Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
May 1, 2023
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room

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

6:35 p.m. **6. NEW BUSINESS** — Ken Martin
a. Pathways to Graduation Update — Harley Hall
b. Merrimack High School Athletics Update — Mike Soucy
c. 2023-2024 School Board Assignments — Ken Martin
d. Call for 2023 NHSBA Resolutions — Ken Martin
e. Gallop Survey — Amy Doyle
f. Other

7:35 p.m. **7. POLICIES** — Ken Martin
a. First Review of Home Education Instruction (IHBG)
b. Second Review of Video Surveillance on School Property (EEAA)

7:45 p.m. **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Ken Martin
a. April 17, 2023 Public and Non-Public Minutes

7:50 p.m. **9. CONSENT AGENDA** — Amanda Doyle
a. Educator Resignation
b. Educator Nominations
c. Administrator Nominations

8:00 p.m. **10. OTHER** — Ken Martin
a. Committee Reports
b. Correspondence
c. Comments

8:15 p.m. **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** — Ken Martin

8:30 p.m. **12. ADJOURN** — Ken Martin

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

2023-2024 School Board Assignments

In-District Committee Assignments (* Denotes District Officer; ▪ Denotes Active Engagement)

Assignment	2022-2023	2023-2024
▪School Board Chair*	Laurie Rothhaus	
▪School Board Vice Chair*	Lori Peters	
▪Budget Committee	Naomi Halter	
▪Alternate	Ken Martin	
▪ NH School Boards Association (NHSBA) Delegate		
▪Alternate		
▪Curriculum/Instruction/Technology (CIT) Committee **(2 members)**	Jenna Hardy Ken Martin	
▪School Bus Stop Committee	Naomi Halter	
▪ Professional Development Committee	Lori Peters	
▪Alternate	Ken Martin	
▪ Planning & Building Committee:	Laurie Rothhaus	
▪ Wellness Policy Implementation Committee	Lori Peters	
I▪ Healthcare Cost Containment Committee	Ken Martin	
▪ District Parent Group	Jenna Hardy	
▪ Alternate	Ken Martin	
▪ Communications Committee **(2 members)**	Jenna Hardy Ken Martin	
▪ Policy Committee **(2 members)**	Naomi Halter	
▪ Superintendent Search **(3 members)**	Lori Peters Laurie Rothhaus Jenna Hardy (rotation)	
Collective Bargaining:		
▪ Merrimack Teachers Association #1 (MTA)	Laurie Rothhaus	
▪ Merrimack Teachers Association #2 (MTA)	Lori Peters	
Merrimack Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) #1	Jenna Hardy	
Merrimack Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) #2	Ken Martin	
Advise and Confer #1	Laurie Rothhaus	
Advise and Confer #2	Lori Peters	

Out-of-District Committee Assignments

Assignment	2022-2023	2022-2023
▪Grater Woods Subcommittee (SB Rep Position)	Ken Martin	
▪Town Center Committee	Matt Shevenell	
▪Parks & Recreation	Naomi Halter	
▪Alternate	Laurie Rothhaus	
▪Merrimack 275 Anniversary Committee	Laurie Rothhaus	

May 1st

NHSBA
NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Each NHSBA member-school board is allowed to submit one or more proposed resolutions. Proposals may be a new resolution or may seek to amend any current NHSBA resolution. Each member-school board may send one voting delegate to the Annual Delegate Assembly, however any and all board members are invited to attend.

All submitted and proposed resolutions will be brought forward to the NHSBA Board of Directors, whereupon the Board of Directors will make a recommendation to either support passage or not support passage of the proposal. This recommendation is advisory only. If the Board of Directors supports passage of the proposed resolution, it will then be presented to the Delegate for discussion and vote. If the Board of Directors does not recommend the passage of the proposed resolution, the proposal may still be brought forward for discussion and vote if the proposed resolution is moved and seconded.

Google Form Link to Submit a Proposed Resolution

Link to Current NHSBA Resolutions

The deadline for submitting proposals is the close of business Friday, July 28, 2023. **It is imperative that proposed resolutions are submitted before the deadline so that other school boards have an opportunity to discuss and decide their position prior to the 2023 Annual Delegate Assembly.**

Please contact NHSBA Executive Director, Barrett M. Christina at bchristina@nhsba.org or (603) 228-2061, if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Swanson, Sandra J (SAU)

From: The New Hampshire School Boards Association <aphelps@nhsba.org>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 2:30 PM
To: Swanson, Sandra J (SAU)
Subject: NHSBA Monday Afternoon Digest - April 17, 2023

NHSBA Monday Morning Digest - April 17, 2023

In this issue:

- Policy Database - Update - Still Down
- 2023 Call for Resolutions
- Upcoming Webinars
- Webinar Recordings

Policy Database Update

NHSBA Policy Subscribers:

Our policy database server is still down. We apologize for this inconvenience. NHSBA staff is aware of how often our members access this database and we hope that the database, or a comparable alternative, will be up and running soon. If you are looking for a specific sample policy, please contact our Operations Manager, Amanda Phelps at **aphelps@nhsba.org** or (603)228-2061 and she will be happy to assist you.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

2023 Call for Resolutions

NHSBA is pleased to announce that the next NHSBA Delegate Assembly is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023. NHSBA is now accepting submissions for our annual NHSBA Delegate Assembly.

2023 Resolution Submission Process

WEBINAR CALENDAR

New Hampshire School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 228-2061
(603) 228-2351 (fax)
www.nhsba.org

Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual

October 2022
By Procedure Adopted Unanimously at Delegate Assembly, November 4, 2006
And Following Action of the January 23, 2021 Delegate Assembly

Overview of Action Taken at the 2006 Delegate Assembly

The resolutions contained herein have been adopted for three consecutive years by a vote of the Delegate Assembly. Such resolutions become a continuing commitment of the Association and part of this document, *Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual*. This practice is based on the proposal adopted unanimously at the 2006 Delegate Assembly on November 4, 2006:

> Whereas NHSBA takes consistent positions on certain issues that repeatedly come before the Delegate Assembly as re-adopted resolutions; and
>
> Whereas these issues deserve special recognition for their continued importance as long-standing positions;
>
> Be it therefore resolved that any resolution adopted for at least three continuous years be moved to the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual.

RESOLUTIONS QUALIFYING FOR INCLUSION IN THE POLICIES, RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF BELIEF MANUAL

SECTION	*TOPIC*	*PAGE*
I	School Choice	4
II	Education Funding	4
III	Health Care Funding	7
IV	Charter Schools	7
V	Local Control/School District Autonomy	7
VI	School Safety	10
VII	Accountability	11
VIII	State Board of Education	11
IX	Federal Legislation	13
X	Public Pension System	15

Perennial Resolutions of the New Hampshire School Boards Association

I - School Choice

I:A• **NHSBA** supports the utilization of public education funds solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (1991)

I:B• **NHSBA** urges the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. Specifically, NHSBA opposes the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools. Rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms, **NHSBA** urges the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public schools and meet current funding obligations and promises, benefiting the vast majority of America's children who are educated daily in our public schools. (2005)

II - Education Funding

II:A• **NHSBA** proposes that the state fully fund all state education aid formulas before the funding of any other state obligation. (1994)

II:B• **NHSBA** supports reducing the threshold for determining the local share of a catastrophic aid special education placement to 2 times the state average elementary and secondary costs of general education. (1998)

II:C• **NHSBA** supports the appropriation of at least $50 million each fiscal year to fully fund, per RSA 198:15-a, IV, the state's Building Aid Program. This program has effectively created local and state partnerships in financing school building improvements that benefit all students of New Hampshire, and which should be considered a significant part of fulfilling the State's constitutional duty to provide an adequate education to all children. (*First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014*)

II:D• **NHSBA** supports a continual review of all costs associated with providing the opportunity for an adequate education, including costs associated with facilities, transportation and increasing the state commitment to reflect actual costs incurred. Any additional revenue raised by the state to meet this obligation shall be dedicated solely for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. *(First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014 – Revised in 2020)*

II:E• **NHSBA** proposes that the state develop an equitable and sustainable tax plan dedicated solely to education for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. (2002)

II:F• **NHSBA** opposes the dramatic and unpredictable changes in educational funding each year – often with solid information only coming to the school districts after the balloting or school district meetings are done.

NHSBA opposes any new educational funding legislation, passed and enacted by the Legislature, which takes effect any earlier than the next biennium. School boards cannot be expected to work with legislation passed after the budget cycle for the following year is completed. (2005)

II:G• *Replaced by Resolution II:D in 2014.*

II:H• **NHSBA** supports a required kindergarten program as part of a comprehensive K-12 curriculum offering, with concurrent state kindergarten funding. (*First Adopted in 2003 – Revised in 2014*)

II:I• *Replaced by Resolution II:N in 2014.*

II:J• **NHSBA** opposes any constitutional amendment that vacates the spirit and intent of the Claremont and Londonderry lawsuits and attempts in any way to limit or redirect funding in a manner that is contrary to the New Hampshire Supreme Court's ruling and present interpretation of the New Hampshire Constitution. (2008)

II:K• **NHSBA** opposes transfer of the responsibility to provide and fund a free and appropriate education (FAPE) for special education students from resident districts to attending districts when a non-resident student is placed in a district by a parent. (2008)

II:L• *Replaced by Resolution II:C in 2014.*

II:M• **NHSBA** opposes the recent change in statute that decreases the state share of local employer retirement costs. NHSBA calls for the immediate return of the state share of local employer retirement costs for teachers, police and fire to 35% for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, as well as maintaining this commitment in the future. (2010)

II:N• **NHSBA** opposes legislation that would directly or indirectly divert state costs or responsibilities to local school districts, including unfunded state aid programs (e.g. catastrophic aid and building aid), and the state share of retirement contributions. (2011)

II:O• Should the special education mandates of the state of New Hampshire exceed the federal special education requirements, then the state of NH should fully fund those mandates that exceed federal requirements to the local school districts. This resolution should not be interpreted to obligate the NHSBA to challenge the renewal or re-authorization of mandates that uphold existing rights for students receiving special education services. (*First Adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2020*)

II:P• **NHSBA** supports amending New Hampshire's special education statute so that only the state legislature, not the state board of education via rulemaking or any other process, decides when it is appropriate for state law to exceed federal law. (2010)

II:Q• **NHSBA** supports fully funding the School Building Aid program pursuant to RSA 198:15-a. Furthermore, NHSBA believes that an adequate school building is a component of the requirement to provide an adequate education and therefore the state is obligated to provide funding for adequate school facilities. The state has failed to meet this obligation since 2009. (2017)

II:R• **NHSBA** supports modifying RSA 198:38 to provide state funding for the cost of full day kindergarten for school districts that have chosen to provide kindergarten for the entire school day. (2017)

II:S• **NHSBA** supports the study of the establishment of additional state adequacy aid for public pre-kindergarten. (2017)

II:T• **NHSBA** supports the state seeking to provide viable financial solutions and funding models to assist municipalities in completing the true "last-mile" broadband Internet networks throughout their towns or cities or establish a regulatory framework that requires providers to complete the networks, so that broadband Internet access is available along every public way in the state. (January 2021)

III - Health Care Funding

III:A• **NHSBA** supports a statewide effort to work with legislative bodies to address the spiraling costs associated with health care benefits borne by the school districts in New Hampshire. (2005)

IV – Charter Schools

IV:A• **NHSBA** proposes that for any charter school authorized by the State Board of Education, state aid entitlements under RSA 198:42 should be paid directly to the charter school from state funds which are separate from local district grants. (2006)

IV:B• **NHSBA** proposes that the State Department of Education develop evaluation and accountability criteria for the state's charter schools to ensure their financial stability as well as sound educational objectives. (2006)

V - Local Control and School District Autonomy

V:A• **NHSBA** supports legislation to lower the mandated 2/3-majority vote for passing a bond article to 60% for all school districts. (1997)

V:B• **NHSBA** supports the continued ability for Cooperative School Districts to adopt apportionment formulas based on locally determined factors. (2000)

V:C• *Deleted in 2014.*

V:D• **NHSBA** supports amending current law to allow school districts to establish a non-lapsing contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses. (2001)

V:E• **NHSBA** supports legislation that allows local governing bodies to indicate their recommendation on any warrant article, in addition to those recommendation requirements already specified in the municipal budget law, RSA 32. (2006)

V:F• The **NHSBA** supports the NH Legislature amending the "SB 2" process to allow a legislative body to specifically vote by a supermajority of 60% on a Warrant Article to create and fund a program that would then continue beyond the single year and its costs would be included as part of the following years default budget. (2008)

V:G• NHSBA opposes any change in statute implementing an "Evergreen Clause" in all negotiated contracts. Evergreen clauses mandate the continuation of any pay plan after the expiration of a contract when a successor agreement has not been reached. Any such provision exceeds previous standards and usurps local control, significantly tipping the balance of negotiations. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)

V:H• NHSBA opposes any mandated teacher salary schedule requiring all districts in the state to pay salaries based on a common state schedule. (2009)

V:I• NHSBA supports local control provided in NH statutes and rules that allow local school districts the authority to make their own decisions in defining a school calendar that complies with both the spirit and the letter of the law. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)

V:J• NHSBA supports new legislation or administrative rules that impose penalties against school district employees who breach their employment contracts. (2011)

V:K• NHSBA opposes any branch of New Hampshire government adopting or supporting curriculum standards that usurp state's rights and de-emphasize and limit local control of curriculum and local school board oversight. (2011)

V:L• NHSBA supports legislation to allow local school districts to retain a percentage of their year-end unreserved fund balance in the same manner as local municipal governments. (2011)

V:M• NHSBA supports local boards and their responsibility for establishing the structure, accountability, advocacy and delivery of instruction within their local district. This includes statutory changes that affirm this managerial policy confided exclusively to public employers. Specifically, governing bodies have the right to determine standards for evaluation, compensation, selection, layoff and retention, discipline, assignment and transfer, and other traditionally accepted managerial rights so as to continue public control of governmental functions. (2013)

V:N• NHSBA supports state and federal legislation that affirms the responsibility for education resides with the states, which have delegated to local school boards the power and authority to adopt policies, establish priorities, and provide accountability to direct the operation of the schools, including the school system's mission and goals, organization, budget, program, curriculum and services, all essential to the daily operation of schools, consistent with state laws and regulations. (2014)

V:O• **NHSBA** supports legislative affirmation of the management right associated with teacher evaluation that is an integral component of the requirement that school boards adopt a teacher evaluation policy. Further, NHSBA supports involving teachers and principals by allowing a reasonable opportunity to comment on draft school board evaluation policy, understanding that the school board has the sole prerogative to adopt a local policy it deems appropriate. (2014)

V:P• **NHSBA** supports New Hampshire's adoption of updated requirements in statutes and rules that reflect current document imaging technologies and backup capabilities. (2016)

V:Q• **NHSBA** supports language in legislation that provides parents' rights to opt-out of content and programs that they feel are not appropriate for their child(ren). However, NHSBA opposes language requiring parents to opt-in to content and programs for their child(ren). Opt-in language creates an undue burden on the school district to account for every student who would participate, versus the few who choose not to participate. (2017)

V:R• **NHSBA** supports modifying RSA 193:12 to add the following: Any person who provides false information for establishing residency for school attendance purposes, or any person who assists in doing so, may be required to remit full restitution to the school district or districts that have financial or fiscal liability as a result of the false information. (2018)

V:S• **NHSBA** supports amending pertinent electioneering statutes to clarify: (1) the definition of "election" official"; (2) that electioneering by election officials may not occur at the polling place; and (3) that a public body may affirmatively promote positions established by formal actions of that body. (2018)

V:T• The **NHSBA** supports modifying RSA 193:3, I, to require the New Hampshire State Board of Education to restore support for local decision in Change of School Assignments and Manifest Educational Hardship requests by requiring the State of New Hampshire to fully fund any change in school assignment made under RSA 193:3,1 so that the local school district will not be held financially responsible for any school assignment change prescribed by the State Board of Education which conflicts with the local school board decision. (2019)

VI - School Safety

VI:A• NHSBA supports legislation which excludes public schools from being designated as neutral ground for visitation purposes for children of parents undergoing a divorce procedure by legal or other administrative orders. (1998)

VI:B• NHSBA supports efforts to enact legislation which would require notification to school districts of restraining orders related to a student's behavior. (1999)

VI:C• NHSBA supports legislative action to remove the unfunded mandated provisions of RSA 193-F, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention. The imposition of these new mandates and their related financial costs, without additional state funding, violates the New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Article 28-a. (2011)

VI:D• NHSBA supports legislative action that allows criminal background checks to be shared with their Human Resources Department and that the specific charge be shared with the Superintendent so he/she can make an informed judgment related to their employment. (2017)

VI:E• NHSBA calls upon the United States Congress, the New Hampshire Legislature and local public safety agencies to prioritize collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with school districts; and further supports legislation at the federal, state and local levels that protect students and school district employees from on-campus violence. (2019)

VI:F• NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education. NHSBA supports adherence to all anti-discrimination laws, rules and statutes ensuring that no student is excluded or discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religious creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status, familial status, sexual orientation, health condition, or native language. (January 2021)

VII - Accountability

VII:A• NHSBA believes that all components of state testing (English Language Arts, Writing Prompt, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) should continue to be given annually at the end of the school year with appropriate and immediate steps being taken to ensure that these test results are received by school districts no later than the following July 1. Valid data to assess school performance relies on measuring individual student progress: NH should adopt gain score or value-added measures as the principal means for measuring student performance. If NH does not adopt gains-score or value-added measures as the principal means for measuring student performance, then annual testing should take place at the beginning of the school year so that information may be used instructionally during the year. (*First adopted in 1998 – Revised in 2016*)

VII:B• NHSBA supports the inclusion of only students who have enrolled in a district continuously for the previous school year in the numbers calculated to measure student performance. (*First adopted in 2005 – Revised in 2016*)

VII:C• NHSBA supports a review of NH's accountability and performance measures as well as standards established for the NH state assessment program. (2009)

VII:D• NHSBA supports legislation to amend the State Common Core Testing that will begin in the school year 2014-2015 to allow special education students be tested at their grade level ability rather than their placement of their current school grade. (2013)

VII:E• NHSBA supports the development of curriculum for use by trained teachers in grades K-12 to educate students in the prevention of sexual abuse, with such curriculum to be developed locally using either a model developed by the New Hampshire Department of Education or by one of the 13 state agencies that already use evidence-based sexual abuse prevention education. (2016)

VIII - State Board of Education

VIII:A• NHSBA calls on the State Board of Education to continuously monitor all teacher training programs at New Hampshire colleges and universities to assure that such institutions are offering quality and relevant training programs preparing individuals for careers as teachers and/or administrators in New Hampshire's public schools. (*First adopted in 1998 – Revised in 2014*)

VIII:B• NHSBA proposes that the Department of Education develop and maintain a database of available grants and other funding mechanisms to assist local school districts in their grant writing efforts and funding of locally determined programs. (2002)

VIII:C• NHSBA urges the State Board of Education to conduct a statewide study of the "traditional" school calendar utilized by most public school districts in New Hampshire and to issue a summary report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations. (2003)

VIII:D• NHSBA urges the NH State Board of Education to adopt Standards of NH School Approval which emphasize qualitative standards rather than quantitative standards. (2003)

VIII:E• *Replaced by Resolution II:H in 2014.*

VIII:F• NHSBA supports the development and implementation of poverty indicators for Title I eligibility, which best reflect the current distribution of children from low income families in the public schools across the State and maximizes the number of districts eligible for Title I funds. (2003)

VIII:G• NHSBA supports the concept and duties of the State Board of Education as established in RSA 21-N:10-11. In its capacity to review all programs, advise on goals and hear appeals, the State Board of Education should have the authority to appoint the Commissioner of Education as well as confirm the Deputy Commissioner and division directors nominated by the Commissioner of Education. (2005)

VIII:H• NHSBA opposes the changes in student assessment at the state level which are resulting in fewer content and skill areas tested, especially the loss of the writing assessment. Basing assessment decisions on availability of funding rather than on what is best for the students of New Hampshire is not something that **NHSBA** can support. (2005)

VIII:I• NHSBA supports a compulsory attendance age of eighteen (18), along with flexibility to utilize alternative options that allow students to continue a program of study to complete their high school education. (*First adopted in 2006 – Revised in 2014*)

VIII:J• NHSBA supports a Department of Education funded study on the impact on performance of extended learning opportunities and those extended learning opportunities' relationship to the funding formula. (2009)

VIII:K• NHSBA supports the adoption of statutory language requiring that any statute or New Hampshire Department of Education rule, which mandates the adoption of local school board policies, will expire after five years; and that such statute or rule cannot be renewed without full public hearings, debate and re-authorization by the New Hampshire Legislature. All rules and regulations stipulated by the New Hampshire Department of Education must be submitted to the full New Hampshire Legislature for final consent and approval. (2015)

VIII:L• NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193-C:6 to require that the State Department of Education publish the results of the statewide assessment within 30 days of receipt of the assessment results. The NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193-C:6 to prohibit embargos of assessment results by the State Department of Education, local school districts, or other agencies. (2017)

IX - Federal Legislation

Individual with Disabilities Education Act:

IX:A• NHSBA urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds to pay 40% of the cost of implementing IDEA, and to fully fund any additional requirements in the area of special education and to provide financial impact statements. (1990)

IX:B• Since its original enactment in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has played a pivotal role to assure that students with disabilities receive the services they need for their success. **NHSBA** supports and applauds the efforts and goals encompassed by IDEA's mission.

As our Congress considers the reauthorization of IDEA, **NHSBA** believes attention should be directed at components of the program that are moving away from the original mission of educating children to a mission that involves a wider range of functions. **NHSBA** believes that for special education to achieve its potential in today's environment, several areas should receive attention. **NHSBA** proposes that federal reauthorization of IDEA address these specific priority concerns in the following areas:

- federal funding - Congress should fully fund the federal share of IDEA as a mandatory program;
- teacher recruitment and retention - federal law should create and encourage incentives for new teachers seeking special education certification;
- administration and paperwork - federal law should ease the current complex paper trail aimed at documenting compliance as well as allowing greater flexibility in the IEP process;
- due-process hearings - federal law should provide for adequate notice of issues and good-faith mediation

- related services - federal law should identify the financial role of other governmental units rather than fix all costs for related services on the narrow portion of the tax base that just serves education;
- private placements - federal law should focus on whether a substantive deprivation of educational opportunities exists in the public setting before consideration of private placement;
- safe learning environment - federal law should allow local school district personnel the flexibility and discretion to make appropriate discipline determinations that are in the best interests of all students when it comes to disciplining children with disabilities;
- over identification - federal law should clarify the definition of those disabilities that can result in over identification. (2002)

IX:BA• NHSBA opposes changes in the IDEA allocation calculations resulting in funds being disbursed directly to the school/district in which the child is registered (in towns which do not have high schools) and not to the student's residence. NHSBA calls for the immediate return of prior method of calculations for IDEA federal and state funds, as well as maintaining this commitment in the future to keep any and all funds distributed to the student's town of residence. (January 2021)

Every Student Succeeds Act:

IX:C• NHSBA urges the New Hampshire Legislature and New Hampshire Department of Education, consistent with the language and intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to maximize local governance and community leadership through enhanced local school board flexibility in addressing key areas such as standards, testing, and accountability; and further to pro-actively engage and collaborate with NHSBA in all legislative and administrative discussions and decisions concerning the implementation of ESSA. (*First adopted in 2003 – Revised in 2009 – Revised in 2016*)

National School Boards Association:

IX:D• NHSBA supports the efforts of the National School Boards Association to provide more local governance and flexibility by working with federal officials to ensure passage of all federal legislation and regulations consistent with this goal. (2015)

X – Public Pension System

X:A• *Deleted in 2019. Replaced with Perennial Resolution X:B (2019).*

X:B• **NHSBA** supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally stable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will return state contributions to NHRS. (2019)

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

AMANDA S. DOYLE
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Ken Martin
Laurie Rothhaus
Naomi Halter
Jenna Hardy
Lori Peters
Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Amanda Doyle ASD

Date: May 1, 2023

Subject: Participation in the New Hampshire Student Gallup Poll

Since its launch in 2009, the Gallup Student Poll has helped schools better serve students by providing positive measures that support engagement in school and create hope for the future. To date, the Gallup Student Poll has been completed over 6 million times in schools and districts across the country.

Through our collaboration with the New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI), the Merrimack School District (MSD) has been invited to participate in the New Hampshire version of the Gallup Student Poll. NHLI, Gallup, and a state-wide work-based advisory group has worked together to create a NH specific, 24 item, web-based, academic survey that measures the elements of Engagement, Hope, and Career Connected Learning.

The three-year NH Gallup Poll will collect longitudinal data through an anonymous, voluntary survey that takes about 10 minutes to complete. MSD students in Grades 7-12 will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Poll and the district will receive an overall scorecard based only on group data.

Participation in this poll provides timely baseline information as we commence a myriad of initiatives in the MSD including competency-based learning, implementing a new suite of assessment measures, developing our Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B), updating, revising, and aligning our curriculum, and bringing on a new Director of Extended Learning Opportunities and Pathways to Graduation at Merrimack High School.

Please see the attached information which includes the initial invitation from the NHLI to participate in the NH Student Gallup Poll, a list of the poll items, a technical advisory from the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the definition of a non-academic survey to contrast with this poll.

New Hampshire Learning Initiative

GALLUP®

The NH Student Gallup Poll

What if we could intentionally identify the experiences that grow hope in our students? What if you could look at the impact of new and existing programs in growing hope in *all* students? The 3-year NH Gallup Poll will collect longitudinal data to illustrate increases in hope and engagement.

NHLI, Gallup, and a state-wide work-based learning advisory group worked together to create a New Hampshire version of the National Student Gallup Poll (for grades 5-12) that includes career-connected learning opportunities. The group purposely removed items that might be construed as non-academic, and all demographic information except for grade level.

This poll provides the following benefits to your district:

- Provide evidence of programs that are having a positive impact on students
- Help with budget decisions related to opportunities for students
- Provide evidence of efforts in scaling programs
- Measure hope and engagement in all students
- Help promote new pathways for students

This comes at no cost to your district! If your district participates, you select the grade level students to take the poll in May each year for three years. The data will identify if work-based learning opportunities are having a positive impact on students and how they feel about their future after high school. Gallup will provide each district with a report of their results. We have funded a finite number of students to take the poll, so requests will come on a first come, first served basis.

The most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data indicates that there is widespread hopelessness among youth in our state. The data from the NH Student Gallup Poll correlates the connection between student participation in career-connected learning opportunities through your school, and increased hopefulness about their future and engagement at school.

Following is a list of the poll items, a technical advisory, and the definition of a non-academic survey to contrast with this poll. We recognize that there are other data collection tools that collect similar information. Why this tool is different is because it is well respected by all stakeholders and the results will create conversation, collaboration, and real change.

Please contact Carolyn Eastman if your school or district would like to participate or if you have any questions at ceastman@nhlearninginitiative.org

Sincerely,

Carolyn

Carolyn Eastman
Director of Personalized Learning
603-231-8534

NHLI | Gallup Student Poll Survey Items

Engagement
At this school, I get to do what I do best every day.
My teachers make me feel my schoolwork is important.
I feel safe in this school.
I have fun at school.
I have a best friend at school.
In the last seven days, someone has told me I have done good work at school.
In the last seven days, I have learned something interesting at school.
The adults at my school care about me.
I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future.
Hope
I know I will graduate from high school.
I have a great future ahead of me.
I can think of many ways to get good grades.
I have many goals.
I can find many ways around problems.
I know I will find a good job in the future.
Entrepreneurship and Career/Financial Literacy
I am learning how to start and run a business in school.
I am learning how to save and spend money in school.
Work-Based Learning
My School offers many Work-Based Learning Opportunities.
Which of the following Work-Based Learning activities have you participated in through your school? (Select all that apply)
Career Fair
Professional Classroom Panel (group of people talking about their jobs/careers)
Mock or practice interview(s)
Industry awareness month (ex. Manufacturing month activities)
Career Interest assessment (ex. Awato, Xello, YouScience)
Field Trip
Career and Technical Education, CTE, CTC, ATC (course(s) in school directly related to a job or career path)
Mentorship
Industry Tour
Volunteer/Service
Job Shadow
Internship
Externship
On-the-job Training
Pre-Apprenticeship
Apprenticeship
Extended Learning Opportunity related to a job or career
Do not choose to answer
Other (please specify)
I would like to participate in more Work-Based Learning experiences.
My Work-Based Learning experiences have informed what I plan to do after high school.
Demographic Items (self-reported)
I have a mentor who encourages my development.
I am involved in at least one activity, such as a club, music, sports, or volunteering.
What grade are you in at school?
Compared to most students, I do well in school.
Which of the following best describes the grades you get at school?
How often did you miss school last year?

New Hampshire
Department of Education
Serving New Hampshire's Education Community

Technical Advisory

Policy Governing the Administration of Non-Academic Surveys or Questionnaires	**RSA 186:11, IX-d,**

This Technical Advisory continues the New Hampshire Department of Education's communication regarding the new legislation which was passed into law during the 2017 legislative session. ***Senate Bill 43 becomes effective September 16, 2017.***

During the 2017 legislative session, RSA 186:11, IX-d, which requires school districts to adopt a policy governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires to students, was amended. SB 43 was signed by the Governor on July 18, 2017 and becomes effective on September 16, 2017. The amendment eliminates the "opt-out" provision and now states that **no student is required to submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire without obtaining written consent of a parent or legal guardian.** The new law is posted below in its entirety with the amendment in bold italic font for convenience:

The state board of education shall, in addition to the duties assigned by RSA 21-N:11: . . .

> IX-d. Require school districts to adopt a policy governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires to students. The policy shall require school districts to notify a parent or legal guardian of a non-academic survey or questionnaire and its purpose. ***The policy shall provide that no student shall be required to volunteer for or submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire, as defined in this paragraph, without written consent of a parent or legal guardian unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor. The policy shall include an exception from the consent requirement for the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The policy shall also allow a parent or legal guardian to opt-out of the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*** The school district shall make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian at least 10 days prior to distribution to students. In this paragraph, "non-academic survey or questionnaire" means surveys, questionnaires, or other documents designed to elicit information about a student's social behavior, family life, religion, politics, sexual orientation, sexual activity, drug use, or any other information not related to a student's academics.

The law now requires ***written consent*** of a parent or legal guardian, unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor, before a student is allowed to participate in a non-academic survey or questionnaire. Thus, the new version of the law replaces the previous "opt-out" provision with an "opt-in" provision. Therefore, school districts should modify their existing policies to specify how and when they will seek to receive the written consent from parents and legal guardians for non-academic surveys and questionnaires. A policy that permits use of

written electronic consent in the form of email or some type of on-line form in which the school can be reasonably assured of the validity of the consent would meet the requirements of this law.

The only exception is for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that is developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is not subject to the parental consent requirement, but has an "opt-out" provision. Therefore, existing policies should also be modified to address how and when school districts will provide parents and legal guardians with the opportunity to exercise the "opt-out" provision for the YRBS. The YRBS is subject to the requirement to "make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian at least 10 days prior to distribution to students."

The intent of the opt-out policy is to provide parents or legal guardians an opportunity to determine the suitability of the survey or questionnaire for their student. Strong opt-out policies will include multiple modes of notification to provide sufficient assurance that parents or legal guardians have been afforded the opportunity that the law requires. Such methods of notification may include email, posting on a web site, a letter sent through the school's parent portal, a handout sent home with students or by other means. Regardless of the exact methodologies that schools decide to utilize, the best method to reach that assurance that parents or legal guardians have had an opportunity to make a suitability determination would be to have some type of affirmative parental or legal guardian acknowledgement of receipt.

Finally, the term "non-academic survey or questionnaire" is defined in the law. That definition contains a catch-all provision of "or any other information not related to a student's academics." With this broad terminology, school districts must exercise care to allow parents to opt-in to surveys and questionnaires that cover topics which are not specifically enumerated in the law, such as mental health issues, technology use at home or any variety of such topics.

Contact:
Diana E. Fenton, Attorney
Department of Education
Tel. (603) 271-3189
Email: diana.fenton@doe.nh.gov

2017 New Hampshire Revised Statutes
Title XV - EDUCATION
Chapter 186 - THE STATE SCHOOL ORGANIZATION
Section 186:11 - Duties of State Board of Education.

https://law.justia.com/codes/new-hampshire/2017/title-xv/chapter-186/section-186-11/

IX-d. Require school districts to adopt a policy governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires to students. The policy shall require school districts to notify a parent or legal guardian of a non-academic survey or questionnaire and its purpose. The policy shall provide that no student shall be required to volunteer for or submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire, as defined in this paragraph, without written consent of a parent or legal guardian unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor. The policy shall include an exception from the consent requirement for the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The policy shall also allow a parent or legal guardian to opt-out of the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The school district shall make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian at least 10 days prior to distribution to students. In this paragraph, "non-academic survey or questionnaire" means surveys, questionnaires, or other documents designed to elicit information about a student's social behavior, family life, religion, politics, sexual orientation, sexual activity, drug use, or any other information not related to a student's academics.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

AMANDA S. DOYLE
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Ken Martin
Laurie Rothhaus
Naomi Halter
Jenna Hardy
Lori Peters
Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Amanda Doyle ASD

Date: May 1, 2023

Subject: Participation in the New Hampshire Student Gallup Poll

Since its launch in 2009, the Gallup Student Poll has helped schools better serve students by providing positive measures that support engagement in school and create hope for the future. To date, the Gallup Student Poll has been completed over 6 million times in schools and districts across the country.

Through our collaboration with the New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI), the Merrimack School District (MSD) has been invited to participate in the New Hampshire version of the Gallup Student Poll. NHLI, Gallup, and a state-wide work-based advisory group has worked together to create a NH specific, 24 item, web-based, academic survey that measures the elements of Engagement, Hope, and Career Connected Learning.

The three-year NH Gallup Poll will collect longitudinal data through an anonymous, voluntary survey that takes about 10 minutes to complete. MSD students in Grades 7-12 will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Poll and the district will receive an overall scorecard based only on group data.

Participation in this poll provides timely baseline information as we commence a myriad of initiatives in the MSD including competency-based learning, implementing a new suite of assessment measures, developing our Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B), updating, revising, and aligning our curriculum, and bringing on a new Director of Extended Learning Opportunities and Pathways to Graduation at Merrimack High School.

Please see the attached information which includes the initial invitation from the NHLI to participate in the NH Student Gallup Poll, a list of the poll items, a technical advisory from the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the definition of a non-academic survey to contrast with this poll.

New Hampshire
Learning
Initiative

GALLUP®

The NH Student Gallup Poll

What if we could intentionally identify the experiences that grow hope in our students? What if you could look at the impact of new and existing programs in growing hope in *all* students? The 3-year NH Gallup Poll will collect longitudinal data to illustrate increases in hope and engagement.

NHLI, Gallup, and a state-wide work-based learning advisory group worked together to create a New Hampshire version of the National Student Gallup Poll (for grades 5-12) that includes career-connected learning opportunities. The group purposely removed items that might be construed as non-academic, and all demographic information except for grade level.

This poll provides the following benefits to your district:

- Provide evidence of programs that are having a positive impact on students
- Help with budget decisions related to opportunities for students
- Provide evidence of efforts in scaling programs
- Measure hope and engagement in all students
- Help promote new pathways for students

This comes at no cost to your district! If your district participates, you select the grade level students to take the poll in May each year for three years. The data will identify if work-based learning opportunities are having a positive impact on students and how they feel about their future after high school. Gallup will provide each district with a report of their results. We have funded a finite number of students to take the poll, so requests will come on a first come, first served basis.

The most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data indicates that there is widespread hopelessness among youth in our state. The data from the NH Student Gallup Poll correlates the connection between student participation in career-connected learning opportunities through your school, and increased hopefulness about their future and engagement at school.

Following is a list of the poll items, a technical advisory, and the definition of a non-academic survey to contrast with this poll. We recognize that there are other data collection tools that collect similar information. Why this tool is different is because it is well respected by all stakeholders and the results will create conversation, collaboration, and real change.

Please contact Carolyn Eastman if your school or district would like to participate or if you have any questions at ceastman@nhlearninginitiative.org

Sincerely,
Carolyn
Carolyn Eastman
Director of Personalized Learning
603-231-8534

NHLI | Gallup Student Poll Survey Items

Engagement
At this school, I get to do what I do best every day.
My teachers make me feel my schoolwork is important.
I feel safe in this school.
I have fun at school.
I have a best friend at school.
In the last seven days, someone has told me I have done good work at school.
In the last seven days, I have learned something interesting at school.
The adults at my school care about me.
I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future.
Hope
I know I will graduate from high school.
I have a great future ahead of me.
I can think of many ways to get good grades.
I have many goals.
I can find many ways around problems.
I know I will find a good job in the future.
Entrepreneurship and Career/Financial Literacy
I am learning how to start and run a business in school.
I am learning how to save and spend money in school.
Work-Based Learning
My School offers many Work-Based Learning Opportunities.
Which of the following Work-Based Learning activities have you participated in through your school? (Select all that apply)
Career Fair
Professional Classroom Panel (group of people talking about their jobs/careers)
Mock or practice interview(s)
Industry awareness month (ex. Manufacturing month activities)
Career Interest assessment (ex. Awato, Xello, YouScience)
Field Trip
Career and Technical Education, CTE, CTC, ATC (course(s) in school directly related to a job or career path)
Mentorship
Industry Tour
Volunteer/Service
Job Shadow
Internship
Externship
On-the-job Training
Pre-Apprenticeship
Apprenticeship
Extended Learning Opportunity related to a job or career
Do not choose to answer
Other (please specify)
I would like to participate in more Work-Based Learning experiences.
My Work-Based Learning experiences have informed what I plan to do after high school.
Demographic Items (self-reported)
I have a mentor who encourages my development.
I am involved in at least one activity, such as a club, music, sports, or volunteering.
What grade are you in at school?
Compared to most students, I do well in school.
Which of the following best describes the grades you get at school?
How often did you miss school last year?

New Hampshire
Department of Education **Technical Advisory**
Serving New Hampshire's Education Community

Policy Governing the Administration of Non-Academic Surveys or Questionnaires	**RSA 186:11, IX-d,**

This Technical Advisory continues the New Hampshire Department of Education's communication regarding the new legislation which was passed into law during the 2017 legislative session. ***Senate Bill 43 becomes effective September 16, 2017.***

During the 2017 legislative session, RSA 186:11, IX-d, which requires school districts to adopt a policy governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires to students, was amended. SB 43 was signed by the Governor on July 18, 2017 and becomes effective on September 16, 2017. The amendment eliminates the "opt-out" provision and now states that **no student is required to submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire without obtaining written consent of a parent or legal guardian**. The new law is posted below in its entirety with the amendment in bold italic font for convenience:

The state board of education shall, in addition to the duties assigned by RSA 21-N:11: . . .

> IX-d. Require school districts to adopt a policy governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires to students. The policy shall require school districts to notify a parent or legal guardian of a non-academic survey or questionnaire and its purpose. ***The policy shall provide that no student shall be required to volunteer for or submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire, as defined in this paragraph, without written consent of a parent or legal guardian unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor. The policy shall include an exception from the consent requirement for the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The policy shall also allow a parent or legal guardian to opt-out of the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*** The school district shall make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian at least 10 days prior to distribution to students. In this paragraph, "non-academic survey or questionnaire" means surveys, questionnaires, or other documents designed to elicit information about a student's social behavior, family life, religion, politics, sexual orientation, sexual activity, drug use, or any other information not related to a student's academics.

The law now requires ***written consent*** of a parent or legal guardian, unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor, before a student is allowed to participate in a non-academic survey or questionnaire. Thus, the new version of the law replaces the previous "opt-out" provision with an "opt-in" provision. Therefore, school districts should modify their existing policies to specify how and when they will seek to receive the written consent from parents and legal guardians for non-academic surveys and questionnaires. A policy that permits use of

written electronic consent in the form of email or some type of on-line form in which the school can be reasonably assured of the validity of the consent would meet the requirements of this law.

The only exception is for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that is developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is not subject to the parental consent requirement, but has an "opt-out" provision. Therefore, existing policies should also be modified to address how and when school districts will provide parents and legal guardians with the opportunity to exercise the "opt-out" provision for the YRBS. The YRBS is subject to the requirement to "make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian at least 10 days prior to distribution to students."

The intent of the opt-out policy is to provide parents or legal guardians an opportunity to determine the suitability of the survey or questionnaire for their student. Strong opt-out policies will include multiple modes of notification to provide sufficient assurance that parents or legal guardians have been afforded the opportunity that the law requires. Such methods of notification may include email, posting on a web site, a letter sent through the school's parent portal, a handout sent home with students or by other means. Regardless of the exact methodologies that schools decide to utilize, the best method to reach that assurance that parents or legal guardians have had an opportunity to make a suitability determination would be to have some type of affirmative parental or legal guardian acknowledgement of receipt.

Finally, the term "non-academic survey or questionnaire" is defined in the law. That definition contains a catch-all provision of "or any other information not related to a student's academics." With this broad terminology, school districts must exercise care to allow parents to opt-in to surveys and questionnaires that cover topics which are not specifically enumerated in the law, such as mental health issues, technology use at home or any variety of such topics.

Contact:
Diana E. Fenton, Attorney
Department of Education
Tel. (603) 271-3189
Email: diana.fenton@doe.nh.gov

2017 New Hampshire Revised Statutes
Title XV - EDUCATION
Chapter 186 - THE STATE SCHOOL ORGANIZATION
Section 186:11 - Duties of State Board of Education.

https://law.justia.com/codes/new-hampshire/2017/title-xv/chapter-186/section-186-11/

IX-d. Require school districts to adopt a policy governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires to students. The policy shall require school districts to notify a parent or legal guardian of a non-academic survey or questionnaire and its purpose. The policy shall provide that no student shall be required to volunteer for or submit to a non-academic survey or questionnaire, as defined in this paragraph, without written consent of a parent or legal guardian unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor. The policy shall include an exception from the consent requirement for the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The policy shall also allow a parent or legal guardian to opt-out of the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The school district shall make such surveys or questionnaires available, at the school and on the school or school district's website, for review by a student's parent or legal guardian at least 10 days prior to distribution to students. In this paragraph, "non-academic survey or questionnaire" means surveys, questionnaires, or other documents designed to elicit information about a student's social behavior, family life, religion, politics, sexual orientation, sexual activity, drug use, or any other information not related to a student's academics.

4/26/2023

Policy Progress	**1st Reading**	**2nd Review**	**3rd Review, if needed**	**Adoption**	**Comments**
Video Surveillance on School Property (EEAA)	4/03/23	5/1/2023	X		**Legal reviewed for compliancy.** Introduce with Policy JICL, per Legal.
Home Education Instruction (IHBG)	5/1/2023				Update to 2009 policy.
With Attorney for Compliancy Review					
Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)					To attorney on 4/4/23. Update to 2007
Next in Line					
Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels (JG)					Referenced in IHBG
Matt's policies					Format. Send to attorney.
Student Use of Information Technology (JICL)	3/20/23	5/1/23 tentative			Jason is doing a major review for 5/2/2023 Update to 2014 policy.
Wellness Policy (JLCF)					Needs updating per NH Nutritional Department
Employee Use of Information Technology (EHAA)	5/1/23 tentative				Jason is doing a major review for 5/2/2023. Update to 2013 policy
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

4/26/2023

Policy Progress	**1st Reading**	**2nd Review**	**3rd Review, if needed**	**Adoption**	**Comments**
Video Surveillance on School Property (EEAA)	4/03/23	5/1/2023	X		**Legal reviewed for compliancy.** Introduce with Policy JICL, per Legal.
Home Education Instruction (IHBG)	5/1/2023				Update to 2009 policy.
With Attorney for Compliancy Review					
Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)					To attorney on 4/4/23. Update to 2007
Next in Line					
Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels (JG)					Referenced in IHBG
Matt's policies					Format. Send to attorney.
Student Use of Information Technology (JICL)	3/20/23	5/1/23 tentative			Jason is doing a major review for 5/2/2023 Update to 2014 policy.
Wellness Policy (JLCF)					Needs updating per NH Nutritional Department
Employee Use of Information Technology (EHAA)	5/1/23 tentative				Jason is doing a major review for 5/2/2023. Update to 2013 policy
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

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

~~Eligibility~~ Right to Home Education:

The Board ~~recognizes~~ acknowledges ~~that RSA 193-A provides~~ the right ~~for~~ of parents (and guardians) to pursue home education for their children, including any "child with a disability" as defined under RSA 186-C:2, I and I-a, within the parameters of ~~requirements and evaluation set by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE)~~ RSA 193-A and its implementing regulations.

Home education is an alternative to compulsory attendance at a public or private school (see RSA 193:1) and is an individualized form of instruction in accordance with Chapter 279:2, laws of 1990. Instruction shall be deemed "home education" if it consists of instruction in science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music. See RSA 193A:4. Home education shall be provided, coordinated, or directed by a parent for his or her own child.

This Policy is intended to help Merrimack School District ("the District") personnel and home education families within the District understand their respective responsibilities. Nothing in this Policy, however, should be understood to infringe upon a parent's rights under the applicable laws and regulations.

~~Enrollment~~ Notification Procedures:

A. Selection of Participating Agency

A parent seeking to provide a home education program to the child(ren) is required to select one of the following as a "participating agency" for that program:

1. The Commissioner of ~~Any parent commencing a home education program for a child who withdraws from the School District shall notify~~ the New Hampshire Department of Education,
2. The Superintendent of the Merrimack School District, or
3. The Principal of a non-public school.

The selection of the participating agency will determine the extent to which the District has responsibilities relative to the home education program.

B. Notification to Participating Agency

Within five (5) business days of commencement of ~~the~~ a home education program, the parent is required to provide notice to their chosen participating agency, a notice which shall ~~Such notification shall~~ include the names, addresses and birth dates of all children who are

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION
(continued)

participating in the home education program. The parent shall also provide contact information and update the notification information as necessary. ~~If such notice is provided to the Superintendent, s/he shall acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days.~~

Upon request, the selected participating agency shall work with the parent in helping them meet the essential requirements of a home education program as set out in RSA 193-A:4, I.

A parent may select a new participating agency at any time. If a parent selects a new participating agency, the parent shall notify the new participating agency in the same manner as outlined above.

If the parent has selected the Superintendent of the District as the participating agency, the Superintendent shall acknowledge receipt of notification within fourteen (14) days in accordance with the contact information provided by the parent, along with a request for any information required by RSA 193-A:5, II (i.e., the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program) that was not included in the original notice.

Conventional attendance policies of the District and ~~State~~ New Hampshire law apply to all students within the District until the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent of the District, or the principal of a non-public school acknowledge the establishment of a home education program. Likewise, these laws and policies ~~or~~ immediately apply upon the termination of any home education program so acknowledged.

C. Notification to the Merrimack School District

Regardless of the parent's selection of participating agency, if the child is currently enrolled in a public school within the District, the parent shall also notify the District's Superintendent of the child's withdrawal on or before the date and home education shall begin, following the notification procedures of this Policy.

D. Annual Notification Required

Once established, the home education program remains in effect unless terminated pursuant to Ed 315.06. The parent is not required to provide annual notification of continuation of a home education program.

Written notice of termination of a home education program must be filed by the parent with the Commissioner of the Department of Education and the participating agency within 15 days of said termination. See Ed 315.06. If the Merrimack School District is the participating agency, the Superintendent will acknowledge receipt of the notification within fourteen (14) days. ~~A parent planning to continue a home education program after the commencement of such a program shall notify the Department of Education or Superintendent by the first day of each school year of the parent's intent to continue the program.~~

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION
(continued)

E. Notification Required Upon Moving

Any parent who previously notified the Superintendent of a home education program who moves outside of the District shall notify the Superintendent that the child has moved from the District and shall provide notification to the new school district under the same procedures outlined in the Policy and New Hampshire law.

~~The Superintendent shall assist parents in making such notification and in complying with applicable statutory requirements.~~

Parental Record-Keeping:

Per RSA 193-A:6, I, a parent must maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to their home education program. The portfolio shall consist of a log which designates by title the reading materials used, and also samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the child. Such portfolio, *which at all times remains the property of the parent*, shall be preserved for 2 years from the date of the end of the instruction.

Access to the portfolio shall be at the parent's discretion, except as provided for in RSA 193-A:6.

Annual Evaluation Procedures:

Per RSA 193-A:6, II, ~~Parents must maintain a portfolio of records and materials relative to the home education program and~~ a parent must provide for an annual evaluation documenting their child's demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with the child's age, ~~and~~ ability, and/or disability.~~in accordance with RSA 193-A and NH Code of Administrative Rules, Ed 315.~~

A. District Assistance with Evaluations:

If a parent selects the District's Superintendent as the participating agency, the District must provide evaluation services upon request of the parent. If the District is not selected as the participating agency, the District may choose to aid in an evaluation, but it is not required to do so. See Ed 315.08(b).

Parents ~~electing~~ seeking to ~~request~~ use ~~that~~ the ~~School~~ District's evaluation services should contact the Superintendent's office as soon as practicable; however, this notification must occur ~~personnel carry out the annual evaluation must make arrangements to do so with the Assistant Superintendent~~ prior to the end of the public-school year. ~~In this case~~ Following such a request, the Assistant Superintendent shall work collaboratively with the parent to ~~provide~~ coordinate the provision of evaluation services. ~~if the parent so requests~~.

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION
(continued)

B. Evaluation Methods

Per RSA 193-A:6, II, a child shall be deemed to have successfully completed an annual evaluation upon meeting the requirements of any one of the following:

1. A certified teacher or a teacher currently teaching in a nonpublic school who is selected by the parent shall evaluate the child's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the parent or child;
2. The child shall take any national student achievement test, administered by a person who meets the qualifications established by the provider or publisher of the test;
3. The child shall take a state student assessment test used by the resident district; or
4. The child shall be evaluated using any other valid measurement tool *mutually agreed upon* by the parent and the participating agency. A non-exclusive list of examples may be found in Ed 315.08(f).

C. State or Local Assessment Provided by the District

If a parent selects the evaluation method of a state or local assessment provided by the District, they must notify the Superintendent in writing as soon as practicable to provide the District adequate time to prepare and obtain the testing materials. See Ed 315.07 (c). The District will not charge a fee for providing or administering tests under this section, regardless of whether the District was selected as the participating agency. See Ed 315.04(e).

D. Portfolio Reviews

If the District's Superintendent is the selected participating agency, the parent may request the District to perform a portfolio review, for which the District may charge a fee. Any requests for portfolio review should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, who will work collaboratively with the parent on lining up the review. Portfolio reviews will be conducted in accordance with Ed 315.08 (d) and (e).

~~The Assistant Superintendent will develop a form that may be used by parents in filing the results of the outside evaluation. Principals will send copies of the evaluation to the parents.~~

~~The Assistant Superintendent will review the results of the annual education evaluation of the children in home education programs. If the home-educated child has not demonstrated the level of educational progress mandated in RSA 193-A, the Assistant Superintendent will notify the parent in writing that educational progress has not been achieved and will follow procedures outlined in RSA 193-A. Likewise, the Assistant Superintendent will notify the parent in writing within 21 days of the evaluation if the child has demonstrated educational progress. The Assistant Superintendent will ensure that the evaluation includes all information, dates and signatures required by state statue and/or regulation.~~

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION
(continued)

E. Allowable Uses for Evaluations

Parents shall maintain a copy of their evaluations: however, they need only provide the evaluation results and/or the child's portfolio to the District to the extent necessary to demonstrate the child's academic proficiency in order to participate in public school programs, and co-curricular activities which are defined as school district-sponsored and directed athletics, fine arts, and academic activities. The District may also request the child's portfolio and evaluations as part of a special education referral and/or eligibility determination in the event the child re-enrolls in the District; however, the parent shall not be required to share these records.

Annual evaluations shall not be used as a basis for termination of a home education program. However, they do provide a basis for a constructive relationship between the parent and the evaluator, both working together in the best interest of the child.

Re-enrollment into the School District:

Parents deciding to re-enroll their children into a school within the ~~School~~ District following a period of home education may make arrangements through the Assistant Superintendent for an evaluation to determine appropriate placement in the school's program. Parents should be aware that when re-enrolling a student, there might be discrepancies between the home schooling level of achievement and the scope and sequence of the District's curriculum. Placements will be consistent with the School Board policy governing student placements and are subject to the same appeal process. See Board Policy JG.

Graduation/Diplomas:

The Merrimack School District ~~will provide the opportunity to earn a Merrimack High School standard diploma for home education students who enroll in Merrimack High School at the age of 16 or at the beginning of the junior year (11th grade) whichever comes first and who have followed the Diploma Program Process for Home Educated Students (see administrative procedures.~~ will not award certificates or diplomas to home educated students. Students must enter the regular school program and complete all necessary graduation requirements of the Merrimack School District and the state to be eligible for a certificate or diploma.

Participation in School Curricular and Co-curricular Activities:

Home educated children residing within the district shall have access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs offered by the District to the same extent available to children enrolled within the District's public schools and shall be subject to the same participation policy and eligibility conditions as apply to public school students.

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION
(continued)

~~Participation of home education students in programs and activities are subject to the following conditions.~~

1. ~~Parents of home education students must attest that their children are enrolled in a home schooling program.~~

2. ~~All students are subject to the same age, performance, and prerequisite standards for admission to courses and co-curricular activities.~~

3. ~~Home education students seeking admission to courses requiring prerequisites will be asked to demonstrate academic achievement comparable to that required of fully enrolled students meeting prerequisite standards. The Assistant Superintendent will discuss alternative ways to demonstrate achievement with the parents of home-educated pupils. Final determination of a student's qualifications to enroll in a course requiring prerequisites will be made by the building principal.~~

4. ~~Students may not enroll for single subjects that are taught as part of integrated courses – those courses that cover two or more subjects and are taught by a single individual or team – but may seek admission to the complete integrated course.~~

5. ~~Participation in athletic and other extra-curricular programs and activities will be in compliance with the school's eligibility requirements as well as with the guidelines adopted by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association. See Policy JJA, Student Activities, Organizations.~~

6. ~~It may be neither practical nor feasible for home-educated pupils to participate in special programs that have unclear or flexible schedules. The parents of home-educated pupils must take the initiative to check with the school on the scheduling of events and possible changes that may occur.~~

7. ~~The parents of home-educated pupils may be asked to provide supervision for some activities on the same basis as the parents of fully enrolled students.~~

The District's Reporting and Record Keeping Obligations

On October 1 of each year, the Superintendent shall prepare a report to notify the Commissioner of the number of children for whom home education programs were established for whom the Superintendent was selected as a participating agency since the previous report.

The District will maintain record of a student's enrollment and withdrawal from the school in the same manner as it would for a student transferring to another district. The district shall also

HOME EDUCATION INSTRUCTION
(continued)

maintain a record of its status as the participating agency for as long as it holds that status. While the parents keep any portfolios and evaluations conducted outside the District, the District will maintain record of any involvement it has in assessments as it would for any other student.

Legal References:

RSA 193-A, Home Education
RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil
~~RSA 193:1-a, Dual Enrollment~~
RSA 193:1-c, Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 315, Procedures for the Operation of Home Education Programs

Appendix IHBG-R

1st Reading: February 2, 2009
2nd Review: February 16, 2009
Adoption: March 16, 2009

Policy Revision
1st Reading: May 1, 2023
2nd Review:
Revised:

AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Video Surveillance

The Board authorizes the use of video devices on District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all students, staff, and visitors to District property and to safeguard District buildings, grounds, and equipment, as well as for any other purpose to the extent either required or prohibited by law. The Superintendent will approve appropriate locations for surveillance devices. Placement of the video cameras will be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy in areas or at events that occur in plain view. However, there will be no video devices in bathrooms or locker rooms.

Signs will be posted on school buildings to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use. Parents and students will also be notified through the student handbook. Students will be responsible for any violations of school rules caught by video surveillance.

The District will retain copies of video recordings until they are erased, which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording. ~~In no event, however, shall the recording be retained for longer than 10 school days unless the school district determines that the recording is relevant to a disciplinary proceeding, or the court orders that it be retained for a longer period of time.~~

Depending on the circumstances, video recordings may become a part of a student's educational record or a staff member's personnel record. The District will comply with all applicable laws related to record maintenance and retention.

Video/Audio Recordings on School Buses

While video surveillance is permitted on both District property and school buses, audio recording shall ***only*** be allowed on school buses while students are being transported to and from school or school activities. See RSA 570-A:2(k). The Superintendent shall ensure that there is a sign informing the occupants of school buses that such recordings are occurring.

Audio surveillance on school buses will only be reviewed if there has been a report of an incident or a complaint relative to conduct on the school bus, and only that portion of the audio recording which is relevant to the incident or complaint shall be reviewed.

In no event shall an audio or visual recording be retained for longer than 10 school days unless the school district determines that the recording is relevant to a disciplinary proceeding, or the court orders that it be retained for a longer period of time.

Student Discipline

Video and/or audio (if on school bus) recordings may be reviewed by District personnel for discipline purposes. If disciplinary action is taken as a result of the recording, the

parent/guardian of the student may request to view the recording with the Principal or his/her designee.

Recordings containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law will be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or applicable law. Any release or viewing of the video will be in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Student Instruction and School Activities

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the use of audio or video recordings for student instructional purposes or for use in the instruction of teacher interns or student teachers after written notification to the parent or legal guardian of each affected student as to the purpose of, and privacy policy for, the recordings.

The School Board also authorizes the video and audio recording of synchronous and asynchronous instruction and the following school-releated activities. The following purposes are not intended to be exhaustive and may be expanded or contracted by either administrative determination or School Board action:

- Extracurricular/co-curricular activities
- Musical performances, band, concert band, ensemble, orchestra, choir
- Drama activities
- Club events
- Sporting events, including both inter and intra-scholastic
- Other activities such as student senate, yearbook, school pride, ROTC
- Ceremonies, orientation, presentations, school assemblies or meetings, or any school events which occur outside of the physical classroom.

Special Education

Video and audio recordings may be used for Special Education or Section 504 purposes, when a student's individualized education program or accommodation plan includes audio or video recording as part of the child's education. All such recordings will be maintained in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g, and other applicable law(s).

~~Videos containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law will be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or applicable law. Any release or viewing of the video will be in accordance with the laws.~~

~~Video recordings may be reviewed by District personnel for eiscipline and evaluation purposes. If disciplinary action is taken as a result of the video recording, the parent/guardian of the student may request to view the video recording with the Principal or his/her designee.~~

~~Video recordings may become a part of a student's educational record or a staff member's personnel record. The district will comply with all applicable laws related to record maintenance and retention.~~

~~**Video and Audio Recordings on School Buses**~~

~~Audio recording shall only be allowed on school buses, it will only be reviewed if there has been a report of an incident or a complaint relative to conduct on the school bus, and only that portion of the audio recording which is relevant to the incident or complaint shall be reviewed.~~

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. 1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
34 C.F.R. 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations
RSA 189:68, Student Privacy
RSA 570-A:2(k)~~(2)~~, Interception and Disclosure of Telecommunication or Oral Communications Prohibited

		Policy Revision	
1st Reading:	October 19, 2009	1st Reading:	April 3, 2023
2nd Review:	November 2, 2009	2nd Review:	May 1, 2023
Adoption:	November 16, 2009	Revision:	

Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
April 17, 2023

5:30 p.m. – Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Merrimack TV Training Room

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

Present: Chair Laurie Rothhaus, Vice-Chair Lori Peters, 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 Everett (Bill) Olsen, and Student Representative Kaitlyn Vadney.

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. SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION

- Chair of the School Board

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to nominate Mr. Ken Martin for the position of Chair of the School Board.

Board Member Halter said she nominated Mr. Martin because his experience as an educator would be very helpful in working with the administration. She said he had the experience of being the Chair of groups in the past.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

- Vice-Chair of the School Board

MOTION: Chair Martin made a motion to nominate Ms. Laurie Rothhaus for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Board.

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to nominate Ms. Lori Peters for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Board.

Discussion:

Board Member Hardy stated that she felt Ms. Peters had done a very good job in the past year and wanted it to be acknowledged.

Chair Martin stated that any one member would do a great job in any of the positions. He said his reasoning behind his nomination for Ms. Laurie Rothhaus was due to her experience and institutional knowledge.

Chair Martin called the question, resulting in the following vote in favor of Ms. Laurie Rothhaus assuming the role of Vice-Chair of the Board.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 – 1 – 1 (Nay – Board Member Hardy) (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

3. COMMITMENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

Chair Martin reviewed the Merrimack School Board Code of Ethics. (Full document can be viewed by going to the Merrimack, NH School Board's Supporting Materials of the April 17th meeting) He noted that all five School Board members had signed the document.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

5. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions to share.

6. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated the Robotics Team who participated in the First Robotics Competition where they won the "Impact Award", adding it was the highest team award in that competition and they had won it two years in a row.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the 4th graders at the Merrimack Elementary School had put on an amazing musical called "The Pirates", noting the teachers and students designed all of the sets. He also said that the Merrimack Theater Club announced that sophomore Brianna B. placed 1st in the Senior Individual Performance Category of the New Hampshire National History Day Competition. He added Brianna would compete in the National Competition in Washington, D.C. in June.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted that the College and Career Fair was held and nearly 300 parents and students attended.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted that the Quiz Team at the high school competed at the state finals, and they tied for 2nd place. He also said that the Reeds Ferry Elementary School had its first annual Bingo Night hosted by the Parent Faculty Association which 260 people attended and it was a very successful event.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said students at the Merrimack Middle School used the video editing program called "Wevideo" to create movie trailers for a project about Westwood Expansion. He said four students took top honors at the first Annual A2 Film Festival, Chloe H., Sam D., Evelyn G., and Noah J.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen pointed out that Ms. April Doss, Special Education Teacher at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School had been nominated for the 2024 Teacher of the Year Award in New Hampshire.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said that the Merrimack Rotary Club had received nominations for the Excellence in the Workplace Award and would be honored at a dinner on April 20th. He said they would be honoring Christi Moore, Cynthia Blanchette, Bunny Saranita, and Pat Zink.

Additionally, Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he had met with CJ F. who was working on an Eagle Scout project where garden beds would be placed behind the high school for the students in the Pass & Get Set Program to grow, harvest, and hopefully use it in the food service program in the fall.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said she wanted to let the Board and the community know that after an extensive process of research and exploration, they were close to making a decision on a new Assessment Suite that would be used in the selection process for the Gifted and Talented Program across the district. She said they identified a test called the "Cognitive Abilities Test" which was owned by Riverside Publication as the initial screener and could provide the follow-up testing measure.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle noted that she and Melissa Fazlic, Director of Human Resources had attended a couple of job fairs and Merrimack's table had a lot of interested people. She also said there were two open positions on the district's leadership team, and they were vetting candidates for the new Director of Student Services, as well as the Merrimack Middle School Principal position. She said they hoped to bring a finalist to Chief Educational Officer Olsen by the end of the week.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle noted that a survey went out to the middle school staff and community which elicited their feedback in their next building leader and another survey was sent out to the middle school families and staff looking for the same information.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the Master Plan for the Merrimack High School campus continued to evolve and they had taken the work that Keach-Nordstrom had done and forwarded it to VHB. He said they would be doing a traffic study and would present three different options to try to minimize the traffic at the end of the day. He said they also received some preliminary information from I.C. Reed as far as burying the utilities, but they would put that on hold because at present the cost was $1 million.

d. School Board Update

Chair Martin thanked the voters who came out the previous Tuesday and supported the teacher's contract, the budget, and getting all of the Warrant Articles passed.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney said the students had a successful Spirit Week and Pep Rally to celebrate the winter and spring sports. She said tickets were on sale for Senior Week which would be held the first week of May, noting May 5th was the last day the tickets could be purchased.

Student Representative Vadney also noted that the Junior Prom would be held on May 12th at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester. She added the theme would be "Las Vegas". She said the Student Council was starting elections for all school Student Council.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Rothhaus commented that Harley Hall, Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and herself had been working on the adult education grant for the State of New Hampshire. She said the grant was just finalized being written and said how much she enjoyed the experience.

Chair Martin stated that he and Vice-Chair Rothhaus would be attending the Town Council meeting where they would discuss what the options were to possibly move voting day a little bit earlier in the cycle.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Signing of the Merrimack Teachers Association Contract for 2023 – 2026

Chair Martin signed the contract.

Vice-Chair Rothhaus commented that she ordered a banner to be placed at the middle school thanking the voters for their support of the contract. She noted, however, that she would be paying for the banner with her own money, and it would not come from the taxpayers.

b. "Get the Lead out Program"

State Representative Bill Boyd addressed the Board and said in 2018 state law was passed requiring childcare facilities and schools to test their water fixtures that could be used as a source of drinking water for lead. He said the remediation standard was 15 parts per billion, but the Department of Environmental Services had found that there was at least one outlet at six schools in Merrimack that tested over and above during the last sampling period. He said as Chair of the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission back in 2018, they approved $1.6 million out of the trust fund to be allocated to the Department of Education to remediate those particular fixtures and reimburse districts at a rate of 50%. He said the reimbursement would now be 100%. He urged the district to fill out the necessary paperwork to get 100% reimbursement.

Representative Boyd also mentioned that there was a website entitled GettheLeadoutNH.org which may have funds for laboratory fees.

c. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Presentation

Mr. Jason Pelletier, Director of Technology, addressed the Board and said in 2020 they gave every student access to technology to address remote learning. He said in grades 2 through 12 there was one device per child, and from grades 5 through 12 there was a 1 to 1 program where they were allowed to take the devices home with them.

Mr. Pelletier said while BYOD had some advantages, moving forward with only using school-issued devices had far more advantages, and would like to consider using only these school-issued devices during the school day.

Mr. Pelletier said that having a standardized device would help service student needs quickly and efficiently. He also said that the Technology Department could quickly fix most issues that occurred with Chromebooks and most repairs could be completed on the same day. It's very difficult to offer support in a BYOD model due to the thousands of different devices and parts on the market. He also said Chromebooks could be managed to ensure students were using district-approved software, and the State of NH had data governance legislation that required to keep student and staff data safe and secure.

Mr. Pelletier added that standardizing specific hardware and software ensured the most reliable and compatible network connectivity and compatibility. He said decisions made to upgrade and create a robust infrastructure were more streamlined and cost-effective.

In conclusion, Mr. Pelletier said starting the 2023-2024 school year, he would like the School Board's consideration to allow only using school-issued devices during the school day and sunset the bring your own device model currently in place. He said moving in that direction created a consistent and standardized learning experience for all learners and allowed the teachers to provide effective, unique, personalized, and immersive experiences for our staff and students. He added that the Chromebook model they were using was approximately 200% less expensive than an inadequate device.

Board Member Peters asked if the students would be taught how to download their work to a flash drive or external hard drive. Mr. Pelletier replied he was not sure, but he would find the answer.

Chair Martin asked if they had looked into Google Drive. Mr. Pelletier replied that a survey had been sent out to the staff regarding that and they were looking into it.

Vice-Chair Rothhaus commented it was a good time of year to move forward.

Board Member Hardy the upcoming seniors did not have a 1 to 1 device because it was pre-Covid. She said she did not think it was fair to make the seniors use a Chromebook if they had invested in their own devices. Mr. Pelletier said he felt that was a reasonable request and he would speak with the administration team.

Student Representative Vadney said she would recommend moving very thoughtfully if they were going to ask the students to move to Google.doc because many of them were taught using Microsoft.

d. Demolition Plan for the Brentwood and Student Services Buildings

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that they had the approval to take the Brentwood building down but said they may wait until the end of the school year. He said they sent the cost of demolition out to bid, expecting the cost to be about $300,000, and upon receiving the bids, the cost to demo the red building would cost approximately $53,000. He said that the cost of the demo included the slab, the foundation, the mechanical, and the existing hole where the cellar was would be filled in.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said perhaps they could relocate the people in the Special Services building to another school where there was room. He further said, in the meantime, they could look at the demolition of that building as well. He said that the building would cost $58,000 to demo and it was more expensive than the Brentwood building was because there was about $44,000 of asbestos that needed to be remediated. He added that it made more sense to demo both buildings at the same time.

e. Review and Approval of the Document Entitled "FY2024 General Assurances, Requirements, and Definitions for Participation in Federal Programs"

Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated the document was one that the School Board received every year which was generally the district's assurances to the federal government that they would comply with all fiscal regulatory conditions associated with any grant project and any federal statute that applied to health, safety, well-being, environmental protection, etc. He added that it was a standard form that all school districts needed to sign in order to be eligible to receive federal funds.

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to accept the document entitled "FY2024 General Assurances, Requirements, and Definitions for Participation in Federal Programs." Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

f. Date for June 2023 Goals Meeting

The School Board collectively decided to hold its' Goals Meeting on June 22, 2023.

g. Summer Meeting Dates

- Monday, July 10, 2023
- Monday, August 14, 2023

h. Other

There was no other new business to discuss.

9. POLICIES

a. Approval of Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires (ILD)

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve policy (ILD) Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires, as amended. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 3, 2023 – Public Minutes

MOTION: Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2023, meeting, as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

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

a. Health Trust to Merrimack School District for $3,000

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said that Health Trust, who was the district's health insurance provider, wanted to give the district $3,000. He said it was affiliated with the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee for health and safety training.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to accept the gift of $3,000 from Health Trust with the School Board's sincere thanks. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Educator and Administrator Resignations

Teacher Retirements		
Traci Prinz	Grade 6 Teacher	James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Joanne Talbot	School Nurse	James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Joan McMahon	Science Teacher	Merrimack Middle School
Deborah Barker	School Counseling Director	Merrimack High School
Cheryl Riley	Math Teacher	Merrimack High School
Jan Moynihan-Cooney	English Teacher	Merrimack High School
Teacher Resignations		
Andrea Hatch	Elementary Teacher	James Mastricola Elementary School
Anissa Cote	Special Ed. Teacher	James Mastricola Elementary School
Katie Finken	Speech Therapist	Reeds Ferry Elementary School
Michaela Sellappah	Elementary Teacher	Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
Kayla Lanagan	SEL Support Specialist	James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Richard Loftus	In-School Interventionist	Merrimack Middle School
Mitchell Bull	Language Arts Teacher	Merrimack Middle School
Sara Guilmette	Special Education Teacher	Merrimack Middle School
Brielle Lapiana	School Counselor	Merrimack High School
Leah Sutherland	School Counselor	Merrimack High School
Administrator Resignation		
Adam Caragher	School Principal	Merrimack Middle School

MOTION: Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to accept the teacher retirements, teacher resignations, and the administrator's resignation. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

b. Educator and Administrator Nominations for School Year 2023 – 2024

Teacher Nominations	**Starting in 2023-2024**	
Heather DeLuca	Elementary Teacher	Thorntons Ferry Elementary School
Denver Greene	Physical Ed. Teacher	Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to accept the educator nominations. Vice-Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the administrator slate. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

MOTION: Chair Martin made a motion to accept the continuing contract. Vice-Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

c. Approval of Literacy Coordinator (formerly LA Coordinator) Job Description

MOTION: Chair Martin made a motion to approve the Literacy Coordinator (formerly LA Coordinator) job description. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

13. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

There were no reports to share.

b. Correspondence

Vice-Chair Rothhaus said she received one correspondence from a concerned parent, and she sent them back through the chain of command.

c. Comments

Vice-Chair Rothhaus commented that there was a public forum for all of the candidates running for town council and it was set up by high school students and she said it was very well done.

Board Member Peters thanked the community for coming out to vote and was very pleased that the teacher's contract, the budget, and the Warrant Articles passed.

Chair Martin commented that seven Merrimack High School band and chorus members participated in the Regional All-Eastern Music Festival in Rochester, NY.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Finnegan, a student, addressed the Board and said he was not in favor of using Chromebooks.

Ms. Heather Robitaille, Springfield Circle, addressed the Board and said she too was thankful that the community came out to vote and that important items, like the teacher's contract, passed.

MOTION: At approximately 7:40 p.m. Vice-Chair Rothhaus made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.