Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
May 15, 2023

Present: Chair Ken Martin, Board Member Naomi Halter, Board Member Jenna Hardy, and Board Member Lori Peters. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Amy Doyle. Also present was Student Representative Kaitlyn Vadney.

Not Present: Vice-Chair Rothhaus (Excused) & Chief Educational Officer Olsen (Excused)

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

3. RECOGNITIONS

a. Granite State Challenge

Chair Martin recognized the students from the Granite State Challenge for coming in 1st place.

b. All-State Musicians

Chair Martin recognized the students who participated in the New Hampshire Music Educators All-State Festival.

c. Student Representative Kaitlyn Vadney

Chair Martin commented that this meeting would be Student Representative to the School Board, Ms. Kaitlyn Vadney's last meeting as she was graduating in June and thanked her for the incredible amount of work she had done for the school district and wished her all the best.

d. Town of Merrimack Media Division

Board Member Hardy read aloud a recognition for the Merrimack TV Division as summarized below:

The Town of Merrimack's Media Division (Merrimack TV) has been notified by the Alliance for Community Media that the segment "Merrimack Moments" celebrating Patricia Cunningham, had been named 2022's best web-based program by a public access TV professional. This is the first time that Merrimack TV has won a national award from the Alliance for Community Media. Media Division staff would be accepting the award at the ACM's 2023 National Conference in New York on June 28th.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

There was no Superintendent update as Chief Educational Officer Olsen had an excused absence from the meeting.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle thanked Ms. Vadney for her dedication to the School Board. She said the following Friday would be an early release day and the teachers and staff would be discussing a variety of building-based things, some student transition planning meetings, curriculum work, and the DOE would be on-site for training purposes.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle said the 2nd-grade community should have received an email regarding the updated assessment tool as they were moving forward with the "Cognitive Abilities Test." She said the test would be given on the last day in May.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Doyle commented that State Assessments were ongoing, and the middle and high school families would be notified about their student's participation in the New Hampshire Student Gallop Poll.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the previous week a drone was flown over the entire campus to get a better idea of what the Master Plan would look like. He added that traffic counts were also being conducted. He said he wanted to meet with the Planning & Building Committee and the high school administration prior to sharing the draft with the School Board.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reminded the Board that the district had received a $120,000 grant for security, and they had started the work.

d. School Board Update

Chair Martin commented that several end-of-year concerts were going on, and the following week the "Showcase of Learning" would take place at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School and there would be an art show at the Reeds Ferry Elementary School the following Thursday.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney said "Senior Service Day" would be held on May 22nd (rain date on May 23rd) and "Field Day" would be held on Thursday afternoon for the entire school. She said "Senior Sign-Out Day" was on June 2nd and the overflow day would be on June 5th. Kaitlyn thanked the School Board for allowing her to have a seat representing the students.

Future Student Representative Shaun Evidente introduced himself and said he was looking forward to working with the School Board on behalf of the student body.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell explained that Mr. Jason Pelletier had planned on attending the meeting but had another commitment. He said that Mr. Pelletier had

said that he would be amendable to implementing the BYOD in a tiered approach rather than an abrupt one.

Board Member Peters said that she felt the following year juniors and seniors should have an opt-out but freshmen, and sophomores should be fully integrated into the 1:1 device.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle noted that the only exception would be that juniors had to take the New Hampshire SAS and the SATs on a district device so those students who had opted out would have to log in to a Chromebook on those testing days.

Board Member Peters said she felt the Board needed to vote on the issue as a policy but wanted to see an updated policy from Mr. Pelletier that included the roll-out of the policy.

b. Demolition Update for Brentwood and Student Services Buildings

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the vision for the central office consisted of the Superintendent and his staff, Accounts Payable, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle, and Accounts Payable. He said he also thought it was important to have the Student Services Department to be in physical proximity. He said it would be complicated to have a complete office switchover. He said the thought was to demolish the Brentwood building but leave the Student Services building as it was for the time being. The Board collectively agreed to leave the Student Services building as is for the time being.

c. Revisit Committee Assignments

2023 – 2024 School Board Assignments

Assignment	**2022 – 2023**	**2023 - 2024**
School Board Chair	Laurie Rothhaus	Ken Martin
School Board Vice-Chair	Lori Peters	Laurie Rothhaus
Budget Committee	Naomi Halter	Naomi Halter
(Alternate)	Ken Martin	Jenna Hardy
NH School Boards Association (Delegate)		
(Alternate)		
Curriculum/Instruction/Technology (CIT) Committee	Jenna Hardy Ken Martin	Jenna Hardy Ken Martin
School Bus Stop Committee	Naomi Halter	Naomi Halter
Professional Development Committee	Lori Peters	Ken Martin
(Alternate)	Ken Martin	Lori Peters
Planning & Building Committee	Laurie Rothhaus	Laurie Rothhaus
Wellness Policy Implementation Committee **(Last Active 2019)**	Lori Peters	Lori Peters
Healthcare Cost Containment Committee	Ken Martin	Ken Martin
District Parent Group **(Last Active 2018)**	Jenna Hardy	
(Alternate)	Ken Martin	
Communications Committee	Jenna Hardy Ken Martin	Jenna Hardy Ken Martin
Policy Committee	Naomi Halter	Naomi Halter Lori Peters

Superintendent Search Committee	Lori Peters Laurie Rothhaus Jenna Hardy (Rotation)	**Currently Inactive**
Athletic Advisory Committee (2 members) – **NEW 2023**	N/A	Jenna Hardy Laurie Rothhaus
Joint Loss Management Committee **NEW 2023**	N/A	Melissa Fazlic Lori Peters
Collective Bargaining		
Merrimack Teachers Association #1 (MTA)	Laurie Rothhaus	**Currently Inactive**
Merrimack Teachers Association #2 (MTA)	Lori Peters	**Currently Inactive**
Merrimack Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) #1	Jenna Hardy	Laurie Rothhaus
Merrimack Education Support Staff (MESSA) #2	Ken Martin	Lori Peters
Advise & Confer #1	Laurie Rothhaus	Jenna Hardy
Advise & Confer #2	Lori Peters	Naomi Halter

Out-of-District Committee Assignments

Assignment	**2022 – 2023**	**2023 - 2024**
Grater Woods Subcommittee (SB Representative position)	Ken Martin	Matt Shevenell
Town Center Committee	Matt Shevenell	Matt Shevenell
Parks & Recreation	Naomi Halter	Naomi Halter
(Alternate)	Laurie Rothhaus	Laurie Rothhaus

New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate

NH School Board's Association		Ken Martin
(Alternate)		Lori Peters

Board Member Peters said she felt there should be a District Parent Group.

Board Member Hardy suggested that perhaps they should retool how the group was set up. She said she felt it would be a meaningful thing to bring back.

Board Member Halter commented that she felt they should have a larger discussion regarding evaluating the committees at the Goals meeting.

Board Member Hardy said she felt the Communications Committee would be important to also be looked at and perhaps revamped to meet the present times.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Merrimack High School NEASC Report

Mr. Steve Claire, Principal, Merrimack High School, addressed the Board and said the NEASC Report was quite extensive, and he summarized it as follows:

- NEASC Foundational Elements
    - Learning Culture
    - Student Learning
    - Professional Practice
    - Learning Sport
    - Learning Resources

Mr. Claire said foundational elements were identified by NEASC as essential structures, policies, and systems so a safe, effective, and sustainable learning community can exist. He said in 2019, the NEASC process had begun with a collaborative conference school rating and the high school rated itself with three elements met and three elements not met. He said the NEASC representative visited the high school and did their rating, and they were in agreement with the school in five out of the six elements. He said they identified the area of Learning Resources as a foundation element that had not been met. He said the elements that were not met in 2019, but were met in 2022, were as follows:

- Developing a Vision of a Graduate
- Developing a School Improvement Growth Plan
- The Community and the District to provide School Buildings with Facilities that Support the Delivery of High-Quality Curriculum, Programs, and Services

Mr. Claire said the foundation element that was not met in 2019 and was still being worked on was having a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school. He said they had made significant progress toward meeting standards.

Mr. Claire also pointed out that they received multiple commendations from the representatives that visited.

Mr. Claire said they would continue to reflect on and revise and implement the growth plan. He said his first progress report was due in February of 2024 to the NEASC Commission. He added in the fall of 2025 they would provide a three-year progress report.

Board Member Peters noted one thing that she noticed was one of the recommended next steps that read: “Complete the creation of rubrics and develop processes to provide feedback to learners and their families on each learner’s progress in achieving the school’s “Vision of the Graduate.” She said she felt that as they moved towards competency-based learning and assessment those rubrics were very important to have so that it did not appear subjective.

b. Christa McAuliffe Statehouse Memorial Presentation

Representative Tim McGough addressed the Board and said for the first time in over 100 years the State House would commission a life-sized bronzed representation to honor Christa McAuliffe to be placed in front of the State House. He said the hope was to place the RFP on the state house’s website the following day and that would be due sometime in July. He added that an exact location had not yet been chosen.

Representative McGough said that they would like students to participate by writing essays on how Christa McAuliffe inspired them to achieve some of their goals. He said he was hopeful to unveil the sculpture on Christa McAuliffe’s birthday, September 2, 2024.

6. POLICIES

a. Video Surveillance on School Property (EEAA) (3rd Review)

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve policy (EEAA) Video Surveillance on School Property, given its 3rd reading. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. Home Education Instruction (IHBG) (2nd Review)

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said that they had received some comments from home education families regarding the evaluation portion.

Chair Martin stated that the policy would be placed on the next School Board meeting agenda so that the public could review the change regarding the evaluations.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 1, 2023 – Public and Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, public, and non-public meetings, as presented. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. May 4, 2023 – Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023, non-public meeting, as presented. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND GRANTS UNDER $5,000

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club received a gift of $500.00 from Mr. Dan Bantham of State Farm Insurance for the activities of S.A.D.D.

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to accept the gift of $500.00 with the School Board's sincere appreciation. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Educator Resignations
- Ms. Emily Hillman, Music Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Catherine Rousseau, Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Molly Davis, Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School
- Ms. Lindsey McElhinney, Special Education Coordinator, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Bernice Saranita, Music (Band) Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Amy Fine, Special Education Coordinator, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Coleen Landry, Teacher, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the educator resignations. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. Teacher Nominations
- Ms. Julie Hinse, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Haylee Smith, Music Teacher, Reed Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Andrea Inamorati, Elementary Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- Mr. Adam Perkins, Elementary Teacher, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
- Ms. Lydia Mathson, Elementary Teacher, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Olivia Blanchet, Elementary Teacher, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
- Ms. Dorothy Moloney, Elementary Teacher, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the teacher nominations. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle commented that the new positions for Mr. Harley Hall, Director of ELO's & Pathways to Graduation, and Ms. Katherine Colbert, School Counseling Director would begin as of July 1, 2023. She also said that Mr. Mike Soucy, Athletic Director at the Merrimack High School had submitted his notification of resignation effective on June 30, 2023.

11. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

There were no reports to share.

b. Correspondence

Board Member Hardy said she had received correspondence from a constituent who was asking about making public comment and she said she explained what the procedure was.

Board Member Peters said she received correspondence regarding athletics, and she passed it along to Chief Educational Officer Olsen.

Chair Martin said he also received correspondence regarding athletics, as well as correspondence about staff, and he passed them along to Chief Educational Officer Olsen.

c. Comments

Board Member Peters said she saw a lot of appreciation shown to teachers in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Mahoney from Rochester approached the microphone.

Board Member Hardy asked her to stop speaking and stated only citizens could speak at Public Comments per the visitor orientation on the back of the agenda.

Board Member Peters informed Ms. Mahoney that she could send board members an email.

Finn, a student addressed the Board and thanked the Board for their time and consideration of Mr. Pelletier's new policy.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 7:30 p.m. Board Member Halter made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.