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES    | 135,788 | 159,084 | - | 26,580 | 321,452 |

| Fund Balances        |         |              |                       |                   |                          |
| Nonspendable         | -       | - | 1,527,217 | 45,267 | 1,572,484 |
| Restricted           | 21,839 | - | 2,160,009 | 65,590 | 2,247,438 |
| Committed            | 650,027 | - | - | - | 650,027 |
| Assigned             | 320,670 | - | - | - | 320,670 |
| Unassigned           | 4,997,739 | (1,888) | - | - | 4,995,851 |
| TOTAL FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT) | $ 5,990,275 | (1,888) | 3,887,226 | 110,857 | 9,786,490 |

| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | $ 6,126,063 | $ 157,216 | $ 3,887,226 | $ 137,437 | $ 10,107,942 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
## Merrimack School District
### Comparative Enrollments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Enrolled 9/2016</th>
<th>Enrolled 1/2017</th>
<th>Estimated 9/2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>257</td>
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<td><strong>1251</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>287</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>560</strong></td>
<td><strong>542</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>603</strong></td>
<td><strong>579</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td><strong>1183</strong></td>
<td><strong>1190</strong></td>
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<td>Spec. Ed. (Out-of-District Placements and Students Ages 3 &amp; 4)</td>
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<td>155</td>
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<td><strong>3750</strong></td>
<td><strong>3711</strong></td>
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MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET COMMITTEE
2016-2017

Stan Heinrich, Chair 2019
Kevin Bobbitt 2017
Heather Gage 2018
Jordan Guagliumi 2018
John Hanson 2017
David Illg 2018
Shelly Jacoby 2017
Carol Lang 2019
Chuck Mower 2018

Ex-Officio School Board

Naomi Schoenfeld
Shannon Barnes (alternative)

Pat Heinrich, Secretary
DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR EDUCATION DOLLAR

Proposed Budget 2017-2018

- Salaries
- Benefits
- Facilities
- Debt Service
- Federal Funds
- Supplies
- Contracted Services
- Transportation
- Out of District Tuition
- Texts and Equipment
- Food Service
- Equipment, Repairs, Telephone etc.
Merrimack School District
School District Warrant
March 8, 2017 (Deliberation)
and April 11, 2017 (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 Mastrocola Upper Elementary School in said District on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 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 site, James Mastrocola Upper Elementary School on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 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  (Special Warrant Article)  Shall the district raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars ($196,174) for the purpose of pavement reconstruction at Merrimack High School to include the bus loop around the school building and the front entrance? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote 7-0-0).

ARTICLE 4  (Special Warrant Article)  Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($310,000) for the purpose of removal and replacement of asbestos floor tiles on the first and second floor of Merrimack High School and the removal and replacement of cabinets and countertops located in the Family Consumer Science classrooms at Merrimack High School? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote 7-0-0).

ARTICLE 5  (Special Warrant Article)  Shall the District raise and appropriate an amount up to Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars ($75,000), said sum not to exceed Ten percent (10%) of the unencumbered surplus funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year 2016-2017 and to transfer that amount to the School District Repair Capital Reserve Fund, for the purpose of providing unanticipated and/or emergency repairs to all school district facilities? (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0). (Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote 7-0-0).
ARTICLE 6  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 $73,673,057? (Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be $73,738,838 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 7-0-0).

Given under our hands at said Merrimack this 27th day of February, 2017.

Shannon Barnes
Andrew Schneider
Cinda Guagliumi
Naomi Schoenfeld
Michael Thompson
SCHOOL BOARD

A true copy of warrant - attest:

Shannon Barnes
Andrew Schneider
Cinda Guagliumi
Naomi Schoenfeld
Michael Thompson
SCHOOL BOARD

I certify that on the 24th day of February 2017, I posted a copy of the Annual School District Warrant at the place of meeting within named and a like copy at the Merrimack Town Hall being a public place in said pre-existing.

February 24, 2017

Marjorie C. Chiafery, Superintendent

Personally appeared the said Marjorie C. Chiafery and made oath the above certificate by her signed is true.

Notary Public

PAULA F. WILLIAMS, Notary Public,
My Commission Expires November 20, 2018
School Budget Form: Merrimack Local School
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHICH HAVE ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS OF RSA 32:14 THROUGH 32:24
Appropriations and Estimates of Revenue for the Fiscal Year from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018
Form Due Date: 20 days after the meeting

THIS BUDGET SHALL BE POSTED WITH THE SCHOOL WARRANT
This form was posted with the warrant on: February 24, 2017

For assistance please contact the NH DRA Municipal and Property Division
P: (603) 230-5090  F: (603) 230-5947  http://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stanley R. Heideck</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Guagliumi</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Gage</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelly Jacobs</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
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<td>Naomi Schoenfeld</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Rehardt</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Warrant Article #</th>
<th>Actual Expenditures Prior Year</th>
<th>Appropriations Current Year as Approved by DRA</th>
<th>School Board's Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</th>
<th>School Board's Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</th>
<th>Budget Committee's Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</th>
<th>Budget Committee's Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1100-1199</td>
<td>Regular Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-2199</td>
<td>Student Support Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>2200-2299</td>
<td>Instructional Staff Services</td>
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<td>$1,628,415</td>
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<td>Description</td>
<td>Warrant Article #</td>
<td>Actual Expenditures Prior Year</td>
<td>Appropriations Current Year as Approved by DRA</td>
<td>School Board’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</td>
<td>School Board’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</td>
<td>Budget Committee’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</td>
<td>Budget Committee’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Proposed Appropriations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$73,673,057</strong></td>
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## Special Warrant Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Code</th>
<th>Purpose of Appropriation</th>
<th>Warrant Article #</th>
<th>Actual Expenditures Prior Year</th>
<th>Appropriations Current Year as Approved by DRA</th>
<th>School Board’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</th>
<th>School Board’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</th>
<th>Budget Committee’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</th>
<th>Budget Committee’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</th>
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## Individual Warrant Articles

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<th>Actual Expenditures Prior Year</th>
<th>Appropriations Current Year as Approved by DRA</th>
<th>School Board’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</th>
<th>School Board’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</th>
<th>Budget Committee’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Recommended)</th>
<th>Budget Committee’s Appropriations Ensuing FY (Not Recommended)</th>
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## Revenues

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<td><strong>Less Exclusions:</strong></td>
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<td>2. Principal: Long-Term Bonds &amp; Notes</td>
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<td>4. Capital outlays funded from Long-Term Bonds &amp; Notes</td>
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<td>6. Total Exclusions (Sum of Lines 2 through 5 above)</td>
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<td>9. Recommended Cost Items (Prior to Meeting)</td>
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\[(Line 1 + Line 8 + Line 11 + Line 12)\]
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Child Nutrition -Federal</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>380,000</td>
<td>455,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Services</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Reserve</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>4,922,739</td>
<td>4,922,739</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,592,814</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,698,591</strong></td>
<td><strong>105,777</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.10%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Assessment (Total Appropriations - Total Revenues)</td>
<td>62,699,284</td>
<td>64,555,640</td>
<td>1,856,356</td>
<td>2.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: State Education Grant (Current Law)</td>
<td>7,844,583</td>
<td>7,844,583</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: State Education Tax Assessment</td>
<td>6,982,221</td>
<td>6,982,221</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local School Tax Assessment</td>
<td>47,872,480</td>
<td>49,728,836</td>
<td>1,856,356</td>
<td>3.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Local School + State Education Tax)</td>
<td>54,854,701</td>
<td>56,711,057</td>
<td>1,856,356</td>
<td>3.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Merrimack School District
Special Education Programs and Services Expenditures and Revenues

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 per RSA 32:11-a

**Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200-1299</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>11,286,690</td>
<td>11,405,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2199</td>
<td>Student Support Services</td>
<td>3,442,243</td>
<td>3,484,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2200-2299</td>
<td>Instructional Staff Services</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2320-2399</td>
<td>Other Executive Administration</td>
<td>328,741</td>
<td>361,606</td>
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<tr>
<td>2700-2799</td>
<td>Student Transportation</td>
<td>927,852</td>
<td>941,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15,990,526</td>
<td>16,197,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>1,022,611</td>
<td>988,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>10,991</td>
<td>63,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catastrophic Aid</td>
<td>831,677</td>
<td>899,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid Reimbursement</td>
<td>838,616</td>
<td>629,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2,703,894</td>
<td>2,580,758</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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