Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
July 10, 2023
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room

5:15 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Memorial Room

- Staff Welfare

PUBLIC MEETING

6:00 p.m.	**1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**	Ken Martin
6:05 p.m.	**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**	Ken Martin
	3. RECOGNITIONS	Ken Martin
6:15 p.m.	**4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**	Ken Martin
	a. Superintendent Update	
	b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update	
	c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update	
	d. School Board Update	
	e. Student Representative Update	
6:25 p.m.	**5. OLD BUSINESS**	Ken Martin
	a. Review of June 22nd Goal Setting Meeting and 2022-2023 Goals Update	
6:40 p.m.	**6. NEW BUSINESS**	Ken Martin
	a. Approval of MESSA Memorandum of Understanding for 2023-2024	Everett Olsen
	b. Crossing Guard Discussion	Matt Shevenell
	c. Other	
7:15 p.m.	**7. POLICIES**	Ken Martin
	a. Approval of Fund Balance Policy (DIA)	
	b. Approval of Wellness Policy (JLCF)	
	c. Second Review of Student Transportation Services (EEA)	
	d. First Reading of Admission of Homeless Students (JFABD)	
	e. First Reading of Education of Children in Foster Care (JFABE)	
7:30 p.m.	**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**	Ken Martin
	a. June 19, 2023 Public and Non-Public Minutes	
7:35 p.m.	**9. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND GRANTS UNDER $5,000**	Matt Shevenell
	a. Jeanine Marie Briggs to Merrimack High School for $800	
7:40 p.m.	**10. CONSENT AGENDA**	Amanda Doyle
	a. Educator and Administrator Resignations	
	b. Educator and Administrator Nominations	
	c. Approval of District Registrar Job Description	
	d. Approval of Director of School Counseling Job Description	
	e. Approval of Middle School Dean of Students Job Description	
	f. Approval of Reading Interventionist Job Description	
7:55 p.m.	**11. OTHER**	Ken Martin
	a. Committee Reports	
	b. Correspondence	
	c. Comments	
8:10 p.m.	**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**	Ken Martin
8:10 p.m.	**13. ADJOURN**	Ken Martin

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

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

AND THE MERRIMACK EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION

This **Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA")** is entered into by the Merrimack School District and the Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association, NEA-NH ("Association"). Hereinafter, the term "Employee" will refer to any employee represented by the Association and covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement in effect for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

WHEREAS the District and the Association wish recruit and retain employees.

WHEREAS a number of vacancies in the Support Staff Agreement remain unfilled.

WHEREAS the current agreement only allows placement on the wage scale up to step 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree to the following provisions and modifications to the Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA"):

1. Section 26.4 shall temporarily read: Initial placement on the wage scale shall be based on years employed in the Merrimack School District. Employees hired into the district with comparable experience will receive initial placement on the wage scale, not to exceed step 10, in accordance with the number of years of service the employee held in the comparable position.

2. All employees of the Merrimack School District, covered by the MESSA Agreement, shall receive a retention bonus of $1,000.00, subject to the following terms:
    a. $500.00 to be paid in the first payroll of December (employees but be current employees in positions covered by MESSA)
    b. $500.00 to be paid in the first payroll of June (employees but be current employees in positions covered by MESSA)

3. The district will also pay a referral bonus to current employees who refer employees for full time employment in the MESSA agreement, subject to the following terms:
    a. $500.00 per referral*, not to exceed $1,000.00
    b. To be paid upon completion of the new hire completing 90 workdays

c. Only one referral bonus will be paid out per new hire (if two employees refer an employee, only one employee can "claim the referral")

5. The parties agree that this MOA shall set no precedent or past practice and shall not be used in any proceedings except to enforce its terms.

6. The parties agree that this MOA does not replace the current Collective Bargaining Agreement which is still in full force and effect except as explicitly modified by this MOA or other negotiated agreements between the Association and the District.

7. The Parties recognize that this MOA may include topics which are not mandatory subjects of bargaining and, to the extent it does, the Parties reserve the right to assert or refuse to negotiate such subjects in any future negotiations and any obligations created herein shall expire with this MOA. The Parties also acknowledge that the purpose of this MOA is to attempt to recruit and retain quality talent. The Parties acknowledge that conditions may change and it will be necessary for the parties to be flexible and to cooperate with one another to adapt to any changes. The Association agrees it will not file any grievance or ULP related to a provision in this MOA without first consulting with the Interim Chief Educational Officer and attempting in good faith to reach a mutual resolution. The Board reserves the right to assert that provisions which relate to non-mandatory subjects of bargaining are not subject to the grievance process or the provisions of RSA 273-A:5.

8. The parties agree that this Memorandum of Agreement is temporary and will only be in effect for the 2023-2024 school year.

Merrimack School District

By:_____

Date:_____

Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association

By:_____

Date:_____

Merrimack School Board

By:_____

Date: _____

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

7/3/2023 red = required by law

Policy Progress	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review (if needed)	Adoption	Comments
Fund Balances (DIA)	6/5/23	6/19/23	X	7/10/23	New financial policy
Wellness Policy (JLCF)	6/5/23	6/19/23	X	7/10/23	Lawyer and D. Dziki reviewed.
Student Transportation Services (EEA)	6/19/23	7/10/23			Rescind old policy #8300 and AP 8300 (admin procedures)
Admission of Homeless Students (JFABD)	7/10/23				Lawyer reviewed. Process with Foster Care
Education of Children in Foster Care (JFABE)	7/10/23				Lawyer is reviewed. Process with Homeless Stds
With Attorney for Review					
Next in Line					
Suicide Prevention and Response (JLDBB)					Sandy incorporate lawyer edits into current policy.
Policy Development, Adoption & Review (BGAA)					Type, lawyer review
Use of Physical Restraint/Seclusion (JKAA)					Update, lawyer review
Fraud Prevention and Fiscal Management (DIH)					Matt = Sandy type.
Access to Public School Program (JJJ)					Send to lawyer for review
Limited English Language Proficiency Instruction Policy (IHBBA)					Amy = Update 2008 LAAU Plan for ESOL
Instructional Approach (IF)					Amy = Update 2008
Exceptions to Use of Specific Course Materials (IGE)					Amy = Update 2012 New RSA 186:11

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

Health Education and Exemption from Instruction (IHAM)					Amy = Updated 2017
Character and Citizenship Education (IHAK)					Amy = Update
Student Use of Information Technology (JICL)	3/20/23	5/1/23 tentative			Jason is doing a major review for July 2023
Employee Use of Information Technology (EHAA)	5/1/23 tentative				Jason is doing a major review for July 2023.
Daily Physical Activity (IMAH)					Referenced in Wellness Policy (JLCF)
Public Participation at Board Meetings (BEDH)					K. Peahl updated
Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels (JG)					Ready for SB mtg. Referenced in IHBG
Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)					Amy & Bill Review
Extended Learning Opportunity – Application (IHBH-R)					Amy & Bill Review. Does not need SB approval
Alternative Credit Options (IMBC)					Amy & Bill Review
Employment of Relatives for Persons with Romantic Personal Relationships (GBEBE)					Matt = Melissa & Bill Review
Emergency Disaster Leave (GCCAB)					Matt = Melissa & Bill Review
School Safety (EBB)					Matt = Sandy type
Bomb Threats (EBCC)					Matt = Sandy type
Fraud Prevention & Fiscal Management (DIH)					Matt = Sandy type
Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation (JLCJA)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
School Bus Safety Program (EEAE)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
Buildings and Grounds Security (ECA)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
Supervision of Students (JLIA)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
Visitors to the Schools (KI)					Matt = Referenced in EBB

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

Conduct on School Property (KFA)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response Plans (EBCA) & EBCA-R					Matt = Referenced in EBB
Fire and All Hazard Drills (EBCB)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
Workplace Safety Program & Joint Loss Management (EB)					Matt = Referenced in EBB
JFABD R-1 Appendix to Admission of Homeless					Amy reviewing
JFABD R-2 Appendix to Admission of Homeless					Amy reviewing
JFABD R-3 Appendix to Admission of Homeless					Amy reviewing
School Choice: Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter Schools or Home Educated Pupils (RSA 193:1-c) (JJJ)					8/31/22 new law
Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE)					Update per A. Tamposi. Policy is vague.
Teacher Performance and Evaluation (GCO)					Priority Policy
Alternative Learning Plans (IHBI)					Priority Policy. referenced in IMBC
High School Graduation (IKF)					Sandy type.
High School Graduation Competencies (ILBAA)					Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
Earning of High School Credit (IK)					Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
High School Graduation Competencies (ILBAA)					Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
High School Credit for 7th and 8th Grade Advanced Course Work (IMBD)					Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)					Get sample. Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
Distance Education (IMBA)					Get sample. Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

Advanced Course Work – Advanced Placement (IHCD/LEB)					Get sample. Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
Early Graduation (IKFA)					Get sample. Sandy type. Referenced in IMBC
School District Internet Access for Staff (GBEF)					
Instructional Needs of Students with Different Talents (IFA)					
Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities (IHBAA)					
Promotion and Retention of Students (IKE)					
Weapons on School Property (JICI)					
Student Discipline Out of School Actions (JICDD)					
School Health Services (JLC)					
Concussion and Head Injuries (JLCJ)					
Special Physical Health Needs of Students (JLCK)					
Board Policy Process (BG to BGF)					Review policies needed. Sandy type.

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

Approved Policies	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review	Adoption	Comments
Home Education Instruction (IHBG)	5/1/23	5/15/23	X	6/5/23	
Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interest and Manifest Hardship (JCA)	09/12/22	10/03/22	10/17/22	10/17/22	
Student Records and Access (FERPA) (JRA)	09/12/22	10/17/22	11/7/22	11/7/22	
Use of Physical Restraint/Seclusion (JKAA)	10/03/22	10/17/22	11/7/22	11/7/22	
Public Participation at Board Meetings (BEDH)	10/03/22	10/17/22	11/7/22	11/7/22	
Pupil Safety and Bullying (JICK)	11/7/22	11/21/22	X	02/06/23	
Availability and Dist. of Healthy Foods (EFA)	11/21/22	02/06/23	N/A	2/20/23	
Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect (JLF)	11/21/22	02/06/23	N/A	2/20/23	
Annual Review of Investments (DFA)	X	X	X	3/20/23	
Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grade One (JFAAA)	2/20/23	3/20/23	X	4/3/23	
Service Animals (IMGA)	2/20/23	3/20/23	X	4/3/23	
Animals in the School (IMG)	2/20/23	3/20/23	X	4/3/23	
Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires (ILD)	4/03/23	4/17/2023	X	4/17/23	
Video Surveillance on School Property (EEAA)	4/03/23	5/1/2023	5/15/23	5/15/23	Introduce with Policy JICL, per Legal.

Merrimack School District
Policy Progress Chart

Appendix Updates					**Comments**
Suicide Prevention and Response (JLDBB-R)					December 2022
Home Education Instruction Appendix (IHBG-R)					Lawyer advised to rescind after the revision of IHBG
BEDG-R - Access to Minutes and Public Records Procedures					
JLCG-R - Exclusion of Students from School for Illness Head Lice					
IHAM-R Health and Sex Education Exemption/Objectionable Course Material Opt Out Form					

FUND BALANCES

RSA 198:4-b, II allows a school district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds, from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, provided that the total amount of year-end unassigned general funds does not exceed, in any fiscal year, 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment under RSA 198:5.

The Merrimack School District voted to accept RSA 198:4-b, II at the April 12, 2022 meeting, as follows:

> ARTICLE 7 Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in any fiscal year, in an amount not to exceed 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II?

Therefore, the Board has the authority to retain from the year-end unassigned fund balance up to 5 percent of the District net assessment from the preceding fiscal year.

Prior to expending retained general funds, the Board shall hold a prior public hearing on the action to be taken with such funds. Notice of the time, place, and subject of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the relevant municipality at least 7 days before the meeting is held. An annual accounting and report of the activities of the retained general funds shall be presented to the Board of the district and published in the annual report.

Any year-end unassigned fund balance shall only be used or returned to the Town to reduce the school portion of the tax rate in accordance with applicable New Hampshire law and/or Governmental Standards Board Statement 54 (GASB 54).

Legal References:

RSA 32, Municipal Budget Law
RSA 33, Municipal Finance Act
RSA 35, Capital Reserve Funds
RSA 198:4-b Contingency Fund
Governmental Standards Board Statement 54 (GASB 54)

1st Reading: June 5, 2023
2nd Review: June 19, 2023
Adoption: July 10, 2023

WELLNESS

The District is committed to providing a positive, safe, and healthy learning ~~communities at every level to ensure that staff and students have the opportunity to achieve overall well-being~~. environment that supports the development of lifelong wellness practices, such as healthy eating and physical activities, for its students. In adopting this policy, it is the Board's intent to comply with relevant state and federal laws regarding wellness promotion and education.

I. THE DISTRICT'S WELLNESS GOALS

The District recognizes the importance of delivering a high-quality wellness education, as well as providing a learning environment which incorporates healthy practices throughout the school day. ~~Specifically,~~ This policy establishes the standards ~~goals~~ and procedures ~~to ensure~~ that the District will adhere to in working towards the following goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness:

- ~~Offers access to healthy foods that are aligned with the USDA Guidelines, as well as quality nutrition education that helps develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors~~
- The District will educate, promote, support, and model healthy eating habits for its students in a manner that helps them develop healthy behaviors.
- The District's schools will comply with the nutrition guidelines outlined in the policy.
- The District will provide ~~appropriate~~ physical education and physical activity programs throughout the school day.
- The District will provide education in the areas of social, emotional, and mental health intended to nurture overall well-being.
- The District will establish and maintain an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of ~~the~~ this policy, as well as ~~and~~ its established goals and objectives.

~~**Nutrition Guidelines and Education**~~

II. NUTRITION

A. The District's Food Service Program

The schools within the District participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program (for high school only). Meals shall be available for purchase during school hours for every student. Such meals shall be served without cost or at a reduced cost to any child who meets federal income eligibility guidelines. Please visit the District's website for more information about this program.

WELLNESS
(continued)

The following standards apply to food provided through the District's food service program[1]:

- The District schools are committed to offering school meals that:
  - Are accessible to all students;
  - Are appealing and attractive to children;
  - Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
  - Promote healthy food and beverage choices; and
  - Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations.

- The District's nutritional standards are based upon standards established by the USDA. ~~and the NH Healthy Schools Coalition, including the meal requirements for lunches and afterschool snacks under 7 CFR 210.10, and the meal requirements for breakfasts under 7 CFR 220.8. See Ed. 306.11(g).~~

Lunches will be served between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and students will be provided with sufficient lunch periods that are long enough to give all students adequate time to be served and to eat their lunches. The District's school lunch menu, as well as other information about the District's food services, is available on the District's website.

Information about the School Breakfast Program (which is available at the high school) will be distributed to families just prior to or at the beginning of the school year with reminders about its availability provided over the course of the school year.

See also Board Policy EFA, Healthy Food Policy

B. Competitive Foods in Schools

"Competitive foods" are foods and beverages available for sale on school campus during the school day, but outside of the school meal programs. See 7 CFR 210.11(a)(2). Examples include a la carte options in cafeterias, school stores, and vending machines. Competitive foods available for sale within the District's schools must comply with the USDA's nutrition standards found in 7 CFR 210.11.

Additionally, except as may be provided elsewhere in this policy, any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA nutrition standards under 7 CFR 210.11.

[1] The USDA has defined the school day as 12:01 a.m. through 30 minutes after the last bell. See 7 CFR 210.11(a)(5).

WELLNESS
(continued)

As the District, school athletic department, and parent teacher associations review existing contracts and consider new contracts, equipment, and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the District's Wellness Policy.

Schools shall also be mindful of the availability of balanced food options during celebrations and events.

C. Celebrations and Rewards

All foods and beverages offered or made available by the District during the school day on the school campus shall meet or exceed the nutrition standards outlined in this policy and shall be pre-approved by the Superintendent or their designee. Individual schools are encouraged to make available a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas, and a list of foods and beverages which meet the nutritional standards found in this policy.

D. Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students at all places and times that school meals are served at every school. Students shall be permitted to bring water bottles to school, so long as the water bottles are filled exclusively with water. See RSA 200:11-b. School principals may discipline students for the misuse of water bottles.

E. Fundraisers

Competitive food and beverage items sold during the school day must meet the nutrition standards for competitive food as required in this section. However, a special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. Such specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by the State agency during such periods that schools are in session.

The New Hampshire Department of Education's Technical Advisory stated that schools may "hold up to nine exempt bake sale or fundraisers, which are one day in duration, per school year." The Department further clarified that:

> Under this new policy schools may configure the bake sale or fundraiser exemptions in a variety of ways to meet individual school needs. For example, a school could hold 9 separate, exempt bake sales or fundraisers throughout the academic school year. Alternatively, a school could hold three events, such as a school carnival, each

WELLNESS
(continued)

of which is three days in duration, at which base sale or fundraisers of non-compliant foods are held. Districts seeking to adopt the exemption policy should consider the number of groups or clubs which may seek to hold a bake sale or fundraiser at which non-compliant foods are sold and contemplate the best way to accommodate such requests given the number of exemptions permitted.

No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.

F. Nutrition, Education and Promotion

~~The School District's nutritional standards are based upon standards established by the USDA and New Hampshire Healthy School Coalition/Best Practices. These nutrition guidelines apply to all foods available to students on school grounds during the day, including but not limited to the school lunch, breakfast program, and foods and beverages sold in student vending machines/school stores.~~

The District aims to teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating habits. Schools will provide educational programming that will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health. This shall include developmentally appropriate opportunities to learn food preparation skills that support nationally recognized research-based nutrition standards, as well as a health education program in compliance with Ed 306.40

~~Schools shall be mindful of the availability of balanced food options during celebrations and events.~~

G. Staff Qualifications

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA professional standards for school nutrition program professionals. See 7 CFR 210.30

III. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY

The District recognizes that the integration of healthy physical education and physical activity are a communal responsibility intended to minimize health risks created by extended periods of inactivity, childhood obesity, and other related health problems. The District encourages students and staff to participate in developmentally appropriate physical activity and exercise for 30 to 60 minutes each day as a way to minimize these health risks.

Schools will work to integrate health and physical activity across the school curriculum as well as to encourage the integration of physical activity before, during, and after school hours. See

WELLNESS
(continued)

Board Policy IMAH, Daily Physical Activity, for specific recommended practices; however, these practices shall be in addition to and shall not be a replacement for the physical education program required by Ed 306.41.

IV. MENTAL WELLNESS

The Merrimack School District is committed to supporting the social/emotional welfare and behavioral needs of all students in the educational process. The District recognizes that social and emotional wellbeing is critical for academic achievement and success. Collaboration with students, parents/guardians, staff, and the community ~~will be~~ is an integral part of this commitment to enhance our students' emotional, mental, and physical health.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A. Wellness Advisory Committee

A district-wide wellness advisory committee ("the Committee") has been established ~~with the purpose~~ to review and make recommendations regarding implementation of, and updates to, this Policy, setting specific measurable goals for nutrition promotion, education and physical activity, and evaluation of the achievement of those goals. The Committee will also assess ~~of assessing~~ the nutrition and physical activity environment throughout the District and make recommendations to the School Board for a comprehensive wellness program. As needed, the Wellness Committee will request that the Superintendent notify the School Board regarding any changes that have occurred in federal and state nutrition guidelines and need to be reflected in this policy.

The Committee shall consist of representation from parents, students, the school district's food service program, the School Board, administration, teachers of physical education and school health professionals, an educator from each school, and the general public. The Chair of the Committee shall be the Superintendent and/or their designee, who shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy, as well as monitoring and evaluating the District's progress. The Superintendent may designate a Building Wellness Coordinator for each school to help ensure compliance with this Policy at the building level. Any building-level coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent and/or their designee. Information related to the current members and the activities of the Wellness Committee is available on the District's website.

WELLNESS
(continued)

B. Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, the ~~District~~ Wellness Committee will evaluate compliance with the Wellness Policy to assess the implementation of the policy. In making this assessment, the Committee will look at the following factors:

1. The extent to which schools are in compliance with the District's Wellness Policy;
2. The extent to which the District's Wellness Policy compares to model local school wellness policies; and
3. The progress made in attaining the goals of the District's Wellness Policy.

This assessment will be memorialized in a written report, which will be made available to the public on the District's website at www.sau26.org.

C. Annual Notification of Policy

The District will annually inform families and the public of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy, and its implementation status. The District will make this information available via the District website and will include this policy in its student handbooks. This information will include the contact information of the District official(s) chairing the Wellness Committee (i.e., the Superintendent or his/her designee) and any Building Wellness Coordinator(s), in addition to on how the public can get involved with the District Wellness Committee.

D. Recordkeeping

The Superintendent or their designee will retain records related to this Policy, to include at least the following:

- The District Wellness Policy;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the District's Wellness Policy;
- Documentation on how the District Wellness Policy and Policy assessments are/were made available to the public;
- The name and title of the school official responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the District's Wellness Policy;
- Documentation confirming annual compliance with the requirement that the District's Wellness Policy, including update, and the most recent assessment on the implementation of the policy have been made available to the public; and
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the District Wellness Policy, including who is/was involved in each update and methods the District uses to make stakeholders aware of opportunities to participate on the District Wellness Committee.

WELLNESS
(continued)

E. Community Involvement

The District will communicate ways in which representatives of the District Wellness Committee and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the District's Wellness Policy through a variety of means appropriate for the District. The District will also inform parents/guardians of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, and the availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply. The District will use electronic means, such as email or displaying notices on the District's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the Wellness Policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy.

~~The Policy will be monitored and progress evaluated, with an annual report to the School Board.~~

Legal References:

42 U.S.C. 1751, Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
41 U.S.C. 1771, Child Nutrition Act of 1966
Section 204 of Public Law 108-265, Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004
The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010
7 CFR 210, National School Lunch Program
7 CFR 220, School Breakfast Program
RSA 189:11-a, Food and Nutrition Programs
RSA 193-E:2-a, Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education
RSA 200:11-b, Water Bottle Filling Stations in Schools
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04, Policy Development
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 303.11, Food & Nutrition Services
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.40, Health Education Program
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.41 Physical Education Program
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 310, Developmentally Appropriate Daily Physical Activity

1st Reading: June 5, 2017
2nd Review: June 19, 2017
Adoption: July 17, 2017

Policy Revision
1st Reading: June 5, 2023
2nd Review: June 19, 2023
Revised: July 10, 2023

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The District shall provide transportation for pupils to schools in the District consistent with applicable state law, including the provisions of RSA 189:6, RSA 189:8, RSA 189:9, and RSA 189:9-a.

The Transportation Coordinator is hereby designated as the School District Transportation Coordinator; the Transportation Coordinator may be contacted at 603-424-6200.

General Operating Policy

Bus routes shall be established by the Superintendent or their designee in cooperation with the pupil transportation contractor, subject to review by the Board. Routes will be developed annually and posted. The Superintendent or designee may modify approved routes, stops, and/or schedules during the school year if conditions warrant such a modification.

Bus stops will be established in accord with RSA 189:8. Approved bus stops shall be located at safe and appropriate intervals in places where students may be loaded and unloaded. ~~Bus stops shall be established and authorized under the direction of the Superintendent.~~ Drivers may not load or unload pupils at other than authorized bus stops.

Pupils attending private schools up to and including the twelfth grade shall be entitled to the same transportation privileges within the District as are provided for pupils in public school within the District. Likewise, for students residing within the District and attending chartered public schools within the District, transportation shall be provided to the chartered public schools by the District on the same terms and conditions as provided for non-chartered public schools in the District and utilizing the same regular bus schedules and routes that are provided to pupils attending non-chartered public schools within the District

Student Conduct on School Buses

Bus drivers have the responsibility to maintain orderly behavior of students on school buses and will report, in writing, misconduct to the School District Transportation Coordinator and/or the school principal. The School District Transportation Coordinator and/or school principal will have the authority to suspend the riding privileges of students failing to conform to Board rules and regulations. Said suspension shall not begin until the next school day following the day notification of suspension is sent to the pupil's parent or legal guardian. The Board must approve suspensions of the right to ride the school bus that continue beyond twenty (20) days.

Any removal of students with disabilities will be in accordance with state and federal laws concerning the discipline of students with disabilities.

In the event a student has been denied the right to ride a school bus for disciplinary reasons, their parent/guardian shall have the right to appeal this suspension to the Superintendent within 10 days of the initial discipline decision. Until the appeal is heard, or if the suspension of pupil's right to

ride the school bus is upheld, it shall be the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from school for that pupil for the period of the suspension.

Depending on its nature and severity, student misconduct on school buses may also constitute grounds for additional forms of discipline which would be governed by Board Policy JICD

~~Parents of children whose conduct on school buses endangers the health, safety and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of school bus riding privileges in accordance with the student discipline code.~~

~~**Resolution of Conflicts**~~

~~Parents who wish to request a change or exemption from any of the Student Transportation policies shall direct that request to the School District Transportation Coordinator. If the School District Transportation Coordinator's ruling does not satisfy the parent, he/she may appeal the ruling within five days to the School Business Administrator. If the parent is again not satisfied by the ruling, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent within the next five-day period. As a last appeal, the parent may request to appear before the Board's Transportation Committee.~~

Instruction on School Bus Safety

The Superintendent or their designee is directed to implement procedures ensuring that each school instruct all pupils, who are transported by the district as provided in RSA 189:6, in the following:

1. School bus safety
2. The evacuation procedure for buses in emergency situations
3. Any other matters regarding the safety of pupils being transported to school

Legal References:

RSA 189:6, Transportation of Pupils
RSA 189:6-a, School Bus Safety
RSA 189:8, Limitations and Additions
RSA 189:9, Pupils in Private Schools
RSA 189:9-a, Pupils Prohibited for Disciplinary Reasons
RSA 194-B:2, Chartered Public Schools; Establishment, Parental Choice; Admission
~~RSA 200:40, Emergency Care~~

1st Reading: May 21, 2007
2nd Review: June 4, 2007
Adopted: June 18, 2007

Policy Revision
1st Reading: June 19, 2023
2nd Review: July 10, 2023
Adoption:

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

~~To the extent practical and as required by law, the district will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.~~

It is the policy of the Board to ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths attending its schools. By adopting this policy, the Board seeks to remove barriers to the identification of, or the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of, homeless children and youths, including unaccompanied youths. The District shall take reasonable steps to ensure that homeless students, including unaccompanied youths, are not segregated or stigmatized and that educational decisions are made in the best interest of those students. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent or designee to adopt procedures to implement this policy as needed.

~~Homeless students are defined as (per NCLB definitions) lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:~~

I. Homeless Students and Youths

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and guidance provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education, the term "homeless children and youths" means "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence." This term includes:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship, or a similar reason;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Are abandoned in hospitals;
5. Having a primary nighttime residence that is a ~~Awaiting foster care placement~~ public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
7. Are migratory children living in conditions described in previous examples.

Children awaiting foster care may also fall within this definition if they meet other criteria as set forth above. See also Board Policy JFABE, Education of Children in Foster Care. For purposes

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

of this policy (JFABD), "homeless students" shall refer to and include "homeless children and youth" and "unaccompanied youth" as they are defined under federal law. See 42 U.S.C. § 11434a. (defining "unaccompanied youth" as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.)

II. District's Homeless Liaison

The Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the District's liaison ("Homeless Liaison") for homeless students and their families.

~~To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead of remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in which attendance area the student is actually living, or other schools.~~

~~If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district's decision and their appeal rights in writing. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.~~

The duties of the Homeless Liaison shall be as provided in state and federal law, as well this policy and any procedures subsequently adopted. The duties of the Homeless Liaison include, but are not limited to ensuring the following:

1. Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordinated activities with other entities and agencies;
2. Homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that local educational agency;
3. Homeless families and homeless children and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, as outlined by applicable law and this policy;
4. Homeless families and homeless children and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services:
5. The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

6. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;
7. Enrollment and/or eligibility disputes are mediated in accordance with this policy;
8. The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, and receives assistance in accessing these services;
9. School personnel providing services under this policy receive professional development and other support; and
10. Unaccompanied youths
    a. are enrolled in school;
    b. have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and
    c. are informed of their status as independent students under section 1087vv of Title 20 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the Homeless Liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aide described in section 1090 of Title 20. See 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A).

Consistent with the above, the District's Homeless Liaison shall coordinate with local social services agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families, other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers, and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. The District's Liaison will also review and make recommendations related to District policies and procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

III. Enrollment and School Stability

Homeless students are eligible to attend their school of origin or any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend.

When selecting the school a child or youth experiencing homelessness should attend, the choice must be made according to the child's or youth's best interest. In determining the best interest of an eligible child or youth, the District shall presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in their best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. The school of origin is defined as:

1. The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child our youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

2. When a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

The District shall consider student-centered factors related to the child or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health and safety of homeless students, giving priority to the request of the parent or unaccompanied youth. Homeless students shall not be required to attend a separate school.

The school selected in accordance with this section shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth:

1. is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation; or
2. has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with District policies.

Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the District Homeless Liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall *immediately* be requested from the previous school on enrollment. Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and shall not be deemed to be directory information under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA").

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or other required health records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. so that the records involved are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district; and
2. in a manner consistent with FERPA.

IV. Educational and Other Services

Each student who is homeless shall have access to and shall be provided education services for which the student is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school, including (to the extent applicable) vocational and technical education programs, gifted and

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

talented education programs, school nutrition programs, Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, and education for English learners. Transportation services for students who are homeless shall be provided in accordance with applicable law and as generally described below.

V. Transportation

The District shall provide adequate and appropriate transportation to the school of origin upon the request of a parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, upon the request of the Homeless Liaison. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in the Merrimack School District, the Merrimack School District will make reasonable efforts to reach an agreement on a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child or youth with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the Districts are unable to agree upon such method, federal law states that the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally. If transportation is provided to a school other than the school of origin, the Merrimack School District shall provide transportation services comparable to other non-homeless students.

VI. Dispute Resolution

If there is a dispute with respect to a student's status as a homeless student (an eligibility dispute) or where a homeless student should attend school (an enrollment dispute), the student shall be *immediately* enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth pending resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. Moreover, the student shall have the right to participate fully in school and receive all services for which they are eligible. All disputes shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible and in conformance with this policy. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison shall assist the youth in the dispute process.

If more than one school district is involved in a residency dispute, the Merrimack School District Superintendent will work with the superintendent from the other District to make such a decision.

A. Homeless Liaison's Initial Determination

The Homeless Liaison will make all initial determinations with respect to eligibility and enrollment of homeless students. All schools within the District shall direct enrollment requests involving potentially homeless students to the Homeless Liaison.

In the event the Homeless Liaison's determination with respect to eligibility or enrollment is in conflict with the wishes of the homeless student's parent/guardian, or, if applicable, the

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

unaccompanied youth, there shall be a right to an appeal. In such circumstances, the District shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with written notice including:

1. A succinct explanation of the District's placement/eligibility decision;
2. Contact information for the District Homeless Liaison and the New Hampshire Department of Education State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth;
3. Notification of the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth's right to appeal this determination to the Superintendent, as well as a description of the District's dispute resolution procedures and instructions on how to initiate the same;
4. Notification of the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth's right to appeal the Superintendent's determination to the New Hampshire Department of Education after the District's dispute resolution process has been exhausted.
5. Notification of the right to enroll in the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute;
6. Notification of the right to participate fully in school and receive all services for which they are eligible at the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute; and
7. A summary of this policy.

B. Appeal to the Superintendent

Upon initiation of an appeal to the Superintendent, the Superintendent shall meet with the homeless student's family or unaccompanied youth. This meeting shall occur within 5 days of the District's receipt of the appeal. Following this meeting, the superintendent shall make a determination with respect to the eligibility or enrollment dispute.

The Superintendent's decision shall be provided to the parent/guardian or accompanied youth within 10 days of the parties' meeting. The parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth shall be provided a brief, written explanation of the Superintendent's decision, which shall be in the language that is direct and comprehensible, but not intimidating. This explanation shall include:

1. A succinct explanation of the decision and the reasons behind the determination;
2. Notification of the right to enroll in the school of choice pending the resolution of the dispute;
3. Notification of the right to participate fully in school and receive all services for which they are eligible at the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute;
4. Contact information for Homeless Liaison and the State Coordinator's Office for Education of Homeless Children & Youth;

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

5. A statement regarding the right to appeal the decision to the New Hampshire Department of education, and instructions on how to do the same; and
6. A copy of this policy.

~~The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district's decision and their appeal rights in writing. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.~~

The Superintendent shall also notify the copy of the New Hampshire Department of Education's State Coordinator's Office for Education of Homeless Children & Youth on any notification of the Superintendent's decision which is contrary to the wishes of the parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth.

~~Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to district policies. If the student does not have immediate access to the immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the district liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student's previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to district policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with district policies.~~

The District shall maintain copies of all written decisions, appeals and notifications concerning eligibility or enrollment requests made under this policy for the same period as it does for Title I records.

C. Deadline to Appeal

Parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied youth will have 5 business days to appeal any determination of eligibility or enrollment by either the Homeless Liaison and/or the Superintendent. This appellate timeframe may be extended for good cause, as determined by the District. If the District does not receive notice of the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth's intent to appeal before this deadline, the District's decision will become final.

VII. Written Notice and Dissemination of Policy

~~Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school of origin in this district, the districts will make reasonable efforts to coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student.~~

~~The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social services agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing~~

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

~~agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. The district's liaison will also review and recommend to the district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.~~

The District shall provide written notice, at the time any child or youth seeks enrollment in such school, and at least twice annually while the child or youth is enrolled in such school, to the parent or guardian of the child or youth (or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth) that sets forth the general rights provided by the McKinney-Vento Act and this policy, including the following:

1. Information on the choice of schools homeless children and youths are eligible to attend;
2. A statement that no homeless child or youth is required to attend a separate school for homeless children or youths;
3. A statement that homeless children and youths shall be provided comparable services as provided to non-homeless students, including transportation services, educational services, and meals through school meals programs; and
4. A statement that homeless children and youths should not be stigmatized by school personnel; and
5. The contact information for the Homeless Liaison and the State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths.

This notice shall be in a manner and form understandable to such parent or guardian (or youth), including, if necessary and to the extent feasible, in the native language of such parent or guardian (or youth), and it shall be signed by the parent or guardian (or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth).

In addition, the District, in consultation with the Homeless Liaison, shall review and revise its policies and procedures to remove barriers to the education of homeless children and youth, including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.

VIII. Professional Development and Training

The Homeless Liaison shall be required to participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities as provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Other staff providing services under this policy, including all school enrollment staff, secretaries, school counselors, school social workers, and principals, shall receive training on the legal requirements for enrollment. School nutrition staff, school nurses, teachers, security guards, and bus drivers shall receive training on homelessness that is specific to their field.

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS
(continued)

Legal Reference:

~~*No Child Left Behind Act, 2002*~~
Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, 20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq.
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431. et seq.
RSA 193:12, Legal Residence Required
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(19), Homeless Students

1st Reading: December 4, 2006
2nd Review: December 18, 2006
Adoption: January 2, 2007

Policy Revision:
1st Reading: July 10, 2023
2nd Review:
Adoption:

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

It is the Board's intent to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment and retention in school of children who are in foster care. All staff shall take reasonable steps to ensure that children in foster care are not segregated or stigmatized and that educational decisions are made in the best interests of those students. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent or their designee to create procedures and/or protocols to implement this policy.

A. Definition.

Under guidance issued jointly by New Hampshire Department of Ecucation (NHDOE) and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS), and for the purposes of this Policy, "foster care" shall mean "24 hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes children in foster family homes, shelters, relative foster homes, group homes and residential facilities regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed or whether payments are made by the state." To the extent required under applicable law, a child in foster care under this policy also includes children whom an appropriate child welfare agency indicates are awaiting a foster care placement. (Note: children awaiting foster care may also qualify as homeless under policy ~~JFABE~~ JFABD).

The District shall coordinate with other districts and with local child welfare agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to students in foster care as needed. The coordination requirements apply to both situations (i) when a student who is a resident of the District is placed in foster care in another district, or (ii) when a student residing in another district is placed foster care in a home within this District.

The Superintendent is responsible for providing any required assurances to applicable state and federal agencies that the District is complying with applicable requirements related to ensuring the educational stability of children in foster care; and for reasonably monitoring compliance with such assurances. In doing such, the Superintendent is entitled to reasonably rely upon the information and assurances provided to her/him by District staff, including the District's "Foster Care POC", described in Section B of this policy.

B. District Point of Contact with Child Welfare Agencies.

The Superintendent shall designate a staff member to serve as the District's point of contact (the "Foster Care POC") between the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families ("DCYF"), NHDOE, other districts, and other child welfare agencies. This Foster Care POC shall not be the same individual as the Homeless Liaison in Board Policy JFABD. The main duty of the Foster Care POC is to facilitate the prompt and appropriate placement, transfer, and enrollment of students in foster care, pursuant to applicable state and federal statues, regulations, and guidance. Additionally, the Foster Care POC shall work with the Superintendent or designee to monitor regulations and guidance related to this policy and

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
(continued)

may be issued by the applicable state and federal agencies (e.g., DCYF, NHDOE, and the U.S. Department of Education).

The District shall provide training opportunities and other technical assistance to the Foster Care POC and other appropriate District staff regarding the District's obligations to students in foster care.

C. Best Interest Enrollment Determinations, Disputes and Enrollment.

Generally, a student in foster care will remain in his/her school of origin, unless there is a determination that it is not in the student's best interest. The Foster Care POC shall assist DCYF or any other child welfare agency to make a "best interest determination" education decision, particularly the determination of whether or not it is in the best interest of the student in foster care to remain in his/her school of origin or to enroll in the new school. Unless local procedures are established in accordance with state and federal law, the District will use the model procedures prepared jointly by the NHDOE and DCYF.

If the determination is that the best interest of a child is not to remain in the school of origin, and instead placed within a new school within this District, the child in foster care shall be immediately enrolled in the new school ("receiving school"), even if any documents or records otherwise required for enrollment are not immediately available. The receiving school shall then immediately contact the school of origin to obtain relevant educational and other records.

If there are disputes between two different New Hampshire school districts ~~regarding a determination~~ regarding the best interest determination for a child in foster care, it is expected that DCYF and the separate school districts, both sending and receiving, will work collaboratively at the local level to resolve the issue. Should there be no resolution, RSA 193:12, V-b, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to request in writing that the two Superintendents involved resolve the dispute. If the residency dispute remains unresolved 10 days after such request, the Department of Health and Human Services shall request that the Commissioner of the NHDOE ~~Department of Education~~ determine the residence of child for purposes of school enrollment.

If a school within the District is a receiving school, such receiving school shall accept the student's certified coursework as if it had been completed at the receiving school. To the extent such coursework is not aligned with the curriculum, the awarded credit may be elective, but it must be counted toward required credits for advancement or graduation.

D. Transportation.

When the District is notified that a student in foster care needs, or may need, transportation to a District school, the Foster Care POC will take steps to establish an individualized plan that

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
(continued)

addresses transportation to maintain the student in his/her school of origin. This plan will ensure that transportation will be arranged, provided, and funded for the duration of time that the student in foster care is attending his/her school of origin.

In establishing such a plan, the Foster Care POC and other District staff shall follow any existing transportation procedures, systems-level plan or agreement that the District, acting in collaboration with DCYF and/or other departments of human services, has adopted or otherwise expressly agreed to implement for the cost-effective transportation of the student. Out of District transportation of children in foster care shall be provided in accordance with DCYF's or other child welfare agency's authority to use child welfare funding for school of origin transportation.

If there are disputes regarding the provision or funding of transportation, the ~~school~~ District Foster Care POC, ~~point of contact~~ and child welfare agency representative will contact their respective Supervisor and Superintendent ~~of the school~~ to resolve the dispute. To the extent feasible and appropriate, the school district involved should ensure that a child remains in his or her school of origin while the disputes are being resolved to minimize disruptions and reduce school transitions.

Nothing in this policy should be construed as obligating the Merrimack School District to take on any transportation obligation, other than those required by law.

Legal References:

~~20 U.S.C. §1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act – "FERPA")~~

~~20 U.S.C. §1701-1758 (Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 – "EEOA")~~

20 U.S.C. § 6311 (g)(1)(E) and 6312(c)(5) (provisions in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regarding obligations to students in foster care)

42 U.S.C. § 671 (a)(~~10~~ 30) and 675 (1)(G) (child welfare agency requirements related to supporting normalcy for children in foster care and ensuring educational stability of children in foster care)

~~42 U.S.C. §11431 and §11432 (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – Education for Homeless Children and Youth)~~

Public Law 110-351, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

~~34 C.F.R. 200.30 (f)(1)(iii) (ESSA's definition of "foster care")~~

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
(continued)

~~Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)~~

RSA 193:12, Legal Residence Required

RSA 193:28, Right of Attendance

RSA 169-C:20-a, Notice to School District of Out-of-Home Placement; Development of Transition Plan

"N.H. Guidance on ESSA and Foster Care to Ensure that the Educational Needs of Children and Youth in Foster Care are Being Addressed", January 2017, NHDOE and NHDHHS

"Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for children in Foster Care." U.S. Department of Education and US Department of Health and Human Services, June 23, 2016

1st Reading: July 10, 2023
2nd Review:
Adoption:

Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
June 19, 2023

5:30 P.M. NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91A:3, II (a) (b) & (c) – Merrimack Training Classroom

- **Staff Welfare**

Present: Ken Martin, Chair; Laurie Rothhaus, Vice-Chair; Lori Peters, Board Member; Naomi Halter, Board Member; and Jenna Hardy, Board Member. Also present were Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Amy Doyle, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, and Student Representative Sean Evidente.

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 were no public comments.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen opened his comments by wishing everyone a happy summer vacation. He thanked the administrators and staff for a great school year.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that he had a wonderful opportunity to have lunch with the school bus drivers the previous week where he thanked them for their years of safe driving. He said he would be doing a cable program on "school bus safety" later on in the summer.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted that he and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle had been meeting with the principals and staff at the elementary schools to discuss what they wanted to do from a curriculum and instructional perspective. He said the leadership team was working with Polly Bath, who was a nationally recognized behavioral expert where they discussed the multi-tiered system of support.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated those students who won awards at the Merrimack High School Awards Night, pointing out that $135,000 was given in awards.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated Ryan Church who was the bowling state champion and would be attending the National Championships in Indiana representing the Town of Merrimack.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said there was a Goals Setting Meeting scheduled for the following Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the Board had the agenda and supporting documentation.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he was happy to announce that there would be a "Band Camp" this year after a 20-year hiatus.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle also thanked everyone for all of the different end-of-year celebrations that were happening. She said she was very happy to have attended the high school graduation ceremony.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle reviewed a few legislative updates as summarized below:

- House Bill 157-1 (Civics Instruction Requirement)

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said they had implemented the testing requirements as required by the RSA and they implemented a remediation effort for those students who did not pass the test; either the local assessment or the naturalization test on their first try.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle also said they were in compliance with the revised version of RSA 189:11 which required the teaching of cursive handwriting and multiplication facts by the end of grade. She said they had the phonics program in grades K-3, Fundations (which teaches cursive handwriting), and the new word study program, Spelling Connections, which also taught cursive handwriting.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle congratulated the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, one of eight schools in New Hampshire that had been awarded the "Leaning into Literacy" grant offered by the state. She said a multi-year grant would provide $50,000 in funding to continue the shift from a balanced framework to a structured literacy framework.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that he had a conversation with the DPW Director regarding the decommissioning of the Brentwood building. He said the utilities would be stubbed out at the street on McElwain. He said the utilities had started to be shut off inside of the building. He added that they were moving forward with the traffic study.

d. School Board Update

Chair Martin echoed the prior sentiments of the Board regarding high school graduation. He reiterated that the Goal Setting meeting would be held on the following Thursday at the middle school.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Evidente said the students had not yet found out who their advisors were, and they were open to suggestions. He said the Class of 2025 was planning to do two or three fundraisers over the summer and was in the process of confirming the dates.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of Process for Policy Approval

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he provided the Board with a sample policy of BGB (Policy Adoption) which was an older policy, but the most recent version was a sample policy BGAA (Policy Development, Adoption, and Review. He asked the School Board to review the documents for discussion at a future Board meeting.

b. Alternative Pathways Grant

Vice-Chair Rothhaus said the district applied for and received a $45,000 Alternative Pathways grant over three years and was based on the number of kids that complete the program.

Board Member Peters clarified that "alternative pathways" did not mean it was "easier to graduate" but a recognition that students could learn in a multitude of ways and accomplish the state's requirements for graduation.

c. July 4th Parade

Chair Martin commented that some of the Board Members would be attending the 4th of July parade.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Year in Review of Pre-K – Grade 6, & Co-Curricular Activities

Ms. Bonnie Painchaud, Principal, Reeds Ferry Elementary School; Ms. Nicole Rheault, Principal, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School; Ms. Michelle Romein, Principal, James Mastricola Elementary School; and Ms. Julie DeLuca, Principal, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School were present to discuss the "Year in Review."

Ms. Romein said they were all in agreement that one of the biggest successes of the year was the addition of extracurricular activities at the elementary school level. She said the added extracurricular activities were an absolute success with over 765 students, and 50 educators participating in the first year alone. The clubs that were offered included: Cheer Club, Pickleball, Animation, Disney Art, Knitting, Clay Club, a Zoom Cooking Class, Basketball, Bird Watching, Chess, and many more.

Chair Martin thanked the panel for sharing how successful the extracurricular activities turned out.

b. Review of 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results (Full presentation is available on the School District's Website)

Ms. Fern Seiden, System of Care Coordinator, addressed the Board and stated that the survey was representative of a partnership between the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education. She said 914 of 1,176 Merrimack students participated in the survey. She noted the data did not include 100% participation.

Ms. Seiden provided a very high-level review of the 2021 survey: (She noted the data reflected a snapshot of the student's experience during Covid.)

- Less in-person experiences that might prompt electronic bullying.
- More use of technology could prompt more electronic bullying.
- Less access to drugs and alcohol so there was a reduction.
- Increased stressors due to Covid impacted students' mental health.
- Mental health concerns continue to rise.
  - Females are more at risk: 57.5%
  - Behavioral health was already beginning to rise in 2018 – 2019
- The opioid pandemic continued to impact families.
- The numbers in Merrimack tracked with the State of New Hampshire with the exception of:
  - Merrimack students were less likely to wear bike helmets.
  - Merrimack students were less likely to see public messages about avoiding substances.

Ms. Seiden stated that the two pieces of information that she felt would help them were strengthening the relationships between students and trusted adults.

Ms. Seiden reviewed a few topics of interest including:

- Bullying (saw a decrease during Covid)
- Bullying (saw an increase in cyber-bullying)
- Most students felt safe attending school, but 6.2% avoided school because they felt unsafe.
- Substance & tobacco use stayed the same or dropped slightly.
- Mental Health
  - Increase in the number of students who considered suicide.
- Stressed the importance of getting good sleep.

In conclusion, Ms. Seiden said that for immediate help, call:

NAMI NH Information and Resource Line at 1-800-242-6264 – Press 4

Vice-Chair Rothhaus said she felt the information was very important and she appreciated all the work being done on prevention. She asked to what extent should they address the use of social media and the way it negatively affected students.

Board Member Peters commented that she was surprised that social media was not mentioned. Ms. Seiden replied that the issue was addressed in Health Class, the "Away for the Day" policy at the middle school, and the theme of the Mental Health Awareness Month was regarding reducing screen time and the impact on mental health.

c. Discussion of Chief Education Officer Olsen's Performance

Chair Martin commented that working with Mr. Olsen had been a true joy. He said he was fair, compassionate, and involved. He added it was evident in the way the district had progressed in the last two years.

Vice-Chair Rothhaus said the evaluation process included asking the Superintendent to do a self-evaluation and the School Board used a National Evaluation Standard for all Superintendents of schools which was evidence-based and research-based. She said the School Board felt the district had a distinguished leader.

Board Member Hardy commented that she felt there was a shift from "things could be going in the right direction" to "clearly, I see a difference for the better." She said she felt Chief Educational Officer Olsen had done a great job of leading the district.

Board Member Peters said one of the things she liked best about working with Chief Educational Officer Olsen was that he gave honor where honor was due. She said only a man with great character could have the level of humility that he had. She added she was very grateful that he was here.

Board Member Halter commented that she agreed with all of her colleague's statements and added that she did not feel Chief Educational Officer Olsen ever shied away from difficult conversations. She said she felt he did a very hard job and did it very well.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said it was his absolute pleasure and privilege to work in the Merrimack School District. He said he viewed the work done as teamwork and the common goal was to focus on the needs of children.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said that his administrative staff was absolutely superb.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen requested the School Board to review the below job descriptions to then take action on them at the next meeting. **(Job descriptions are available under Board Meeting Supporting Documentation online.)**

d. Review of Athletic Director Job Description
e. Review of District Registrar Job Description
f. Review of Director of School Counseling Job Description
g. Review of Middle School Dean of Students Job Description
h. Review of Reading Interventionist Job Description

7. POLICIES

a. Fund Balance (DIA) (2nd Reading)

There were no edits or discussion from Board.

b. Wellness Policy (JLCF) (2nd Reading)

There were no edits or discussion from Board.

c. Student Transportation Services (EEA) (1st Reading)

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to waive the first reading of policy (EEA) Student Transportation Services. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 – 0 – 2. (Abstained – Chair Martin, and Board Member Halter)

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. June 5, 2023 – Public Minutes

MOTION: Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023, public meeting, as presented. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 – 0 – 0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Teacher Resignations

- Ms. Alicia Hansen-Proulx, Assistant Principal, James Mastricola Elementary School
- Ms. Brianna Durand, Language Arts Coordinator, Merrimack Middle School

b. Teacher Nominations

- Ms. Emily Claire, Science Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Mr. Lauren Danis, Elementary Education Teacher, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
- Ms. Deborah Werthman, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Haley Ness, Math Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Elin Pelland, Social Worker, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Rebecca Hawkes, Elementary Education Teacher, Reeds Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Mikiko McGee, Special Education Coordinator, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
- Ms. Leia Donovan, Language Arts Teacher, Merrimack Middle School
- Ms. Rachael Allan, Preschool Teacher, James Mastricola Elementary School

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Vice-Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

10. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

Chair Martin stated that the Healthcare Trust Containment Committee had met the previous week and shared that open enrollment had officially closed. He said the "Blue Choice" plan was going away in June of 2025. He also reported that the Safety Coordinator training funds had been proportioned out throughout the schools for wellness incentives for staff, lunch incentives, and raffling off yoga mats & sunscreen.

Board Member Peters said the Joint Loss Management Committee had met where they received a very detailed list from Primex of all of the injury's employees had experienced. She said the charge was to work with the safety teams to ensure that everyone was as safe as possible.

Board Member Halter said she had attended the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting where they discussed the following:

- Summer concerts in the park are on Wednesdays through August 16th.
- Fourth of July festivities.
- Movies in the Park on Saturday, July 29th – Top Gun Maverick, Saturday, August 26th – Minions, Rise of Gru, and on Saturday, September 30th – Puss & Boots – The Last Wish

Board Member Halter said the afterschool program at Wasserman Park would move forward for families from the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School the following year and registration was open.

Board Member Halter said she also attended the Budget Committee meeting where they held its reorganization meeting resulting in Chuck Mower stepping down from the position of Chair and Naomi Schoenfeld being nominated as the new Chair.

b. Correspondence

Vice-Chair Rothhaus said she received correspondence asking what the graduation rate was in Merrimack. She replied she would get back to the person.

Chair Martin said he received correspondence regarding curriculum, and he sent that person up the chain of command.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 7:53 p.m. Board Member Peters made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

Merrimack School District

Gifts and Grants Acceptance Form

Name of Recipient: Merrimack High School
(School Name)

Name of Donor: Jeanine Marie Briggs
Name
7 Drouin Way
Street Address
Merrimack NH · [redacted] 03054
Town/City State Zip Code

Amount of Gift or Grant: $ 800.00 **Date of Receipt of: Gift/Grant** 6/19/23

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. **Describe the purpose of gift/grant:**
Jeanine's Yoga class raised this $ in Memory of Xander Venedam.

2. **Describe any specific restrictions or requirements attached to gift/grant:**
Xander's family & Jeanine would like this donated to Ms. Carl's Wood Tech Program

3. **Describe any recurring costs associated with the gift/grant:**
NONE

I, Stephen Clairk do hereby determine that it is in the best interest of the Merrimack School District to accept such gift or grant and hereby request the acceptance of the gift/grant by the Merrimack School Board.

Signature — Date 6/20/23
Principal/Director

Published in the _____ **on** _____
(name of newspaper) Date

Presented to Merrimack School Board (Public Hearing) _____
Date

Accepted by Merrimack School Board on _____
Date

by a vote of ___ - ___ - ___.

All Gifts and Grants to the Merrimack School District are to be accepted in accordance with RSA 198:20b and Warrant Article II of the 1991 Annual Merrimack School District Meeting.

Rev - 11/03/04

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2022-2023

June 5, 2023

Enrollment On

June 5, 2023	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
MES	46	78	82	69	79	81	435														435
RFS	54	70	87	72	79	91	453														453
TFS	45	104	100	97	104	102	552														552
MUES								246	247	493											493
MMS											275	269	544								544
MHS														278	258	275	271	1082			1082
PR-12 Total																					3559
Student Services ODP**																			22		22
Home Study (HSS)																				131	131
Total	145	252	269	238	262	274	1440	246	247	493	275	269	544	278	258	275	271	1082	22	131	3712

**Out-of-District Placement

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2022-2023

Month	*PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	SSP	HSS	TOTALS
September 12, 2022	129	248	268	239	266	272	1422	248	249	497	277	271	548	278	265	278	303	1124	19	116	3726
October 1, 2022	131	248	265	239	263	272	1418	245	249	494	276	269	545	277	265	279	297	1118	20	115	3710
October 3, 2022	131	248	265	239	263	272	1418	245	249	494	276	269	545	277	265	279	297	1118	20	116	3711
November 7, 2022	132	248	268	237	263	271	1419	246	249	495	277	269	546	277	264	279	294	1114	19	118	3711
December 5, 2022	135	248	269	238	262	271	1423	247	249	496	278	269	547	277	262	278	293	1110	20	119	3715
January 3, 2023	136	249	268	238	262	271	1424	248	249	497	278	271	549	279	261	277	292	1109	20	121	3720
February 6, 2023	137	251	268	237	263	273	1429	247	250	497	278	270	548	279	261	278	286	1104	21	123	3722
March 6, 2023	140	251	268	238	264	273	1434	246	250	493	277	269	544	278	260	278	279	1095	21	127	3714
April 3, 2023	141	251	268	237	262	273	1432	246	249	495	275	270	545	279	260	276	277	1092	22	130	3716
May 1, 2023	144	251	270	237	262	275	1439	246	250	496	275	270	545	278	258	275	276	1087	21	131	3719
June 5, 2023	145	252	269	238	262	274	1440	246	247	493	275	269	544	278	258	275	271	1082	22	131	3712

BUS SUSPENSIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

	MHS	MMS	JMUES	MES	RFS	TFS
Fighting						
Vandalism						
Disrespect/Disruption			7	1	1	
Unsafe Behavior						
Other		1	1		1	
TOTAL	**0**	**1**	**8**	**1**	**2**	**0**