Merrimack School District/SAU 26 School Board Meeting Preliminary Agenda December 20, 2021

Merrimack Town Hall - Matthew Thornton Room

Send public comments to: publiccomment@sau26.org. Comments must be received between the start of the meeting on December 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and Agenda Item #10. Based on the volume of public comments received, the board chair will determine if all public comments can be read. If not, they will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

6:30 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) in the Training Classroom

Negotiations

7:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7:05 p.m. 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7:30 p.m. 3. RECOGNITIONS

7:35 p.m. 4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- 1. Superintendent Update
- 2. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
- 3. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
- 4. School Board Update
- 5. Student Representative Update

7:45 p.m. 5. OLD BUSINESS

1. Health and Safety Task Force Recommendation for January	Everett Olsen
2. Board's Response to COVID Data and Recommendation	Cinda Guagliumi
3. Approval of the Capital Improvement Plan	Cinda Guagliumi

8:05 p.m. 6. NEW BUSINESS

1. Formal Presentation on Food Service Budget	Dave Dziki
2. Formal Presentation on Mastricola Upper Elementary School Budget	Marsha McGill, Nicole Rheault
3. Formal Presentation on Elementary School Budgets: Thorntons Ferry Elementary, Mastricola Elementary, Reeds Ferry Elementary	Julie DeLuca, Michelle Romein,

Bonnie Painchaud, Michaela Champlin, Alisha-Hansen-Proux, Laura Livie

4. Task Force Discussion
5. Board's Response to Snow Day Recommendation
6. School Safety Update
7. Advise and Confer Update
Cinda Guagliumi
Cinda Guagliumi

8. Other

9:20 p.m. 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 6, 2021 Public Minutes

9:25 p.m. 8. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Educator Resignation

Kimberly Yarlott

Cinda Guagliumi

9:30 p.m. 9. OTHER

- 1. Committee Reports
- 2. Correspondence
- 3. Comments

9:40 p.m. 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

10:00 p.m. 11. ADJOURN

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit #26 36 McElwain Street Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054 Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

KIMBERLY YARLOTT

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.

Interim Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL

Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Cinda Guagliumi

Laurie Rothhaus

Shannon Barnes

Jenna Hardy Lori Peters

Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr.

Date: December 15, 2021

Subject: Mask Recommendation for January 2022

The School District's Health and Safety Task Force met recently to review the updated COVID data for Merrimack. Our recommendation for January 2022 is to continue with our current opt-out option with the change to mandating masks in a school if the percentage of positive COVID cases equals or exceeds 5% of the number of total building occupants.

To this point in time only the Mastricola Elementary School has had to fully mask; but only for a brief period as the percentage of total occupant cases decreased to below 5% for two consecutive weeks. As of December 15, 2021, the percentage of positive cases per school was:

	% Positive COVID Cases
School	(Total Occupants)
MES	2.38%
RFS	2.53%
TFS	1.73%
JMUES	.67%
MMS	1.23%
MHS	1.34%

Capital Improvement Plan Capital Expenditure Summary Form - 10 YEAR PLAN

Approved by the Planning and Building Committee 11-09-2021

Indige	Description	Replace Addition	Priority	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
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MAINT = Maintenance Building	k High School	MMS = Merrimack Middle School	MUES = Mastricola Upper Elementary School	MES = Mastricola Elementary School	RFS = Reeds Ferry Elementary School	TFS = Thomtons Ferry Elementary School
- Maintenance	MHS = Merrimack High School	= Merrimack N	= Mastricola U	= Mastricola E	= Reeds Ferry	= Thomtons F

Ogara Drive Rehabilitation		Unit Cost		Cost
Remove existing pavement from O'Gara; regrade existing gravel; pave 3.5" pavement	Length of work = 2,580 LF	Width = 24 \$20 per !	λ	\$20 per SY \$137,600.00
Misc work - Assume 25% of above				\$ 34,400.00
		Total =		\$172,000.00
New Sidewalk from existing to southern end of skate park gravel lot on west side of Ogara	Length of work =	\$175 per Linear foot	, to	\$253,750.00
Misc Work (resetting guardrail, drainage, etc) - Assume 50%				\$126,875.00
		Total =		\$ 380,625.00



Memo

Date: November 11, 2021

To: Tom Touseau, Larry Ouellette, Dale Gienapp

From: Brad Nederhoff

Project: Merrimack School District SAU-26 - Roofing Site visit -

11/5/21

Proj #: 747

Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

- The Thorntons Ferry Elementary School roof showed some signs of more urgent need of repair.
- 2. Sections C, D, F, G and H were constructed in 1994 and have been out of warranty since 2009. These Sections are built-up roofing of tar and gravel that was applied on top of the original 1970 roof.
- 3. The original 1970 blueprints for this school were found in the plan file room and borrowed by GA for future use.
- 4. The group happened to observe this roof as the morning dew was beginning to melt. Larry pointed out that some of the roof areas, particularly at Sections G and H were telegraphing potentially urgent problems with the insulation below. Areas where the morning frost had melted were immediately adjacent to unmelted areas, indicating that the insulation in the melted areas were likely saturated from leakage at the surface. These areas also corresponded with the areas where Tom reported has been experiencing leakage to the classrooms below.
- 5. Larry stated that test openings would confirm saturated insulation, but that he was quite certain that it was indeed the case.
- Saturated insulation has no insulating value and can lead to mold problems and damage the metal deck below.

Next Steps

 Update the budget for replacing Sections C, D, F, G and H. These areas total 38,571 sq. ft. The prior estimate used \$31/sq. ft. as a unit cost to replace the insulation and roofing. Larry and Dale felt that recent inflation in construction costs would likely increase this unit cost to approximately \$40/sq. ft.



2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

	School/	School/ Budget Book Ref		
Question Topic	Dept.	Account Number	Questioner's Name/Question	Response
Supplies	Food	400-3120-42-8610-09	Shannon.: With cost of goods being	There's no inflation factor in the Food Services
	Service		impacted by inflation, has there been	budget. All expenditures are covered by an
			a consideration to adjust for the cost	appropriate amount of funding to he self-supported
			of supplies to address the potential	The state of the s
			increases costs?	The State will be reimbursing districts at a higher
				rate.
S			Shannon: With the federal support for	
			lunch programs without having the	While lunches are currently free for all, we are still
			same reporting requirements that were	actively encouraging parents to fill out free and
			in place pre-pandemic, are there plans	reduced lunch applications, based on state criteria.
			in place to account for what may be a	
			risk in funding if we do not get the	This data is important to collect in order to
			applications in place for future years?	determine our Title 1 funding.
			What can we do to ensure we don't)
			end up having a rate increase in	There is a paid lunch equity formula that is used to
			meals? When was the last time the	determine prices.
			government adjusted salary	•
			benchmarking for eligibility for free	
			and reduced lunch?	

2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

		moht with	ese are	plies that			student cost	ade levels			l from last	accurate		5 = \$704.00							pun	include	iteer	Hawk	_
	Response	Elementary Science curriculum is tanght with	consumable materials from kits. These are	hands-on activities with various supplies that	need to be replenished annually.		There is variability of cost, thus per student cost	is not relevant. Supply needs for grade levels	vary.		Health Supplies: This is level funded from last	year. The amount is proportionally accurate	based on enrollment numbers.	TFS= \$941.00 RFS= \$887.00 MES = \$704.00							This account supports home/school and	community collaboration. Examples include	online newsletter subscription, volunteer	orientations and celebrations, annual Hawk	
	Questioner's Name/Question	Cinda and Laurie: This seems like a	lot of money for glassware,	thermometers and stopwatches? What	else does this amount cover, or how	many items are we budgeting for?		Cinda and Laurie: Is this enough	money to cover supplies for the entire	school? It seems like a very low	amount given the number of students.		Cinda and Laurie: Science supplies.	Can you please provide a further	breakdown of this fund. Also, while	on the topic, we recall that many line	items in the elementary budgets used	to also provide a count of students and	per student costs. Is there a reason	why we aren't doing that this year?	Cinda and Laurie: Please describe	how this money is used to support	home, school and community	collaboration.	
Budget Book Ref	Account Number	100-1113-13-8610-18	100-1113-13-8610-12	100-2134-07-8610-11																	100-3000-18-8611				
School/	Dept.	JMUES	RFS	MES																	JMUES	MES	RFS	TFS	
	Question Topic	Supplies																			Community	Relations			_

2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

	Response	Jogging Jaguars, Field hockey, volleyball, academic assistance, art club, chess/cribbage			teachers apply according to the process.		This is a new account for co-curricular activities.	Depending on the offerings of activities, supplies	for purchases are to be determined.	Opportunities will be determined based on	student interests.						
	Questioner's Name/Question	Cinda and Laurie: Similar to elementary schools, what does this	involve? Is it a stipend? While on the	subject, please provide the board with any stinend amounts paid at IMHES		Cinda and Laurie: Please provide	breakdown of supplies needed. All	three schools.		Cinda and Laurie: Please provide a	description of what this will be used	for exactly. Is it a stipend? Does it	enhance work we are doing with the	adult learning center in after school	care? Please advise regarding this	breakdown. All three schools.	
Budget Book Ref	Account Number	100-1410-20-8131-18 100-1410-20-8610								100-1410-20-8130							
School/	Dept.	JMUES								MES	RFS	TFS					
	Question Topic	Co-curricular															

2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

Resmonse	The intent of this programming is to offer a variety of diverse opportunities for all students. The goal is to provide educator led activities after school based on student interests. We will consider the needs of families when scheduling and planning these opportunities. There will be no cost to families for participation. Programs may include but are not limited to: Girls on the Run, Healthy Kids Running Club for Boys, gardening, coding, theater, Legos or any other creative endeavors! The Nashua Adult Learning Center is an afterschool care program and not tethered to the proposed co-curricular activities. Students who participate in the ALC can participate in co-curricular activities and then return to the program.
Ouestioner's Name/Onestion	Shannon: Please provide proposed extra-curricular programs so that we can understand the level of inclusivity to the student body these funds will support. Please also provide details on timing these programs will run as it will impact after school care and transportation for families. To frame the concern, wanting to be sure extra curriculars are not just available to those who have parents who can pick kids up an hour after school ends or are part of the on-site after school programs. Also, will these be costs to families for any of these programs? If yes, are there accommodations for those who cannot participate due to financial constraint?
School/ Budget Book Ref Dept. Account Number	100-1410-20-8130-18 100-1410-20-8610-18 100-1410-20-8130
School/ Dept.	JMUES MES RFS TFS
Question Topic	Co-curricular

2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

	School/	Budget Book Ref		
Question Topic	Dept.	Account Number	Questioner's Name/Question	Response
Traffic	JMUES	100-1400-28-8321- 18	Cinda and Laurie: Please explain these funds. Is it paid to the MPD?	This is to pay for police detail when large activities/events occur at schools (RFS, TFS,
	RFS	100-2730-18-8591- 12	Cinda and Laurie: Is this a place holder or do we actually use it? We assume that there were no funds expended last year due to COVID.	JMUES). Events include parent nights, art shows, family fun nights, etc. This is for traffic control.
Field Trips	JMUES MES RFS TFS	Account #	Cinda and Laurie: Is this all inclusive for field trips or do families have to contribute?	This is for transportation expenses and parent chaperone admissions. Families pay for students' admissions. Accommodations are provided for those who cannot pay.
				Examples of trips includes: the Museum of Science, Lexington and Concord museum, Marapoza museum. The lower elementary schools attend the Currier Art Museum and State House.
Additional equipment	JMUES	100-1118-18-8737-18	Cinda and Laurie: Please describe the need for the sound equipment for recording grades 5 & 6.	JMUES seeks recording equipment in order to record student shows, musicals, performances, etc, to place on the website for those parents who cannot attend and to support community involvement.
Furniture	JMUES	100-1118-18-8737-18	Shannon: Why the reduction in furniture replacement in the upcoming fiscal year? We have seen consistent funding to keep furniture in a stable replacement cycle. It is down by roughly 1/3 YoY.	The tables in the computer lab were replaced over the last two years, which completed this particular furniture request.

2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

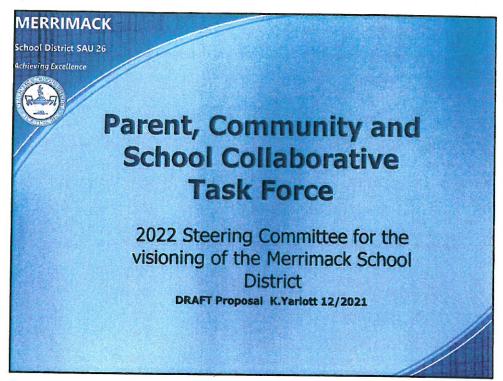
	School/	Budget Book Ref		
Question Topic	Dept.	Account Number	Questioner's Name/Question	Response
Technology	JUMES	100-1148-48-8610	Cinda and Laurie: Clarifying	This is for commuter keyboards nower cords
or Supplies	MES		question: What are the supplies for	mice, cartridges and toner etc. This is
Matt will answer	RFS		computer ed? Papers and toner? If	purchased centrally through the technology
	TFS		so, anything else? All schools?	and library/media departments
Copier	JMUES	100-1148-48-8610	Cinda and Laurie: When do we	We have 48 conjers in the district They are all
Matt will	MES		decide to replace versus fix a copier	leased. Replacements depend on when the
answer	RFS		or rent copiers? How old are our	leases are over and/or the copiers are at
	TFS		copy machines? How old are our	capacity.
			machines and what's the life	
			expectancy?	
Textbooks	JMUES	Account #	Cinda and Laurie: Please describe	As curriculum is revised, textbooks are often
Kim will	MES		the textbook rotation process. How	adopted, ie. Envisions was a new nurchase
answer	RFS		do we align the textbooks to the	
	TFS		curriculum?	There is a process for curriculum revisions and
			Do students take home, or are they	program selections. (HOW)
			classroom sets. Please describe if	
			they are consumables. Particularly	Current text purchases: Student response
o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o			interested in the approximate \$17K	journals, new literacy Footprints kits, A-Z
			and how it aligns to district reading	on-line materials, envisions journals.
			program.	
				When grade level classes are added, additional
				text need to be purchased to outfit the class.

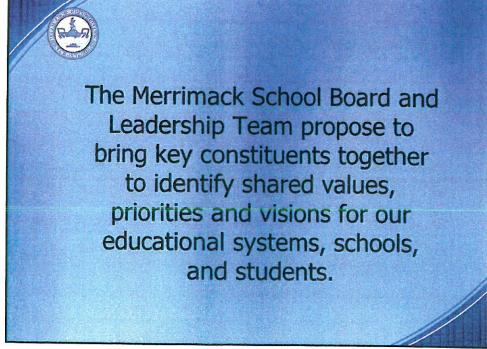
2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

Domono	Past budgets have typically replaced furniture for one to two classrooms each year. This budget does the same; however, the type of furniture we are buying is specifically to meet the needs of diverse learners. The proposed furniture budget at MES also includes new furniture for the art room. This completes the purchasing for the art room for all three elementary schools.	In response to your question about what was cut in the furniture budget at TFS, there is in reality not a cut but a rebalancing of funding. In the past two budgets, TFS has included furniture to outfit brand new classrooms. There are not any new classrooms being added, only shifts in grade levels. This is addressed by the \$1,000 at each school. Therefore, in the attempt to be fiscally responsible, we have proposed moving these funds to the other two buildings. As we move forward in other years, there will continue to be furniture needs as a result of meeting the diverse needs of student and further implementation of Universal Design for Learning. Should we not receive the funding we are requesting, we will continue to use the furniture we have, being mindful that it does not adequately meet the needs of all of our	learners and the increasing cost of furniture This is a 3 year average of actual usage for each building.
Onestioner's Name/Onestion	Cinda and Laurie: Do we need ADA furniture for other schools right now? What \$1K furniture is needed for extra classroom as it doesn't seem like very much money for an entire classroom. Are there any other furniture	We understand past practice and the need to keep from budget spikes, but we'd like to know if there are any immediate needs that are on hold until it's another school's "turn". Shannon: It was noted that TFS furniture funds were transferred to MES and RFS for the purpose of purchasing ADA furniture. Please provide if other impacts to you furniture replacement plan occurred due to this shift in funding. Be prepared to talk	about the impact to future purchases in the plan. Cinda and Laurie: MES and RFS have different postage budget line items at MES of \$960.00 and RFS and TFS schools of approx \$1,698.00 respectively.
Budget Book Ref	100-1118-18-8737		
School/ Dent	MES RFS TFS		MES RFS TFS
Ouestion Topic	Furniture		Postage Matt will answer

2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers: Food Services, JMUES, RFS, TFS, MES

		motional	not	SS	s) This	ior	s will be	how it is				100 A 1 A 1 A 1 A 1 A 1 A 1 A 1 A 1 A 1		
		In the past. MES has relied on the FD (emotional	disability) teacher for supports. This is not	sustainable with the existence of the PASS	(program for academic and social success) This	year, Special Services has hired a behavior	specialist using contracted services. This will be	a new position. (Matt will answer about how it is	ded).					
	Response	In the pas	disability	sustainab	(program	year, Spe	specialist	a new pos	being funded).)				
	Questioner's Name/Question		without a behavior specialist? I do not	see a change in the behavior specialist	line item to show there was a delta.	Was this an unfilled position or a	newly established one, as the	superintendent's message makes it	seem? There seems to be critical need	for this role. My position on this is	that we should look to fill this role in	the CURRENT school year and	continue funding this position in the	upcoming fiscal year.
Budget Book Ref	Account Number	100-2140-41-8112-10	Page 2 of Budget Msg											
School/	Dept.	MES												
	Question Topic Dept.	Behavior	Specialist							27000				







Proposal for Task Force Composition

- (1-2) School Board Representatives
- (6) Leadership Members: Superintendent,
 Assistant Superintendent, Director of
 Wellness, Director of Student Services,
 Principal Representative(s)
- (5) Staff Members
- (2-3) HS students
- (5) Parents
- (1-2) Business Representatives
- (1) Consultant/Facilitator

3



Resources to Consider

- Supports of a Quality School System (slide)
- Merrimack Education Re-imagined ppt
- MHS Vision of a Graduate (link) ppt
- MSD Portrait of a Learner (link) ppt
- Prior Leadership inputs (link)
- Model Strategic Plans (link)
- Inputs from staff interviews
- Professional Readings (link)

4



MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit #26 36 McElwain Street Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054 Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

KIMBERLY YARLOTT

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr. Interim Chief Educational Officer MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL

Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Cinda Guagliumi Laurie Rothhaus Shannon Barnes

Jenna Hardy Lori Peters

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr.

Date: December 15, 2021

Kaitlyn Vadney

Subject: Recommendation on Inclement Weather Days

The 2020-2021 school year represented a year of transitions with respect to the delivery of instruction to all students. Many school systems alternated between full remote, hybrid, and in-person models of instruction over the course of the school year. These new models of teaching and learning also impacted instructional decisions on days when we experienced inclement weather. This year I am recommending to you that we have traditional "no school" days when inclement weather presents dangerous travel conditions.

Last year, with most school systems conducting hybrid or fully remote education, the traditional no school "snow day" sometimes became a remote instructional day. The hybrid/remote re-tooling of the instructional day and process provided the "infrastructure" for this to occur. It is more complicated to implement a single remote day of instruction with our current in-school instruction. Additionally, the New Hampshire Department of Education has specific guidelines that must be met in order for the remote day to qualify as a school day (enclosure). Among these guidelines is a requirement that at least 80 percent of students and teachers must participate for the day to count as a school day. From our experience last year, this benchmark may be difficult to achieve at certain times.

New Hampshire statute 189.1 (Days of School) requires that "the school board of every district shall provide standard schools for at least 180 days in each year, or the equivalent number of hours as required in the rules of the department of education." With respect to annual hours of instruction, the department of education (Ed 306.18) requires the following:

- Elementary Grades 1-6, 945 hours of instruction
- Grades 7-12, 990 hours of instruction

In Merrimack, our instructional hours at all grades could allow us to experience six traditional snow days without having to extend the closing date of school beyond the current date of June 21, 2022. The leadership team is unanimous in their support of this recommendation of traditional snow day and feels that it allows greater equity for all students in accessing the curriculum.

On April 5, 2021 you approved a Severe Weather Alternative Plan (SWAP Day) for remote instruction during inclement weather days. This was a result of returning to in-person instruction in late March 2021. If you approve my recommendation, we will no longer follow the SWAP Day Plan and we will return to a traditional "snow day".





SWAP DAY

- Internet and power may be variable.
- Schedules with Zoom links will be posted when possible.
- asynchronously when access to a computer is not possible. Lessons will be posted online and may be completed in a variety of ways including: (1) with guidance during Zoom sessions, (2) independently during the day, and/or (3)
 - Students will have a grace period to complete online assignments. *
- Special Education/Support Services will be provided when *
- students to connect, ask questions, and clarify assignments. Teachers will be available throughout the day/week for *



SNOW DAY

- Power is intermittent.
- Schoolwork will not be assigned.Snow days will be made up at the end of the year.

Section 189:1 Days of School. 12/13/21, 3:46 PM

TITLE XV EDUCATION

SCHOOL BOARDS, SUPERINTENDENTS, TEACHERS, AND TRUANT OFFICERS; SCHOOL CENSUS CHAPTER 189

School Boards, Transportation and Instruction of Pupils

Section 189:1

189:1 Days of School. – The school board of every district shall provide standard schools for at least 180 days in each year, or the equivalent number of hours as required in the rules of the department of education, at such places in the district as will best serve the interests of education and give to all the pupils within the district as nearly equal advantages as are practicable.

Source. 1883, 43:6. PS 92:1. 1919, 106:20. 1921, 85, II:1. PL 117:1. RL 135:1. RSA 189:1. 1959, 133:1. 2007, 71:1. 2011, 42:1, eff.

N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed 306.18

Section Ed 306.18 - School Year

- (a) Pursuant to RSA 189:1 and RSA 189:24, each school district shall maintain a school year as provided below:
 - (1) The school district shall maintain in each elementary school, a school year of at least 945 hours of instructional time and in each kindergarten at least 450 hours of instructional time:
 - (2) The school district shall maintain in each middle and high school, a school year of at least 990 hours of instructional time. Districts shall provide at least 990 hours of instructional time for grades 7 and 8 in elementary schools that include grades 7, or 8, or both:
 - (3) The instructional school day of an individual student shall not exceed 5.75 hours of instructional time in elementary schools and 6 hours of instructional time in middle and high schools;
 - (4) The school shall have in its school year an additional 60 hours in duration to provide for instructional time lost due to inclement weather or unexpected circumstances, staff development, and parent-teacher conferences. At least 30 of the 60 additional hours shall be available for rescheduling hours lost due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Schools shall use these additional hours to reschedule lost instructional time before requesting a waiver of the amount of instructional time under RSA 189:2, unless extraordinary circumstances exist that would place an unreasonable burden on the school or students such as, but not limited to, substantial building damage;
 - (5) A school may have a shortened day when an emergency condition exists which might adversely affect the health and safety of students, provided that the number of hours of instructional time originally planned for the day shall be credited to the number of hours of instructional time in the school year, if:
 - **a.** On that day, the school would normally have had at least 5.25 hours of instructional time; and
 - **b.** The school remained open for at least 3.5 hours of instructional time;
 - (6) There shall be no requirement to reschedule instructional time for kindergarten if morning or afternoon kindergarten sessions are cancelled due to delayed opening or early release for students in grade 1 or higher; and
 - (7) A school district may submit a plan to the commissioner that will allow schools to conduct instruction remotely for up to 5 days per year when the school has been closed due to inclement weather or other emergency. The plan shall include procedures for participation by all students. Academic work shall be equivalent in effort and rigor to



typical classroom work. There shall be an assessment of all student work for the day. At least 80 percent of students shall participate for the day to count as a school day.

- (b) Lunch time, home room periods, passing time, and breaks shall not be counted toward the required amount of instructional time. Elementary schools may count up to 30 minutes of recess per day as instructional time for pupils in kindergarten through grade 6. Advisory periods in middle and high schools shall be counted as instructional time.
- (c) The high school graduation date shall be set no more than 5 school days or 30 instructional hours before the end of the scheduled school year without consideration of making up lost time pursuant to Ed 306.18(a)(4).

N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed 306.18

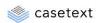
#5546, eff 7-1-93; ss by #6366, eff 10-30-96, EXPIRED: 10-30-04; New. #8206, INTERIM, eff 11-18-04, EXPIRED: 5-17-05; New. #8354, eff 7-1-05; ss by #10047, eff 12-17-11.

Amended by Volume XXXIV Number 16, Filed April 17, 2014, Proposed by #10556, Effective 3/27/2014, Expires3/27/2024.

Amended by Volume XXXIX Number 28, Filed July 11, 2019, Proposed by #12814, Effective 6/15/2019, Expires 6/15/2029.

The amended version of this section by New Hampshire Register Volume 40, Number 15, eff. 3/12/2020 is not yet available.

The amended version of this Section by New Hampshire Register Volume 41, Number 36, eff. 7/29/2021 is not yet available.



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Merrimack School District, SAU #26 Merrimack Town Hall - Memorial Room December 6, 2021

Present: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Hardy, Board Member Peters, and Board Member Barnes. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Yarlott, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative.

Merrimack School Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chair Guagliumi pointed out that the School Board would accept public comment via email and to do that members of the public could send emails to publiccomment@sau26.org.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Naomi Holter, 10 Everest Drive, Vice Chair Rothhaus had mentioned having a group of parents to help provide input regarding the school's direction and she said she felt it was an awesome idea and would be pleased to help.

Elizabeth Schalk, 9 Cassie Lane (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

Please consider removing the opt-out option for masking. Numbers are worse, cases are up. We need to go back to mandatory masking in our district. We have more cases and less students than surrounding towns.

According to WMUR the seven-day average of daily new cases has risen to 879, the highest it has been during the pandemic, 25.4% were in children under 18.

Merrimack currently has 175 active cases, 2850 total, and 25 new as of today.

We need to protect our staff and students.

Joanne Grobecker, 27 Craig Drive (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

I want to thank the district for the focus on literacy and handwriting as a way to address learning loss from a pandemic and strengthen skills for all kids.

I want to praise the accessible and inclusive playground plans for Thorntons Ferry Elementary School (TFS). The wheelchair picnic tables are at TFS and it's great to have this accessible and inclusive space for all kids available in our community.

I'm happy to see the sensory hallway created at James Mastricola Elementary School (JMES) that is utilized by students who receive physical therapy services as well as students who need to regulate themselves before entering class.

I praise the district for the creation of the standards-based report card. Thank you for the focus on academics in spite of being in a pandemic.

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I appreciate the sub pay being raised to \$100 but it is still less than surrounding districts. Most districts are paying \$115 to \$150 a day. Merrimack needs to pay a competitive substitute teacher rate to attract and retain substitutes.

As well, going into budget season, I hope Merrimack can offer a competitive rate to retain and recruit educators.

I was grateful the district could bring in Polly Bath to have an open Zoom meeting with parents in November. Polly Bath worked at the Merrimack School District and is now a nationally renowned speaker on student behavior. It was great having her present and answer parent questions on student behavior and executive functioning.

I am here for a strong public education system that benefits all kids.

Thank you to teachers, therapists, and paras for all you do every day.

Robbie Reisman, Iris Drive, addressed the Board and thanked the School District for setting up the vaccine clinic. He also said he was excited about the parents potentially having some input as to the path the district would take in the future. Additionally, Mr. Reisman said, regarding the upcoming teachers' contract, that he would like the district to be able to retain and obtain their top choices and hoped they could be competitive with surrounding towns.

Bryan Townsend, II, 5 Merrymeeting Drive (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

We want to thank you for taking a step in the right direction at last month's meeting in regard to the mask policy. We are writing to ask that it further be strengthened for the safety of our students and staff. Although thankfully, the numbers in our schools have been decreasing and no schools are currently under a mask mandate, we would like you to consider adding a 2-week mask mandate for individual classrooms with a cluster of COVID-19. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) defines a cluster as "3 or more individuals confirmed with COVID-19 who are part of a related group of individuals (e.g., classroom) who had the potential to transmit infection to each other through close contact."

Mr. Ken Martin, Woodward Road, addressed the Board and said just prior to the Thanksgiving break eighteen Merrimack High School were accepted to the Allstate Music Festival.

Nicole Arp, 329 Daniel Webster Highway (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)

A quote from Governor Sununu from www.mychamplainvalley.com regarding mask policies:

 "I'm a believer that whatever the schools decide if they're listening to parents, if they're getting the right input, they're not just defaulting to being as restrictive as we can be for the sake of being restrictive," said Governor Sununu. "But really looking at the dynamics of how to get the best education in the classroom, when we make sure schools have all of the flexibility to do that, we are very, very successful in this state."

After listening to, and participating in these School Board meetings, it has become increasingly clear that the School Board is not "listening to parents." There have been an overwhelming number of parents who want to decide for themselves if their children should wear a mask at school. And even though the opt out option is available; parents are still fighting for their right to choose because

of the School Board threatening to take it away and because the opt out is full of arbitrary rules that doesn't completely opt their child out of wearing a mask at school. Kids that are opted out are told to put on their mask to sing in music class and given a "special" mask that has a hole in it to wear while playing the recorder. They put their mask on to walk to the lunchroom but take it off to eat around everyone they just walked with to get there. All these exceptions and more are completely asinine. Also, on the mask opt out form, the School Board was determined to make sure they would not be held liable for any harm done to children due to the parent's decision to opt them out. However, they refuse to comment on their accountability and liability of any physical or mental harm due to forced mask use.

The School Board should be considering other potential health and developmental issues mask use may be causing. Wearing a mask does not stop a virus, however, it does harbor harmful bacteria, other viruses, and causes impaired cognition, prevents a child from distinguishing faces, and negatively affects their social emotional learning. In an article published on www.nbcboston.com, Governor Sununu stated, "It's important to be back in a normal atmosphere, so kids, especially young kids, can see their teacher's mouth, can interact in the right way, don't feel the restrictions or under any constraints of wearing a mask for eight hours a day." Forcing students and staff to wear a mask is hindering the children's learning environment. I'm already seeing my second grader struggle and it is very concerning to me.

The School Board is basing the mask policy on the number of Covid cases and recommendations from the CDC. But according to the "New Hampshire Covid-19 Response" website, not a single person under the age of 19 has died from Covid in our state. Also, the CDC and doctors can recommend all they want, but it is up to the individual to agree with or decline medical advice. How is this virus any different from the flu, common cold, strep, etc. circulating through the schools? Why are we still fighting about forcing mask use? It specifically says on a box of masks that they do not prevent the spread of Covid-19 or other viruses. Vaccinated and unvaccinated people are spreading and contracting the virus, but it is over 99% survivable regardless of age.

There is no one size fits all solution regarding mask use, and it is impossible for the School Board to decide what the best option is for each student and staff member. For the people that feel so strongly that every single student and staff member should be wearing a mask: how would you feel if your opinion didn't matter, and everyone was deciding that you can't wear a mask? It goes

both ways. Make mask use completely optional for students and staff. In doing so, it allows everyone their constitutional right to make medical decisions for themselves and eliminates the accountability of the School Board from causing any unnecessary mental or physical harm or harassment towards anyone due to forced mask use.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated there would be a vaccine clinic for students and staff of the School District on December 16th, and January 6th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Merrimack High School cafeteria where the Pfizer vaccine would be available for children ages 5 and up. He said the Pfizer booster vaccine would also be available to anyone over the age of 18

and have had a six-month time span since their second vaccination. He thanked Rite Aid for sponsoring the clinic and Melissa Fazlic, Director of Human Resources for coordinating the clinic.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the James Mastricola Elementary School was sponsoring a "Mighty Max Toy Drive" for Children's Hospital through December 18th. He also said they held an Anti-Bullying Contest that was won by Norah Campbell in grade 6, and Macie Nguyen in grade 5.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that Cathy Goodman, a teacher at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School received an honor from the SEE Science Center. He read aloud the following:

We are happy to let you know that a grateful family in Merrimack has chosen to recognize Ms. Cathy Goodman as a teacher who has made an impact. Cathy is an amazing teacher who goes above and beyond every year and creates amazing relationships with not only her students but their families. She is extremely humble and will often let others take credit for her accomplishments and contributions to the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School community.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the Merrimack Middle School's Theatre Arts Group presented the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" on November 19th and 20th.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the band & chorus Winter Concert would be held on December 15, 2021, with a snow date of December 16, 2021; the theatre play "Give and Take" would be presented on December 17, 2021, and Saturday, December 18, 2021. He said the high school students were also participating in the Annual Giving Tree to provide some Merrimack families with support for the upcoming holidays.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott said the Social Studies Committee, the Health Committee, and the World Language Revision Committees had opened back up and anticipated to share some updates with the Board in April, May, and June.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott commented that the high school was actively working on the NEASC (New England Association of Schools & Colleges) visit that would occur in April and would present "A Vision of a Graduate" through that work.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated the Woodbury Street repaving and sidewalk project had been completed, the LED project was progressing quite nicely.

d. School Board Update

Chair Guagliumi commented that the Board was in possession of their budget books and said the budget process was beginning. She noted the budget meetings were available online.

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e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney thanked all of the National Honor Society students who helped with leaf raking. She said the National Honor Society also had an upcoming drive for the Webster House in Manchester, NH, which was a care facility for children who were unable to live with their parents. She said they would be doing toy donations for them for Christmas.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Health & Safety Task Force Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he was pleased to say that the James Mastricola Elementary School was back to the opt out masking policy because the positivity rate of COVID had fallen from 5% to 2.58%. He added the opt out masking policy was in place at all of the schools in the district.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the data for Merrimack from the state indicated there was an increase in COVID activity with the rate of new cases per 100,000 over the past 14 days was 1,134 which was about three times what it was about 2 ½ months prior. He said the antigen and PCR test positivity rate over a seven-day period was 18.2% up from 5% 2 ½ months prior.

b. Potential Enrollment Impact from Residential Development

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated the Merrimack Department of Community Development has issued a report the prior year that indicated there may be an additional 341 students as a result of new developments. He said there was no way of knowing the exact demographics of what the families would be, but a majority of them would likely have elementaryaged children. He said they would keep an eye on the grade distribution, the rate of occupancy, and economic conditions and would be in constant contact with the building principals.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he would also look at the developments that could create a "secondary" enrollment impact was that empty nesters and/or aging residents would sometimes sell a larger home to move into a smaller residence and the larger home was sometimes occupied by a family with school-aged children.

Board Member Peters commented that Gilbert Crossing and Executive Park had been full for one year and asked if they could cross-check and get a baseline to see what they already had in the district. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied they would do that, and they would pay attention to the developments and occupancy as they moved forward.

Board Member Barnes commented that they had a Capital Improvements Plan presentation, but they did not have a CIP work session and vote. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell replied that the Board should have that discussion prior to Tom Touseau, Director of Maintenance appearing before the Board to discuss his budget.

Vice Chair Rothhaus asked if the Board could get the number of teachers in each school and a projection if it was felt they would need additional teachers in certain buildings based on what Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen presented pertaining to enrollment impact prior to the next meeting. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied in the affirmative.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Overview of Proposed 2022 – 2023 School District Budget

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the challenge in creating the budget every year was to understand the current academic, social & emotional developmental needs of the students but it was also to understand the needs of the staff.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said there were many elements the district looked at when developing a budget including not engaging in incremental budgeting. He said they looked for opportunities for savings in efficiencies in the delivery of instructional, support services, and in the conduct of operations and ancillary services. He also said they looked carefully at current student enrollments to be sure they could meet the capacity needs of enrollments in every school.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said another element was transportation to help the children get to and from school safely. He also said they wanted to commit to a robust curriculum and professional development, ensure adequate levels of technology were used, and provide the training to use that technology.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the schools in Merrimack were one of the cleanest, well-kept schools he had ever been in and attributed that to the ongoing maintenance of the buildings. He also said school security was very important.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said it was important to recognize the quality of their staff through appropriate collective bargaining but to also recognize their responsibility to taxpayers.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said monies had been incorporated for a Behavior

Specialist at the James Mastricola Elementary School as it did not have one. He said they also budgeted money for enhanced programming for social & emotional well-being at the elementary, middle, and high school levels as well as monies for co-curricular activities at the middle school and the elementary level.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the proposed budget for the 2022 – 2023 school year was \$83,439,157 which was \$264,696 above the default budget.

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented that she was happy to hear that Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen gave teacher's a voice and was also happy to hear him address giving students opportunities to take advantage of different pathways such as the Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Board Member Peters commented that one of the things she wanted to look into was bridging the gap that COVID created. She said one of the best decisions made regarding that issue was the expansion of the summer program at all levels and felt it should be continued "long-haul."

b. Other

Vice Chair Rothhaus said she was hoping to discuss forming a parent group to work with them to engage the community and bring positive change to the schools. She added she hoped the Task Force could be goal-driven, and results-driven. She asked if the topic could be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Vice Chair Rothhaus also said she felt the Board needed to discuss directing the Superintendent to draft an administrator's evaluation that would be goal-oriented and results-driven. Board Member Barnes asked if the district still had a District Parent Group that had been in place for decades. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he would check on that. Board Member Hardy commented that in light of the wave of school security issues, she would like to investigate using ALICE (Active Shooter Civilian Response Training) training to help keep students and staff safe in school. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied that the

leadership team had already begun having that conversation and was planning on having a fullscale mock evacuation during the summer working with the fire and police departments.

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented that she felt the advertisements for "See Something" "Say Something" should be everywhere they could be so students knew how to report something.

Board Member Peters said she was very much in favor of the students and staff being trained using ALICE. She said there had been a huge increase nationwide of in-classroom incidents and she said she felt self-regulation was a big issue coming out of the pandemic.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott commented that part of the professional development was CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) and they were doing refresher courses surrounding it.

7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Approval of November 15, 2021, Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the November 15, 2021, minutes. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

Edits:

Page 1 – "Board Member Peters was present for the non-public meeting" and should be reflected in a separate document but was "not present" for the public meeting. - Chair Guagliumi

The motion passed 5 - 0 - 0.

b. Approval of November 18, 2021, Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021, minutes. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

Edits:

Page 1 – To include the time that Vice Chair Rothhaus arrived at the meeting. – Chair Guagliumi

Page 1, line 44 – "Lock" was changed to "Locke" – Chair Guagliumi

The motion passed 5 - 0 - 0.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Resignations

- Shawna D'Amour, Assistant Principal, Merrimack Middle School
 - Luke Woods, Social Studies Teacher, Merrimack High School

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 - 0 - 0.

9. GIFTS AND GRANTS UNDER \$5,000

a. Delta Dental to Merrimack High School for \$250.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the above gift from Delta Dental was to be used by the Merrimack High School Math Team for supplies and/or refreshments for students during competition.

b. Elbit Systems of America to Merrimack High School for \$3,500

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the above gift from Elbit Systems of American was to be used by the Merrimack High School Robotics Team to help purchase the necessary supplies and materials for the upcoming competitions.

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to accept the grants with the Board's sincere appreciation. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 - 0 - 0.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Committee Reports

Board Member Barnes said she attended the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on November 17th where they discussed the budget presented to Town Council. She said there was a need for additional support staff.

Board Member Barnes commented that the Agricultural Commission had disbanded and with that, the Parks & Recreation Committee would absorb some of their functions; i.e., the community garden, and the farmer's market.

Board Member Hardy said she attended the Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Integration Committee on November 18th, (virtually) where they saw a preview of "The Vision of a Graduate" that was being put together. She said they also adopted the online tool & resource evaluation rubric for any new tools coming forward in the future.

Board Member Peters said the Healthcare Cost & Containment Committee had met and they were still raffling gift cards (\$25.00 gift cards to Shaw's) to the teachers.

405	b. Correspondence
406 407 408 409	Chair Guagliumi said any correspondence not addressed would be addressed at the next Board meeting.
410	c. Comments
411 412 413	There were no comments made.
414 415	11. PUBLIC COMMENT
416 417	Bill Pfingston, Jessica Drive (Board Member Barnes read aloud into the record)
418 419 420	Since the summer weather is behind us I figured I would write some heartfelt wording to warm all of our souls.
421 422	This mask debate is tiring, and never ending. I have added my input, you know where I stand and
423 424	my position hasn't changed, because they offer no protection.
425 426 427 428 429	I see that a "vaccine" time and place has been established. 1) Let's stop calling it a vaccine, if it truly was then cases and deaths would be down. Cases and deaths are not down so, therefore, it is not a vaccine, it is a source of income for those who are retiring off of it. 2) Efforts are best when the ROI can be seen, a wise choice would have been for the school system to invest in rapid tests for students who have the sniffles and sent home because of it.
430 431 432 433 434	Merrimack, come on, let's gobranding, people because of how they view these issues is not right. Let's look at the picture. The pandemic in 1918 was over in 1.5 years, why are we still playing this game, is it because once power is given it becomes addictive to those who have it?
435	12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION
436 437 438 439	MOTION: At approximately 8:21 p.m. Board Member Barnes made a motion to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c). Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.
440 441	A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:
442 443 444 445	Yea: Board Member Barnes, Board Member Hardy, 5 Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Peters, and Chair Guagliumi
446 447	Nay: 0
448 449	The motion passed $5-0-0$.
450 451 452	At 9:06 p.m. Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.
453	The motion passed $5-0-0$.

The motion passed 5 - 0 - 0.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2021-2022 December 6, 2021

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	MHS	MMS	MHS MMS JMUES MES	MES	RFS	TFS
Fighting						
Vandalism			7			
Disrespect/Disruption Unsafe Behavior		1	2			9
Other						
TOTAL	0	7	4	0	0	9