

**Merrimack School District/SAU 26**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**Preliminary Agenda**  
**September 20, 2021**  
**Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room**

Send public comments to: [publiccomment@sau26.org](mailto:publiccomment@sau26.org). Comments must be received between the start of the meeting on September 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.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c)**

6:30 p.m. Staff Welfare

**PUBLIC MEETING**

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

7:05 p.m. **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**3. RECOGNITIONS**

7:30 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

7:40 p.m. **5. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Health and Safety Task Force Update Everett Olsen
2. Update to the Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy (EBCVM) Everett Olsen

8:00 p.m. **6. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Surplus from 2020-2021 Operating Budget to Reduce 2021-2022 Matt Shevenell  
tax rate
2. Lunch Program Update 2021-2022 School Year Matt Shevenell
3. Other

8:20 p.m. **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. September 7, 2021 Cinda Guagliumi

8:25 p.m. **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Administrator Resignation Kimberly Yarlott
2. Educator Nomination Kimberly Yarlott

8:35 p.m. **9. OTHER**

1. Committee Reports
2. Correspondence
3. Comments

8:50 p.m. **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

9:20 p.m. **11. ADJOURN**

\* These times are estimates and may vary depending on discussion.

## **Superintendent's Agenda Update School Board Meeting of September 20, 2021**

This is a brief summary of the nature of the agenda items for this meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Health and Safety Task Force Update**

I will be presenting the latest Merrimack COVID data from the New Hampshire Department of Public Health Services. This information has been reviewed with our Health and Safety Task Force and Leadership Team and provides the basis for my masking recommendation for October.

#### **2. Update to the Previously Adopted (August 19, 2020) Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy (EBCVM).**

Attorney Kathy Peahl has recommended that we rescind the original mask policy dated August 19, 2020 and adopt the policy that you voted on at the August 23, 2021 meeting. Attorney Peahl has also recommended some language changes to the "Duration" section of the new policy.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Surplus from 2020-2021 Operating Budget to Reduce 2021-2022 Tax Rate**

Matt will be presenting the fiscal 2021 close-out information, which is good news! Both revenues and expenditures were expected last year by the interruptions of normal operations resulting from COVID. This has resulted in a surplus that is somewhat larger than in many other fiscal years.

#### **2. Lunch Program Update 2021-2022 School Year**

Matt will briefly be discussing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision that school lunches will continue to be free for students through the 2021-2022 school year (ending June 30, 2022).

**MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit #26  
36 McElwain Street  
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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:** September 16, 2021

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**Subject: Health and Safety Task Force Update on Masking**

At the meeting on August 23, 2021, you voted a Masking Policy for the beginning of the school year with the understanding that it would be reevaluated on a monthly basis. This monthly review and recommendation from me will continue to be based on the NHDPHS Community Transmission Matrix and the criteria for determining the level of community transmission (minimal, moderate, substantial). I have included the matrix and transmission level criteria for your review.

I have reviewed the latest Merrimack data (as of 9/16/2021) from the state along with our local number of student and staff positive and quarantine cases. This data has been discussed with the Health and Safety Task Force and the school district's Leadership Team. Based on the current Merrimack data when compared to the NHDPHS matrix, I am recommending that we continue with the current mask policy that has been in place since September 1, 2021.

My recommendation has the support of the Health and Safety Task Force and our Leadership Team.

Our families, students and staff have been very responsible in wearing masks (with a classroom opt-out option) throughout our schools. With school being in session for less than two weeks, I believe that it is prudent to "stay the course" and we will continue to carefully monitor the number of student and staff positive cases and quarantine numbers.

I look forward to discussing my recommendation with you on Monday evening.



# NH DPHS Indoor Face Mask Recommendation

		Level of Community Transmission		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases Within Facility	Sporadic cases without evidence of facility transmission	Optional*	Optional*	Universal <sup>†</sup>
	Single Cluster	Targeted	Targeted	Universal <sup>†</sup>
	Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak	Universal <sup>†</sup>	Universal <sup>†</sup>	Universal <sup>†</sup>

\* Face masks still recommended for people who want maximal protection for themselves or others (e.g., a household member who is unvaccinated or medically vulnerable)

† Exceptions can be made for classrooms/schools that have achieved a high vaccination rate (e.g., high-school), or where other prevention measures can be strictly implemented (e.g., 6 feet of physical distancing)



NH DIVISION OF  
Public Health Services  
Department of Health and Human Services





# NHDPHS Criteria for Levels of Community Transmission

## Minimal community transmission

- Number of new cases per 100k over 14 days is less than 50
- AND
- Percent positivity rate is below 5%

## Moderate community transmission

- Number of new cases per 100k exceeds 50

## Substantial community transmission

- Number of new cases per 100k is 100 or greater
- OR
- Percent positivity rate exceeds 5%



Merrimack COVID-19 Data									
Date	8/5/2021	8/12/2021	8/16/2021	8/17/2021	8/18/2021	8/19/2021	8/20/2021	8/23/2021	
Case data									
Active Cases	18	30	31	30	25	26	28	39	
New Cases (last 14 days)	26	38	46	46	40	40	46	52	
Rate New Infections (per 100k)		162	174	174	151	151	174	196	
Anitgen+PCR Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days)		8.80%	7.00%	6.80%	6.60%	6.10%	6.50%	7.30%	
Vaccination Data									
% of Individuals Fully Vaccinated	56.50%	56.60%	56.70%	56.70%	56.70%	56.80%	56.80%	56.80%	
% of Individuals with at least 1 dose		61.80%	61.90%	62.00%	62.10%	62.10%	62.20%	62.20%	
% of Merrimack residents ages 12-19 fully vaccinated	36.90%	36.90%	36.90%	37.10%	37.20%	37.20%	37.20%	37.20%	
Hillsborough County COVID-19 Data									
Date	8/5/2021	8/12/2021	8/16/2021	8/17/2021	8/18/2021	8/19/2021	8/20/2021	8/23/2021	
COVID-19 Case data									
Active Cases	252	371	250	263	257	265	289	302	
New Cases (last 14 days)	167	314	392	415	420	403	427	442	
New Infections (per 100k)	77.4	145	181.7	192.4	194.7	186.8	198	204	
Anitgen+PCR Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days)	4.30%	6.50%	6.30%	6.80%	6.70%	6.80%	6.70%	6.10%	
COVID-19 Vaccination Data									
% of Individuals Fully Vaccinated			49.70%	49.80%	49.80%	49.80%	49.90%	49.90%	
% of Individuals with at least 1 dose			54.30%	54.30%	54.40%	54.50%	54.60%	54.60%	
% of Hillsborough residents ages 12-19 fully vaccinated				35%	35.10%	35.10%	35.10%	35.10%	
State of New Hampshire COVID-19 Data									
Date	8/5/2021	8/12/2021	8/16/2021	8/17/2021	8/18/2021	8/19/2021	8/20/2021	8/23/2021	
COVID-19 Case data									
Active Cases	893	1,305		1,844	1,910	2,059	2,191	2,324	
New Cases (by day)						299	337	174	



8/24/2021	8/25/2021	8/26/2021	8/27/2021	8/30/2021	8/31/2021	9/1/2021	9/2/2021	9/3/2021	9/6/2021	9/7/2021	9/8/2021	9/9/2021
37	42	57	70	72	66	67	65			59	47	43
55	58	68	83	88	94	99	97			93	92	81
208	219	257	314	332	355	374	367			351	348	306
8.60%	9.30%	10.80%	9.60%	11.10%	11.60%	11.00%	9.50%			7.40%	6.40%	6.40%
56.80%	56.80%	56.90%	56.90%	57%	57%	57%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%
62.20%	62.20%	62.20%	62.30%	62.30%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.50%	62.50%
37.20%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%
8/24/2021	8/25/2021	8/26/2021	8/27/2021	8/30/2021	8/31/2021	9/1/2021	9/2/2021	9/3/2021	9/6/2021	9/7/2021	9/8/2021	9/9/2021
297	323	373	418	424	423	458	481			490	455	457
454	487	506	574	583	598	635	651			668	718	730
210	225	234	266	270	277	294	302			309	333	338
7.00%	6.70%	6.90%	6.70%	7.80%	7.10%	7.50%	7.40%			5.70%	6.10%	6.30%
49.90%	49.90%	49.90%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.10%
54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%
35.10%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%
8/24/2021	8/25/2021	8/26/2021	8/27/2021	8/30/2021	8/31/2021	9/1/2021	9/2/2021	9/3/2021	9/6/2021	9/7/2021	9/8/2021	9/9/2021
2,377	2,524	2,798	2,927	2,864	2,963	3,041		3,120		3,221	2,887	3,079
290	329	356	384	218	372	348	444	460	248	339	339	552









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**To:** Cinda Guagliumi  
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**From:** Everett V. Olsen, Jr. 

**Date:** September 16, 2021

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**Subject: Mask Policy**

The masking policy that you passed that applied to the beginning of the school year has been reviewed by Attorney Kathy Peahl. Kathy has suggested some changes in the "Duration" section in our effort to provide more clarity. These changes have been incorporated into the respective sections. They do not change the original intent but, as stated provide more clarity.

This policy document will replace the original "Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy (EBCVM)" that was approved on August 19, 2020. Attorney Peahl has stated that since this new policy is substantially different that the policy passed on August 19, 2020 you should rescind the 2020 policy and adopt the new policy (August 23, 2021) in its place.

**USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY**

Masks will be worn by students, staff, visitors, and volunteers within the school building with the following exception:

At the written request of a parent or legal guardian, a child may opt-out of wearing a mask only while in a classroom. Please note that this opt-out applies only to students. All staff are expected to be masked while indoors when students and/or other adults are in their presence.

Masks do not have to be worn when students, staff members or volunteers are outside, at lunch, snack time, or during mask breaks that are held outside.

Masks will be worn while on a van or school bus.

Except as stated above, masks will be required in the school buildings at all other time, including transition time.

Masks will be worn by athletes who participate in indoor sports.

No person, including a student shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents them from doing such. In such cases, documentation of the disability or medical condition will be required, and in such cases, alternative precautions will be sought in order to achieve the same or similar safety benefits.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with students who are deaf or hearing impaired, students learning to read and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks or visors/clear face shields which enhance service provision.

- \* Mask decision will be revisited and possibly modified on a monthly basis, based on local COVID data.

**Duration**

This policy will be enforced as of September 1, 2021. It will be reviewed on a monthly basis upon analysis of Merrimack COVID data in relation to the NHDPHS Matrix and criteria on levels of community transmissions. Outbreaks or multiple clusters within a school/school district, as defined by NHDPHS or a change in the NHDPHS-defined level of community transmission for Merrimack may result in a change to this policy.



**USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY (continued)**

**Legal References**

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/200/200-39.htm>

Emergency Order #2020-04\_, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020- 15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: July 28, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Review: August 10, 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Review: August 19, 2020

Approved: August 19, 2020

Rescinded: \_\_\_\_\_

New Policy Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY

### General Requirements

All staff shall wear medical masks or cloth face coverings at all times when in school buildings and District offices at all times during the school day.

Classes shall be configured so that when possible, educators may be able to have a socially distanced location in the room for general instruction.

All visitors on campus shall be required to wear a mask upon entry to any school building and will be required to wear their mask at all times throughout their stay in any school building or District office.

No person, including a student, shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents them from doing such. In such cases, documentation of the disability or medical condition will be required and in such cases, alternative precautions will be sought in order to achieve the same or similar safety benefits.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with deaf students or hard of hearing students, students learning to read, and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks or visors/clear face shields which enhance service provision.

The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for students and staff who do not have access to a mask or cloth face covering.

New Hampshire State Department of Health and Human Service guidelines on masks and cloth face coverings shall be made available to all staff. Masks shall not be required during outdoor recess, outdoor physical education and designated mask breaks provided social distancing is in place.

### Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade

- All students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade shall be required to wear a mask or face covering at all times and in all locations throughout the designated school day except during designated mask breaks. This includes when on a school bus or other student transportation; when entering or exiting a school building or District office; when in corridors for any reason or transitioning from class to class; and in such other settings and environments as the District deems appropriate based on evolving data.



**USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY (continued)**

Any student who is deemed by school staff to present a risk of contagion or a health hazard to themselves or others by virtue of not wearing a mask shall be removed from the classroom setting or not permitted to enter the classroom setting and the parents shall be required to pick up their child. See NH RSA 200:39.

Any student in the circumstances listed above who is not wearing a mask shall be asked to wear a mask. Any student who is not wearing a mask or is wearing a mask in an improper fashion shall be asked to don a mask or to wear their mask properly, which is, safely covering both mouth and nose. Any student who refuses to do such shall be deemed a health hazard to themselves and others, shall be removed from the school building, their parent/guardian shall be contacted and required to take their child unless and until such time as they are willing to comply with the face mask or cloth covering requirement. See NH RSA 200:39.

**Duration**

This policy will be enacted in cases of wide-spread health concerns as defined by New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. It will remain in place until the warning is lifted, or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

**Legal References**

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:

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Emergency Order #2020-04\_, available at:

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Emergency Order #2020- 15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: July 28, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Review: August 10, 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Review: August 19, 2020

Approved: August 19, 2020

**Merrimack School Board Meeting  
Merrimack School District, SAU #26  
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room  
September 7, 2021**

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**Present:** Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Barnes, Board Member Hardy, and Board Member Peters. 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.

**1. 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 announced she would take the agenda out of order.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Rescind Motion from August 23, 2021, Meeting**

Chair Guagliumi commented that both motions from the last meeting had considerable overlap and she was advised to add the item to the agenda so the first motion could be rescinded. She said the current protocol regarding the Task Force recommendations regarding masking was in effect from September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. She added the intention was that it would be reviewed on a monthly basis and adapted as necessary.

Chair Guagliumi read aloud the following regarding the use of masks as summarized below:

*On August 23<sup>rd</sup> the School Board approved the District's Task Force recommendation regarding mask wearing with the exception that parents could opt-out of mask wearing for their children while they were in class. During the timeframe of September 1st through September 30<sup>th</sup> the first 16 days of school masks are to be worn by students, staff, visitors, and volunteers within the school buildings. Given this directive by the Board, it is a joint request of the District's Chief Education Officer, Bill Olsen, and herself, as the School Board Chair, that those seated at the table model the current masking protocol while at Town Hall and also as the requirements changed from month to month. She said masks were available to everyone who wished to wear one.*



43 **2. RECOGNITIONS**

44  
45 a. Ryan Carlson's Eagle Scout Project

46 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott recognized Eagle Scout Ryan Carlson and noted  
47 the project Ryan spearheaded surrounding replacing cabinets and countertops in the teacher's  
48 lounge at the Reeds Ferry Elementary School.

49  
50 b. Louis Normandin's Years of Service

51 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell recognized Mr. Louis Normandin's 30<sup>th</sup> year  
52 anniversary as a maintenance mechanic and shared that he would be retiring from the Merrimack  
53 School District. On behalf of the entire District, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell  
54 wished Mr. Normandin well.

55  
56 **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

57 Ms. Natalie Reyes-Silverman, London Court, addressed the Board and stated this was her second  
58 pandemic and she was never forced to be vaccinated, wear a mask, or not be able to attend  
59 school full-time. She noted that her public comment at the August 23 meeting was not accurate  
60 and asked that it be changed. (Recorder's Notation: Natalie Reyes-Silverman's statements at the  
61 August 23, 2021 school board meeting were verified and stand as is based on a review of the  
62 video recording of the meeting.)

63  
64 Ms. Sarah Lach, 51 Cota Road, addressed the Board and said she felt if there was an "opt-out"  
65 for the use of masks then it was not a mandate.

66  
67 State Representative Rosemarie Rung, 21 Ministerial Drive, addressed the Board and said  
68 positive COVID cases were rising. She said she felt it was important to mandate masks in schools  
69 or they would be moving backward.

70  
71 Mr. Bill Pfingston, 17 Jessica Drive, addressed the Board and said he did not feel there was  
72 evidence to warrant a mask mandate.

73  
74 Ms. Heather Robitalle, 45 Springfield Circle, addressed the Board and said she felt once there  
75 was an opt-out for the use of masks the efficacy went down. She added COVID had long-term  
76 effects for some people.

77  
78 Ms. Heather Callahan, 5 King Henry Court, addressed the Board and stated the World Health  
79 Organization advised against the use of masks for children aged 5 and under and did not  
80 recommend the use of masks for children under 12 and still wanted her child to receive the  
81 education which he was entitled to.

82  
83 Ms. Tiffany Castellucci-Trant, 419 South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said she  
84 was not in favor of the mask mandate. She said she felt the mask mandate violated the parents'  
85 rights to raise their children as they saw fit.

86  
87 Ms. Jennifer Greenwood, Dahl Road, addressed the Board and stated she felt parents should  
88 decide whether or not their child needed to wear a mask.

Ms. Alyssa Smokler, Beacon Drive, addressed the Board and stated she was not in favor of the students wearing masks.

Ms. Erin Alukonis, 6 Mulikin Road, addressed the Board and said she agreed with the policy the Board had put in place regarding masks. She said she felt the use of masks should be the parent's decision.

Ms. Erin Pagan, 33 Mallard Point, addressed the Board and stated she felt the use of masks should be up to the parents.

Mr. Chuck Mower, 4 Depot Street, addressed the Board as the Chairman of the School District Budget Committee and said he was hoping they could begin a discussion about what the common interests were amongst the School Board and the administration relative to educational initiatives and how the Budget Committee could help support those goals.

#### **4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE**

##### **a. Superintendent Update**

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said professional development had begun the previous week and was looking forward to a successful beginning to the school year. He said some professional development topics included using Canvas as the student-learning management system, and Universal Design for Learning Program (UDL). He added there were approximately fifteen different sessions offered during three separate time periods.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen added Dr. Robert Brooks, a nationally renowned author and speaker spoke with staff about resilience and motivation, and Dr. Allison Roy discussed the impact of stress and anxiety in the development of children and adults.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen asked for the community's support in keeping the kids in school and unless it was for religious reasons, to consider getting the vaccine as it was one of the mitigating strategies. He said the District website has COVID data that contains information regarding the positivity rate.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the administration was in the process of rewriting the guidance regarding quarantining and isolation in a user-friendly document and would be posted on the District's website the following day.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that beginning that week people who had given many years of dedicated service to the School District (20, 25, 30, 35, & 40 years) would receive a thank you card and a pin indicating their years of service from the Merrimack School District.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen also wished those who celebrated Rosh Hashanah a good year.

##### **b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update**

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott said "Handwriting without Tiers" was a program that was new to the pre-school and teachers had received training regarding it. She said there was also a cohort of kindergarten teachers who would also be piloting the program in the coming years.

140 c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

141  
142 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated, in response to a previous public  
143 comment, that the previous April a \$4 million lease/purchase was approved for a unit ventilation  
144 upgrade in the schools. He said the contract was signed, the order was placed, and the work  
145 would be forthcoming.

146  
147 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the bleachers at the Smith Gymnasium,  
148 and the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School APR were complete. He said the new floor  
149 including striping was also complete and noted all of the projects were paid for by the Trustees of  
150 Trust Funds and cost approximately \$350,000.

151  
152 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell explained they had gone through every single  
153 fountain and performed testing for lead in the water and would have a full report that would be  
154 posted on the website the following week.

155  
156 c. School Board Update

157  
158 Chair Guagliumi noted the Merrimack Teachers Association (MTA) contract and the Advise and  
159 Confer were up for negotiations in the current year and wanted to coordinate a meeting between  
160 the School Board, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and administration to discuss areas of  
161 focus and goals.

162  
163 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen commented he felt it was important to include the teachers  
164 and the community in that discussion.

165  
166 c. Student Representative Update

167  
168 Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative said she was currently a high school junior at Merrimack  
169 High School and looked forward to being the Student Representative.

170  
171 **5. OLD BUSINESS**

172  
173 a. Rescind Motion from August 23, 2021 Meeting (Continued)

174  
175 As a reminder Chair Guagliumi stated there were two motions made at the August 23, 2021,  
176 meeting that overlapped. She said Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen suggested that the  
177 first motion be rescinded.

178  
179 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the first motion was regarding the general option to  
180 opt-out of wearing a mask which passed by a 3 to 1 vote. He said Chair Guagliumi was not able  
181 to participate due to technical issues. Further, he said after the re-establishment of the telephone  
182 connection another motion was made which allowed students to opt-out while in the classroom  
183 only.

184  
185 Vice Chair Rothhaus said she did not feel there was enough information regarding which motion  
186 was to be rescinded and would have liked to have had that information prior to the meeting.



Board Member Barnes suggested both of the motions should be rescinded and then take another vote that more accurately reflected the Board's intent. She also suggested that the motion be tabled.

Board Member Hardy said she felt it was important to have a policy in place prior to the students starting school and there was no time to table the discussion.

Board Member Peters said she did not feel the first motion had to be rescinded just because they added language in the second motion. She added the policy had been published based on the second vote.

Chair Guagliumi provided the Board with a copy of a revised "Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy." She said the policy was for the Board to review prior to the next meeting. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the proposed policy was vetted by legal counsel and was in line with the second motion passed two weeks prior.

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented that moving forward she felt they need to find out how many student athletes were vaccinated and what the NHIAA's position was. Chair Guagliumi instructed Board Members to reach out to her and Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen with suggestions.

Board Member Hardy confirmed that the second mask policy voted upon two weeks prior was the policy passed out to the Board minus the indoor sports topic. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied that was correct.

Chair Guagliumi said the policy would be on the agenda at the next School Board meeting and noted they had the ability to waive the two-week rule in an emergency situation.

#### b. Health and Safety Task Force Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated he would provide the Board with updated data every day or every other day from the Town's Health Director, Erin Olson, and pointed out the information was updated on a daily basis and was available on the District's website. He said he would also include the opt-out numbers by school which would also be updated daily.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Student Enrollment Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he was particularly pleased with the number of enrollments at the elementary level. He expressed his thanks to the Board for approving an additional hire at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School as it reduced the class sizes.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he would continue to provide the Board with monthly enrollment reports. He added he would be speaking with Mr. Tim Thompson who was the Director of Community Development to review the residential development in the Town of Merrimack; noting they should keep an eye on the development in the Town up to three years out. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said for every \$1.00 contributed to the tax base there was approximately \$1.30 to \$1.45 in expenses created by residential development.

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented she appreciated the reduction in class size but also felt it was important to retain the wonderful teachers they had. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated that he was absolutely in agreement with that and was something that manifested through the collective bargaining process in terms of their ability to attract, recruit, and retain high-quality teachers.

b. Consideration for the Board to Accept Emails from the Public

Board Member Barnes said she felt public comments should be accepted via email beginning immediately.

c. Review of September 2, 2021, Professional Development Program

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott noted they had two keynote speakers, Dr. Robert Brooks, and Dr. Allison Roy, addressed the staff via Zoom and the staff was able to interact with both of them. She said they also reviewed Canvas and thanked Ms. Nancy Rose, Director of Technology and Library Media Services for her assistance in rolling it out. She also said there were speakers who discussed the Universal Design for Learning Program (UDL) as well as speakers who addressed the social and emotional component.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott stated the other priority addressed during the professional development sessions was the ELC (Essential Learning Competency's) in grades pre-K through grade 12.

## **7. APPROVAL REQUESTS**

a. August 23, 2021 Minutes

Edits:

Page 1, line #8 – Board Member Hardy and Board Member Peters were added to those who were present. – Board Member Barnes

Page 6, line #245 – “Board Member Barnes suggested that the School Board could initiate a policy mandating masks but the like many other policies, parents could sign a document for their child to opt-out.” was changed to “Board Member Barnes suggested that the School Board could initiate a policy mandating masks similar to another policy about objectional content that parents could sign a document for their child to opt-out.” – Board Member Barnes

Page 9, line #407 was changed to: “Board Member Barnes reminded everyone, in response to earlier public comment that there were water filtration systems in every school in the District and the water was PFOA free. – Board Member Barnes

Page 9, line #412 was changed to: “Mr. Brian Trant, 419 South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said he thought the motion made by the Board was that masks were optional in hallways.” – Board Member Barnes

Chair Guagliumi stated Ms. Natalie Reyes-Silverman had said that she did not feel her public comment was properly reflected.



Page 2, line #98 – “Ms. Kathy (inaudible)” was changed to “Ms. Kathy Komar” – Chair Guagliumi

Page 9, line #437 – “Mr. Finlay Rotthaus” was changed to “Mr. Finlay Rothhaus” – Vice Chair Rothhaus”

**MOTION:** Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2021, as amended. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

b. August 26, 2021, Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the August 26, 2021, meeting. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1. (Abstained – Board Member Peters)**

c. June 2, 2021, Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the June 2, 2021, meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

d. June 9, 2021, Non-Public Minutes

**MOTION:** Board Member Peters made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the June 9, 2021, meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

e. Educator/Administrator Nominations

- Ms. Brielle Lapiana, School Counselor, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Sarah Leland, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Amanda Belliveau, Grade 6 Teacher, James Masticola Upper Elementary School
- Ms. Melissa Gagne, Director of Human Resources, Districtwide

f. Approval of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process

**MOTION:** Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the educator/administrator nominations and the Approval of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

**The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

328 **8. OTHER**

329  
330 a. Committee Reports

331  
332 There were no reports to share.

333  
334 b. Correspondence

335  
336 Chair Guagliumi said she received correspondence regarding the wish to have students wear  
337 masks in school, the wish to not have students wear masks in school, the lack of remote learning  
338 options, and comments regarding the Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen's back-to-school  
339 plan.

340  
341 Board Member Peters commented she received an email from a parent who was concerned about  
342 the \$10.00 technology fee for the 1:1 computers. She said she referred the parent to Ms. Nancy  
343 Rose and said the Board would take the matter under advisement during their budget discussions.

344  
345 c. Comments

346  
347 Board Member Barnes commented the memorandum dated September 3<sup>rd</sup> included in the  
348 Board's package stated: "I believe we should require students who have opted out to wear a mask  
349 at all times in our schools indoors if they have been identified as a close contact of a family  
350 member in the home who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is my recommendation that also  
351 applies to a student who has been identified as a close contact with someone in the community  
352 who has tested positive." She asked why those students were not being asked to quarantine and  
353 also stated she felt it was very important to vet that issue. Chair Guagliumi said she would make  
354 sure the discussion was added to the next meeting's agenda.

355  
356 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

357  
358 The following people made comments:

359  
360 Ms. Heather Robitalle, 45 Springfield Circle thanked the Board for all of their hard work,  
361 particularly regarding social and emotional learning.

362  
363 Ms. Rosemary Rung, 21 Ministerial Drive said the CDC still recommended a 14-day quarantine  
364 for an unvaccinated person who had COVID-19 exposure.

365  
366 Ms. Heather Callahan, 5 King Henry Court commented the World Health Organization stated that  
367 children under the age of 6 should be within sight of a parent or guardian if they were required to  
368 wear a mask. She also said that she liked the idea of the District sending out surveys.

369  
370 Ms. Ashley Tenhave, 75 Shelbourne Road, addressed the Board and said she felt it was  
371 dangerous not to require a mask while in school.

372  
373 Ms. Tiffany Castellucci-Trant, 419 South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said she  
374 was not in favor of the mask mandate and was disappointed with the Board's decision regarding  
375 the use of masks.



377 Mr. Bill Pfingston, 17 Jessica Drive, addressed the Board and said he did not feel anyone should  
378 be allowed to take pictures at the meetings.  
379

380 Ms. Alyssa (not provided), a resident, said she registered her child for school and she was not  
381 asked whether or not she wanted to opt-out of the mask policy. Chair Guagliumi said the opt-out  
382 option was available on the District's website.  
383

384 Mr. von Schoen 4 Conservation Drive, addressed the Board and suggested the Board focus more  
385 on clarity in education and how learning platforms were introduced. He added that he felt there  
386 should be more simplicity in sending out assignments as well as updating the grades.  
387

388 **10. Adjournment**

389  
390 **MOTION:** At approximately 9:20 p.m. Board Member Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Vice  
391 Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.  
392

393 **The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

**MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2021-2022**  
September 13, 2021

Enrollment On	September 13, 2021	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
MES		49	75	73	77	81	70	425												425
RFS		30	84	74	77	94	81	440												440
TFS		39	94	98	104	102	97	534												534
MUES									264	274	286	560								560
MMS								242					262	279	276	352	1169			560
MHS																		14	134	1169
PR-12 Total																				3634
Student Services ODP**																				14
Home Study (HSS)																				134
<b>Total</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>1399</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>1169</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>3782</b>

\*\*Out-of-District Placement

**MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2021-2022**

Month	September 13, 2021	*PRE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	SSP	HSS	TOTALS
September 13, 2021		118	253	245	258	277	248	1399	264	506	274	286	560	262	279	276	352	1169	14	134	3782

**BUS SUSPENSIONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

Fighting	MHS	MMS	JMUES	MES	RFS	TFS
Vandalism						
Disrespect/Disruption						
Unsafe Behavior						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



