Matt will take a School Board group picture for the annual report after the meeting adjourns.

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

PUBLIC MEETING

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

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION — Lori Peters

6:15 p.m. **3. RECOGNITIONS** — Lori Peters
- a. Girls Wrestling
- c. Bowling

6:30 p.m. **4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES** — Lori Peters
- a. Superintendent Update
- b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
- c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
- d. School Board Update
- e. Student Representative Update

6:45 p.m. **5. OLD BUSINESS** — Lori Peters
- a. Review of the Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar — Everett Olsen

6:55 p.m. **6. NEW BUSINESS** — Lori Peters
- a. Last Day of School — Everett Olsen
- b. Other

7:10 p.m. **7. POLICIES** — Lori Peters
- a. Second Review of Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grade One (JFAAA)
- b. Second Review of Service Animals (IMGA)
- c. Second Review of Animals in the School (IMG)
- d. First Reading of Student Use of Information Technology (JICL)
- e. Annual Review of Investment (DFA) Policy

7:25 p.m. **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Lori Peters
- a. February 6, 2023 Minutes
- b. February 20, 2023 Minutes
- c. March 6, 2023 Minutes (after deliberative session)

7:35 p.m. **9. CONSENT AGENDA** — Amanda Doyle
- a. Administrator Retirement

7:40 p.m. **10. OTHER** — Lori Peters
- a. Committee Reports
- b. Correspondence
- c. Comments

7:50 p.m. **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** — Lori Peters

8:05 p.m. **12. ADJOURN** — Lori Peters

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

Visitor Orientation to Meetings

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

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr.

Date: March 20, 2023

Subject: Proposed 2023-2024 School District Calendar

In January, I established a committee to develop a school district calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. The committee included the following staff:

Deb Fournier, Teacher, MES
Bonnie Painchaud, Principal, RFS
Laura Livie, Assistant Principal, RFS
Brooke, Ross, Assistant Principal, TFS
Nicole Rheault, Principal, JMUES
Adam Caragher, Principal, MMS
Rich Zampieri, Assistant Principal, MHS
Sally Agel, Teacher, MHS
Melissa Fazlic, Director of Human Resources
Heather Barker, Director of Student Services
Amy Doyle, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Everett Olsen, Chief Educational Officer

Philosophy Behind Calendar Development

The development of a school district calendar involves a number of issues for consideration, which include:

- Appearance and Readability of Calendar
- Required Number of Instructional Days and Contract Days
- Professional Development Needs (discretionary and mandatory)
- Holidays/Cultural Observances/Vacation Periods

- High School Graduation Date
- Parent Conferences
- Election Days
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Kindergarten Registration
- Transition Day
- School Daily Start/End Times
- Parent and Staff Input
- Sensitivity to Cultural/Religious Observances
- Movement Toward Alignment with Calendars of Regional Career Technical Education Centers (State initiative)

Appearance and Readability of Calendar

Last year the calendar committee developed and presented a calendar (2022-2023) that was more appealing and readable than school calendars prior to 2022. For the 2023-2024 calendar (presented tonight), we have continued with the same revised format. The calendar template once again includes weekend days which help with the readability of the calendar from one week to the next. We have once again utilized different colors to highlight certain events during the school year, and we have included explanatory comments associated with events occurring within each respective month.

Required Number of Instructional Days and Contract Days and Professional Development Time

The 2023-2024 calendar meets the minimum number of school days (180) required by New Hampshire Statute 189:1; New Hampshire Code Administrative Rule 306.18. The calendars also align with both the Merrimack Teachers Association (MTA) and the Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association (MESSA) union contracts. The MTA contract includes calendar-related language which is addressed below:

- Teacher Workshop Days: One hundred eighty-seven (187) days, between the Monday before Labor Day of one year and June thirtieth (30^{th}) of the next year.
- In-Service Days: A minimum of seven (7) in-service days in the school year, with at least four (4) days reserved for workshops and building meetings, one (1) day for classroom preparation prior to the beginning of school for students, and the equivalent of two (2) days for parent conferences. The 2023-2024 calendar incorporates five (5) early release days into the school year. These days may be used for staff collaboration time, building meetings, discretionary and mandatory staff training. These early release days are strongly supported in both parent and staff surveys.

Holidays/Cultural Observances/Vacation Periods

The calendar committee is maintaining the traditional school vacation week periods in the 2023-2024 calendar. This will allow us to address the state's proposed legislation that, by the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the school calendars of Career Technical Education Centers (CTE) member districts may not be out of instructional day alignment (with the CTE) by more than 10 days. Additionally, the major holidays (some with local discretion of observance) are noted in yellow on the calendar. Of special note is the inclusion of a "Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances" that will be included with the 2023-2024 calendar. This guide will be sent to all staff in an effort to enhance our organizational level of cultural competency. It is important for staff to understand the observances of students and their families and demonstrate sensitivity in scheduling events, exams, major assignments, etc.

High School Graduation Date

The state statute with respect to high school graduation is as follows:

"The high school graduation date shall be set no more than 5 school days or 30 instructional hours before the end of the scheduled school year without consideration of making up lost time, pursuant to Ed 306.18 (a) (4)." Therefore, the date of graduation for Merrimack High School seniors will be June 15, 2024.

Parent Conference, Election Days and Kindergarten Registration

These events are listed on the "Important Dates" table at the bottom of the calendar. A Presidential Primary will be held in January 2024. There will be no school for students on the day of the Presidential Primary and again on April 9, 2024, which is the Town elections.

Transition Time

We will, again, have a transition time during the first two hours on the first day of school. Students in grades K, 5, 7, 9 (and new students) will arrive at school at the normal start time on the first day of school. This transition time is intended to reduce the anxiety of students attending a new school with new and/or additional peers.

Parent and Staff School Calendar Input

A school calendar survey (enclosed) was sent to staff and parents and we have responses from 1,208 parents and 359 staff. The responses are included with this memo. Of note, is the support by both parents and staff for beginning the school year prior to Labor Day, providing a transition time for students in grades K, 5, 7, 9 on the opening day of school, and the inclusion of four early release days throughout the school year.

Calendar Committee Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the calendar committee that we begin the 2023-2024 school year prior to Labor Day. Most families are ready for a return to school in late August of each year and the instructional days in late August/early September are more robust than the school days in the latter part of June.

I wish to thank the members of the calendar committee for their dedication toward developing a school calendar that, I believe, serves our school district and the community very well. My thanks, also, to the parents and staff who took time to complete the calendar survey. I do hope that you will find this school calendar to be informative and helpful to students, staff, and the community. I look forward to discussing this with you at our upcoming meeting.

Merrimack School District- SAU 26
School Calendar 2023-2024

Students: 1 day (MTA: 4, MESSA: 3)
Aug 28 - Classroom Set Up
Aug 29- PD/Building Meetings
Aug 30- PD/District Meetings
Aug 31- First Day of School Transition Day*
*Gr.K,5,7,9 Regular Arrival Time
*All other grades: 2hr delay

August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Students: 20 days (MTA:20, MESSA: 20)
Sept 4 - No School - Labor Day
Sept 22 - Early Release

September 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Students: 20 days (MTA: 21, MESSA 20)
Oct 6- Teacher Workshop - No School
Oct 9 - Columbus/Indigenous people Day

October 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Students: 18 days (MTA: 19 MESSA: 18)
Nov 9- Early Release
Nov 10 -No School/Veterans Day Observed
Nov 22-24 - No School/Thanksgiving Break
*conferences

November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Students: 16 days (MTA: 16 MESSA: 16)
Dec 22- Early Release
Dec 25 - 29 - No School/Winter Break

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

KEY

	Teacher Workshop, No School for Students
	First/Last Day of School for Students
	No School, Observed Holiday/Vacation
	Early Release
	Summer Break/Weekends (no school)

Students: 19 days (MTA: 20 MESSA: 20)
Jan 1 - No School
Jan 9- Tentative Election/No School
Jan 15 - No School/MLK Jr Day
Jan 26- Teacher Workshop- No School

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Students: 17 days (MTA: 17 MESSA 17)
Feb 26 to 29 - No School/February Break

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Students: 20 days (MTA: 20 MESSA: 20)
Mar 1 - No School/February Break
Mar 29- Early Release

March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Students: 16 days (MTA: 17 MESSA 16)
Apr 9 - Town Elections
Apr 22 - 26 - No School/Spring Break
*conferences

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Students: 22 days (MTA: 22 MESSA: 22)
May 17- Early Release
May 27 - No School/Memorial Day

May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Students: 11 days (MTA: 11 MESSA 11)
June 15 - Graduation Date
une 17 -Tentative last day of school-ER

June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

School Start/End Times

School	Start	End	ER Dismissal
Merrimack Middle School	7:30	2:05	11:00
Merrimack High School	7:30	2:15	11:15
Mastricola Elementary	8:30	2:45	12:15
Reeds Ferry Elementary	8:30	2:45	12:15
Thorntons Ferry Elementary	8:30	2:45	12:15
Mastricola Upper Elementary	8:40	2:55	12:25

Important Dates*

Event	MES	RFS	TFS	MUES	MMS	MHS
Parent Information Night	October 4	September 27	September 28	September 21	9/13 (7th), 9/14 (8th)	TBD
Fall Parent Teacher Conferences	November 16 & 20	November 16 & 20	November 16 & 20	November 2 & 8	November 16 & 20	TBD
Kindergarten Registration	January 8	January 8	January 8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kindergarten Registration Night	March 18	March 18	March 18	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spring Parent Teacher Conferences	April 4 & 8	April 4 & 8	April 4 & 8	April 3 & 11	March 14	TBD
Term/Marking Period End Dates	12/8, 3/15, 6/7	12/8, 3/15, 6/7	12/8, 3/15, 6/7	12/8, 3/15, 6/7	November 3, January 25, April 5, June 17	
Report Cards	12/22, 3/29, 6/17	12/22, 3/29, 6/17	12/22, 3/29, 6/17	12/22, 3/29, 6/17	November 17, February 9, April 19, June 17	
Election Dates	Presidential Primary January 2024, Town Elections April 9, 2024					

**Dates above are subject to change with notice*

Merrimack School District
2023-2024 School Year
Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances

Holiday and How it Is Observed	Date(s) Observed
Rosh Hashanah **– *begins at sundown (Jewish)** **Holiday with significant work restriction** Rosh Hashanah is the start of the Jewish New Year, day of judgment and remembrance; the Jewish calendar celebrates the New Year in the seventh month (Tishrei) as a day of rest and celebration ten days before Yom Kippur. General Practices: Prayer in synagogue in the evening and following day and festive meals. Date Details: Begins at sundown of prior day. Rosh Hashanah is a two-day holiday, but some members of the Jewish faith may only observe the first day.	*Sept. 15-17, 2023
Yom Kippur **– *begins at sundown (Jewish)** **Holiday with significant work restriction** Yom Kippur is often considered the holiest day of the year for Jews, and the day is dedicated to atonement and abstinence. General Practices: During Yom Kippur, Jews fast from before sundown until after sunset, refrain from work and light a Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the night of Yom Kippur. Date Details: Begins at sundown of prior day.	*September 24-25 2023
Diwali (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain) **Holiday with significant work restriction** Diwali – the Hindu "festival of lights" – is an extremely popular holiday for multiple religions throughout Southern Asia. Diwali extends over five days and celebrates the victory of good over evil. The *Times of India* described Diwali as "a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple." Fireworks, oil lamps, and sweets are common, making this a favorite holiday for children. The lamps are lit to help the goddess Lakshmi find her way into people's homes. General Practices: Lighting oil lamps and candles, setting off fireworks, prayer, gifts and feast. Date Details: Diwali usually falls between mid-October and mid-November.	November 12, 2023

Merrimack School District
2023-2024 School Year
Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances

***Hanukkah/Chanukah* – *begins at sundown (Jewish)** Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights, and lasts for eight days. Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish struggle for religious freedom. The history of the holiday involves a historic military victory in which a Jewish sect called the Maccabees defeated the Syrian Greeks. The celebration commemorates a miracle in which a sacred temple flame burned for eight days on only one day's worth of oil. General Practices: On each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, Jewish families light an additional candle of the menorah candelabrum until all eight candles are lit. Jews celebrate with food and song, as well as exchanging gifts for eight days. Date Details: Hanukkah begins at sundown on the prior day.	*Dec. 7-15, 2023
***Christmas* – *begins at sundown (Christian/Roman Catholic and Protestant) Holiday with significant work restriction** Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion. General Practices: Many celebrate Christmas by giving gifts, attending church services, decorating Christmas trees, and visiting family. Date Details: Begins at sundown on December 24 annually and continues with all day celebration on December 25.	*December 25 Annually
Kwanzaa Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration honoring African heritage in African-American culture. Historian and activist Maulana Karenga developed the holiday in the 1960s. It is not a religious holiday, per se, but is a cultural celebration. Kwanzaa has seven core principles: Unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. General Practices: Families celebrating Kwanzaa decorate their households with objects of art, and colorful African cloth known as kente, and many women wear kaftans. Many families display symbols of Kwanzaa that represent the seven core principals including the candle holder (kinara) with seven candles, and the black, red and green flag (pan-African colors). Kwanzaa ceremonies may include drumming, libation, discussion of the principals, candle-lighting rituals and a feast (karamu). Date Details: Kwanzaa is observed every year from Dec. 26 – Jan. 1.	Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 Annually

Merrimack School District
2023-2024 School Year
Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances

Lunar New Year – (Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist) ***Holiday with significant work restriction*** ***(Also known as Chinese New Year)*** The Lunar New Year is the most important of traditional Chinese and other Southeast Asian holidays and is very important in the Buddhist tradition. General Practices: Families gather together to spend the evening preparing boiled dumplings and festive meals and giving out symbolically decorated "good luck" red envelopes with gift money. This custom is centered on children, but red envelopes are also exchanged between friends, relatives and colleagues. Date Details: Corresponds to the New Moon in Aquarius, which can fall from late January to mid-February	February 10, 2024
Ramadan – *begins at sundown (Islamic) Ramadan is the month on the Muslim calendar in which teenage and adult Muslims are obligated to fast. Fasting requires Muslims to refrain from consuming food and drinking liquids during daylight hours. This is a time for self-reflection and to focus on faith through fasting and prayer and is a time of great significance for Muslims. Ramadan is also revered because the Qur'an (Muslim Holy Book) was first revealed during this month, and Muslims see the Qur'an as God's words. General Practices: Daily fasting is required during the entire month of Ramadan. Muslims refrain from food and beverages from sunrise to sunset. Worshipers break the fasting each night with prayer, reading of the Qur'an, and a meal called the "iftar". In addition, many Muslims also attend night prayers at Mosques. Muslims also believe that their good actions bring a greater reward during this month than any other time of the year. It is customary to many Muslims to give charity to the poor, spend more time in prayer and worship, refrain from bad habits. Date Details: Dates are determined by the lunar calendar. Lunar calendars can vary based on region and practice. The observed date marks the beginning of a 29 to 30-day observation.	*Mar 10-Apr 9, 2024

Merrimack School District
2023-2024 School Year
Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances

Holy Friday/Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Holy Friday is the Friday before Easter. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; among some sects of Christianity and in many countries marks a day of fasting. General Practices: Prayer, fasting, confession, and church services as well as the wrapping or dying of eggs (often red) in preparation for Easter Sunday. Date Details: Orthodox Good Friday is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.	March 29, 2024
Good Friday/Holy Friday (Christian-Roman Catholic and Protestant) Good Friday is the Friday Before Easter. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; among some sects of Christianity and in many countries Good Friday marks a day of fasting. General Practices: Prayer, fasting, and services throughout the day in some Christian denominations. Date Details: Always falls on the Friday before Easter Sunday.	March 29, 2024
Easter (Christian/Roman Catholic and Protestant) ***Holiday with significant work restriction*** Easter is an annual commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. General Practices: Church services, celebratory meals, family gatherings, distribution of colored eggs, baskets and chocolate bunnies. It is a celebration of renewal. Date Details: Easter Sunday is determined by the Gregorian calendar (Gregorian calendar regulates ceremonial cycle of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches).	March 31, 2024

Merrimack School District
2023-2024 School Year
Guide to Religious and Cultural Observances

Eid al-Fitr – *begins at sundown (Islamic) Holiday with significant work restriction Eid al-Fitr means "break the fast" and is a major Muslim holiday. It is the last day of Ramadan, marking the end of a month of fasting. General Practices: An important part of the observance is a morning prayer service at the mosque. The celebration often includes exchanging gifts, giving a monetary gift to the children call "Eidi", enjoying feasts and getting together with family and friends. Date Details: Dates are determined by the lunar calendar. Lunar calendars can vary based on region and practice. Eid al Fitr is observed on the day immediately following the month-long observance of Ramadan. It is a three-day celebration in the Muslim world but is only observed on the first day in North America.	*April 9-10, 2024
Pesach/Passover – *begins at sundown (Jewish) Holiday with significant work restriction Pesach is an eight-day observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites (Jewish slaves) from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II (one of three pilgrimage festivals). General Practices: Family gatherings, ritualized meals called Seders on the first two nights on which the Haggadah (a recounting of the escape to freedom) is read, lighting of Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the last night of Passover. Date Details: Begins at sundown of the prior day.	*April 22-30, 2024
Juneteenth Juneteenth, was named a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, after first being recognized as a state holiday in Texas in 1979 and adopted by other states thereafter. This day marks the official end of slavery in the United States of America and is sometimes referred to as this country's "second Independence Day". General Practices: Communities around the country have traditionally celebrated with prayer services, music, barbecues, and other events.	June 19 Annually

Source Documents:

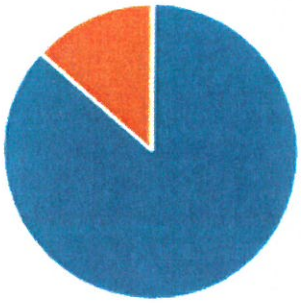
University of Missouri, Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity
Winchester Multicultural Network, Winchester, Massachusetts

Merrimack School District STAFF 2023-2024 School Calendar Survey

359	03:44	Active
Responses	Average time to complete	Status

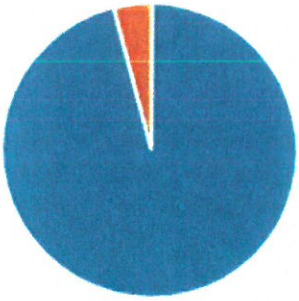
1. Do you support having NO SCHOOL on Columbus Day (October 9, 2023)?

Yes	310	86.4%
No	49	13.6%



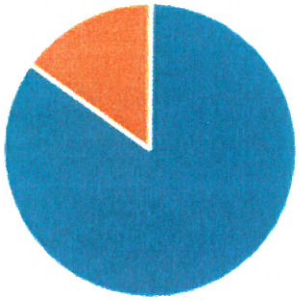
2. Do you support having NO SCHOOL the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (November 22, 2023)?

Yes	344	95.8%
No	15	4.2%



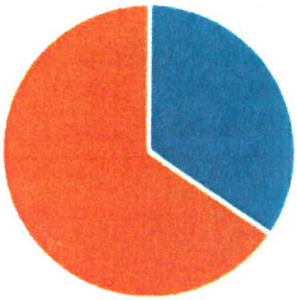
3. Do you support having NO SCHOOL on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 15, 2024)?

Yes	304	84.7%
No	55	15.3%



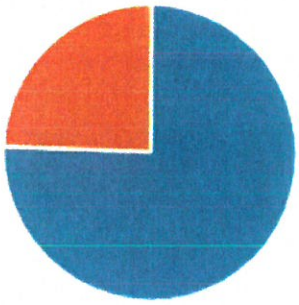
4. Do you support having NO SCHOOL on Presidents Day (February 19, 2024)? Note that February vacation next year is scheduled to begin the following week (February 26-March 1, 2024).

Yes	123	34.3%
No	236	65.7%



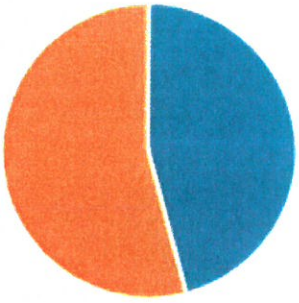
5. We are planning to begin the 2023-2024 school year prior to Labor Day. Do you support this?

Yes	271	75.5%
No	88	24.5%



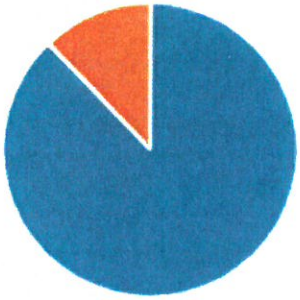
6. If school is in session on June 19, 2024 (Juneteenth), do you support having no school on this day?

Yes	164	45.7%
No	195	54.3%



7. Do you support several early release days during the school year for staff training and teacher collaboration?

Yes	315	87.7%
No	44	12.3%

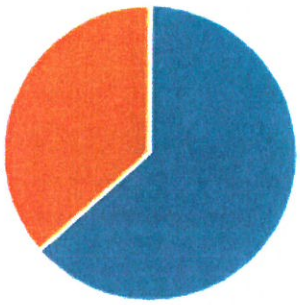


Merrimack School District 2023-2024 School Calendar Survey

1208	05:06	Active
Responses	Average time to complete	Status

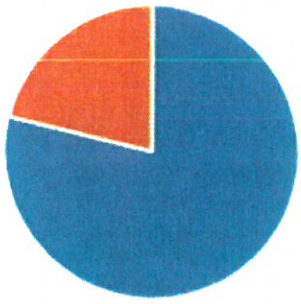
1. Do you support having NO SCHOOL on Columbus Day (October 9, 2023)?

Yes	766	63.4%
No	442	36.6%



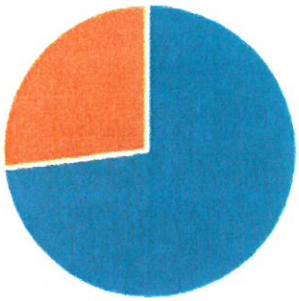
2. Do you support having NO SCHOOL the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (November 22, 2023)?

Yes	951	78.7%
No	257	21.3%



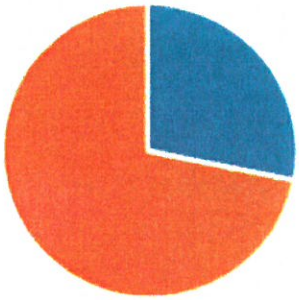
3. Do you support having NO SCHOOL on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 15, 2024)?

Yes	883	73.1%
No	325	26.9%



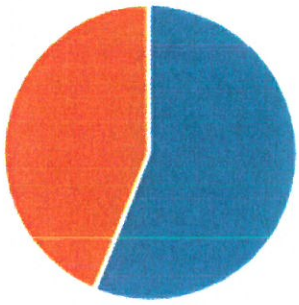
4. Do you support having NO SCHOOL on Presidents Day (February 19, 2024)? Note that February vacation next year is scheduled to begin the following week (February 26-March 1, 2024).

Yes	339	28.1%
No	869	71.9%



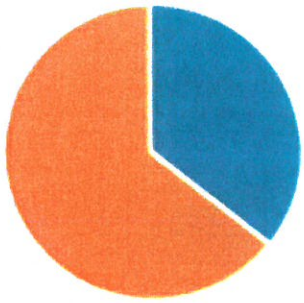
5. We are planning to begin the 2023-2024 school year prior to Labor Day. Do you support this?

Yes	679	56.2%
No	529	43.8%



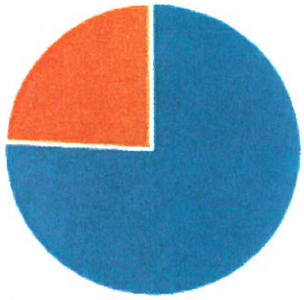
6. If school is in session on June 19, 2024 (Juneteenth), do you support having no school on this day?

Yes	431	35.7%
No	777	64.3%



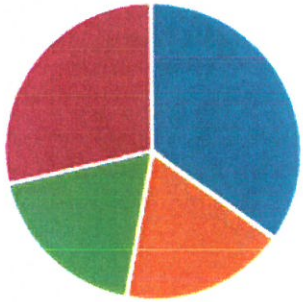
7. Do you support several early release days during the school year for staff training and teacher collaboration?

Yes	917	75.9%
No	291	24.1%



8. What levels of school are your children attending? (choose all that apply)

Elementary	610	50.5%
Upper Elementary	318	26.3%
Middle School	325	26.9%
High School	498	41.2%



3/16/2023

Policy Progress Chart

Policy Progress	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review	Adoption	Comments
Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grade One (JFAAA)	2/20/23	3/20/23			Update to 2019 policy
Service Animals (IMGA)	2/20/23	3/20/23			Update to 2016 policy
Animals in the School (IMG)	2/20/23	3/20/23			Supports IMGA policy
Student Use of Information Technology (JICL)	3/20/23				Update to 2014 policy
Annual Review of Investments (DFA)				3/20/23	Annual Review
Next in Line					
Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires (ILD)					Update per A. Tamposi
Employee Use of Information Technology (EHAA)					Update to 2013 policy
Wellness Policy (JLCF)					Needs updating per NH Nutritional Department
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
Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires (ILD)					Update per A. Tamposi
Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE)					Update per A. Tamposi. Policy is vague.
Homework Policy (IKB) **protocols**					Protocol Needs Updating
Teacher Performance and Evaluation (GCO)					Priority Policy
Extended Learning Opportunities (IHBH)					Historical Society
Alternative Learning Plans (IHBI)					Priority Policy
Video Surveillance on School Property (EEAA)					Introduce with Policy JICL
Home Education Instruction (IHBG)					Update to 2009 policy Needs Attorney Review

Policy Progress	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review	Adoption	Comments
Approved Policies					
Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interest and Manifest Hardship (JCA)	09/12/22	10/03/22	10/17/22	10/17/22	
Student Records and Access (FERPA) (JRA)	09/12/22	10/17/22	11/7/22	11/7/22	
Use of Physical Restraint/Seclusion (JKAA)	10/03/22	10/17/22	11/7/22	11/7/22	
Public Participation at Board Meetings (BEDH)	10/03/22	10/17/22	11/7/22	11/7/22	
Pupil Safety and Bullying (JICK)	11/7/22	11/21/22		02/06/23	
Availability and Dist. of Healthy Foods (EFA)	11/21/22	02/06/23	N/A	2/20/23	
Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect (JLF)	11/21/22	02/06/23	N/A	2/20/23	

Policy Progress	1st Reading	2nd Review	3rd Review	Adoption	Comments
Appendix Updates					
Suicide Prevention and Response (JLDBB)					December 2022

Priority Policies TO DO (10/27/22)

GBEF – School District Internet Access for Staff
GCO – Teacher Performance and Evaluation
IFA – Instructional Needs of Students with Different Talents
IHBAA – Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities
IHBI – Alternative Learning Plans
IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students
IKFA – Early Graduation
ILBAA – High School Graduation Competencies
IMBC – Alternative Credit Options
IMBD – High School Credit for 7th and 8th Grade Advanced Course Work
JLC – School Health Services
JLCJ – Concussion and Head Injuries
JLCK – Special Physical Health Needs of Students

Other Policies to Update

- ACE – Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (Note: Alison Minutelli = vague, review, update)
- DIA - Fund Balance (Required)
- JICDD - Student Discipline Out of School Actions (Required)
- JICI - Weapons on School Property (Required)
- JICL – Student User of Information Technology (Introduce with EEAA)
- EEAA – Video Surveillance on School Property (Introduce with JICL)

Appendices/Procedures to Update

- BEDG-R - Access to Minutes and Public Records Procedures
- JLCG-R - Exclusion of Students from School for Illness Head Lice
- IHAM-R Health and Sex Education Exemption/Objectionable Course Material Opt Out Form (appendix)

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE

~~Effective January 4, 1999,~~ A child must have attained the age of six by September 30 in order to attend first grade in the Merrimack School District. This is in accordance with RSA 193:1 II Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil (effective January 1, 1998).

Any child, however, whose sixth birthday falls on or between October 1st and December 31st may be eligible for first grade entrance. Such a determination of eligibility will be made by the Superintendent or his/her designee through the established early admission procedures and in consultation with the building principal.

Any child whose fifth birthday falls on or between October 1st and October 31st may be eligible for kindergarten entrance. Such a determination of eligibility will be made by the Superintendent or his/her designee through the established early admission procedures and in consultation with the building principal.

Legal Reference:

RSA 193:1 II Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil
(pertains to first grade only)

1st Reading: February 20, 2007
2nd Review: March 5, 2007
3rd Review: October 6, 2008
Adopted: October 20, 2008

Revision
1st Reading: May 6, 2019
2nd Review: May 20, 2019
Revised Adoption: June 3, 2019

Revision
1st Reading: February 20, 2023
2nd Review: March 20, 2023
Revision Adopted:

SERVICE ANIMALS

Purpose

This policy addresses the use of service animals within school buildings and on school grounds. As established and defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and its accompanying regulations, as well as NH RSA 167-D, individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to bring their service animals in school buildings or on school grounds in accordance with this policy. Conditions relative to pets and non-service animals within the school building and on school grounds are found in Board Policy IMG.

"Service Animal" Defined

In accordance with 28 CFR §35.104, ~~(effective March 15, 2011)~~ a "service animal" is defined as:

> Any dog that is individually trained to do or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purpose of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the ~~handler's~~ individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or who have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.

~~This definition shall be construed to include a "hearing ear dog", "guide dog" or "service dog", as those terms are currently defined in NH RSA 167-D:1.~~ See also RSA 167-D:1, IV.

Permissible Inquires

The District will not make ~~the~~ an inquiry about the nature or extent of an individual's disability in determining whether to allow a service animal in a school building or on school grounds. When it is not patently obvious as to the role of the service animal, the District may ask whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. The District will not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.

When an individual's disability requires the presence of a service animal in a school building or on school grounds during the school day, the District shall also require annual submission of proof of current vaccinations and immunizations of the service animal and a current veterinary health certificate.

SERVICE ANIMALS
(continued)

Access to the School Buildings and Grounds

In accord with federal regulations, individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animal in all areas of District schools, where members of the public, participants in services, programs, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.

Animals for Children with Educational Disabilities or a Section 504 Plan

If an individual with an educational disability or a Section 504 Plan seeks to bring an animal on a school campus that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the IEP or Section 504 Team to determine whether the animal is necessary for the individual to receive a free and appropriate education (FAPE).

Management of Service Animals

Service animals must be under control of their handlers. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). Consistent with NH law and District policy, the District may require any third-party handler (e.g., service animal trainer, parent/guardian or other person) accompanying the service animal to undergo the State criminal background check.

Care of and Responsibility for Service Animals

The District is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, but may provide support to a student using a service animal as needed in a particular instance (i.e., accompanying a young student who takes a service animal outside to relieve itself). The owner or handler of the service animal shall be solely responsible for:

- Supervision and care of the animal, including feeding, exercising, clean-up and stain removal;
- Restraint of the animal at all times;
- Damages to the school buildings, property and vehicles caused by the animal;
- Injuries to individuals caused by the animal; and
- Annual submission of documentation of vaccinations and immunizations.

Animals for Employees

Use of a service animal by a qualified employee with a disability will be allowed when such use is necessary to enable the employee to perform the essential functions of his/her position or to enjoy the benefits of employment in a manner comparable to those similarly situated non-disabled employees.

SERVICE ANIMALS
(continued)

Miniature Horse

A miniature horse may constitute a service animal, provided that it otherwise meets the definition of "service animal" and reasonable modifications can be made to the District's policies, practices and procedures to permit the use of the miniature horse as a service animal. When deciding whether reasonable modifications can be made, the District shall consider:

- The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate those features;
- Whether the handler has sufficient control over the miniature horse;
- Whether the miniature horse is housebroken, and;
- Whether the miniature horse's presence in the school or at a school-sponsored event compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

Circumstances Under Which a Service Animal Will Be Prohibited from Campus

The Superintendent, Building Principal, or other designee may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the campus or school event, or may even deny a request for use of a service animal on campus or at a school event if:

- The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
- The animal is not housebroken;
- The presence of the animal will require a fundamental alternation of the program or will significantly disrupt or interfere with the educational process;
- When the animal is to be used regularly during the school day or at school events, the handler fails to submit proof of current vaccinations and immunizations of the service animal and a current veterinary health certificate;
- To the extent applicable, the handler fails to comply with NH RSA 167-D; or for any other reason permitted under state or federal law.

If an animal is properly removed or prohibited from the premises, the District will continue to give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in District services, programs, or activities without having the service animal on the premises.

A decision to remove or prohibit a service animal from District schools may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools.

Legal References

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – 29 U.S.C. § 794
Americans with Disabilities Act – 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.
28 C.F.R. § 36.302
~~Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability, Title 28 CFR Part 35, Part 36~~
C.F.R. § 35.136
NH RSA 167-D
NH RSA 466:8, VIII

1st Reading: November 7, 2016
2nd Review: November 21, 2016
3rd Review: December 5, 2016
Adoption: December 19, 2016

1st Reading: February 20, 2023
2nd Review: March 20, 2023
Revision Adopted:

ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL

The Board recognizes that under the proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. In order to protect both children and animals, the following guidelines are adopted for use in all schools in the district.

1. The bringing of animals into the classroom must not violate town/state/federal ordinances.
2. The only animals and animal products (e.g., owl pellets for dissection) allowed in a classroom must be for a specific and appropriate educational purpose and shall be allowed for the amount of time necessary to achieve the educational goal.
3. Precautions should be taken to minimize transmission of all diseases and injuries (e.g., Salmonella, rabies, ringworm, bites, scratches, etc.).
4. All animals must be in good physical condition and vaccinated against transmittable diseases. Dogs must have completed an animal therapy certification program that includes initial instruction and testing, a requirement for recertification, and evidence of liability insurance. Additionally, dogs, cats, and ferrets require proof of current rabies vaccination. Animals are to be kept clean and free of intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks, mites and lice.
5. Certain groups of people may be more susceptible to diseases, including infants, children, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems. Parents and staff will be contacted to determine if special considerations are needed for any children and staff who are immunocompromised, who have allergies, or who have asthma.
6. The teacher will be responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes including the effective protection of children when animals are in the school. This will include keeping the animal in an appropriate cage or container, supervising human-animal contact and handling fecal material in a sanitary manner.
7. No animals are to be allowed to run freely in the classrooms, food areas or activity areas.
8. Areas should be designated for animal contact. Such areas should be properly cleaned regularly and after animal contact. Food or drink should not be consumed in these areas.
9. All fecal material must be cleaned from the cage of any mammal or bird on an as needed basis (at a minimum of one time per week) and appropriate sanitizer used. Reptiles, fish and insects must be cared for in a manner to minimize odor and maintain health. Persons cleaning cages must wear gloves, masks and glasses or goggles. Cleaning should be performed by people older than five years and under the supervision of an adult. Ideally, cleaning should be performed when other children are not in the room.
10. People shall wash their hands after contact with animals, animal products or their environment. Hand hygiene should be stressed, using verbal and written educational materials.
11. Certain animals pose additional risks and contact should not be permitted with young children.
12. Wild or exotic animals are not permitted in classrooms, unless under the control of a professional.

ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL
(continued)

It will be the responsibility of the teacher to provide for a plan of care for classroom housed animals in the event of an emergency school closing which might cause disruption of the routine care of the animals. In each school where these animals are housed, there should be a plan whereby the staff member who visits the school daily during the emergency closing will be aware of the animals' presence and see to their care. If no staff member visits the school daily in such circumstances, the teacher is responsible for the daily care of the animal(s).

Teachers must be contacted prior to having animals in their classroom. No animal shall be in school unless the teacher involved is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding and handling of that animal and of any potential dangers caused by that animal. It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to become familiar with each animal as it relates to the well-being of the individual students in that particular classroom.

The principal shall be advised of any animals to be housed in the classroom. At the principal's discretion, permission to keep the animal may be denied based on these considerations: (1) the purpose for the animal's presence, (2) the ability of the teacher to control the animal and/or (3) the past practice in the classroom.

Legal Reference:

- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2006.

1st Reading: November 16, 2015
2nd Review: December 7, 2015
3rd Review: December 21, 2015
Adoption: January 4, 2016

Revision
1st Reading: February 20, 2023
2nd Review: March 20, 2023
Revision Adopted:

STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The Merrimack School District recognizes that information technology is a tool that, when responsibly applied, enhances the classroom experience and extends learning beyond the school walls. With information technology saturating nearly every aspect of our lives, it is incumbent upon the District to provide the members of the school community with an understanding of what the District considers to be appropriate use of information technology by students.

While this policy is intended to provide guidelines for responsible use of information technology, it cannot cover all possible uses. When using District-provided information technology, students must demonstrate the same level of responsibility and appropriate behavior as they would in using any other District resource. Students must also recognize that their personal online conduct, whether or not it utilizes District provided Information Technology, may have implications in school and school-affiliated activities.

DEFINITIONS

1. District Information Technology – District Information Technology includes all Merrimack School District computers, computing devices, laptops, Chromebooks, tablets, software, servers, desk phones, cell phones, and network and internet connectivity.

2. District-Related Activities - District-Related Activities includes any matter pertaining to schools, students, instruction, school and student events, co-curricular activities and clubs, outings or trips, or any other matters involving District operations.

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF DISTRICT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The following Guidelines are intended to establish the parameters of Responsible Use of Information Technology in the District. In addition, students are expected to comply with all rules and policies of the school and the Merrimack School District ~~including the Code of Conduct, set forth below~~, in all school-related communication and online activity. Inappropriate use of District Information Technology may result in restriction or cancelation of privileges, as well as disciplinary action in accordance with Policy JICD.

All students using District Information Technology shall comply with the following rules of conduct and must understand that just because you CAN access/do something doesn't mean you SHOULD.

Students demonstrating Responsible Use of Technology will:

1. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, such as copyright laws and "fair-use" guidelines.

STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2. As available, use District-provided communication systems (e.g. SchoolWorld, school e-mail) when communicating with staff and faculty regarding school work, activities or events, and limit such use to school-related matters.
3. Recognize that District Information Technology is intended to support the education mission of the District. Given the limited nature of some technology resources (student-use computers, bandwidth) priority will be given to school-related use.
    a. Staff reserve the right to adjust and assign technology resources accordingly.
    b. School-provided accounts may be used for instruction, registration on third party sites licensed or selected by District educators, and communication regarding District-related activities.
4. Conduct all school-related communication in a respectful, appropriate and responsible manner at all times. This extends to all communication, whether electronic or in print, and all representation of the school, regardless of venue or occasion.
5. Protect privacy of fellow students in all communications.
6. Request technical assistance and report misuse, abuse, or problems with District Information Technology, or related District equipment, to the appropriate technology staff immediately upon discovery.
7. Help maintain the integrity of District Information Technology by not engaging in the following activities, or those of a similar nature, and by reporting any knowledge of such ~~activity~~ activities by others to a teacher, administrator or other responsible adult:
    a. Using or attempting to use others' credentials, identities, passwords or logins
    b. Hacking
    c. Adding unauthorized software to District systems
    d. Disabling or attempting to disable the District's filtering/blocking technology
    e. Intentionally or maliciously damaging District computers or technology devices or causing disruption or interruption to District network internet systems
    f. Using or misusing District resources, especially bandwidth, when directed not to.
8. Students must also refrain from engaging in the following conduct:
    a. Using District Information Technology to find, view, or distribute threatening, harassing, discriminatory, defamatory, sexually explicit, obscene, pornographic, violent, or otherwise inappropriate material. Please note that the District has implemented software on its devices which seeks to filter and/or block inappropriate material.
    b. Using District Information Technology for private financial or commercial purposes, or for soliciting membership, support, or contributions in or to any non-school sponsored or non-school recognized group or organization.
    c. Accessing or attempting to access files, folders, or devices of others either deliberately or accidently (such as when a user does not logout of a computer or application), unless authorized to do so.
9. In utilizing online resources, District staff will educate students regarding appropriate online behavior.

STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CAUTIONS TO USERS OF DISTRICT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. District Information Technology is the property of the District and remains under the control, custody and supervision of the District. Information contained on or transmitted through the District server or network is not private and the District reserves the right to monitor and inspect all student use of District Information Technology, even if conducted after school hours and off of school premise. See RSA 189:70, II (c).
2. ~~Any~~ Electronic communications ~~pertaining to school-related matters is subject to this policy and~~ via District accounts, depending on the users and the subject matters of the communications may be considered a public record, regardless of the device or network used. ~~Student use of personal devices on the district network is a privilege and not a right. By bringing and using personal devices on the district's network, students consent to a search of the device as a term and condition of using the network.~~
3. Use of ~~personal computers and other technology devices~~ District Information Technology, including communications over the District network or through District accounts, is ~~are~~ subject to the Student Use of Information Technology Policy, the District Policy on Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying, the District Policy on Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process, and school-level behavior expectations and discipline codes. Violation of these policies and expectations may result in inspection of such devices.
4. Student use of personal devices on the district network is a privilege and not a right. By bringing and using personal devices on the District's network, students consent to a search of the device as a term and condition of using the network. Such searches will only be conducted if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has committed a violation, as noted above.
5. The District reserves the right to investigate parent or student complaints about potential or perceived violations of either a student's privacy or potential or perceived threats to student safety or health arising from use of a home computer or personal mobile device by any student.
6. The ~~Merrimack School~~ District is not responsible for any loss of data due to circumstances beyond its control or from users' errors or omissions. The District is not responsible for loss, damage or theft of personally owned electronic devices.
7. ~~The use of Information Technology in the District is a right that comes with responsibility. Inappropriate use may result in the curtailment of that right. District administrators or their designees shall make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these guidelines and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.~~ Any student who fails to comply with the Guidelines for Responsible Use or violates the Code of Conduct set forth in this policy ~~will~~ may have their privileges restricted or cancelled, and may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance to the District policy on Student Conduct, Discipline and Due Process - ~~Safe School Zone~~ (JICD) and individual school discipline procedures, and depending on the nature of the violation, may also be referred to law enforcement. District administrators or their designees shall make all decisions regarding whether ~~or~~ not a user has violated these guidelines and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.

STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

STUDENT USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The Merrimack School District recognizes that social media, in all its forms and iterations (e.g. blogs, MS 365, Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube, etc.), can be an important tool ~~of~~ for education and communication. As such, its availability as a resource is understood as just one component of the district's overall educational mission. Toward this end, students must:

- While on school campus and during school hours, use social media for school-related purposes in a manner consistent with the expectations set forth in this policy
- Use appropriate online behavior, including proper interactions with others on social networking web sites
- Strive to protect the privacy of fellow students
- Understand that what is posted online can be captured and stored
- Not post material that could be considered malicious, obscene, threatening, harassing or disparaging towards fellow students, district staff and volunteers, or parents.
- In addition to adhering to this policy, students are also required to follow the District Policy on Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying. Students must recognize that any online incident, whether or not it occurs outside of school that impacts the ability of the district to provide a "safe, secure and peaceful environment" for all students will be addressed according to school, district, and/or legal disciplinary procedures.
- Remember that personal postings shared on the Internet, through text or other digital communication may be forwarded, shared, or published without the owner's knowledge, and could become viewable by unintended audiences such as students, educators, parents, employers, and college recruiters. Therefore, it is important to portray a respectable image at all times.

Pursuant to RSA 189:70, I, the District will not:

- Require or request a student or prospective student to disclose or to provide access to a personal social media account through the student's or prospective student's username, password, or other means of authentication that provides access.
- Require or request a student or prospective student to access a personal social media account in the presence of any employee of the educational institution in a manner that enables the employee to observe the contents of the personal social media account.
- Compel a student or prospective student to add anyone to his or her list of contacts associated with a personal social media account or require, request, suggest, or cause a student or prospective student to change the privacy settings associated with the personal social media account.
- Take or threaten to take any action against a student or prospective student to discipline or prohibit such student or prospective student from participation in curricular or co-curricular activities for refusal to disclose information or to take actions specified above.
- Fail or refuse to admit a prospective student as a result of the refusal by the prospective student to disclose information or to take actions specified above.

~~CODE OF CONDUCT/PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES~~

~~All students using District Information Technology shall comply with the following rules of conduct and must understand that **just because you CAN access/do something doesn't mean you SHOULD.**~~

1. ~~Do not use District Information Technology to find, view, or distribute threatening, harassing, discriminatory, defamatory, sexually explicit, obscene, pornographic, violent or otherwise inappropriate material.~~
2. ~~Do not use District Information Technology for private financial or commercial purposes or as a forum for communicating the views of or for soliciting membership, support, or contributions in or to any non-school sponsored or non-school recognized group or organization.~~
3. ~~Do not access or attempt to access files, folders, or devices of others either deliberately or accidentally (such as when a user does not logout of a computer or application), unless authorized to do so.~~

Legal References:

RSA 194:3-d, School District Computer Networks
RSA 91Section 91-A:4 Minutes and Records Available for Public Inspection.
Pub. L. No. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act
Federal Educational Record Protection Act
RSA 189:70, II (c)

Resources

District Policies:

Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying (JICK)
Employee Use of Information Technology (EHAA)
Student Conduct, Discipline and Due Process (JICD)

1st Reading: November 3, 2014
2nd Review: November 17, 2014
Adoption: December 1, 2014

Policy Revision
1st Reading: March 20, 2023
2nd Review:
Revision Adopted:

INVESTMENT

The School Board authorizes the School District Treasurer working in conjunction with the Superintendent and his/her designee and pursuant to RSA 197:23-a to invest the funds of the District subject to the following objectives and standards of care.

OBJECTIVES

The three objectives, in priority order, of investment activities shall be safety, liquidity, and yield.

1. Safety of principal is the foremost objective in this policy. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital by mitigating credit and interest rate risk. This will be accomplished by limiting the type of the investments and institutions to those stipulated by statute and fully covered by FDIC insurance or collateral approved pursuant to state law.

2. Liquidity of the investment portfolio shall remain sufficient to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated.

3. Yield. The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. Return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above.

STANDARDS OF CARE

1. Prudence. The standard of prudence to be used by the District Treasurer and Superintendent or his/her designee involved in the investment process shall be the "prudent person" standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. They are directed to use the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Recommended Practices and Policy Statements Related to Cash Management as a guide to the prudent investment of public funds.

2. Ethics and conflicts of interest. The School District Treasurer and Superintendent or his/her designee involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions. Employees and Investment officials shall disclose any material interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business. They shall further disclose any personal financial institutions with which they conduct business. They shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Employees and officials shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the School District particularly with regard to the timing of purchases and sales.

INVESTMENT
(continued)

3. Internal Controls. The District Treasurer and Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish a system of internal controls which shall be documented in writing. The internal controls shall be reviewed by an independent auditor annually.

The School Board will review its investment policy annually.

Statutory References:

RSA 197:23-a, Treasurer's Duties
RSA 383:22, Public Deposit Investment Pool

1st Reading: March 17, 2008
2nd Review: April 7, 2008
Adoption: April 21, 2008
Reviewed: March 2, 2020
Reviewed: February 21, 2022
Reviewed:

Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Laurie Rothhaus, Vice-Chair Lori Peters, Board Member Naomi Halter, and Board Member Ken Martin. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Amy Doyle, and Chief Educational Officer Olsen.

Not Present:

Ms. Jenna Hardy, Board Member (Excused)

Ms. Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative (Arrived at approximately 7:55 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Marissa Halvatzes, 24 Seaverns Bridge Road, addressed the Board and said she felt using a structured literacy program was important. She said the Merrimack School District was currently using the Balanced Literacy Program and while the program incorporated phonics, it also taught students to rely on tricks like guessing at words based on a picture or using the first letter of the word.

Ms. Erin Alukonis, 6 Mullikin Road, addressed the Board and stated that she felt it was essential to add the proposed three additional Reading Specialists. She also said she appreciated the deep dive into the reading curriculum, noting she was not happy with the curriculum used at the James Mastricola Elementary School.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Chief Educational Officer Olsen thanked Carolyn Morin and her husband, Jerry, for helping to clean the Reeds Ferry Nature Trail.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the 3rd grade at the James Mastricola Elementary School had a fundraiser dance-a-thon and donations were made to the Kelly Family Fundraiser and a great time was had by all.

Additionally, Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that there had been a Spelling Bee at the Merrimack Middle School and he congratulated the winners.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said there were many co-curricular activities, and many children were taking part in them. He also said ten students had been selected to participate in the New Hampshire Music Educator's Association South Central District Middle School Music Festival in May, and twenty students participated in the New Hampshire Music Educator's Association Solo Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the students at the middle school had participated with Mr. James Costa in "School Too" where they filmed videos regarding student-driven events. He added that the students at the Merrimack High School participated in the Granite State Challenge team beat the John Stark High School team.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen pointed out that nineteen Merrimack High School students received three free college credits from the Nashua Community College. He also noted that several programs were coming up for parents, including "Family Connection Circles", and "Everyday Mindfulness Strategies".

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle noted that the "Vision of a Learner" had been rolled out at each school and would provide the School Board with a presentation the following week.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle said the New Hampshire Learning Initiative had reached out to the Merrimack School District to be a host district for OGAP (Ongoing Assessment Project/Math) which was high-quality math professional development for teachers mostly in grades K through 8. She said Merrimack would also be a host district for a Responsive Classroom Workshop.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the issue with the 4th wing of the James Mastricola Elementary School was taking a little bit longer than imagined and felt another six to eight weeks would be needed to complete the project.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell pointed out that the following evening there would be a Budget Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the high school, where the Warrant Articles would be discussed, and would make recommendations to go to the public meeting.

d. School Board Update

Chair Rothhaus said she received an update from the Chair of the Budget Committee, Mr. Chuck Mower. He explained that the Budget Committee heard from all of the departments districtwide and was preparing for deliberations. He also reported that the high school administration stated that there was a 60/40 inequity between gender in participating in athletics. She said the Budget Committee was looking for support because they believe the Athletic Director needed a part-time administrative assistant that would allow him to focus on more athletic initiatives. She added that the Budget Committee was also planning to discuss the Brentwood building issue.

Chair Rothhaus shared that Mr. Mower wanted the School Board and the administration to know that the Budget Committee members remained devoted to seeing that the School District have the funding it needed to be successful.

Chair Rothhaus stated that she had the honor of representing Division I, which was in ten states in the National Federation of High Sports Committee meeting in Orlando, FL. She said it would be her fourth and final year.

e. Student Representative Update

Ms. Vadney said the gift card fundraiser held by the Class of 2023 and Merrimack High School Student Council hosted raised $5,000 for the Venedam Family.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2023 – 2024 School Calendar Discussion

Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he would be presenting the proposed 2023 – 2034 calendar within the next few weeks. He noted that a committee had been put together representing many of the stakeholders the calendar would affect.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Merrimack Delegation Visit

Ms. Rosemarie Rung, State Representative, 21 Ministerial Drive; Ms. Nancy Murphy, State Representative, 20 Brenda Lane; Ms. Wendy Thomas, State Representative, 10 Wildcat Falls; Ms. Maureen Mooney, State Representative, 9 Hansom Drive; Ms. Jeanine Notter, State Representative, 19 Whittier Road; and Mr. Paul Boyd, State Representative, 139 Joppa Road.

Vice-Chair Peters asked if legislation could be written that would allow school districts to hold **non-public** meetings via Zoom or teleconference. Representative Boyd replied that he had co-sponsored a like bill, but it did not specifically identify only non-public sessions.

Representative Mooney said in every odd-numbered year, in the summer and the fall, state agencies began to draft their budgets to present to the Governor. She said the Governor then began to draft his budget, and by law, had to deliver the draft budget to the House Finance Committee by February 15th. She further said the House Finance Committee had six weeks to review the draft budget and hold hearings, deliver their version to the full House, get it to the Senate by early to mid-April, and get it to the Governor for his signature by the end of June.

Representative Mooney said there was "speculation" that the Governor's draft budget would increase adequacy aid across the board.

Representative Thomas stated that she was working on three bills that were of particular importance to the School Board:

1. Mandate to make insurance companies pay for preventative PFAS care based on CDC guidelines.

2. Creation of a Study Committee to study "long COVID" and ME/CFS (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)

3. Co-sponsored to reduce the trigger of special education being covered by the state. The number was currently at 3.5 and the proposal was to reduce it to 1.5.

Representative Notter stated that for one year the legislature told communities they were only required to collect a total of $263,000,0000 and in one year, $100,000,000 in reductions would require the state's other revenue sources to the Education Trust Fund to fill in the gap and fund the remainder of the state's obligations. The amount of state support for public education did not change because of the shift in revenue sources, but what it did was reduce property taxes raised locally as a percentage of total funding for education. The SWEPT (Statewide Education Property Tax) reduction would amount to one-time aid for communities with an additional $100,000,000 flowing from the state in the fiscal year of 2023.

Representative Notter reviewed the Education Freedom Account as she interpreted it.

Representative Rung noted that not everyone in Concord agreed about the Education Freedom Accounts.

Board Member Martin said he had some concerns regarding the lack of oversight regarding the Education Freedom Accounts.

Chair Rothhaus stated that the Merrimack School District was trying to find the best pathway to meet the needs of every student.

Representative Mooney commented that unhoused students were an issue in many places. She mentioned that Homeless Child Youth (ARP) was a program that could be looked into as well as Title VI Homeless Education. She said they were both federally funded.

Representative Mooney shared that there seemed to be some movement regarding expanding the amount that was in the school building aid fund.

Representative Rung stated that she sponsored a bill (HB 45) that would include the telephone number of the Eating Disorder Helpline for student identification. She said the bill passed the committee and they renamed it the Matthew Brown Act in honor of the Merrimack High School student who suggested it.

Vice-Chair Peters thanked the members of the delegation and said she felt it was important to continue to have an open dialogue.

b. Other

Board Member Halter stated that she had been attending the Budget Committee meetings, and said she felt the Brentwood building needed to be taken care of. Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said that just because an item was on the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) it did not mean that it automatically became part of the budget. He added, however, the district had taken the liberty of contracting three demolition companies as well as a company that did earthwork; adding he felt the project would cost approximately $350,000.

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to transfer $350,000 from the unencumbered surplus into the line item for the demolition of the Brentwood building. Vice-Chair Peters seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

7. POLICIES

a. Second Review of Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect Policy (JLF)
b. Second Review of Availability and Distribution of Healthy Food (EFA)
c. Approval of Revised Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying Policy (JICK)

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying Policy (JICK). Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. December 19, 2022

MOTION: Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2022, meeting. Vice-Chair Peters seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

b. January 4, 2023

MOTION: Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2022, meeting. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

c. January 12, 2023; January 17, 2023; & January 19, 2023

Vice Chair Peters noted that the January 12th, January 17th, and January 19th meeting minutes needed further reviewed.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Educator Nomination

Mr. Kieran Mulligan, Social Studies Teacher, Merrimack High School

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle also noted that Ms. Stephanie Scherr was no longer employed by the Merrimack School District as a Science Teacher at the Merrimack Middle School.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

10. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

Board Member Halter said she attended a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting where they discussed available spaces at Camp Naticook but noted the program was almost full. She added they were looking to hire staff and were offering a Counselor in Training Program for 15-year-olds. She also said the Winter Carnival would be held on February 25th at Wasserman Park, and the slides at Kids Cove were knocked down during a windstorm and were due to be replaced sometime in the spring.

b. Correspondence

Chair Rothhaus said she had received correspondence from a parent, and she redirected that parent to the school principal.

Vice-Chair Peters commented that she had received correspondence from a parent regarding a coach, and she directed them to administration.

Board Member Martin said he received correspondence from parents regarding foreign language credits which he answered and then directed to the appropriate administration.

Board Member Halter shared that she received a couple of emails regarding issues with IEP's which were forwarded to the administration.

c. Comments

Board Member Martin said the Jazz Allstate Festival was held at Pinkerton Academy and two Merrimack students took part in the jazz ensemble. He said it was phenomenal.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Robbie Reisman, 8 Iris Drive, addressed the Board and stated his opposition to expanding the Education Freedom Accounts. He said he felt taxpayer's money should go to the public school system.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 8:36 p.m. Chair Rothhaus made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 – 0 – 0.

Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room
February 20, 2022

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

Not Present:

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Heather Robitaille of 45 Springfield Circle said she was intrigued by the presence from the State Representatives. She welcomed all State Representatives to be informed about the strengths and the challenges that our District faces. She felt their presence turned into a display of partisan politics which she believes does not have a place in our school board meetings or interfering in our students' education. She also said she was disturbed to hear the discussion supporting education freedom accounts which have remained largely unchecked and unsupervised in our state resulting in gross over budget spending and a reduction in tax dollars available for the public education this board is meant to protect and support.

She is opposed to any attempt by the government or school board to sensor materials available in our schools and public libraries. The Board and the administration has her sincere thanks and appreciation for all your do to support staff, students and the community. She said the goals and initiatives are building good positive forward momentum for the district and she looks forward to that continuing.

Chuck Mower of 4 Depot Street spoke as Chairman of the School Budget Committee. He said the Budget Committee took the School Board deliberations and discussion into account during its review of the budget. He supported the Budget Committee's work. He wants to work with the School Board to streamline, reorganize to save money and to make education more efficient and less complicated. He welcomed future discussions between the Budget Committee and the School Board.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions to share.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Updated

Chief Educational Officer Olsen announced that 4th grade students are anticipated to return to their classrooms at James Mastricola Elementary School after vacation. He thanked everyone involved.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated the members of the Merrimack High School swim team, bowling team, gymnastics team and wrestling team for their participation and accomplishments at the State Championships.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted 11 middle school students registered to participate in basketball and floor hockey intramurals.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen announced nine cocurricular activities would be offered at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School in March. He thanked the School Board and Budget Committee for supporting the funds to allow a variety of cocurricular activities at all schools.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted two programs for the community organized by Director of Student Wellness Seiden. The programs are Family Connection Circles and Everyday Mindfulness Strategies.

Chief Educational Officer Olsen acknowledged a group of high school students who performed in a production of Beauty and the Beast.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle stated she would be presenting a Vision of a Learner later in the meeting.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reported he is in receipt of a few quotes to raze the Brentwood building. He is waiting to receive a few outstanding quotes. The cost to raze the building is well within the budgeted amount.

d. School Board Update

Chair Rothhaus reported she represented Division I for the National Federation of High School Sports in Orlando, Florida last week. Topics discussed were safety in school sports and concussion protocols. She suggested Athletic Director Mike Soucy be invited to a future meeting to explain to the public Merrimack School District's concussion protocols and safety when it comes to concussions in sports. Another discussion topic was athletics is a privilege, not a right. All rules that were created were related to school safety. She thanked the budget committee members. Lastly, she announced the FIRST Team completed assembly of the robot for competition.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney reported tickets are on sale in the cafeteria for the March 10th sophomore semiformal. Preparations for spirit week, Aril 10-14, are underway. Seniors can sign-up for senior yard signs.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Revote on Warrant Article #6, School District Operating Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell explained the Budget Committee amended the Operating Budget on February 16, 2023. The amendments increased the Operating Budget by $248,355.

The following is a list of the amended items and the cost or savings.

- Softball Dugout, $54,553
- Furniture, $25,550
- School Board Contingency $150,000
- ESOL Supplies, $1,100
- Utilities- Brentwood ($7,923)
- .5 FTE Grounds Maint. Position, $25,000
- Implementation – Master Plan, $25
- New SAU Office, $25
- New Performing Arts Center, $25

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the operating budget as amended by the Budget Committee totaling $88,577,992. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Peters apposed the addition of $150,000 for School Board Contingency because it was not needed post pandemic. Out of respect for the Budget Committee's work she asked for an explanation.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell explained the $150,000 was added to the School Board Contingency fund during the pandemic in order to have funds available to use in the event the ESSER funds were delayed. The account was created during the pandemic and that it was no longer needed for covid reasons.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vision of a Learner

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Doyle introduced and thanked the members of the Vision of a Learner Committee; Nicci Rheault, Adam Caragher, Julie DeLuca, Bonnie Painchaud, Michelle Romein, Steve Claire, Angela Maslanka, Fern Seiden, Heather Barker and Maureen Mooney.

Each committee member presented a portion of the presentation. The following is a summary of the Vision of a Learner presentation.

The purpose of the Vision of a Learner process was to engage with a broad range of stakeholders within the Merrimack Community to develop a common understanding of the values, priorities, opportunities, and challenges of learning. The group engaged with many constituency groups, including students, parent/guardians, teachers, administrators, and community members in a variety of formats, including interviews and surveys. The work consisted of three phases: Research, Vision, and Recommendations, with goals and key activities established for each phase.

In Phase 1, committee members gathered perspectives from stakeholders in an effort to better understand their priorities for student learning, and to identify the opportunities and barriers of those priorities. Throughout the work in Phase 1, core focus areas emerged for learners, including a focus on empathy, self-management, working together, and developing independence.

In Phase 2, the group developed a collective vision through the establishment of five key attributes for learners – curious, connected, prepared, resilient, and dedicated. Anchoring documents and visuals were created to capture the vision and accompanying supporting language for each attribute.

This work is purposefully connected to Merrimack High School's Vision of a Graduate, which preceded this district-wide visioning.

The Vision of a Learner work is now in Phase 3, which will actively focus on actualizing the Vision of a Learner. This includes determining how we will measure progress in building these learner attributes. A pilot of a strengths-based tool, the DESSA (Devereau Student Strengths Assessment), is happening soon in grade four. Parents/guardians will be notified about this work and how they can learn more about the DESSA.

b. Preparation for Warrant Presentations for Deliberative Session

The Board determined who would move and second each of the warrant articles at the Deliberative Session.

Article #2: Board Member Hardy will make the motion and Board Member Halter will second the motion.
Article #3: Chair Rothhaus will make the motion, Vice Chair Peter will second the motion.
Article #4: Vice Chair Peters will make the motion, Board Member Hardy will second the motion.
Article #5: Board Member Martin will make the motion and Board Member Halter will second the motion.
Article #6: The Budget Committee will move and second the motion.

Vice Chair Peters was excused from the meeting.

c. Update on Graduation Pathways Program and Extended Learning Opportunities

Chief Educational Officer Olsen reported the job posting for a Director of Graduation Pathways and Extended Learning Opportunities produced several internal applicants and one external applicant. The external applicant withdrew. Merrimack High School Teacher Harley Hall was selected for the position. Mr. Hall will continue in his teaching role for the remainder of this year and will be paid a stipend for the program planning work that he will conduct outside of his contracted workday. There will be additional discussions with the high school administration at the March 20, 2023 school board meeting.

Board Member Hardy moved to accept the recommendation of Harley Hall as the Director of Graduation Pathways and Extended Learning Opportunities position. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

d. Other

Chair Rothhaus asked for volunteers to work with the Town of Merrimack to explore the possibility of moving the April town elections to a day in March.

Board Member Martin asked for historical information why the Town votes in April.

Chair Rothhaus and Board Member Martin volunteered to investigate moving the Town election day to March.

Assistant Superintendent Shevenell suggested a consultation with the District's legal council be part of the research.

7. POLICIES

a. Approval of Availability and Distribution of Healthy Foods (EFA)

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to approve the policy Availability and Distribution of Healthy Foods (EFA). Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

b. Approval of Child Abuse or Neglect (JLF)

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to approve the policy Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect (JLF). Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

c. First Reading of Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grade One (JFAAA)

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to waive the first reading of Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grade One (JFAAA) policy. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

d. First Reading of Service Animals (JMGA)

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to waive the first reading of Service Animals (IMGA) policy. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

e. First Reading of Animals in the School (IMG)

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to waive the first reading of Animals in The School (IMG) policy. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. January 12, 2023 Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Halter made a motion to accept the January 12, 2023 minutes. Board Member Martin seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

b. January 17, 2023 Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Martin made a motion to accept the January 17, 2023 minutes. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0.

c. January 19, 2023 Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to accept the January 19, 2023 minutes. Board Member Halter seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no nomination or resignations.

10. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

Board Member Martin reported he attended the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee meeting. A representative from HealthTrust reviewed the changes in the Slice of Life Program. Efforts are being made to fill vacant positions on the committee.

Board Member Halter reported she attended a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting last week. The Winter Carnival will be held on February 25 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at Wasserman Park. The Parks and Recreation Department received approval from the Town Council to start a pilot after-school program at Wasserman Park for next school year. The pilot program will be restricted to 30 children from Thorntons Ferry Elementary School. Summer Camp registration continues.

Board Member Hardy reported the CIA Committee met. Two new high school courses were presented. A new vocabulary tool is being piloted at James Mastricola Upper Elementary School and Merrimack Middle School. Discussions are ongoing with regards to continue use of Google Read and Write software.

Chair Rothhaus said she enjoys it when the school administration presents to the School Board. She expressed a desire for school administrators to share highlights of their school at future meetings about twice a year.

b. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

c. Comments

There were no comments.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Heather Robitaille of 35 Springfield Circle thanked the leadership team and community members for their work on the Vision of Learner and a Vision of a Graduate. She is very excited for what this means for our students, staff, and community. The theme we heard shared about empathy, tolerance, compassion, self-confidence and advocacy hit home how important social and emotional learning is to all students at all levels. She appreciated the thoughtful and consistent messaging from the elementary schools to the high school. She thanked Thorntons Ferry Elementary School unified arts team for the creative work in the showcase of learning and the co-curricular programs. She is proud and grateful to be part of this community.

Chuck Mower, 4 Depot Street, recalled his understanding of why election day was moved from March to April. He noted all service animals are required to be certified. Mr. Mower shared a comical story about a former Merrimack farmer, Mr. John Wright.

Mr. Mower stated the community of Merrimack is becoming a very different community today than just a short time ago with different aspirations. He appreciated the Vision of a Learner presentation. He highlighted the fact that the budget committee added a place holder of $25 in the budget for a new SAU office and $25 for a performing arts center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At approximately 7:45 p.m. Board Member Martin made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Halter

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-0.

Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
James Mastricola Upper Elementary School - APR
March 6, 2023

Present: Chair Laurie Rothhaus, Vice-Chair Lori Peters, Board Member Jenna Hardy, and Board Member Naomi Halter and Board Member Martin. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Amanda Doyle.

The school board members convened following the School District Deliberative session at approximately 8:15 p.m.

MOTION: Vice Chair Peters made a motion to go into public session. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

MOTION: Vice Chair Peters made a motion to recommend the budget of $88,427,992.00. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to adjourn the public session. Vice Chair Peters seconded the motion at approximately 8:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2022-2023

March 6, 2023

Enrollment On

March 6, 2022	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
MES	44	78	80	69	80	81	**432**														**432**
RFS	53	70	89	73	80	92	**457**														**457**
TFS	43	103	99	96	104	100	**545**														**545**
MUES								246	250	**496**											**496**
MMS											277	269	**546**								**546**
MHS														278	260	278	279	**1095**			**1095**
PR-12 Total																					**3571**
Student Services ODP**																			21		**21**
Home Study (HSS)																				127	**127**
Total	**140**	**251**	**268**	**238**	**264**	**273**	**1434**	**246**	**250**	**496**	**277**	**269**	**546**	**278**	**260**	**278**	**279**	**1095**	**21**	**127**	**3719**

**Out-of-District Placement

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2022-2023

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

BUS SUSPENSIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

	MHS	MMS	JMUES	MES	RFS	TFS
Fighting						
Vandalism						
Disrespect/Disruption				4		
Unsafe Behavior					1	
Other						
TOTAL	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**0**