Approved 4-3-2023

Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
March 20, 2023

Present: Chair Laurie Rothhaus, Board Member Naomi Halter, Board Member Jenna Hardy, and Board Member Ken Martin. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Amy Doyle, Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and Ms. Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative.

Not Present: Vice-Chair Lori Peters

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

3. RECOGNITIONS

a. Girl's Wrestling

Chief Educational Officer Olsen, on behalf of the School Board, recognized members of the Girl's Wrestling team for placing 1st and 3rd place in the first New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) Girls' Wrestling Championship. Chair Rothhaus also recognized the excellent coaches of the wrestling team.

b. Bowling

Chief Educational Officer Olsen, on behalf of the School Board, recognized the bowling team who were also state champions. Chair Rothhaus, on behalf of the School Board, also recognized the excellent coaches of the bowling team.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen presented the bowling team with a plaque recognizing the Merrimack Ten-Pin Bowling "Baker's" record.

Chair Rothhaus thanked the parents and guardians for all of their support to the athletes.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the prior day seventeen student delegates from the Merrimack High School had participated in the Model U.N. Conference at Bedford High School where they did an amazing job.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen also said that the Merrimack High School guidance office had offered the student Arms Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test for the first time the previous week and had nine students participate. He also shared some pictures of the annual field trip to HYPE at UNH Durham where Merrimack High Students met with other students around the state to discuss the role of individual agency and self-determination in a fulfilling student life.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the Merrimack Middle School concert band performed at the New Hampshire Music Educators Association Middle School Group Festival in Goffstown, NH. He said they received the highest rating possible from all four judges. He added that the following evening there would be a Celebration of Song – District Choir Concert. He said the choir from all of the district's schools would perform two songs and the night would close with all of the students singing a song together. Additionally, Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the Cavalcade of Bands concert at Merrimack High School and would feature the bands from the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, Merrimack Middle School, and Merrimack High School.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated that registration for kindergarten would be on the following Wednesday evening, March 22nd, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the James Mastricola Elementary School, and all three elementary schools would be accepting registration. He also said the Merrimack Middle School's drama club's spring musical, Anne of Green Gables, would be performed on Friday, March 31st, and April 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he received a very nice article from Ms. Julie DeLuca, Principal, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School regarding a former student, Mr. James Marzano, a current sophomore at Wheaton College, who had muscular dystrophy, and was a guest reader at the Reading Program at the school, and was very well received. He also said Carl Dunn, a student at Merrimack High School, was named the All-Star of the High School Hockey Senior game. He said he would be participating in a game between the New Hampshire All-Stars versus the Vermont All-Stars in a Make-A-Wish hockey classic fundraiser that would take place in Burlington, VT, at the University of Vermont, on June 30th, and July 1st, 2023.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated that Ms. Sara Campbell, Science Teacher, Merrimack High School, had informed him that the quarter-final round of the Granite State Challenge would begin airing on New Hampshire public television on March 31st at 7:30 p.m. He also stated that Ms. Tammy Lambrou, Business Teacher, had informed him that 57 students were receiving free college credits from the Nashua Community College, and 15 students were receiving early college credits from Southern New Hampshire.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said she was very excited about the upcoming professional development training to occur the following Friday. She said they were transitioning to a new phonics program and all of the material had come in and the teachers (kindergarten through grade 3) had already begun an implementation training. She said 504 training was also being offered to the school counselors and nurses. Additionally, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said there was still a lot of curriculum work being done with the Unified Arts team and at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said the district had transitioned over to Vector which was an online portal where one could engage in professional development activities, and where they would offer some of the required training in the future.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle stated that they had started work with the New Hampshire Learning Initiative regarding competencies. She also pointed out that the following Tuesday the juniors would be taking the SATs.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell noted that the sample ballot had been posted on the district's webpage and the voter's guide would be posted soon.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell also said he was a member of the Town Center Committee and that Mr. Nelson Disco, on behalf of the Town Center Committee, would be sending the

School Board Chair a letter in support of the Master Plan. He noted, however, that there would be an additional meeting with the Planning & Building Committee to review and refine a few items. He also said they had received three bids to demo the Brentwood building that were all within the budget and they would meet with the vendor after the April vote.

d. School Board Update

Chair Rothhaus commented that the Deliberative Session was very important to attend and every Warrant Article regarding money (not including contracts) could be amended.

Chair Rothhaus said Board Member Martin and herself would be attending the Town Counsel meeting to discuss the possible moving of the voting date to March.

Chair Rothhaus noted that eventually there would need to be a new SAU building.

e. Student Representative Update

Ms. Vadney noted the following upcoming events and said she would provide further information:

- Spring Spirit Week
- The Prom
- Senior Week
- Graduation Plans

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of 2023 – 2024 School Calendar

Chief Educational Officer Olsen pointed out that the construction of the school calendar was consistent with the information they received via the 2023 – 2024 school calendar survey that was sent out to parents and staff. He noted that he also included a "Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances."
MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the 2023 – 2024 School Calendar, as presented. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Last Day of School

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted that currently the last day of school was scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2023, and would be a ½ day for students and a full day for staff with June 21st and June 22nd, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to be professional development days.

b. Other

There was no other new business to discuss.

Chair Rothhaus indicated that Board Member Hardy would lead the discussion regarding policies.

7. POLICIES

a. Second Review of Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grate One (JFAAA)
   - Policy (JFAAA) was moved forward for a third review.

b. Second Review of Service Animals (IMGA)
   - Policy (IMGA) was moved forward for a third review.

c. Second Review of Animals in the School (IMG)
   - Policy (IMG) was moved forward for a third review.

d. First Reading of Student Use of Information Technology (JICL)

e. Annual Review of Investment Policy (DFA)

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the Annual Review of Investment Policy (DFA). Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 6, 2023

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023, meeting. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 – 0 – 1. (Abstained – Board Member Hardy)

b. February 20, 2023

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2023, meeting as amended. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

Edits:

Page 1, "2022" was changed to "2023" – Board Member Halter

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0

c. March 6, 2023 (After the Deliberative Session)

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2023, meeting. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Administrator Retirement

Ms. Heather Barker, Director of Student Services, Merrimack School District

Chief Educational Officer Olsen commented that he felt Ms. Barker was tenacious in making sure that the student's needs were met and wished her the very best.

Chair Rothhaus commented that they would all miss her very much.

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

10. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports to share.

b. Correspondence

Board Member Hardy said the entire School Board received an email regarding the last day of school being on a Monday.

Chair Rothhaus said she received correspondence from a Merrimack High School senior who was writing questions about the Deliberative Session and he wanted to know why the Moderator did not take a vote.

Chair Rothhaus also said she received an email from a parent regarding how many honors and AP (Advanced Placement) classes there were at the high school.

c. Comments

Board Member Martin said the high school band and chorus were performing at the High School Large Group Festival on the following Saturday at Bow High School.

Board Member Martin also said he had the privilege of meeting the new Alternative Pathways to Graduation and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Coordinator, Mr. Harley Hall.

Board Member Hardy commented that she was already impressed with Mr. Hall's work.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Heather Robitaille, 45 Springfield Circle, expressed her excitement and appreciation regarding the Fundations Program that was being rolled out.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 7:06 p.m. Board Member Martin made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.