Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
July 14, 2025
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room

5:30p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Merrimack TV Training Classroom

- Student Welfare

PUBLIC MEETING

6:00 p.m. **1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** — Lori Peters

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION — Lori Peters

6:10 p.m. **3. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES** — Lori Peters

a. Superintendent Update
b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
d. School Board Update

6:20 p.m. **4. OLD BUSINESS** — Lori Peters

6:20 p.m. **5. NEW BUSINESS** — Lori Peters

a. Educational Funding Discussion — Lori Peters
b. August 2025 Leadership Retreat Discussion — Everett Olsen
c. Cell Phone Policy Discussion
d. Other

7:00 p.m. **6. POLICIES** — Lori Peters

a. Second Review of School Guidance and Counseling Program Policy (JLD)
b. Second Review of Revised Behavior Management and Intervention Policy (JLDBA)
c. Second Review of Accommodation of Lactation Needs Policy (ACN)
d. Second Review of Revised Daily Physical Activity Policy (IMAH)

7:10 p.m. **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Lori Peters

a. June 2, 2025 Public Minutes
b. June 16, 2025 Public Minutes

7:15 p.m. **8. CONSENT AGENDA** — Kathleen Scholand

a. Educator Resignation
b. Educator Nominations

7:20p.m. **9. OTHER** — Lori Peters

a. Committee Reports
b. Correspondence
c. Comments

7:30 p.m. **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** — Lori Peters

7:45 p.m. **11. ADJOURN**

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

Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Special Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
July 15, 2025 (Tuesday)

Merrimack High School - Main Office Conference Room

6:00 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c)

- Student Welfare

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

6/26/2025

Policies In Process	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review (if needed)	Adoption	Comments
JLD – School Counselor and Counseling Program Policy	06/16/25	7/14/25			
JLDBA – Behavior Mgmt and Intervention Policy	06/16/25	7/14/25			Revision
ACN - Accommodation of Lactation Needs Policy	06/16/25	7/14/25			Legal reviewed
IMAH - Daily Physical Activity Policy	06/16/25	7/14/25			Revision

MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD POLICY **JLD**

SCHOOL ~~GUIDANCE~~ COUNSELOR AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

The School Board is committed to ensuring a high quality school guidance program that is comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, fosters academic achievement and personal growth, and is provided to all District students in an equitable manner.

The program will include the following:

- Distribution of information and support to students and families about academic programming, community supports, and other relevant information

- ~~Coordination~~ Conformance with national standards, including "The ASCA National Model: A Foundation for School Counseling Program," published by the American School Counselor Association ("ASCA") in 2012.

- Prevention, intervention, and crisis response services

- Promotion of personal, interpersonal, health, academic, and career development for all students through classroom programs and other services

- ~~Periodic assessment of this guidance and counseling program will be the responsibility of guidance counselors and the building administrators.~~ A summary report of student performance in achievement, attendance, and behavior shall be provided to the board at least once a year, addressing the effectiveness of the school counseling program.

- All provisions of NH Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306, Minimum Standards for Public School Approval.

It is the policy of this Board that, at all grade levels, school counselors collaborate with parents, students, staff, and community to remove barriers to learning and provide opportunities and supports to empower students to embrace their full potential and achieve their academic and personal aspirations. The guidance counselor is responsible for developing a program or plan that identified student success in academic performance, social awareness, and career planning.

The Superintendent shall develop and have on file a comprehensive K-12 school counseling program implementation plan consistent with this policy and kept current biennially.

Legal References:

NH Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.30
~~NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.13, Guidance Plan~~
~~NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.15(b), Provision of Staff, Guidance~~
~~NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.39(c) and 306.39(d), Guidance Program~~

1st Reading: April 6, 2009
2nd Review: May 4, 2009
Adoption: May 18, 2009

Revision
1st Reading: June 16, 2025
2nd Review: July 14, 2025
Revised:

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION

It is the policy of the Board to promote good behavior in a safe and orderly environment where all students can be fully engaged in the learning process. To ensure that our students and staff are protected against disruptive behavior, the board directs the superintendent to set forth procedures for behavior management and interventions that are designed to maintain a positive environment conducive to learning.

Student conduct that disrupts class work, involves disorder, or invades the rights of others will not be tolerated and may be cause for suspension or other disciplinary action.

The administration of disciplinary action will focus both on consequences and on changing or managing inappropriate behavior.

It is important that there be careful evaluation of the individual situation so that the school's response to the student is appropriate.

If the student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the process will follow federal and state laws governing special education.

All available resources should be utilized, including preventive and responsive interventions to support students' needs. These interventions should include psychological, curricular, and behavioral services, which should take place within classrooms, schools, and alternative settings. Exclusion from the classroom should be the disciplinary action of last resort.

The superintendent will also ensure that classroom behavior management skills are addressed through professional development, and that there is an adequate system of recordkeeping regarding disciplinary infractions and interventions.

The use of corporal punishment is prohibited in District schools.

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board's policy review process.

Legal Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. ~~306.04(16)~~ 306.04(b)(15), Behavior Management and Intervention for Students

		Revision	
1st Reading:	February 19, 2008	1st Reading:	June 16, 2025
2nd Review:	March 3, 2008	2nd Review:	July 14, 2025
Adoption:	March 17, 2008	Revision:	

MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD POLICY **ACN**

ACCOMMODATION OF LACTATION NEEDS

A. Statement of Purpose.

The District provides a supportive environment as to time and place for ┤ students ├ and employees (collectively "people with lactation or lactation related needs") to express milk and address other lactation related needs. Subject to the terms and exceptions set forth in this policy, the District will accommodate the needs of people with lactation or lactation related needs by providing reasonable times and suitable spaces for people with lactation or lactation related needs to express milk during school and work hours for one year after pregnancy. Lactation for purposes of this policy will include expression of milk by manual or mechanical means, medical conditions related to lactation, and other lactation related needs.

No person with lactation needs will be discriminated against for milk expression or related activities as provided in this policy, and reasonable efforts will be made to assist people with lactation needs in meeting their lactation needs while at work or school.

B. Accommodation Notice and Plans.

A person with lactation needs should contact the building Principal, school nurse (students only), ~~or~~ employee's supervisor or human resources for staff at least two weeks before the need for lactation accommodations arises. The District will endeavor to meet the break and space needs of each person with lactation needs. However, when ordinary accommodations (as discussed below) create undue hardship for the operations of the school/workplace, the District will work with the person with lactation needs to determine whether other reasonable accommodations may be made. Such other accommodations could include items like a change in work/class assignments, or schedules, additional break periods, permitted absences for medical appointments, or access to extra food and water throughout the day. When reasonable accommodations are unattainable, the ~~school nurse,~~ building Principal or ~~other administrator working with the person with lactation needs~~ supervisor should consult with the District's Human Rights/Non Discrimination Officer, Title IX Coordinator, or Superintendent.

A lactation accommodation plan should be revisited upon request of the person with lactation needs, or at least every three months, with adjustments made to the accommodations for lactation breaks as lactation needs change.

C. Reasonable Time to Express Milk during the School Day.

Absent other accommodations as established under Section B, above, a person with lactation needs will have a minimum of three opportunities ("lactation period") during a work or school day, at agreed upon intervals (which should include flexibility as appropriate and practicable) for the purpose of lactation or to address other needs relating to lactation. An employee or student can choose to use usual break and meal periods.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD POLICY **ACN**

ACCOMMODATION OF LACTATION NEEDS (continued)

A person with lactation needs who is an hourly employee ~~[CHOOSE ONE OF TWO OPTIONS] [OPTION 1] will not be paid during lactation periods unless either (a) the lactation period falls during a regular paid break (e.g., a paid lunch), or the person is not completely relieved of duties during the lactation break. [OR OPTION 2]~~ will be paid during lactation periods. People with lactation needs shall not be required to "make up" time relating to the use of unpaid lactation periods.

D. Suitable Private Areas for Lactation.

People with lactation needs will be provided with a private place, other than a bathroom, in each school district building in which a person with lactation needs spends the working or school day. The lactation area:

1. May be temporary or permanent;
2. Shall be shielded from view and free from intrusion by other persons, including without limitation other staff or students;
3. Shall be within a reasonable walk of the workstation or classroom of the person with lactation needs unless otherwise agreed by the person with lactation needs;
4. Have at a minimum:
    a. An electrical outlet;
    b. Appropriate seating;
    c. A surface sufficient to place a breast pump;
    d. A sink with running water or be in reasonable proximity to one;
    e. A refrigerator for milk storage or be in reasonable proximity to one; and,
    f. Shall be cleaned regularly by District staff assigned to that duty.

E. Responsibilities of the Person with Lactation Needs.

A person with lactation needs will:

1. Provide at least two weeks' advance notice of the need for lactation accommodations, preferably prior to their return to school. This will allow school administrators the opportunity to establish a location and work out scheduling issues. Note that, not withstanding the requested two weeks' notice, an unnecessary delay in making a reasonable accommodation for a person with lactation needs could constitute a violation of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA). ~~And Title IX Sexual Harassment.~~
2. Maintain the lactation area by wiping down surfaces with antibacterial wipes so the area is clean for the next user.
3. Provide their own supplies as is necessary.

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MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD POLICY **CAN**

ACCOMMODATION OF LACTATION NEEDS (continued)

F. Prohibited Conduct.

Any intentional act which violates a lactating person's privacy, aims to frustrate a lactating person's intentions to use the lactation space, or constitutes harassment on account of a lactating person's needs or lactating status is prohibited, and shall be treated as violation of the applicable code of conduct with possible disciplinary consequences, and may constitute sex discrimination and shall be reported to the Title IX Coordinator in accordance with policy ACAC.

G. Dissemination of Policy.

This policy shall be printed or summarized in applicable employee and student handbooks. For employees, if the handbook is not provided at the time of hire, then the District will provide a copy of this policy at the time of hire.

Legal References:

RSA 275:78-83, Policies Relating to Nursing Mothers
RSA 354-A:1, (Human Rights) Title and Purposes of Chapter
RSA 354-A:27, Opportunity for Public Education without Discrimination a Civil Right
RSA 354-A:6, Opportunity for Employment without Discrimination a Civil Right
89 FR 291182, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA)
20 U.S.C 1681, et seq, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
42 U.S.C. 2000gg, Pregnant Worker Fairness Act (PWFA)
42 U.S.C. 218d, Pump for Nursing Mothers Act (PUMP Act)

1st Reading: June 16, 2025
2nd Review: July 14, 2025
Adoption:

DRAFT

MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD POLICY **IMAH**

DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Board recognizes that developmentally appropriate daily physical activity, exercise and physical education are ways to minimize health risks created by chronic inactivity, childhood obesity, and other related health problems. The Board recommends that students and staff participate in developmentally appropriate physical activity and exercise for at least 30 to 60 minutes each day as a way to minimize these health risks. The Board recommends the following practices:

1. Encourage parents/guardians to support their children's participation in enjoyable physical activities, and recognize that parents/guardians act as role models for active lifestyles;
2. Support special programs such as student and staff walking programs, family fitness events, and events that emphasize lifelong physical activity;
3. Integrate health and physical activity across the school curriculum;
4. Encourage student-initiated activities that promote inclusive physical activity on a school-wide basis;
5. Commit adequate resources that include program funding, personnel, safe equipment, and facilities;
6. Provide professional development opportunities for all school staff that will assist them to effectively promote enjoyable and lifelong physical activity among youth, and that will assist school staff to recognize their influence as role models for active lifestyles;
7. Establish relationships with community recreation and youth sports programs and agencies to coordinate and complement physical activity programs;
8. Encourage physical activity recess periods; and
9. Institute a tracking and evaluation method to ensure that all students are engaging in developmentally appropriate daily physical activity.

Legal References:

~~RSA 189:11-a, Food and Nutrition Programs~~
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. ~~306.04 (l)~~ 306.31
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. ~~306.04 (a) (17)~~ 306.32
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 310, Appropriate Daily Physical Activity

1st Reading: November 3, 2008
2nd Review: November 17, 2008
3rd Review: December 1, 2008
Adoption: December 22, 2008

Revision
1st Reading: June 16, 2025
2nd Review: July 14, 2025
Revision:

Merrimack School Board
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
June 2, 2025

5:00 p.m. – Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) & (c) – Merrimack TV Training Classroom

- **Staff Welfare**
- **Student Welfare**

Present: Ms. Lori Peters, Chair; Ms. Laurie Rothhaus, Vice-Chair; Ms. Naomi Halter, Board Member; Ms. Jenna Hardy, Board Member; Ms. Rachel Paepke, Board Member; and Mr. Finnegan Haddad, Student Representative.

Also Present: Mr. Everett Olsen, Chief Educational Officer; Ms. Amy Doyle, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum; and Mr. Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Peters called the regular meeting to order.

Chair Peters read aloud the Merrimack School District's mission statement into the record as follows:

The Merrimack School District will provide a high-quality, future-driven education to all students in the community. Students will engage in learning opportunities that reflect both rigor and relevance and meet their cognitive, social, and emotional needs. The district will prepare students to understand, adapt to, and adjust to the changing world, including civic, economic, social, and technological developments. Our overall goal is to inspire, create, and encourage students to be curious, connected, prepared, resilient, and dedicated individuals who are lifelong expert learners. Merrimack graduates exercise judgment; they are innovative and will become responsible contributors to society. We hope the discussions we have tonight will always align with that mission.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

3. STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

a. Boy's Hockey Team

Chief Educational Officer Olsen and the School Board recognized the following students on the Boys' Hockey Team for being the State Runners-Up:

- Tyler Allen
- Blake Beaulieu
- James Brew
- Mason Crose
- Chase Duey
- Will Farrell
- Colin Hamlin

- Josh Kahn
- Keoni Monte
- Felix Rattunde
- Jonny Turner
- Ryan Warrington
- Jackson Woods

b. Co-ed Bowling Team

Chief Educational Officer Olsen and the School Board recognized the following students on the Co-ed Bowling Team for being the State Runners-Up:

- Hannah Boisvert
- James Fulton
- Colby Kugler
- Ethan Melanson
- Braydon Messuri
- Jake Roehm
- Christiana Smart

c. Individual Gymnastics

Chief Educational Officer Olsen and the School Board recognized the following student on the Individual Gymnastics Team for placing 2nd in the State, all-around, and placed in every event that year.

- Mia LeBlanc

d. Granite State Challenge

Chief Educational Officer Olsen and the School Board recognized the following students on the Granite State Challenge team for securing not only the 5th Championship for Merrimack, but also for three consecutive wins.

- Bridget Clark
- Avis Clever
- Maeve LaRock
- Liam MacIsaac
- Hikari McDowell
- Lauren Murby
- Erin Murray
- Elizabeth Dumais (Assistant Coach)
- Dr. Sara Campbell (Coach)

State Senator Tim McGough, State Representative Miles, State Representative Rung, State Representative Murphy, State Representative Thomas, and State Representative Boyd were present to congratulate the Granite State Challenge team. State Representative McGough read aloud from the proclamation that was presented to the team.

e. Outstanding Band Director of the Year

Board Member Rothhaus stated that the School Board would like to honor Ms. Holly Levine as the Outstanding Band Director of the Year.

f. Student Representative Haddad

Chair Peters commented that Student Representative Haddad had been an integral part of the School Board and wished him the best of luck. Student Representative Haddad replied that he planned to attend the Electrical Engineering Major Program at the University of New Hampshire in 2026.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen reviewed the following:

- Thanked the Rotary Club for honoring the Top Ten Scholars at the dinner held the prior Friday evening.
- The high school held its 8th-grade transition night, and it was well attended.
- James Mastricola Upper Elementary School – "Project Safeguard" took place on May 30th. He said a former injured veteran was a guest speaker, and it was an extremely meaningful event.
- Received a memo from Mr. Adam French, the Athletic Director, which reflected how much the Merrimack School District athletic teams had advanced over the years.
- Merrimack High School had been recognized as a 2024/2025 Granite State Unified Champion School for their work with the Best Buddies Program, Unified Athletics Coaches, and Student Athletes.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle commented that summer programming was coming together nicely, the Extended School Year program would be occurring through the Department of Student Services, and the summer learning programs at the elementary and middle level were in place, and the 8.5 Program was happening at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle noted that the NH SAS results were available on the family portal.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle commented that the last day of school would be June 18, 2025 and it will be a half day for students. She said there would be a professional development day on June 19th & 20th for staff.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that he would soon be in contact with Michael Burke of the American Legion because they needed to make a few edits to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell mentioned that summer projects would results in a busy summer.

d. School Board Update

Chair Peters stated that she joined the Leadership Team when they met with Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education. She said the meeting was not as productive as they had hoped, in that the leaders were not able to share as much information as they thought regarding bullying and unkindness training in their schools. She said Mr. Edelblut was fighting for the funding felt due to the State of New Hampshire.

Chair Peters reminded the School Board that their Goals Meeting was scheduled for June 19th.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Haddad reviewed upcoming events.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Committee Update

Chair Peters stated that she and Board Member Hardy attended the Budget Committee and mentioned that the committee had elected Heather Robitaille as Chair and Dan Coakley as the Vice Chair of that committee.

Chair Peters noted that Attorney Gray gave an hour-long presentation regarding the Right-to-Know law.

Chair Peters shared there had been some discussion regarding digital versus physical textbooks.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Composting and Health Initiatives at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

Ms. Jackie McMahon, Ms. Cinzia Bibb, both School Nurses at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, and Ms. Kate Viands, Art Teacher at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, were present to share some new initiatives at the school.

Ms. McMahon shared that throughout the presentation, there were icons that represented the Merrimack School District's vision of a Learner. She also said many aspects of their Hydroponic Food Recovery and Food Diversion Programs were aligned and integrated with the district's framework.

Ms. McMahon said that in the 2023/2024 school year, they started having conversations regarding how they could bring more health and wellness and innovative education to students at the elementary level.

Ms. McMahon said they purchased two small hydroponic gardens and created lessons for the 3rd and 4th-grade students. She further stated that the PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization) and St. Joseph's Hospital purchased another, larger hydroponic garden.

Ms. McMahon also said that the Department of Education offered a grant as part of its "Farm to School program," which they applied for and received for $6,000. She said there were two units in the lunchroom and that they could grow over 50 pounds of lettuce in one month!

Ms. Bibb stated that they were asked to speak about their hydroponic journey for the NH Farm to School Webinar series. She said Uplift New Hampshire provided a presentation regarding composting. She said the school started composting, and the program was fully funded through Uplift New Hampshire.

Ms. Bibb shared that according to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), over 800 pounds of food waste were diverted from trash, over 200 unopened milk cartons were recovered via Share Table, and over 50 pounds of fresh carrots and apple bags were also recovered via Share Table.

Ms. Viands stated that the program provided the students not only with hands-on exploration but also with critical thinking and real-world problem-solving skills.

Ms. McMahon stated that only food from the School Lunch Program could be placed on the Share Table, which included unopened pre-packaged food and beverage items or whole fruit with peel intact.

Ms. McMahon reviewed some initiatives happening at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School:

- The Great Tomato Giveaway
- Try-Day Friday
- Garden Girls
- The Great Apple Crunch

Ms. Viands explained that extended learning opportunities were also available, including clay pottery and lessons on hydroponics versus soil growing.

The School Board collectively thanked the staff for their presentation and expressed how happy they were that the program was being taught, and it had tremendous opportunities to expand.

b. Other

Vice-Chair Rothhaus noted that if the School Board was going to invite the Budget Committee and the School Planning & Building Committee to the Fourth of July parade, they should send them invitations soon.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 5, 2025 – Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Paepke made a motion to accept the non-public minutes from the May 5, 2025, meeting, as presented. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

b. May 12, 2025 – Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to accept the non-public minutes from the May 12, 2025, meeting, as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

c. May 19, 2025 – Public and Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to accept the public and non-public minutes from the May 19, 2025, meeting, as presented. Board Member Paepke seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Teacher Retirements/Resignations

- Jennifer Gonzalez, Science Teacher, MHS
- Ashley Cocciardi, Classroom Teacher, (One-year leave of absence) TFS
- Emily Ingham, Special Education Teacher (One-year leave of absence) JMUES
- Catherine Eckmair, Special Education Teacher (Retirement) RFS
- Louis Mailoux, Classroom Teacher (Retirement) JMUES

b. Administrator Resignations

- Sarah Reinhardt, Director of Special Education (Districtwide)
- Bridget Pare, Assistant Director of Special Education (Districtwide)

MOTION: Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to accept the above-listed retirements and resignations. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

c. Teacher Nominations

- Madison Johansson, Classroom Teacher, JMUES
- Benjamin Moyer, Science Teacher, MHS

d. Administrator Nomination

- Kathleen Scholand, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (Districtwide)

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the above-listed nominations. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

9. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

Board Member Halter stated that she attended a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on May 21st, where they discussed the summer programming. She said the after-school program would be open to all four elementary schools.

Board Member Halter commented that she had attended the Art Night at Thorntons Ferry, and it was very successful.

Chair Peters stated that she was a member of the Joint Loss Management Committee, and she performed an unannounced inspection of the Merrimack High School with Melissa Fazlic, HR Director, and Tom Tousseau, Director of Facilities. She said the school was exceptionally clean and she commended Principal Steve Claire for his leadership.

b. Correspondence

Chair Peters stated that she received multiple pieces of correspondence regarding a parent concern, a personnel concern, a transportation and summer concern, and a legal matter that would be taken up with the district's attorney later in the month.

Board Member Hardy commented that she received correspondence from a parent who actually wanted to thank the School Board for keeping the provision for the B team for soccer.

c. Comments

Chair Peters welcomed Kathleen Scholand, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 7:51 p.m., Board Member Halter made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Paepke seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
June 16, 2025

Present: Ms. Lori Peters, Chair; Ms. Laurie Rothhaus, Vice-Chair; Ms. Jenna Hardy Board Member; and Ms. Naomi Halter, Board Member.

Also, Present: Mr. Everett Olsen, Chief Education Officer, Mrs. Amy Doyle, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Mr. Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Excused: Ms. Rachel Paepke, Board Member

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Peters called the regular meeting to order.

Chair Peters read aloud the Merrimack School District's mission statement into the record as follows:

The Merrimack School District will provide a high-quality, future-driven education to all students in the community. Students will engage in learning opportunities that reflect both rigor and relevance and meet their cognitive, social and emotional needs. The district will prepare students to understand, adapt to and adjust to the changing world, including civic, economic, social and technological developments. Our overall goal is to inspire, create, and encourage students to be curious, connected, prepared, resilient, and dedicated individuals who are lifelong expert learners. Merrimack graduates exercise judgment: they are innovative and will become responsible contributors to society. We hope the discussions we have tonight will always align with that mission.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rosemarie Rung of 21 Ministerial Drive congratulated the District on a successful high school graduation. She asked the Board to consider reinstating the high school end of the year report. She explained the end of year report was created by a former high school principal. It included the drop-out rate, attendance, grade distribution, number of students taking weighted courses, percentage of students participating in co-curricular activities and the number of bullying reports. She felt this would provide a broader picture of how the District services students rather than just test scores.

Heather Robitaille of 45 Springfield Circle spoke as a parent to express her appreciation to everyone who made a difference in her daughter's experience and transition to the upper elementary school this past school year. She thanked Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle for the impact she had on the curriculum during her time in Merrimack.

3. RECOGNITIONS

a. Holly Levine

a. K-8 School Year 2024-2025 Highlights

Merrimack Middle School Principal Boezeman and Assistant Principal Hoppa highlighted student created core principle words "Mature", "Determined", "Supportive" and "Fun". These words describe to the students what it takes to be successful at Merrimack Middle School. The words will change next year to "Commitment", "Empathy"," Optimistic" and" Fun.

Additional Highlights:

- Practice evacuation drills included passing time, during lunch, and alternative exits.
- First year of Wit and Wisdom implementation for the 7th grade.
- First year of OpenSciEd for 7th and 8th grades.
- Most students received a full quarter of both Spanish and French
- Band and Chorus met daily during the school day
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) implementation through the use of technology
- Representatives from NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) performed a three day whole-school assessment
- MTSS-B (Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health) Implementation
- High school credit will be available for 8th grade students next year in Algebra, Spanish and French.
- The boys' track and field team won the Tri County Championship, the field hockey team and soccer team competed in the finals.

James Mastricola Upper Elementary School Principal Rheault reported Wit and Wisdom was the highlight for grades K-6. She stated Wit and Wisdom had an incredible impact in the area of reading, writing and literacy.

Principal Rheault introduced Melissa Lloyd, first grade teacher at RFS; Sue Bradford, third grade teacher at MES; Nicole Diggins, fourth grade teacher at TFS; and Beth Temlevitch, sixth grade teacher at JMUES.

Melissa Lloyd state the greatest strength of Wit and Wisdom was the exceptional approach to increasing vocabulary. Wit and Wisdom equips students in the primary grade levels with both the language and the background knowledge to assess complex ideas and express themselves with clarity and precision.

Sue Bradford explained that the craft and skill set of teachers are important and support the Wit and Wisdom modules. Wit and Wisdom encompasses vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. Third grade students studied the sea and space modules. She explained the variety of texts are engaging and provide students the opportunity to revisit multiple excerpts from books they already read allowing for a deep dive into a variety of topics. When her students were asked what message Mrs. Bradford could bring to the school board meeting their response was they like writing multiple paragraph essays.

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to waive the first reading of the School Guidance and Counseling Program Policy (JLD). Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. First Reading of Revised Behavior Management and Intervention Policy (JLDBA)

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to waive the first reading of the Revised Behavior Management and Intervention Policy (JLDBA). Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

c. First Reading of Accommodation of Lactation Needs Policy (ACN)

MOTION: Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to waive the first reading of the Accommodation of Lactation Needs Policy (ACN). Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

d. First Reading of Revised Daily Physical Activity Policy (IMAH)

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to waive the first reading of the Revised Daily Physical Activity Policy (IMAH). Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 28, 2025 Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the May 28, 2025 Non-Public Minutes. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. June 2, 2025 Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the June 2, 20025 non-public minutes. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND GRANTS UNDER $20,000

a. Anonymous Donor to Food Services Department for $1,000

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reported the $1,000 will be used to pay off the negative accrued balances for free and reduced lunches at the high school.

Chair Peters also received correspondence about graduation.

c. Comments

Vice Chair Rothhaus was impressed with the high school graduation. She appreciated all the organization and work of many people. There was a sense of gratitude from the graduates and their families.

Vice Chair Rothhaus expressed her appreciation to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Doyle. She stated that Amy had a huge impact on the District, was exceptional in every way, had tremendous skill and vision. Her work will have a lasting impact on the Merrimack School District. Her work ethic and leadership will be greatly missed.

Board Member Hardy was impressed with the events during senior week and graduation. She expressed her appreciation to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Doyle. Mrs. Doyle's legacy, in only three years, will last decades due to her talent and dedication to the District.

Board Member Halter shared a personal story as an example of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Doyle's impact to the District.

Chair Peters stated that Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Doyle received every challenge and supported the staff through those challenges during her three short years in Merrimack. Chair Peters is grateful for Mrs. Doyle's time in Merrimack and wishes her great success in her new District.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Rosemarie Rung of 21 Ministerial Drive stated she has a resource that explains responsible forestry. She noted the importance of the Board staying in touch with State Representatives regarding the impact(s) of any bill.

Heather Robitaille of 45 Springfield Circle wished Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Doyle all the best in her new assignment. She appreciated the Wit and Wisdom presentation. She appreciates the Board bringing the Watkins Forrest information to the public to understand the forestry project. She congratulated the class of 2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 7:30 p.m., Board Member Halter made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2024-2025

June 2, 2025

6/2/2025	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
MES	23	62	57	75	82	70	**369**														**369**
RFS	56	92	113	84	86	77	**508**														**508**
TFS	43	81	95	100	99	90	**508**														**508**
MUES								264	274	**538**											**538**
MMS											243	239	**482**								**482**
MHS														255	249	264	255	**1023**			**1023**
PR-12 Total																					**3428**
Student Services ODP**																			24		**24**
Home Study (HSS)																				158	**158**
Total	**122**	**235**	**265**	**259**	**267**	**237**	**1385**	**264**	**274**	**538**	**243**	**239**	**482**	**255**	**249**	**264**	**255**	**1023**	**24**	**158**	**3610**

**Out-of-District Placement

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2024-2025

Month	*PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
September 9, 2024	104	239	267	267	266	239	1382	263	274	537	238	246	484	262	261	271	284	1078	20	139	3640
October 1, 2024	105	239	266	265	269	239	1383	261	272	533	237	242	479	258	257	268	273	1056	20	139	3610
October 7, 2024	106	238	266	265	269	239	1383	261	273	534	238	240	478	257	257	267	274	1055	20	139	3609
November 4, 2024	107	238	265	263	270	240	1383	264	274	538	239	240	479	257	256	265	273	1051	22	144	3617
December 2, 2024	110	237	264	262	267	239	1379	263	275	538	240	240	480	257	256	265	270	1048	22	147	3614
January 6, 2025	116	235	263	260	268	238	1380	263	276	539	240	241	481	258	253	266	269	1046	24	148	3618
February 3, 2025	118	234	264	260	267	237	1380	264	277	541	240	242	482	259	250	265	270	1044	24	150	3621
March 3, 2025	117	235	264	259	267	236	1378	264	275	539	241	241	482	259	250	266	266	1041	25	150	3615
April 7, 2025	118	235	263	259	267	237	1379	264	274	538	242	239	481	256	250	266	259	1031	24	155	3608
May 5, 2025	119	235	265	259	267	238	1383	264	274	538	243	240	483	256	249	264	259	1028	24	157	3613
June 2, 2025	122	235	265	259	267	237	1385	264	274	538	243	239	482	255	249	264	255	1023	24	158	3610

BUS SUSPENSIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

	MHS	MMS	JMUES	MES	RFS	TFS
Fighting						
Vandalism			1			
Disrespect/Disruption			2		1	
Unsafe Behavior		2		1		
Other						
TOTAL	**0**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**0**