

Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda
January 18, 2022 (Tuesday)
Merrimack High School – Cafeteria

Send public comments to: publiccomment@sau26.org. Comments must be received between the start of the meeting on January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and Agenda Item #10. Based on the volume of public comments received, the board chair will determine if all public comments can be read. If not, they will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

6:30 P.M. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – MHS Main Office Conf. Rm.

- Student Welfare

7:00 P.M. PUBLIC MEETING

7:00 p.m. **1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

7:05 p.m. **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

3. RECOGNITIONS

7:25 p.m. **4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

1. Superintendent Update
2. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
3. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
4. School Board Update
5. Student Representative Update

7:35 p.m. **5. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Health and Safety Task Force Update
2. Board's Response to COVID Data and Recommendation
3. Proposal for Visioning Task Force – Next Steps

Everett Olsen
Cinda Guagliumi
Kimberly Yarlott

8:00 p.m. **6. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Substitute Pay Rates
2. Other

Everett Olsen

8:15 p.m. **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. November 18, 2022 Non-Public Minutes (9:34 p.m.)
2. January 3, 2022 Public Minutes
3. January 4, 2022 Public Minutes
4. January 11, 2022 Non-Public Minutes (6:00 p.m.)

Cinda Guagliumi

8:20 p.m. **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Educator Nominations

Kimberly Yarlott

8:25 p.m. **9. OTHER**

1. Committee Reports
2. Correspondence
3. Comments

8:30 p.m. **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

8:50 p.m. **11. ADJOURN**

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

TO: Everett Olsen Jr, Interim Chief Educational Officer

FROM: Melissa Fazlic, Director of Human Resources

DATE: January 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Substitute Pay Rates 2021-2022

I am writing to you to propose we increase our district wide substitute rates in order to stay competitive with surrounding districts in an effort to support our schools with filling our vacancies. Substitute shortages have been an issue for many years in many districts, however this year more than ever, we have relied on our substitutes to cover classrooms daily.

Most days, we are only able to cover about half of our vacancies, and it is my hope that by increasing our substitute rates, we will be able to recruit and retain more substitute teachers.

I ask that you please review the enclosed current substitute rates, proposed rates, as well as our surrounding schools' rates, in consideration of increasing our substitute rates, effective as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

CC:

- School Board
- Matt Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Kimberly Yarlott, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

COMPERABLE DISTRICT RATES

Town	Daily Sub Rate		Long Term Sub Rate		Nurse Rate	
Amherst	\$	150.00		Teacher BA rate	\$	200.00
Bedford	\$	100.00	\$	223.50	\$	150.00
Concord	\$	100.00	\$	250.36	\$	200.00
Derry	\$	85.00	\$	208.52	\$	225.00
Hooksett	\$	80.00		Teacher BA rate	\$	160.00
Hudson	\$	110.00		not listed	\$	125.00
Londonderry	\$	96.50		Teacher BA rate	\$	96.50
Pelham	\$	110.00	\$	110.00	\$	150.00
Windham	\$	110.00	\$	135.00	\$	175.00
Litchfield	\$	100.00	\$	100.00	\$	150.00
Nashua	\$	77.00	\$	125.00	\$	100.00

CURRENT

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

Substitute Pay Scale ***2021-2022***

Teacher	\$100.00/full day \$50.00/ half day
Nurse (RN)	\$175.00/ day
Title I	\$12.00/hour
Paraeducator	\$11.00/hour
Administrative Assistant	\$11.00/ hour
Library Assistant	\$11.00/ hour
Custodian	\$11.00/ hour
Kitchen Worker	\$10.00/ hour
Lunch Monitor	\$10.00/ hour

Long Term Rates (15 or more consecutive days)

Teacher: \$150 per day
Paraeducator: \$ 12.00 per hour
Title 1: \$12.50 per hour
KIA: \$12.00 per hour

Approved by Everett Olsen, Interim Chief Educational Officer

Signature: _____

PROPOSED

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

Substitute Pay Scale **2021-2022**

Teacher	\$110.00/full day \$55.00/ half day
Building Based Floating Substitute*	\$130.00/full day
Nurse (RN)	\$200.00/day
Title I	\$13.00/hour
Paraeducator	\$12.00/hour
Administrative Assistant	\$12.00/ hour
Library Assistant	\$12.00/ hour
Custodian	\$12.00/ hour
Kitchen Worker	\$12.00/ hour
Lunch Monitor	\$12.00/ hour

Long Term Rates (15 or more consecutive days)

Teacher: \$200.00 per day
Paraeducator: \$ 13.00 per hour
Title 1: \$14.00 per hour
KIA: \$13.00 per hour

Approved by Everett Olsen, Interim Chief Educational Officer

Signature: _____

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
January 3, 2021**

Present: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Hardy, Board Member Peters, and Board Member Barnes. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Yarlott, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Guagliumi called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Guagliumi pointed out that the School Board would accept public comment via email and to do that members of the public could send emails to publiccomment@sau26.org.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Barbara Sousa, 4 Griffin Street – (Chair Barnes read aloud into the record)

For kids who test positive for Covid and are missing school what are we doing to help them stay current with work at school. We don't have the option for remote and when they get back to school they have moved on and have a week's worth of work to catch up on in addition to current work. My middle school kids can use Canvas for assignments that have been posted but they don't have the benefit of the work assigned to them. Not all assignments are on Canvas.

Ms. Lisa Mungovan, 14 Lamson Drive – (Chair Barnes read aloud into the record)

I am writing to you this morning to consider keeping Merrimack school districts quarantining to 10 days or to let families know what the quarantining rules now are. The CDC said that you no longer had to quarantine after 5 days of Covid infection if symptom free - but MUST mask. If Merrimack is considering implementing the CDC guidelines you must consider that these students must keep their masks on at all times even if opted out. This includes separating these students for lunch. Or maybe even testing before returning to school to ensure they are negative for infection. I know some districts are still staying with a 10-day quarantine period. Whatever the decision, please make it known to families what the policies are for the Merrimack School District.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the vaccination clinic was moved to January 13, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Merrimack High School cafeteria.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that he received a letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges that the accreditation visit would take place from Sunday, May 15th through Wednesday, May 18th, 2022.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said there would be an early release on January 14th for required staff training.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen thanked the staff and students of the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School for sponsoring "Kindness Month." He said grades 5 & 6 band students had been invited to perform at the December recital and did an excellent job. He also said the "Promising Futures Grant" that was obtained by the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School was being used to hire a mindfulness consultant to design and implement wellness strategies for the classroom.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that Ms. Tracy Gruber, Art Teacher, along with help of Mr. Mark Tyres, Special Education Teacher, was offering an afterschool Art Club for students, and there were approximately 30 students attending every Tuesday between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott said the Digital Learning Specialists (grades K through 6) had been meeting regarding setting up some standardization for the Canvas pages in terms of students accessing instruction and teacher's posting lessons on the pages.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

There were no updates.

d. School Board Update

There were no updates.

e. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Vadney stated mid-terms were coming up and reviewed the schedule.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Health & Safety Task Force Recommendation for January

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the current data reflected that the numbers of positive Covid cases were increasing and he was watching that data very closely.

Board Member Peters noted that she felt it was important to point out that although the CDC had changed its policy to quarantine for five days the district's policy remained unchanged.

Board Member Hardy asked if there was a way they could utilize the technology used the prior year to minimize the educational impact for students in the event they had to quarantine for ten days. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied the administration would be discussing it at their next leadership team meeting the following Wednesday.

Board Member Barnes said she felt it would be a good idea to stream while recording to at least provide the students with access to the lesson plan as it was presented to their classmates.

Vice Chair Rothhaus said she felt administrators and teachers knew what they needed to do and they should be left to decide on what the best plan would be.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said Mr. Jason Pelletier was the new Director of Instructional Technology & Learning Systems who would also be part of the leadership team meeting discussing the topic.

Student Representative Vadney said she was in agreement with Board Members Hardy and Barnes.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Boards Response to the 2022 – 2023 Capital Improvement Plan

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated the CIP and bonded debt schedule was available online and included a map of the roofing sections at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School as well as a copy of a letter from their roofing consultant.

Mr. Tom Touseau, Director of Maintenance, addressed the Board and said there were portions of the roof at Thorntons Ferry that had to be replaced and some repaired. He said the James Masticola Elementary School was still in need of a roof replacement and that it was not as high on the list as Thorntons Ferry.

Board Member Barnes said she did feel the roof at Thorntons Ferry should be a Warrant Article as it was in definite need of immediate attention, and therefore, should be in the budget.

Chair Guagliumi said if it went on the Warrant and it was voted down then “no meant no” and they would not be able to rework the budget to pay for it, even if it were absolutely necessary.

Vice Chair Rothhaus said she felt it was very helpful that the District had a very good business administrator and director of maintenance who had led the district in a very positive way.

Chair Guagliumi asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Board.

Board Member Barnes commented that the CIP did not have place settings with amounts for the student services/SAU office and the MHS field. She said she felt it was difficult to look at the big number if they did not have a number and how to schedule it. She also said she felt the student services/SAU office should be placed with a ten-year bond with an estimate of \$4 million in the 2023 – 2024 budget because the first payment on a bond, unlike the lease/purchase, would only be the interest.

Board Member Barnes said she felt the placement of the turf field should be in 2025 – 2026 in the amount of \$2 million in either an outright purchase or a bond.

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to add \$4 million in the form of a placeholder for an SAU/SPED office for 2023 – 2024, noting it would be a ten-year bond with the first year being interest only (\$100,000) and to add the turf field to 2025 – 2026 in the amount of \$2 million, with a first year bond payment of \$50,000. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

b. Formal Presentation on Maintenance Budget

Mr. Touseau, Facilities Director, stated there would be three areas that would increase in the upcoming budget; one was the access to playground equipment at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School; two was the retrofit lease for unit ventilators; and an increase in utility costs.

Mr. Touseau reviewed questions and answers as summarized below:

Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

Remind us of the total and complete cost to maintain the Brentwood building. Also, how many times have the police department used it for training in the last year? How many times does the police department expect to use it in the next year?

Mr. Touseau

The 2020 – 2021 expended is approximately \$6,054.33. This was a Warrant Article in the 2020 – 2021 budget. The appropriated cost was \$125,000 to raze the building. The present-day cost is estimated to about \$200,000.

The police department has used the building approximately six times and the fire department has used the building five times.

Chair Guagliumi asked if the razing of the building should be part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the razing of the building was one of the components of the SAU's master plan.

Chair Guagliumi asked if there was anything they needed to put in the CIP to address the "swampy area" of the soccer field. Mr. Touseau replied that the existing swale was not percolating very well and they were looking into some additional drainage mitigation.

Chair Guagliumi suggested, depending on the cost, adding the cost for the drainage mitigation to the CIP and placing it in either the 2023 – 2024 or the 2024 – 2025 year.

Vice Chair Rothhaus suggested that the Planning & Building Committee provide input.

Board Member Barnes

The overall message makes it seem like we are level funding while expecting we will likely face increased costs. There is a definite increase in funding commensurate with the increased cost of goods, and utility increases.

200 Mr. Touseau

201
202 The increased costs of utilities are estimated to be \$178,000, the additional leasing cost for
203 installation of unit ventilators is \$370,754, and the site work cost at Thorntons Ferry Elementary
204 School is \$30,000.

205
206 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell added that due to Covid it was recommended
207 that the HVAC systems run 24 hours a day for 365 days per year which would increase the cost
208 of utilities.

209
210 Board Member Barnes

211
212 Can you please confirm what this repair account covers and why we are able to continue to not
213 fund it?

214
215 Mr. Touseau

216
217 Prior to the 2020 – 2021 budget CIP items were in the repair account (100-4600-62-8451-08.) In
218 2020 – 2021 CIP items were removed and instruction was given by the School Board to look at
219 Warrant Articles for high ticket items. \$25,500 remained in the account for small repairs, such as
220 pressure relief valves and high school choral risers.

221
222 Board Member Barnes

223
224 Regarding supplies, how are you level funding when custodial supplies are likely to have
225 increased costs due to inflationary increases in goods such as bags, paper products, soaps, etc.?

226
227 Mr. Touseau

228
229 Because of the past two Covid years, it has been difficult to predict any increased costs relating
230 to various supplies. We expect that there will be a decrease in supplies because the costs of the
231 electrical items (LED project) will no longer be needed, i.e. ballasts, bulbs, etc.

232
233 Board Member Hardy

234
235 There are budget lines for the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School and the Merrimack
236 Middle School for electricity. Why are they so much more than the elementary schools?

237
238 Mr. Touseau

239
240 The three elementary schools have considerably less square footage than the James Mastricola
241 Upper Elementary School and the Merrimack Middle School. The middle school has less square
242 footage than the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, however, the electricity cost is more
243 due to central A/C.

244
245 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

246
247 Please clarify the rotation of finishing the gym floor. How often does this need to be done to
248 maintain the quality of flooring?

250 Mr. Touseau

251
252 All wooden gym floors (gym, all-purpose) are screened, re-coated, repaired, and if needed, re-
253 lined.
254

255 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

256
257 We are possibly addressing parking lots in the CIP. If so, it may make sense to hold off on striping.
258

259 Mr. Touseau

260
261 This cost is for maintaining the striping of existing parking lot striping. This is done every other
262 year and it was important to keep it to be done on a regular basis.
263

264 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

265
266 We want to make sure there is enough money to support the playground site work at Thorntons
267 Ferry. If the parent group falls short, how can we ensure the project would still go forward? If this
268 project something that is being considered for the other schools with playgrounds? If so, is this
269 something that the managers of the trust fund could help with?
270

271 Mr. Touseau

272
273 The agreement with the parent group was the district would fund the site work needed and they
274 will fund the actual playground structure. There was a possibility of adding \$10,000 to the site
275 work figure.
276

277 It was being considered at other schools.
278

279 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

280
281 Please tell us the areas where cameras are needed to ensure full coverage of our buildings,
282 particularly on the inside areas.
283

284 Mr. Touseau

285
286 The district received \$200,000 from the state and was able to put up an additional 139 cameras
287 totaling 221. We will assess as time demands. Possible new areas are stairwells and additional
288 playground cameras.
289

290 Chair Guagliumi Vice Chair Rothhaus

291
292 Please describe the reliability of the scoreboards. Will the work being budgeted for the scoreboard
293 prevent any disruptions for live games? We have heard from parents through the years of some
294 frustration about scoreboards not working so we want to ensure we have whatever funds
295 necessary to provide scores to spectators. If \$2,000 is not enough then we would like to
296 understand what amount would provide a greater sense of reliability.
297

298 Mr. Touseau

299
300 This is not a maintenance question, however, noted the lights were replaced and Mr. Soucy, the
301 Athletics Director was working on it.
302

c. Formal Presentation on Merrimack Middle School Budget

Mr. Adam Caragher, Principal, Merrimack Middle School, addressed the Board and said his proposed budget for 2022 – 2023 showed their continued commitment to the students. He said there was a request for \$6,000 related to afterschool assistance programming and enrichment programs.

Mr. Caragher reviewed questions and answers as summarized below:

Board Member Barnes

Please outline the additional co-curricular programs you are looking to offer and also please provide what was in place in typical years for the students.

Mr. Caragher

We would like to have the following funded through this account:

- Yearbook, Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, and afternoon interventions.

In previous years, we have provided a stipend for these staff members through a Service Learning Project which is funded through the MTA (Merrimack Teacher's Contract) contract.

d. Formal Presentation on Technology/Library Media

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the proposed budget was level funded and carried over from the work done by Nancy Rose. He noted it was only Mr. Pelletier's third day working for the district and was getting up to speed.

Board Member Barnes

Please outline the computers that are leased, when they were procured, length of lease, if there is a buyout at the end (usually \$1.00), and who the devices are assigned to.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

There are 729 leased and 2022 – 2023 is the last year for these payments. Also included is a firewall appliance. We would like to maintain this line for future replacement purposes past 2022 – 2023. These computers were acquired in 2020. There is a \$1.00 buyout at the end of the lease.

Board Member Barnes

Please provide how much of the infrastructure was covered by federal funding such as ESSER and ECF. Also, how much of our infrastructure was procured using federal E-Rate; a long-standing funding federal mechanism for connectivity that is unrelated to Covid programs.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

Due to the massive ramp-up during Covid and the necessity to acquire devices, ESSER funds were used to purchase 1,700 Chromebooks, 400 iPad's, and a new server. E-Rate provides us with a discount on our internet services but has not been used for devices as they are not eligible. We will be speaking with our E-rate consultant to see how to better leverage available services.

The School Board collectively welcomed Mr. Jason Pelletier in his new position as Director of Technology and Library Media Services.

e. Location of the January 18, 2022, Meeting

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated the January 18th meeting would be held at the high school in the cafeteria.

f. Date for Deliberative Session

Chair Guagliumi said the date of the Deliberative Session had been set for March 8th with a snow date of March 10th.

g. Other

Board Member Barnes stated a few months prior the Historical Society had gone to the School Board to access the old PTA Kindergarten facility on Depot Street for an annual rent of \$1.00. She asked if it made sense to have a Warrant Article that would give ownership of the facility to the Town of Merrimack and then would become the permanent home of the Historical Society. Chair Guagliumi replied they would add the item to a future agenda.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell shared that it was his understanding if the property were to cease being used for school purposes then \$10,000 had to be paid to Dartmouth College.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 15, 2021 – Non-Public Minutes (6:00 p.m.)
- b. November 15, 2021 – Non-Public Minutes (9:22 p.m.)
- c. November 30, 2021 – Non-Public Minutes (5:00 p.m.)
- d. December 20, 2021 – Non-Public Minutes (6:00 p.m.)

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from November 15th, (6:00 p.m.) November 15th, (9:22 p.m.) November 30th (5:00 p.m.) and December 20th (6:00 p.m.) with an update that a student name had been redacted from the November 15th (6:00 p.m.) minutes due to privacy protection. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

e. December 20, 2021 – Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the public minutes from the December 20, 2021, meeting, as presented. Board Member Peters seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

404 **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

405
406 a. Educator Resignations

407
408 Ms. Athena Tsourvakas, Tech Ed Teacher – Merrimack Middle School

409 Ms. Eva Quill, Language Arts Teacher - Merrimack Middle School

410
411 **MOTION:** Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
412 Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

413
414 **The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

415
416 **9. OTHER**

417
418 a. Committee Reports

419
420 Board Member Barnes said as she served on the New Hampshire School Board Association she
421 wanted to share that there were two scholarships available to students; one for School Board
422 members and one for Student Representatives.

423
424 b. Correspondence

425
426 Board Member Peters said she received communication from a concerned parent regarding if
427 they could investigate a way to have the bus company communicate with the school who could
428 then communicate with parents if a bus broke down or had other issues.

429
430 Board Member Hardy said she received communication from a parent regarding whether the
431 district would be changing the isolation/quarantine policy to coordinate with the CDC. She also
432 said someone had told her that every day on the Covid dashboard the number of occupants of
433 the high school since December 12th had increased by one. Interim Chief Educational Officer
434 Olsen replied he would check into it.

435
436 Chair Guagliumi said she received communication from a community member regarding masking
437 given that the numbers were rising in the State of New Hampshire.

438
439 c. Comments

440
441 Chair Guagliumi commented the state had the highest numbers ever regarding the pandemic and
442 the Board completely understood if an emergency meeting needed to be called.

443
444 **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

445
446 There were none.

447
448 At approximately 8:54 p.m. Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Peters
449 seconded the motion.

450
451 **The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
January 4, 2021**

Present: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Hardy, Board Member Peters, and Board Member Barnes. Also present were Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Yarlott, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Guagliumi called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Guagliumi pointed out that the School Board would accept public comment via email and to do that members of the public could send emails to publiccomment@sau26.org.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Formal Presentation on Student Service Budget

Ms. Heather Barker, Director of Services said she was present along with Ms. Fern Seiden, Director of Student Wellness, as their proposed budget would include some SEL (social & emotional learning) components.

Ms. Barker and Ms. Seiden reviewed questions and answers as summarized below:

Board Member Barnes

Regarding SEL/Intervention & Contracted Services, it is not in the breakout and is a new expenditure of \$104,000, please provide details.

Ms. Seiden

These funds are new to our budget to accommodate the hiring of SEL interventionists and mental health providers who can supplement and support our current building staff in meeting the diverse, complex needs of our students. This funding will be used to support all students across the district. We want to provide support in the form of embedded professional development, co-facilitation of groups, and collaboration to enhance and expand both our Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III SEL supports for students. Through these collaborative relationships, we can offer building-wide and small group evidence-based interventions as we continue to develop our Multitiered System of Support for all students in Merrimack. Through this strategic approach of developing the systems to support the SEL needs of our students, we will provide an aligned, cohesive system of care that is sustainable and efficient.

Board Member Barnes asked if there was a short-term goal to establish programs and long-term goal to have permanent personnel? Ms. Seiden replied in the affirmative.

55 Board Member Hardy

56
57 I do not want to see SEL services contracted out. I think this is a poor use of funds and it does
58 not serve our population best. What contracted services specifically are you envisioning? My
59 other concern comes from the working in the description of SEL being provided for students
60 "identified as highly at-risk." Obviously, we need to give this population all of the support they
61 need to succeed, however, a ton of resources are generally available to those considered highly
62 at-risk. I would hope that our vision for SEL would be targeted at all students. I would like to see
63 strategic and coordinated Tier I supports adopted in a meaningful way that builds SEL skills from
64 Pre-K through grade 12 supported by part of the full-time positions. I feel that this money, or
65 maybe slightly more money would be better utilized to start building a staff team (part or full-time)
66 to drive SEL initiatives in buildings and provide SEL support to students at the building level. I
67 would like to see the purpose of this line item change and the amount adjusted if necessary.
68

69 Ms. Seiden

70
71 We are currently in the exploration phase of the districtwide adoption of an Multi-Tier System of
72 Support for Behavior and Wellness Model (MTSS-B) system, working with a consultant from the
73 Bureau of Student Wellness. While we work on constructing and aligning this system, we want
74 to continue using contracted support. Done well, this could evolve into full-time district employees
75 that can meet student SEL needs in the future as an integrated member of the MTSS system of
76 care.
77

78 Currently, the vision is to hire SEL support staff who can offer short-term, solution-focused SEL
79 interventionist Tier II or Tier III, integrating this work into the SEL programming within the school
80 setting. This person could also offer professional development to support helper groups or even
81 collaborate with staff to provide needed support. While piloted through Student Services, this
82 could support any student in the building.
83

84 Research strongly supports systemically integrated SEL, including Tier I support provided by
85 teachers and support staff within classroom settings and supported by schoolwide Tier I
86 structures. We agree that the vision is for all students, Pre-K through 12 having meaningful SEL
87 experiences that develop the core competencies needed for wellness and success in school and
88 beyond. Through this strategic approach of developing the systems to support the SEL needs of
89 our students we will provide an aligned, cohesive system of care that is sustainable and efficient.
90

91 Board Member Barnes

92
93 I know we are using Second Step for SEL for students through grade 6. Please advise what
94 programs are running through your departments for middle and high school students and what
95 funding is there to support it. If there are programs of value not in the budget I, for one, would be
96 willing to entertain it considering the impact the pandemic has had on all students, namely those
97 who never had SEL curriculum as is the case in the higher grades since we have only had it in
98 the district for a couple of years.
99

100 Ms. Seiden

101
102 Our vision for SEL across all levels is consistent with our original proposals to the Board on the
103 adoption of SEL within the district. We are still in the phase of building capacity and innovating
104 ways to ensure full integration of systemic SEL to support the advisory blocks and the extended

homerooms, building on programs that both schools have already begun using grant money from the Promising Futures grant. At the high school, two teachers have led the way by building out a 9 through 12 executive functioning program for use in homerooms, along with extensive professional development materials on this topic. At our middle school, they have built their own advisory program based on Responsive Classroom for Middle School Advisories. Examples of other possible programs to augment the planned universal programs, it could be the Character Strong Program for middle school, as well as other grade-level programs, such as Indiflix programming and an expanded freshman orientation program. The selection would be the result of close collaboration between our school-based leadership teams and the district leadership team.

Board Member Hardy

On page 9 of the special services budget, why are these contracted services, which are far more expensive, as opposed to full or part-time employed district staff?

Ms. Barker

Since being asked this question in my first budget presentation to the Merrimack School District's School Board for the 2020 – 2021 school year, Student Services has been exploring the costs of employed district staff vs. contract services. For many of these positions, we cannot compete with private companies to hire school district employees. Over the past two years, we have not been able to hire district speech pathologists or occupational therapy assistants for open district positions that we have. New Hampshire, like many other states, is experiencing a critical shortage in all areas of education related to special education and related services that support special education. As a result of this shortage, we have had difficulty filling our MTA positions, which we would want to fill if we could. We have had to hire additional contracted services to fill special education roles until we can hire district employees. Legally, we must provide the special education and related services required in student Individual Education Plans (IEP) by any means necessary.

In analyzing the difference between the cost of a district employee vs. a contracted service provider for the same position, we found in working with our business office, that although the district employee's salary may be lower, with the added cost of insurance, payroll taxes, and retirement, there is a marginal difference in cost at best.

Board Member Hardy

Regarding the SEL/Related Services at the high school, I would like to understand why that budget line had doubled. I see the one-line explanation there, but I would like a more detailed explanation.

Ms. Barker

For the 2020 – 2021 Student Services Budget, we moved funding for contracted services from other budget lines to the school level lines in the budget. The amount allocated in the 2020 – 2021 budget was not reflective of the total amount of contracted services for the high school.

Additional contracted services were reflected in other budget lines. We moved the funds from the other lines to this line for transparency and better understanding of what is being spent in the

special education budget. Although it looks like that budget line went from \$125K to \$315K, it did not. The money was reduced in one budget line and placed in this budget line to better reflect the cost of services at each school level.

There is an increase in the budget line of \$10K to ensure that we can meet our obligations for compensatory services and additional services necessary because of the learning loss/gaps created by the pandemic and interrupted school that students have experienced with IEP's.

Board Member Hardy

I would like a specific and detailed explanation for what is covered in this line and why is quadrupled. The explanation is very general, i.e., "support all student's social & emotional well-being across the district."

Ms. Barker

For the 2020 – 2021 Student Services Budget, we moved funding for districtwide contracted services from other budget lines to this budget line in the budget. The amount allocated in the 2020 – 2021 budget was not reflective of the total amount of contracted services, as many of these were embedded in other budget lines. We reduced the funds from the other lines and moved them to this line for transparency, and a better understanding of what is being spent in the special education budget. There was no increase in cost for these services other than the 3% increase for anticipated wage increases.

The funds in this line pay for the school social workers, transition coordinator, transition coaching, IEP mandated mental health counseling, and other student learning support personnel who serve all students, and students with disabilities across the school district.

For 2021 – 2022, we have increased the funds by \$10K to ensure that we can meet our obligations for additional services necessary because of the academic, social emotional, and behavioral challenges created by the pandemic, interrupted school that students have experienced, and the increased needs of supports for families.

Board Member Hardy

What does the summer program look like? What is the vision?

Ms. Seiden

Building out our supports for transitions is a priority of the District System of Care Committee. Building off the limited offerings for SEL last summer, and our regular summer school programs, we have developed a budget here to cover the stipends for educators, counselors, behavior specialists, home school liaison/social workers (HSL), and other professional staff to support a broader array of SEL programs and transition opportunities. Last year, we offered a short camp for self-regulation, which was well-received. Student participation came from parent and school team referrals. Last year, we also provided a mindfulness consultant for the 8.5 program. Furthermore, counselors were available to provide school-based transitional programming for those who required it before starting school. We would like to think through the needs of students in these areas and provide creative and innovative supports.

Board Member Hardy commented that she thought the 8.5 program was very good and felt there should be more transition programs like it.

Chair Guagliumi said parents would also benefit from the transition programs.

Board Member Hardy

I am concerned about purchasing a curriculum that will fall to the teacher to learn, manage, and teach. This is the last thing that teachers need right now. While that curriculum looks great, I would like to see the budget allow for SEL specialists in district to be the ones to learn, master, and teach the curriculum. I would rather invest in staff this year and curriculum next year. (In Hudson, we are creating our own curriculum, it's more than enough for the year!)

Ms. Seiden

2022 – 2023 will be the 3rd year of full implementation as universal SEL program, K-6. This program was strategically rolled out, beginning in 2017. In this way, we successfully built capacity and buy-in, in an incremental fashion. We are at varying stages of system change, from initial implementation to elaboration, and regeneration. To this end, this line item is to replace and maintain materials within the Second Step program, as well as to augment the program. We will identify areas for augmentation and ways to further integrate this program at the universal level. For instance, the Bullying Prevention programming is an area that is ready for expansion. This funding will begin to populate the Tier II and Tier III SEL Interventions, using programs such as Zones of Regulation, Social Thinking, and other evidence-based interventions that can improve programming across the tiers, and address issues related to bullying.

We are in the exploration of MTSS with the support of a Bureau of Wellness consultant. Over the next year to two years, we will be building our universal, secondary, and tertiary teams, and at that time, we will be exploring the staffing of the three tiers. Culture and readiness are critical in the success and implementation of this work.

Board Member Barnes

I see for good reason paraeducator budgets for co-curricular activities. The funds are allocated unutilized. What can be done to increase participation so there is inclusion and fulfillment by those who would be in receipt of these supports? As much as it helps those kids by participating, I am a firm believer it also helps all students having such an inclusive environment in all areas.

Ms. Barker

The funds allocated to the budget line are specifically for the inclusion of students with disabilities in co-curricular, extra-curricular, and after-school sponsored events, so that they can have equal access and participation. The funds are used to remove barriers to participation and offer opportunities to experience the same opportunities as neurotypical peers.

Additionally, it offers all students the benefits of an inclusive community. Building leadership teams and IEP teams can advocate for increased opportunity for participation in our current offers and explore other opportunities that may not be currently offered for neurotypical and neurodiverse students to participate in clubs, sports, and other activities together.

Both special education and civil rights laws require that school districts provide equal access and equal opportunity for students with disabilities.

257 Board Member Barnes

258
259 How are these accounts level-funded considering there is a contractual salary increase with our
260 existing collective bargaining agreement with Merrimack Educational Support Staff Association
261 (MESSA)?
262

263 Ms. Barker

264
265 The level funding is the result of the MESSA contract's stipulation that new employees come in
266 at the bottom three steps regardless of years of service. As experienced paraeducators have left,
267 we are replacing them with employees whose costs are less. Therefore, no increase is currently
268 necessary.
269

270 How are these accounts level-funded considering there is a contractual salary increase with our
271 existing collective bargaining agreement with MESSA?
272

273 Board Member Barnes

274
275 How are we level funding summer programs for educational gains as we are working to close
276 pandemic-related gaps in learning?
277

278 Ms. Barker

279
280 For the Student Services Budget in 2020 – 2021, we anticipated the need for extended learning
281 opportunities and programs for students due to the pandemic. We also anticipated the need for
282 compensatory education due to delaying some services. We increased these budget lines by
283 about \$90K to provide Covid related and compensatory education last summer and successfully
284 provided appropriate and necessary specialized instruction and related services to our students
285 throughout the summer and beyond the typical five-week Extended School Year (ESY) period
286 when needed.
287

288 Rather than reducing the funding back to pre-pandemic costs, we have chosen to keep the
289 funding at this higher level to accommodate the pandemic related learning gaps, need for
290 increased specialized instruction, and any compensatory education required due to disrupted
291 learning from quarantine, Covid, etc. We will offer extended summer programs again this year
292 using these funds. Therefore, no increase is currently necessary.
293

294 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

295
296 How do you determine the number of paraprofessionals at the different schools, the elementary
297 school, for example?
298

299 Ms. Barker

300
301 The paraeducators in Merrimack were assigned based on the number of hours for either shared
302 or individualized services in each students' IEP.
303

304 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

305
306 The budget line for specialized training for staff went from \$15K in 2021 to an anticipated \$24K in
307 2022 – 2023.
308

309 Ms. Barker

310
311 The reason for this increase has to do with staff and how many staff are trained in CPI (Crisis
312 Prevention Institute) each year and what the cost is per staff member.

313
314 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

315
316 Are all teachers in schools trained in disabilities like autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
317 (ADHD) deafness, blindness, etc.?

318
319 Ms. Barker

320
321 There is a significant rise in cost of the non-violent crisis intervention through the Crisis Prevention
322 Institute. The cost per person to have a trainer went from \$700 just a few years prior to \$3,700
323 and it cost \$1,400 to renew the credentials as long it was in a two-year span. Merrimack had a
324 very robust train the trainer model with each building having two trainers.

325
326 Training for educators related to students with disabilities could certainly be explored as an area
327 for us to focus on in the future.

328
329 b. Formal Presentation on Merrimack High School Budget

330
331 Mr. Stephen Claire, Interim Principal, Merrimack High School, and Mr. Peter Bergeron, Assistant
332 Principal, reviewed questions and answers as summarized below:

333
334 Mr. Claire state the proposed budget was overall below level-funded budget with many level-
335 funded line items. He said some of the larger requests included the renewal of the Actively Learn
336 program for the English/Language Department, the Social Studies Department had asked for new
337 criminology books as the existing ones were quite outdated, the Social Studies Department
338 requested a subscription to Actively Learn, and the Science Department requested a renewal of
339 Tech Software for online access which would be active for six years.

340
341 Board Member Barnes

342
343 The School Board has worked to gain equal funding between athletics and co-curricular funding.
344 This year's budget shows co-curriculars are getting \$20K less.

345
346 Mr. Bergeron

347
348 In terms of transportation, co-curricular groups have not traveled to a scheduled event or have
349 not been denied transportation. We have level-funded co-curricular to reflect more accurately
350 what we spend.

351
352 Board Member Barnes

353
354 Athletic supplies are funded at \$91K while co-curricular supplies are funded at \$16K. We are
355 aware of the investments students have to make for their own uniforms, etc. for co-curriculars to
356 wear in competition and the funding required for supplies to participate in programs that would
357 not be possible without corporate sponsors stepping in. Please provide what students are being
358 asked to fund to participate in co-curriculars that may be preventing participation.

359
360 Mr. Bergeron
361

362 Athletic supplies do not include uniforms. It is for all athletic-related supplies. The majority of the
363 supplies include rentals such as Merrimack 10 Pin, West Side Arena, The Merrimack YMCA,
364 Gymnastics Academy in Manchester, and GPS for Soccer. This totals \$45K to \$50K in rentals
365 alone.
366

367 Students are not being asked to fund any co-curricular supplies. Money is not preventing students
368 from participating in co-curricular.
369

370 Board Member Barnes
371

372 Why are there needed materials listed but no funding allocated for Unified Soccer? I see minimal
373 references to uniforms. How often are they purchased or are students purchasing their own?
374

375 Mr. Bergeron
376

377 We are not budgeting for Unified Soccer because we do not have enough student interest to field
378 a team. The line item was left in but \$0 was budgeted.
379

380 Students do not purchase them on their own. Every three to five years through a rotation system.
381 Every uniform has been replaced once throughout the last five years.
382

383 Board Member Barnes
384

385 Why do students pay for their own graduation cords? It seems like we are not regarding their
386 dedicated participation in the programs.
387

388 Mr. Claire
389

390 Over the years there has been an increase in co-curricular clubs and there were currently 27 all
391 of which offer cords for their graduating seniors. Of the 27, 16 were paid for by club funds, 7 were
392 paid for by students, and 4 were unknown.
393

394 The stoles for the top 15% of students in the graduating class were paid for by the school and if
395 the graduate wanted to keep the stole he/she would purchase it after graduation.
396

397 Board Member Barnes & Chair Guagliumi supported paying for cords for students at graduation,
398 inclusive of the military. It showed school district support and suggested including it in the budget
399 next year, if not the current year.
400

401 Chair Guagliumi asked what the cost would be. Mr. Claire replied he would get back to the Board
402 with the information.
403

404 Board Member Hardy
405

406 On page 5, I see there is \$12,300 budgeted to pay for helmets and shoulder pad repairs. Then
407 on page 32, in line 100-1420-24-8739 there is \$7,000 budgeted for replacing 20 football helmets
408 and 15 shoulder pads. I'm confused why that is budgeted for twice.

409 Mr. Bergeron

410
411 The \$12,300 is for repairing helmets (softball, baseball, football, lacrosse) such as fixing chin
412 straps. Once repaired, helmets have to go through a certification process, which is an additional
413 cost. The equipment is sanitized as well. We must have our football uniforms professionally
414 cleaned to extend their life. The \$7,000 is an additional cost to replace helmets for all sports
415 mentioned above. They need to be replaced because they have failed NOCSAE (National
416 Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) safety guidelines. This holds true for
417 shoulder pads as well.
418

419 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

420
421 Who sets the class sizes?
422

423 Mr. Claire

424
425 Other than the state class size mandates of 24 inches in science and our own limit of 16 inches
426 in art & technology for safety reasons, we determine class sizes during collaboration meetings
427 with our guidance/department heads and administration to determine class sections that
428 determines class sizes. Student requests drive this as well as specific teacher certification.
429

430 Vice Chair Rothhaus asked if there was a specific class that had a fail rate of 20% if they could
431 consider that information when the class size was set. She said she strongly believed that all kids
432 could learn at high levels, and would not want any roadblocks to prevent students from learning at
433 a higher level. She said she would support removing boundaries to allow students to have the
434 opportunity to take higher level courses, even if it is a stretch for them.
435

436 Chair Guagliumi stated she agreed with Vice Chair Rothhaus and thought it was a good time to
437 look at creating more opportunities to allow students to perform at a higher level.
438

439 Board Member Hardy said when a student took the higher level challenging courses there still
440 needed to be support for the students, rather than expecting the student to figure it out alone.
441

442 Board Member Peters said students taking academic honors courses may not be brilliant in all
443 areas and could be in need of support in some areas.
444

445 Mr. Claire thanked the Board for their comments and said he would share those thoughts with the
446 department heads.
447

448 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

449
450 Does every freshman and senior attend Challenge Day?
451

452 Mr. Bergeron

453
454 We are going to afford the opportunity to students and feel it is a beneficial, worthwhile experience.
455

456 Chair Guagliumi Vice Chair Rothhaus

457
458 We notice that in 2021, for the Gifted & Talented program, we budgeted \$14,600, and we only
459 expended \$6,227.03. Is this because of Covid?
460

461 Mr. Claire

462
463 Yes, the full Gifted & Talented program did not run because our Gifted & Talented teacher picked
464 up three science classes during the pandemic. We are currently running our full Gifted & Talented
465 program.

466
467 Chair Guagliumi Vice Chair Rothhaus

468
469 How is the money spent?

470
471 Mr. Claire

472
473 Artist-in-Residence, Granite State Challenge & Quiz Bowl (new question) sets, uniforms, electronic
474 buzzer, etc. – since most of Gifted and Talented was not running. Since the program was not
475 running the former principal approved replacing some of the equipment and updating the question
476 sets for the two clubs so they could practice. It also included trick-or-treat supplies and Advanced
477 Placement (AP) testing supplies.

478
479 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

480
481 There is \$43K in the budget for a 504 Coordinator, but it was our understanding that we added
482 these responsibilities to our newly created position for SEL. How many kids currently have a 504
483 at the Merrimack High School?

484
485 Mr. Claire

486
487 We were not aware that the 504 responsibilities were added to the newly create SEL position. I
488 can say that we have 208 students with a 504 and 8 – 10 more in the referral pipeline. Stress,
489 anxiety, and other pandemic-related issues have increased our 504 referrals.

490
491 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott said the \$43K was already budgeted for the 504
492 Coordinator and it only pertained to the high school.

493
494 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

495
496 Because Merrimack High School does not have a turf field, how many varsity athletic teams have
497 to pay for field use at other facilities during the pre-season, and is there adequate space for all
498 teams to be at the Merrimack High School Fields? Do kids/Booster Clubs have to pay for any field
499 space?

500
501 Mr. Bergeron

502
503 None of our teams are required to pay for off-site practice space. On occasion, the Booster Club
504 may pay for turf practice to prepare for a turf game or rent a facility indoors due to poor weather.

505
506 Vice Chair Rothhaus said there was a critical need for playing fields in Merrimack.

507
508 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said there was a study done in 2010 and was
509 presented to the School Board and Town Council regarding the field shortage. Board Member
510 Barnes noted that several of the fields that were available in 2010 did not currently exist.

511 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

512
513 Regarding workbooks, we are assuming the majority of the expense for this item relates to the
514 workbooks (consumables)? Please confirm, and, also, in which classes are the workbooks used?
515 Do you currently have textbooks for the classes as well, and if so, how do the workbooks support
516 the material?
517

518 Mr. Bergeron

519
520 Some of the expense goes toward workbooks for Physical Education 1 & Physical Education 2,
521 but expenses such as face shields for students to use while they are learning Cardiopulmonary
522 resuscitation (CPR), table tennis balls, basketballs, baseball gloves, floor tape, etc.
523

524 There are no textbooks, teachers draw upon a variety of resources to teach the physical education
525 curriculum, and health curriculum.
526

527 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

528
529 In woodworking, it looks like we are spending about \$80.00 per student for supplies. Does this
530 cover all expenses for class projects?
531

532 Mr. Bergeron

533
534 We do not charge students for supplies for woodworking, we are one of few schools in New
535 Hampshire that does not charge. All the expenses for projects are covered.
536

537 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

538
539 Regarding Reading Software, it looks like this budgeted line item continues to decrease. Please
540 explain why?
541

542 Mr. Claire

543
544 In past years, approximately \$2,000 was dedicated to software and that was in the wrong line
545 item. We have corrected that and move it to the 8650 account which is Reading Software. This
546 is for Remedial Reading Programs.
547

548 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

549
550 Please further explain the breakdown of the \$3,500 for baseball. It looks like we offer Unified
551 Soccer and if so, why is there no cost associated with it.
552

553 Please explain the family identification (ID) expense.
554

555 Mr. Bergeron

556
557 Baseball caps are bought every year for approximately \$1,500 and we needed more baseball
558 supplies because we have three teams; freshman, junior varsity, and varsity.
559

560 Family ID's is our athletic registration platform we have used over the last four years. It
561 streamlines all paperwork, etc. into electronic documents. Coaches have access to all player
562 information on their mobile devices. Uses by many other schools, very valuable and used
563 districtwide for other reasons.

564
565 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus
566

567 What is the cycle of how textbooks are purchased at the high school and how many classes have
568 we done online textbook licensing for?
569

570 Are there areas of overlap where we have classes that we buy both online textbooks and hard
571 copy textbooks?
572

573 Textbook companies usually make you buy hardcovers to get an online version. Recent revisions
574 to the math and science curriculums include text purchases to support the updates. We have
575 purchased class sets that are shared by students (not one for every student) and added online
576 subscriptions for all students to access. Some online subscriptions last for up to five or six years.
577 We are requesting a renewal for biology this year as the subscription was up.
578

579 Actively Learn is an annual subscription. Other reasons to purchase textbooks might be the age,
580 making it difficult to replace, as well as in the case of social studies, the Street Lawbook is from
581 1999, and contains outdated court cases.
582

583 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus
584

585 We are very excited about the English software “Actively Learn.” What kind of professional
586 development has been completed, and will be completed, to ensure that all students have access
587 and that the district is getting the full value of this purchase?
588

589 What period is included with the fee, i.e., one year, ten years? Is it subscription-based?
590

591 Mr. Claire
592

593 “Actively Learn” is a one-year subscription and because it was an English/Language Art software,
594 all students have access to it due to our English Graduation requirements. It does have an annual
595 fee, and I asked our Department Head for some data:
596

- 597 • From September 2021 to January 3, 2022, there have been 1,001 Active
598 Learning students, 4,248 Active Learning hours, and 31,334 reading
599 questions assigned, evaluated, and/or discussed.
600

601 c. Formal Presentation on the District Budget
602

603 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated that the district’s budget was composed
604 primarily of contractual obligations that included FICA, Medicare, health insurance which went
605 down by 1.4% resulting in a decrease of approximately \$426,000 to the operating budget. He
606 said most of the other items remained level funded. Further, Assistant Superintendent for
607 Business Shevenell said the areas that increased were property & liability insurance, and
608 workmen’s compensation.
609

610 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell reviewed questions and answers as
611 summarized below:
612

613 Board Member Barnes

614
615 Why is transitional academic support not part of the Merrimack High budget?

616
617 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

618
619 This amount is for \$85,000 and the program is for targeted interventions and evening academy
620 administered by the central office.

621
622 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott added it was a relatively new line item and was
623 originally to address the middle school transition to the high school.

624
625 Board Member Barnes

626
627 Regarding the Covid contingency account, what would the \$100K be used for (itemize) and one,
628 is there a likelihood there will be additional federal funding to accommodate this expense or two,
629 if it is not likely to get federal funding, can we look to buy proposed materials in bulk to sustain us
630 through the next school year in this fiscal year?

631
632 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

633
634 We have unspent federal funding in the amount of \$700,000 that can be carried over into
635 September 30, 2024. Given our uncertain everchanging future, this may or may not be enough
636 to carry us if we need to replace disinfectant equipment, (Clorox T-360), wipes, portable sinks,
637 and any other new emerging equipment to combat Covid, hence the contingency fund.

638
639 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus

640
641 Regarding committee work, do we pay an hourly rate for compensation for instruction staff who
642 work on district committees?

643
644 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell

645
646 It's a formula not-to-exceed \$26,000 total, based on 15 hours worked on a committee. If one
647 works less than 15 hours, the activity is not counted. There are three levels of participation:

- 648
649
 - 15 – 20 hours = Basic
 - 650 • 21 – 22 hours = Proficient
 - 651 • 34 or more = Advanced

652
653 The rates are established by assigning a formula that will arrive at the complete dispersion of the
654 allotted \$26,000 that can change yearly. For the last year:

- 655
656
 - Basic = \$302.77
 - 657 • Proficient = \$402.77
 - 658 • Advanced = \$502.77

659
660 (37 people were Basic, 28 were proficient, and 7 were advanced.)

661
662 Chair Guagliumi & Vice Chair Rothhaus
663

664 We see the rate for the professional New Hampshire retirement is 21.02%. Can you tell us how
665 much the rate increased since last year and please further explain the increase.
666

667 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell
668

669 The rate was the same for 2021 – 2022 as it is for 2022 – 2023. There is no increase for
670 2022 – 2023. The rate changes every two years. In 2020 – 2021, the rate was 17.8% which was
671 two budget seasons ago. All rate increases for the New Hampshire Retirement System are
672 calculated by the New Hampshire Retirement System to plan for future viability of the fund using
673 a five-year rate of return lookback period. Rates for police and fire are 34% for comparative
674 purposes. The New Hampshire Retirement System has a goal of being 80% credible.
675

676 d. Other
677

678 Chair Guagliumi said the School Board would have a work session and Warrant Article discussion
679 on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room and there would be another
680 meeting on Thursday, January 13th to review the budget, if needed.
681

682 **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**
683

684 There were none.
685

686 At approximately 9:07 p.m. Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to adjourn. Board Member
687 Barnes seconded the motion.
688

689 **The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.**

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2021-2022
January 3, 2022

Enrollment On	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	ODP	HSS	TOTALS
MES	56	76	73	74	79	68	426														426
RFS	30	89	75	78	92	82	446														446
TFS	40	94	98	105	102	94	533														533
MUES								248	269	517	276	282		263	277	272	327	1139			517
MMS																					558
MHS																					558
PR-12 Total																			17	133	3619
Student Services ODP**																					17
Home Study (HSS)																					133
Total	126	259	246	257	273	244	1405	248	269	517	276	282	558	263	277	272	327	1139	17	133	3769

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS 2021-2022

Month	*PRE	K	1	2	3	4	Total	5	6	Total	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	SSP	HSS	TOTALS
September 13, 2021	118	253	245	258	277	248	1399	242	264	506	274	286	580	262	279	276	352	1169	14	134	3782
October 1, 2021	118	256	245	258	277	246	1400	242	264	506	274	282	556	263	280	271	344	1158	13	136	3769
October 4, 2021	118	256	245	258	277	246	1400	242	264	506	274	282	556	263	280	270	344	1157	13	136	3768
November 1, 2021	122	256	246	256	276	243	1399	244	263	507	275	281	556	262	281	272	342	1157	15	136	3770
December 6, 2021	126	259	246	257	275	244	1407	246	267	513	276	281	557	263	280	273	332	1148	14	137	3776
January 3, 2022	126	259	246	257	273	244	1405	248	269	517	276	282	558	263	277	272	327	1139	17	133	3769

BUS SUSPENSIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER						
	MHS	MMS	JMUUES	MES	RFS	TFS
Fighting						
Vandalism						
Disrespect/Disruption					1	1
Unsafe Behavior						1
Other						
<hr/>						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1	2

**Out-of-District Placement