

Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Meeting
Preliminary Agenda for October 4, 2021
Merrimack Town Hall – Matthew Thornton Room

Send public comments to: publiccomment@sau26.org. Comments must be received between the start of the meeting on October 4, 2021 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.

6:00 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) (l)

- Service Contracts
- Legal
- Staff Welfare
- Student Welfare

PUBLIC MEETING

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

7:05 p.m. 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3. RECOGNITIONS

7:40 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

7:50 p.m. 5. OLD BUSINESS

1. Health and Safety Task Force Update
2. Second Review of Update to the Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy (EBCVM)

Everett Olsen

Everett Olsen

8:10 p.m. 6. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021 Proposed NHSBA Resolutions
2. Other

Cinda Guagliumi

8:30 p.m. 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 7, 2021
2. September 20, 2021

Cinda Guagliumi

Cinda Guagliumi

8:40 p.m. 8. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Administrator Resignation
2. Educator/Administrator Nomination

Kimberly Yarlott

Kimberly Yarlott

8:50 p.m. 9. OTHER

1. Committee Reports
2. Correspondence
3. Comments

9:00 p.m. 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

9:30 p.m. 11. ADJOURN

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

**Superintendent's Agenda Update
School Board Meeting of October 4, 2021**

This is a brief summary of the nature of the agenda items for this meeting.

Old Business

1. Health and Safety Task Force Update

I have provided the latest Merrimack COVID data from the New Hampshire Division of Health Services. Additionally, I have provided my recommendation on the metrics that I believe should be used to make any adjustments to the mask policy

2. Second Review of Update to the Use of Masks by Students

At our last board meeting, some questions were asked about masking as it pertains to interscholastic sports, physical education, and music. After conferring with the Leadership Team, Nurses and the Safety Task Force Committee I have proposed some revisions to the current mask policy addressing these three areas. These revisions will provide more clarity to staff, students and parents.

I also provided a protocol document that I feel should be part of the mask policy. This document addresses progressive approaches to address a student's refusal to wear a mask.

I wish you an enjoyable weekend!

Regards,

Bill

As of October 1, 2021, we, the undersigned, will not comply with a mask mandate in our Merrimack schools.

Masks have not proven to be effective at reducing transmission of Covid-19 in school settings.

A mask mandate infringes on our parental autonomy to make medical decisions for our own children.

Merrimack's current mask policy violates safety guidelines put forth by the World Health Organization.

- **"Children aged 5 years and under should not be required to wear masks.** This is based on the safety and overall interest of the child and the capacity to appropriately use a mask with minimal assistance."
- "In general, children aged **5 years and under** should not be required to wear masks. This advice is based on the safety and overall interest of the child and the capacity to appropriately use a mask with minimal assistance. There may be local requirements for children aged 5 years and under to wear masks, or specific needs in some settings, such as being physically close to someone who is ill. ***In these circumstances, if the child wears a mask, a parent or other guardian should be within direct line of sight to supervise the safe use of the mask.***"
- **"Children should not wear a mask when playing sports or doing physical activities,** such as running, jumping or playing on the playground, so that it doesn't compromise their breathing. When organizing these activities for children, it is important to encourage all other critical public health measures: maintaining at least a 1-metre distance from others, limiting the number of children playing together, providing access to hand hygiene facilities and encouraging their use."

We expressly prohibit any employees or associates of the Merrimack School District from coercing or encouraging our children to wear a mask.

We support the right of the parents to decide.

Print Name

Physical Address

Signature

Phone

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

KIMBERLY YARLOTT
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Cinda Guagliumi
Laurie Rothhaus
Shannon Barnes

Jenna Hardy
Lori Peters
Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr. 

Date: September 30, 2021

Subject: Health and Safety Task Force Update

I am presenting you with the latest COVID data for Merrimack as reported by the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NHDPHS). This data indicates that we are still considered to be a community of substantial transmission. The data used in determining the level of community transmission is:

- Rate of New Cases per 100K (last 14 days)
- Antigen and PCR Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days)

As of September 29th, Merrimack's Rate of New Cases (per 100K) was 344 (state benchmark for substantial transmission is 100). Merrimack's Test Positivity Rate is 5.9% (state benchmark is 5%). The NHDPHS criteria for substantial transmission is:

Number of new cases per 100K is 100 or greater

or

Percent positivity rate exceeds 5%

At a recent meeting, a question was asked about what criteria will be used in determining a change in the mask policy. I believe that the best approach to this issue is to remain with the NHDPHS matrix and appropriate criteria (enclosed) that details, in their opinion, what community data constitutes minimal, moderate and substantial transmission. I will be glad to discuss this with you on Monday evening.

Merrimack COVID-19 Data

Date	8/5/2021	8/12/2021	8/16/2021	8/17/2021	8/18/2021	8/19/2021	8/20/2021	8/23/2021	8/24/2021
Case data									
Active Cases	18	30	31	30	25	26	28	39	37
New Cases (last 14 days)	26	38	46	46	40	40	46	52	55
Rate New Infections (per 100k)		162	174	174	151	151	174	196	208
Antigen+PCR Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days)		8.80%	7.00%	6.80%	6.60%	6.10%	6.50%	7.30%	8.60%
Vaccination Data									
% of Individuals Fully Vaccinated	56.50%	56.60%	56.70%	56.70%	56.70%	56.80%	56.80%	56.80%	56.80%
% of Individuals with at least 1 dose		61.80%	61.90%	62.00%	62.10%	62.10%	62.20%	62.20%	62.20%
% of Merrimack residents ages 12-19 fully vaccinated	36.90%	36.90%	36.90%	37.10%	37.20%	37.20%	37.20%	37.20%	37.20%

Hillsborough County COVID-19 Data

Date	8/5/2021	8/12/2021	8/16/2021	8/17/2021	8/18/2021	8/19/2021	8/20/2021	8/23/2021	8/24/2021
COVID-19 Case data									
Active Cases	252	371	250	263	257	265	289	302	297
New Cases (last 14 days)	167	314	392	415	420	403	427	442	454
New Infections (per 100k)	77.4	145	181.7	192.4	194.7	186.8	198	204	210
Antigen+PCR Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days)	4.30%	6.50%	6.30%	6.80%	6.70%	6.80%	6.70%	6.10%	7.00%
COVID-19 Vaccination Data									
% of Individuals Fully Vaccinated			49.70%	49.80%	49.80%	49.80%	49.90%	49.90%	49.90%
% of Individuals with at least 1 dose			54.30%	54.30%	54.40%	54.50%	54.60%	54.60%	54.70%
% of Hillsborough residents ages 12-19 fully vaccinated				35%	35.10%	35.10%	35.10%	35.10%	35.10%

State of New Hampshire COVID-19 Data

Date	8/5/2021	8/12/2021	8/16/2021	8/17/2021	8/18/2021	8/19/2021	8/20/2021	8/23/2021	8/24/2021
COVID-19 Case data									
Active Cases	893	1,305		1,844	1,910	2,059	2,191	2,324	2,377
New Cases (by day)	156	235	261	234	266	312	337	264	290
New Daily Cases (Ages 0-9)	17	23	28	21	28	34	34	23	25
New Daily Cases (Ages 10-19)	16	26	30	22	30	31	29	25	29

8/25/2021	8/26/2021	8/27/2021	8/30/2021	8/31/2021	9/1/2021	9/2/2021	9/3/2021	9/6/2021	9/7/2021	9/8/2021	9/9/2021	9/10/2021	9/13/2021
42	57	70	72	66	67	65			59	47	43	43	45
58	68	83	88	94	99	97			93	92	81	81	74
219	257	314	332	355	374	367			351	348	306	306	280
9.30%	10.80%	9.60%	11.10%	11.60%	11.00%	9.50%			7.40%	6.40%	6.40%	7.10%	5.70%
56.80%	56.90%	56.90%	57%	57%	57%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%	57.10%
62.20%	62.20%	62.30%	62.30%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.40%	62.50%	62.50%	62.50%	62.50%
37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.30%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%	37.80%
8/25/2021	8/26/2021	8/27/2021	8/30/2021	8/31/2021	9/1/2021	9/2/2021	9/3/2021	9/6/2021	9/7/2021	9/8/2021	9/9/2021	9/10/2021	9/13/2021
323	373	418	424	423	458	481			490	455	457	474	470
487	506	574	583	598	635	651			668	718	730	726	723
225	234	266	270	277	294	302			309	333	338	336	335
6.70%	6.90%	6.70%	7.80%	7.10%	7.50%	7.40%	6.60%	6.40%	5.70%	6.10%	6.30%	5.90%	6.70%
49.90%	49.90%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.10%	50.10%	50.10%
54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.70%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%	54.80%
35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.20%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%	35.30%
8/25/2021	8/26/2021	8/27/2021	8/30/2021	8/31/2021	9/1/2021	9/2/2021	9/3/2021	9/6/2021	9/7/2021	9/8/2021	9/9/2021	9/10/2021	9/13/2021
2,524	2,798	2,927	2,864	2,963	3,041		3,120		3,221	2,887	3,079	3,144	3,437
329	356	384	218	372	348	444	460	248	334	516	326	725	350
32	40	41	18	30	31	48	40	21	43	62	25	70	41
36	33	41	27	52	39	54	53	22	47	81	60	184	61



9/14/2021	9/15/2021	9/16/2021	9/17/2021	9/20/2021	9/21/2021	9/22/2021	9/23/2021	9/24/2021	9/27/2021	9/28/2021	9/29/2021	9/30/2021	10/1/2021
45	52	60	65	56	52	55	60	50					
73	79	82	84	76	75	80	88	95					
276	298	310	317	287	283	302	332	359					
6.50%	6.60%	6.60%	7.70%	5.70%	5.60%	6.30%	4.70%	7.20%					
57.30%	57.30%	57.30%	57.30%	57.40%	57.40%	57.40%	57.40%	57.40%					
62.70%	62.80%	62.80%	62.80%	62.80%	62.80%	62.80%	62.80%	62.80%					
38%	38%	38%	38%	38.20%	38.20%	38.20%	38.20%	38.20%					
9/14/2021	9/15/2021	9/16/2021	9/17/2021	9/20/2021	9/21/2021	9/22/2021	9/23/2021	9/24/2021	9/27/2021	9/28/2021	9/29/2021	9/30/2021	10/1/2021
489	525	584	595	545	536	527	592	580					
739	781	818	796	795	799	792	831	920					
342	362	379	369	368	370	367	385	426					
5.70%	5.40%	5.60%	6.00%	5.40%	5.20%	6.10%	5.40%	6.10%					
50.20%	50.20%	50.30%	50.30%	50.30%	50.30%	50.30%	50.30%	50.30%					
55.30%	55.30%	55.30%	55.30%	55.30%	55.30%	55.30%	55.30%	55.30%					
35.40%	35.40%	35.40%	35.40%	35.40%	35.40%	35.40%	35.40%	35.40%					
9/14/2021	9/15/2021	9/16/2021	9/17/2021	9/20/2021	9/21/2021	9/22/2021	9/23/2021	9/24/2021	9/27/2021	9/28/2021	9/29/2021	9/30/2021	10/1/2021
3,519	3,726	4,030		3,769	3,603	3,496	3,852						
478	561	388	435	279	286	304	625						
53	74	42	74	15	47	38							
95	122	91	106	36	48	54							



NH DPHS Indoor Face Mask Recommendation

		Level of Community Transmission		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases Within Facility	Sporadic cases without evidence of facility transmission	Optional*	Optional*	Universal†
	Single Cluster	Targeted	Targeted	Universal†
	Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak	Universal†	Universal†	Universal†

* Face masks still recommended for people who want maximal protection for themselves or others (e.g., a household member who is unvaccinated or medically vulnerable)

† Exceptions can be made for classrooms/schools that have achieved a high vaccination rate (e.g., high-school), or where other prevention measures can be strictly implemented (e.g., 6 feet of physical distancing)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
DIVISION OF
Public Health Services

NHDPHS Criteria for Levels of Community Transmission

Minimal community transmission

- Number of new cases per 100k over 14 days is less than 50
- AND
- Percent positivity rate is below 5%

Moderate community transmission

- Number of new cases per 100k exceeds 50

Substantial community transmission

- Number of new cases per 100k is 100 or greater
- OR
- Percent positivity rate exceeds 5%

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

KIMBERLY YARLOTT
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Cinda Guagliumi
Laurie Rothhaus
Shannon Barnes

Jenna Hardy
Lori Peters
Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr.

Date: September 30, 2021

Subject: Clarity Updates to Mask Policy

I am recommending several modifications to the mask policy that are intended to provide more clarity. These modifications are based on some of your helpful questions/comments during a recent public session. All suggested revisions have been discussed with the school nurses, the Leadership Team and members of the Health and Safety Task Force. They are presented below.

Interscholastic Athletics

For interscholastic athletics conducted in Merrimack, masks will be worn by athletes when on the sidelines. When an athlete is in competition, masking (in Merrimack) will be optional. No masking is required for outdoor interscholastic sports.

Physical Education

Masks will be worn during indoor physical education classes, unless a student has an opt-out request from the parent.

Masking During Chorus/Singing in Classroom

Masks will be worn by all students when singing in chorus or in a classroom. There is no mask opt-out during singing.

The masking during singing (with no opt-out) is based on the research study "International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study" (Weaver, Spede, Miller, Srebric: 2020). I will be glad to discuss these policy updates on Monday evening.

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY

Masks will be worn by students, staff, visitors, and volunteers within the school building with the following exception:

At the written request of a parent or legal guardian, a child may opt-out of wearing a mask only while in a classroom. Please note that this opt-out applies only to students. All staff are expected to be masked while indoors when students and/or other adults are in their presence.

Masks do not have to be worn when students, staff members or volunteers are outside, at lunch, snack time, or during mask breaks that are held outside.

Masks will be worn while on a van or school bus.

Except as stated above, masks will be required in the school buildings at all other time, including transition time.

~~Masks will be worn by athletes who participate in indoor sports.~~

Interscholastic Athletics

For interscholastic athletics conducted in Merrimack, masks will be worn by athletes when on the sidelines. When an athlete is in competition, masking (in Merrimack) will be optional. No masking is required for outdoor interscholastic sports.

Physical Education

Masks will be worn during indoor physical education classes, unless a student has an opt-out request from the parent.

Masking During Chorus/Singing in Classroom

Masks will be worn by all students when singing in chorus or in a classroom. There is no mask opt-out during singing.

No person, including a student shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents them from doing such. In such cases, documentation of the disability or medical condition will be required, and in such cases, ~~alternative~~ **alternative** precautions will be sought in order to achieve the same or similar safety benefits.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with students who are deaf or hearing impaired, students learning to read and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks or visors/clear face shields which enhance service provision.

~~Mask decision will be revisited and possibly modified on a monthly basis, based on local COVID data.~~

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY (continued)**Duration**

This policy will be enforced as of September 1, 2021. It will be reviewed and possibly modified on a monthly basis upon analysis of Merrimack COVID data in relation to the NHDPHS New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) Matrix and criteria on levels of community transmissions. Outbreaks or multiple clusters within a school/school district, as defined by NHDPHS New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services or a change in the NHDPHS NHDHHS-defined level of community transmission for Merrimack may result in a change to this policy.

Legal References

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/200/200-39.htm>

Emergency Order #2020-04, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020-15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

1st Reading: July 28, 2020

2nd Review: August 10, 2020

3rd Review: August 19, 2020

Approved: August 19, 2020

Rescinded:

New Policy

1st Reading: September 20, 2021

2nd Review: October 4, 2021

Approved:

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

KIMBERLY YARLOTT
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Cinda Guagliumi
Laurie Rothhaus
Shannon Barnes

Jenna Hardy
Lori Peters
Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr. 

Date: September 30, 2021

Subject: Consequences for Refusing to Comply with Mask Policy

At our last school board meeting, a parent presented a document, signed by nearly 100 residents stating that as of October 1, 2021, they will no longer comply with the mask policy. I referred the matter to Attorney Kathleen Peahl. Attorney Peahl forwarded a sample mask protocol that could be used if students and/or parents refuse to comply with our mask policy.

This sample policy incorporates a progressive discipline approach which is consistent with the most recent amendments to student discipline statute RSA 193:13. I am recommending that you consider this protocol for adoption and incorporate it as an addendum to the mask policy. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Mask Protocol for All Students

Our Mask Requirement

The District requires that all persons in school buildings, including students, wear masks in the school buildings. This is a mandatory requirement unless the student has been granted an exception in writing for either medical or disability-related reasons. See RSA 189:15.

Masks outside the buildings are optional, and it is the parent/guardian, not the minor student who ultimately is allowed to make the determination whether the child will be required to wear a mask outdoors. See District Safe Return Plan.

Educators will encounter circumstances where students seek to enter a building without a mask. The following measures should be offered to support the health and safety of the school community.

A Mask is Offered

Some students will not be wearing a mask simply because they forgot their mask or do not have one. All students without a mask should first be offered a mask. The matter is resolved if the student accepts and wears the mask.

Responses to Student Mask refusal

In the event a student refuses to wear a mask the following progressive measures will be taken in the hope of gaining compliance.

Initial Refusal

The student is escorted to the school nurse. The nurse shall check the student for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms are registered, the District's COVID-positive protocol shall be followed. The student shall be located in the quarantine space and asked to mask.

A student who does not manifest symptoms shall be counseled about the health-based reasons for the District's mask requirement and offered a mask. If the student agrees to wear a mask, the student shall be released to return to class. There shall be no disciplinary consequence.

If the student refuses to wear a mask the student shall be removed to the quarantine space, the principal shall be informed and the District shall follow its protocol for health-based exclusion under RSA 200:39 which states:

"200:39 Exclusion From School. – Whenever any student exhibits symptoms of contagion or is a hazard to himself or others, he shall be excluded from the classroom and his parents or guardians shall be notified as soon as possible."

The parent shall be informed that the exclusion is a health-based exclusion and that their child will be permitted to return to school as soon as they agree to wear a mask.

Second refusal to wear a mask

If a student attempts to return to school after having been medically excluded for not wearing a mask, and then refuses to wear a mask after being asked to do such, they shall be excluded once again pursuant to RSA 200:39, and a short-term disciplinary suspension shall be imposed on the basis that their behavior is detrimental to the health of others. See NH RSA 193:13(l)(a)(1).

The student shall be permitted to return prior to the expiration of their suspension if they agree to wear a mask in accord with District policy and the health exclusion shall be lifted.

Third Refusal to wear a mask

A student's third refusal to wear a mask into the building shall be considered both a health issue and a violation of the conditions of lawful entry into the building. The attempt to enter without a mask shall be considered a matter requiring both a health-based exclusion and also deemed a trespass. If the student is unable to be safely denied entry (ie. parent/guardian is not present or refuses to take the student home), the student shall be escorted to the nurse for a symptom assessment, and then asked to remain in the quarantine space until they can be picked up by their parent or guardian. The parent/guardian shall be informed that their child has been placed in the quarantine space pending the parent/guardian taking their child home. Depending on the age of the student consideration should be given as to whether the parental refusal to timely take their child home constitutes reportable neglect.

Quarantine space shall be treated as voluntary space. If the student refuses to enter the quarantine space, or elects to leave the space, and the student does not comply with requests from an administrator(s) or staff to return to the quarantine space, the police department shall be contacted to assist with the removal of the student from the school.

Further disciplinary consequences in the form of another short-term suspension for behavior and conduct detrimental to the health of students shall be issued in writing. The student shall be permitted to return prior to the expiration of their suspension if they agree to wear a mask in accord with District policy and the health exclusion shall be lifted.

The disciplinary notice letter shall also reiterate that wearing a mask is a requirement for entry into the school buildings, and that any further attempt to enter a school building without a mask shall be deemed a trespass. The letter shall be copied to the police department.

Fourth Refusal to wear a mask

In the case of a fourth refusal, the local police department shall be summoned to prevent any trespass where the student attempts to enter the school without a mask or enters wearing a mask, but subsequently removes their mask, and after prompting, refuses to don their mask.

The Superintendent shall be consulted as to further discipline and another letter addressing the discipline, the trespass and the health exclusion shall be issued.

The District shall permit re-entry of the student upon written assurances that the student will comply with the District's mask policy.



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

Continuing Resolutions for 2021
Adopted at the 2021 NHSBA Delegate Assembly – January 23, 2021

1. NHSBA supports reinstituting full school building aid funding to state-funded levels greater than state appropriations prior to the 2011 school building aid moratorium. (2020)
2. NHSBA calls upon the New Hampshire Legislature to fully fund any legislation that creates or has a fiscal impact on local school districts. (2020)
3. NHSBA supports legislation to restrict possession of firearms on school property to authorized law enforcement personnel only. (2020)
4. WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic required school districts to move to remote-only and hybrid instruction models; and

WHEREAS, the availability of broadband Internet services varies from town to town or city to city in New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, lack of access to adequate broadband creates an equity concern for students in towns or cities without 100% broadband coverage; and

WHEREAS, parents who may have elected a remote-only option, did not have that choice based on a lack of access to broadband Internet; and

WHEREAS, the availability of cellular coverage is also poor in many areas of state negating the ability of cellular hot spots to fill the void; and

WHEREAS, state initiatives like the SB170 bonding option are only financially viable for towns or cities with little to no existing broadband coverage; and

WHEREAS, prior to the availability of CARES Act funding, New Hampshire had spent less than \$100,000 in the last 10 years on broadband Internet projects; and

WHEREAS, a hybrid or remote learning option is likely to continue to be needed in the

short and long term as a response to public health concerns, weather events, and evolving service delivery models, let it be

RESOLVED: that the state seek to provide viable financial solutions and funding models to assist municipalities in completing the true “last-mile” broadband Internet networks throughout their towns or cities or establish a regulatory framework that requires providers to complete the networks, so that broadband Internet access is available along every public way in the state. (2021)

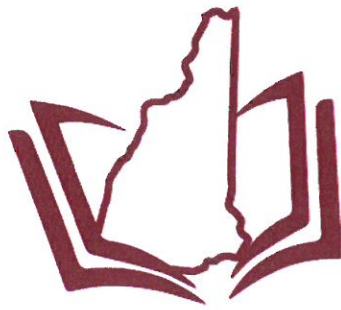
5. NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education. NHSBA supports adherence to all anti-discrimination laws, rules and statutes ensuring that no student is excluded or discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religious creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status, familial status, sexual orientation, health condition, or native language. (2021)
6. The Nottingham and Strafford School Boards oppose changes in the IDEA allocation calculations resulting in funds being disbursed directly to the school/district in which the child is registered (in towns which do not have high schools) and not to the student’s residence.

The Nottingham and Strafford School Boards calls for the immediate return of prior method of calculations for IDEA federal and state funds, as well as maintaining this commitment in the future to keep any and all funds distributed to the student’s town of residence.(2021)

7. School Administrative Units (SAU’s) should be held harmless during the 2021-2022 fiscal year for differentiated aid;

Differentiated aid for FY 2021-2022 should be based upon free and reduced meal numbers from FY 2019-2020.

The New Hampshire School Boards Association will make this a priority in its lobbying efforts during the upcoming NH legislative session. (2021)



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

Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual

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

Overview of Action Taken at the 2006 Delegate Assembly

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

Whereas NHSBA takes consistent positions on certain issues that repeatedly come before the Delegate Assembly as re-adopted resolutions; and

Whereas these issues deserve special recognition for their continued importance as long-standing positions;

Be it therefore resolved that any resolution adopted for at least three continuous years be moved to the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statements of Belief Manual.

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

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I	School Choice	1
II	Education Funding	1
III	Health Care Funding	3
IV	Charter Schools	4
V	Local Control/School District Autonomy	4
VI	School Safety	6
VII	Accountability	7
VIII	State Board of Education	8
IX	Federal Legislation	9
X	Public Pension System	11

Perennial Resolutions of the New Hampshire School Boards Association

I - School Choice

- I:A• NHSBA** supports the utilization of public education funds solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (1991)
- I:B• NHSBA** urges the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. Specifically, NHSBA opposes the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools. Rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms, NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public schools and meet current funding obligations and promises, benefiting the vast majority of America's children who are educated daily in our public schools. (2005)

II - Education Funding

- II:A• NHSBA** proposes that the state fully fund all state education aid formulas before the funding of any other state obligation. (1994)
- II:B• NHSBA** supports reducing the threshold for determining the local share of a catastrophic aid special education placement to 2 times the state average elementary and secondary costs of general education. (1998)
- II:C• NHSBA** supports the appropriation of at least \$50 million each fiscal year to fully fund, per RSA 198:15-a, IV, the state's Building Aid Program. This program has effectively created local and state partnerships in financing school building improvements that benefit all students of New Hampshire, and which should be considered a significant part of fulfilling the State's constitutional duty to provide an adequate education to all children. *(First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014)*
- II:D• NHSBA** supports a continual review of all costs associated with providing the opportunity for an adequate education, including costs associated with facilities, transportation and increasing the state commitment to reflect actual costs incurred. Any additional revenue raised by the state to meet this obligation shall be dedicated solely for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. *(First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014 – Revised in 2020)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

III - Health Care Funding

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

IV – Charter Schools

- IV:A• NHSBA** proposes that for any charter school authorized by the State Board of Education, state aid entitlements under RSA 198:42 should be paid directly to the charter school from state funds which are separate from local district grants. (2006)
- IV:B• NHSBA** proposes that the State Department of Education develop evaluation and accountability criteria for the state’s charter schools to ensure their financial stability as well as sound educational objectives. (2006)

V - Local Control and School District Autonomy

- V:A• NHSBA** supports legislation to lower the mandated 2/3-majority vote for passing a bond article to 60% for all school districts. (1997)
- V:B• NHSBA** supports the continued ability for Cooperative School Districts to adopt apportionment formulas based on locally determined factors. (2000)
- V:C• Deleted in 2014.**
- V:D• NHSBA** supports amending current law to allow school districts to establish a non-lapsing contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses. (2001)
- V:E• NHSBA** supports legislation that allows local governing bodies to indicate their recommendation on any warrant article, in addition to those recommendation requirements already specified in the municipal budget law, RSA 32. (2006)
- V:F• The NHSBA** supports the NH Legislature amending the “SB 2” process to allow a legislative body to specifically vote by a supermajority of 60% on a Warrant Article to create and fund a program that would then continue beyond the single year and its costs would be included as part of the following years default budget. (2008)
- V:G• NHSBA** opposes any change in statute implementing an “Evergreen Clause” in all negotiated contracts. Evergreen clauses mandate the continuation of any pay plan after the expiration of a contract when a successor agreement has not been reached. Any such provision exceeds previous standards and usurps local control, significantly tipping the

balance of negotiations. (*First adopted in 2009 – Revised in 2014*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

that the school board has the sole prerogative to adopt a local policy it deems appropriate. (2014)

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

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

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

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

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

VI - School Safety

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

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

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

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

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

VII - Accountability

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

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

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

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

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

VIII - State Board of Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the Commissioner of Education. (2005)

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

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

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

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

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

IX - Federal Legislation

Individual with Disabilities Education Act:

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

IX:B• Since its original enactment in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has played a pivotal role to assure that students with disabilities receive the services

they need for their success. **NHSBA** supports and applauds the efforts and goals encompassed by IDEA's mission.

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

- federal funding - Congress should fully fund the federal share of IDEA as a mandatory program;
- teacher recruitment and retention - federal law should create and encourage incentives for new teachers seeking special education certification;
- administration and paperwork - federal law should ease the current complex paper trail aimed at documenting compliance as well as allowing greater flexibility in the IEP process;
- due-process hearings - federal law should provide for adequate notice of issues and good-faith mediation
- related services - federal law should identify the financial role of other governmental units rather than fix all costs for related services on the narrow portion of the tax base that just serves education;
- private placements - federal law should focus on whether a substantive deprivation of educational opportunities exists in the public setting before consideration of private placement;
- safe learning environment - federal law should allow local school district personnel the flexibility and discretion to make appropriate discipline determinations that are in the best interests of all students when it comes to disciplining children with disabilities;
- over identification - federal law should clarify the definition of those disabilities that can result in over identification. (2002)

Every Student Succeeds Act:

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

National School Boards Association:

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

X – Public Pension System

X:A• *Deleted in 2019. Replaced with Continuing Resolution #4 (2019).*

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

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
September 7, 2021**

Present: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Barnes, Board Member Hardy, and Board Member Peters. 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.

2. RECOGNITIONS

a. Ryan Carlson's Eagle Scout Project

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott recognized Eagle Scout Ryan Carlson and noted the project Ryan spearheaded surrounding replacing cabinets and countertops in the teacher's lounge at the Reeds Ferry Elementary School.

b. Louis Normandin's Years of Service

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell recognized Mr. Louis Normandin's 30th year anniversary as a maintenance mechanic and shared that he would be retiring from the Merrimack School District. On behalf of the entire District, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell wished Mr. Normandin well.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Natalie Reyes-Silverman, London Court, addressed the Board and stated this was her second pandemic and she was never forced to be vaccinated, wear a mask, or not be able to attend school full-time. She noted that her public comment at the August 23 meeting was not accurate and asked that it be changed. (Recorder's Notation: Natalie Reyes-Silverman's statements at the August 23, 2021 school board meeting were verified and stand as is based on a review of the video recording of the meeting.)

Ms. Sarah Lach, 51 Cota Road, addressed the Board and said she felt if there was an "opt-out" for the use of masks then it was not a mandate.

State Representative Rosemarie Rung, 21 Ministerial Drive, addressed the Board and said positive COVID cases were rising. She said she felt it was important to mandate masks in schools or they would be moving backward.

Mr. Bill Pfingston, 17 Jessica Drive, addressed the Board and said he did not feel there was evidence to warrant a mask mandate.

Ms. Heather Robitaille, 45 Springfield Circle, addressed the Board and said she felt once there was an opt-out for the use of masks the efficacy went down. She added COVID had long-term effects for some people.

Ms. Heather Callahan, 5 King Henry Court, addressed the Board and stated the World Health Organization advised against the use of masks for children aged 5 and under and did not recommend the use of masks for children under 12 and still wanted her child to receive the education which he was entitled to.

Ms. Tiffany Castellucci-Trant, 419 South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said she was not in favor of the mask mandate. She said she felt the mask mandate violated the parents' rights to raise their children as they saw fit.

Ms. Jennifer Greenwood, Dahl Road, addressed the Board and stated she felt parents should decide whether or not their child needed to wear a mask.

Ms. Alyssa Smokler, Beacon Drive, addressed the Board and stated she was not in favor of the students wearing masks.

Ms. Erin Alukonis, 6 Mulikin Road, addressed the Board and said she agreed with the policy the Board had put in place regarding masks. She said she felt the use of masks should be the parent's decision.

Ms. Erin Pagan, 33 Mallard Point, addressed the Board and stated she felt the use of masks should be up to the parents.

Mr. Chuck Mower, 4 Depot Street, addressed the Board as the Chairman of the School District Budget Committee and said he was hoping they could begin a discussion about what the common interests were amongst the School Board and the administration relative to educational initiatives and how the Budget Committee could help support those goals.

4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

a. Superintendent Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said professional development had begun the previous week and was looking forward to a successful beginning to the school year. He said some professional development topics included using Canvas as the student-learning management system, and Universal Design for Learning Program (UDL). He added there were approximately fifteen different sessions offered during three separate time periods.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen added Dr. Robert Brooks, a nationally renowned author and speaker spoke with staff about resilience and motivation, and Dr. Allison Roy discussed the impact of stress and anxiety in the development of children and adults.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen asked for the community's support in keeping the kids in school and unless it was for religious reasons, to consider getting the vaccine as it was one of the mitigating strategies. He said the District website has COVID data that contains information regarding the positivity rate.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the administration was in the process of rewriting the guidance regarding quarantining and isolation in a user-friendly document and would be posted on the District's website the following day.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen shared that beginning that week people who had given many years of dedicated service to the School District (20, 25, 30, 35, & 40 years) would receive a thank you card and a pin indicating their years of service from the Merrimack School District.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen also wished those who celebrated Rosh Hashanah a good year.

b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott said "Handwriting without Tear" was a program that was new to the pre-school and teachers had received training regarding it. She said there was also a cohort of kindergarten teachers who would also be piloting the program in the coming years.

c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated, in response to a previous public comment, that the previous April a \$4 million lease/purchase was approved for a unit ventilation upgrade in the schools. He said the contract was signed, the order was placed, and the work would be forthcoming.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the bleachers at the Smith Gymnasium, and the James Masticola Upper Elementary School APR were complete. He said the new floor including striping was also complete and noted all of the projects were paid for by the Trustees of Trust Funds and cost approximately \$350,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell explained they had gone through every single fountain and performed testing for lead in the water and would have a full report that would be posted on the website the following week.

c. School Board Update

Chair Guagliumi noted the Merrimack Teachers Association (MTA) contract and the Advise and Confer were up for negotiations in the current year.

Chair Guagliumi requested a meeting between the School Board, Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen, and administration to discuss areas of focus and goals.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen commented he felt it was important to include the teachers and the community in that discussion.

c. Student Representative Update

Kaitlyn Vadney, Student Representative said she was currently a high school junior at Merrimack High School and looked forward to being the Student Representative.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Rescind Motion from August 23, 2021, Meeting

Chair Guagliumi commented that both motions from the last meeting had considerable overlap and she was advised to add the item to the agenda so the first motion could be rescinded. She said the current protocol regarding the Task Force recommendations regarding masking was in effect from September 1st through September 30th. She added the intention was that it would be reviewed on a monthly basis and adapted as necessary.

Chair Guagliumi read aloud the following regarding the use of masks as summarized below:

On August 23rd the School Board approved the District's Task Force recommendation regarding mask wearing with the exception that parents could opt-out of mask wearing for their children while they were in class. During the timeframe of September 1st through September 30th the first 16 days of school masks are to be worn by students, staff, visitors, and volunteers within the school buildings. Given this directive by the Board, it is a joint request of the District's Chief Education Officer, Bill Olsen, and herself, as the School Board Chair, that those seated at the table model the current masking protocol while at Town Hall and also as the requirements changed from month to month. She said masks were available to everyone who wished to wear one.

As a reminder Chair Guagliumi stated there were two motions made at the August 23, 2021, meeting that overlapped. She said Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen suggested that the first motion be rescinded.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the first motion was regarding the general option to opt-out of wearing a mask which passed by a 3 to 1 vote. He said Chair Guagliumi was not able to participate due to technical issues. Further, he said after the re-establishment of the telephone connection another motion was made which allowed students to opt-out while in the classroom only.

Vice Chair Rothhaus said she did not feel there was enough information regarding which motion was to be rescinded and would have liked to have had that information prior to the meeting.

Board Member Barnes suggested both of the motions should be rescinded and then take another vote that more accurately reflected the Board's intent. She also suggested that the motion be tabled.

Board Member Hardy said she felt it was important to have a policy in place prior to the students starting school and there was no time to table the discussion.

Board Member Peters said she did not feel the first motion had to be rescinded just because they added language in the second motion. She added the policy had been published based on the second vote.

Chair Guagliumi provided the Board with a copy of a revised "Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy." She said the policy was for the Board to review prior to the next meeting. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the proposed policy was vetted by legal counsel and was in line with the second motion passed two weeks prior.

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented that moving forward she felt they need to find out how many student athletes were vaccinated and what the NHIAA's position was. Chair Guagliumi instructed Board Members to reach out to her and Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen with suggestions.

Board Member Hardy confirmed that the second mask policy voted upon two weeks prior was the policy passed out to the Board minus the indoor sports topic. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied that was correct.

Chair Guagliumi said the policy would be on the agenda at the next School Board meeting and noted they had the ability to waive the two-week rule in an emergency situation.

b. Health and Safety Task Force Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated he would provide the Board with updated data every day or every other day from the Town's Health Director, Erin Olson, and pointed out the information was updated on a daily basis and was available on the District's website. He said he would also include the opt-out numbers by school which would also be updated daily.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Student Enrollment Update

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he was particularly pleased with the number of enrollments at the elementary level. He expressed his thanks to the Board for approving an additional hire at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School as it reduced the class sizes.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said he would continue to provide the Board with monthly enrollment reports. He added he would be speaking with Mr. Tim Thompson who was the Director of Community Development to review the residential development in the Town of Merrimack; noting they should keep an eye on the development in the Town up to three years out. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said for every \$1.00 contributed to the tax base there was approximately \$1.30 to \$1.45 in expenses created by residential development.

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented she appreciated the reduction in class size but also felt it was important to retain the wonderful teachers they had. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated that he was absolutely in agreement with that and was something that manifested through the collective bargaining process in terms of their ability to attract, recruit, and retain high-quality teachers.

b. Consideration for the Board to Accept Emails from the Public

Board Member Barnes said she felt public comments should be accepted via email beginning immediately.

c. Review of September 2, 2021, Professional Development Program

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott noted they had two keynote speakers, Dr. Robert Brooks, and Dr. Allison Roy, addressed the staff via Zoom and the staff was able to interact with both of them. She said they also reviewed Canvas and thanked Ms. Nancy Rose, Director of Technology and Library Media Services for her assistance in rolling it out. She also said there were speakers who discussed the Universal Design for Learning Program (UDL) as well as speakers who addressed the social and emotional component.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott stated the other priority addressed during the professional development sessions was the ELC (Essential Learning Competency's) in grades pre-K through grade 12.

7. APPROVAL REQUESTS

a. August 23, 2021 Minutes

Edits:

Page 1, line #8 – Board Member Hardy and Board Member Peters were added to those who were present. – Board Member Barnes

Page 6, line #245 – “Board Member Barnes suggested that the School Board could initiate a policy mandating masks but the like many other policies, parents could sign a document for their child to opt-out.” was changed to “Board Member Barnes suggested that the School Board could initiate a policy mandating masks similar to another policy about objectional content that parents could sign a document for their child to opt-out.” – Board Member Barnes

Page 9, line #407 was changed to: “Board Member Barnes reminded everyone, in response to earlier public comment that there were water filtration systems in every school in the District and the water was PFOA free. – Board Member Barnes

Page 9, line #412 was changed to: “Mr. Brian Trant, 419 South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said he thought the motion made by the Board was that masks were optional in hallways.” – Board Member Barnes

Chair Guagliumi stated Ms. Natalie Reyes-Silverman had said that she did not feel her public comment was properly reflected.

Page 2, line #98 – “Ms. Kathy (inaudible)” was changed to “Ms. Kathy Komar” – Chair Guagliumi

Page 9, line #437 – “Mr. Finlay Rotthaus” was changed to “Mr. Finlay Rothhaus” – Vice Chair Rothhaus”

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2021, as amended. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

b. August 26, 2021, Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the August 26, 2021, meeting. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 1. (Abstained – Board Member Peters)

c. June 2, 2021, Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Vice Chair Rothhaus made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the June 2, 2021, meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

d. June 9, 2021, Non-Public Minutes

MOTION: Board Member Peters made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from the June 9, 2021, meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

e. Educator/Administrator Nominations

- Ms. Brielle Lapiana, School Counselor, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Sarah Leland, Special Education Teacher, Merrimack High School
- Ms. Amanda Belliveau, Grade 6 Teacher, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
- Ms. Melissa Gagne, Director of Human Resources, Districtwide

f. Approval of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to approve the educator/administrator nominations and the Approval of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process as presented. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

8. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

There were no reports to share.

b. Correspondence

Chair Guagliumi said the entire school board received twelve emails regarding support of students wearing masks in school, concern for health, and support for Mr. Olsen's back to school plan. The school board received 5 additional emails regarding no masks, mask opt-out option and optional masks.

Chair Guagliumi reported that she received 3 emails in support of masks and three emails expressing concern over the agenda item that referred to the rescinding of the mask motion.

Chair Guagliumi said she received correspondence containing specific situations relating to their children. One email was referred to Merrimack High School Principal Stephen Clair. She referred another email from a parent expressing frustration with the support for her children and lack of remote learning options to the appropriate building administrators.

Chair Guagliumi said one email sent to public comment was addressed by Board Member Barnes.

Board Member Peters commented she received an email from a parent who was concerned about the \$10.00 technology fee for the 1:1 computers. She said she referred the parent to Ms. Nancy Rose and said the Board would take the matter under advisement during their budget discussions.

c. Comments

Board Member Barnes commented the memorandum dated September 3rd included in the Board's package stated: "I believe we should require students who have opted out to wear a mask at all times in our schools indoors if they have been identified as a close contact of a family member in the home who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is my recommendation that also applies to a student who has been identified as a close contact with someone in the community who has tested positive." She asked why those students were not being asked to quarantine and also stated she felt it was very important to vet that issue. Chair Guagliumi said she would make sure the discussion was added to the next meeting's agenda.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people made comments:

Ms. Heather Robitalle, 45 Springfield Circle thanked the Board for all of their hard work, particularly regarding social and emotional learning.

Ms. Rosemary Rung, 21 Ministerial Drive said the CDC still recommended a 14-day quarantine for an unvaccinated person who had COVID-19 exposure.

Ms. Heather Callahan, 5 King Henry Court commented the World Health Organization stated that children under the age of 6 should be within sight of a parent or guardian if they were required to wear a mask. She also said that she liked the idea of the District sending out surveys.

Ms. Ashley Tenhave, 75 Shelbourne Road, addressed the Board and said she felt it was dangerous not to require a mask while in school.

Ms. Tiffany Castellucci-Trant, 419 South Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said she was not in favor of the mask mandate and was disappointed with the Board's decision regarding the use of masks.

Mr. Bill Pfingston, 17 Jessica Drive, addressed the Board and said he did not feel anyone should be allowed to take pictures during the meetings.

Ms. Alyssa (not provided), a resident, said she registered her child for school and she was not asked whether or not she wanted to opt-out of the mask policy. Chair Guagliumi said the opt-out option was available on the District's website.

Mr. von Schoen 4 Conservation Drive, addressed the Board and suggested the Board focus more on clarity in education and how learning platforms were introduced. He added that he felt there should be more simplicity in sending out assignments as well as updating the grades.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: At approximately 9:20 p.m. Board Member Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
Merrimack School District, SAU #26
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room
September 20, 2021**

6:30 p.m. – Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c)

- Staff Welfare

Present: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Rothhaus, Board Member Barnes, Board Member Hardy, and Board Member Peters. 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

State Representative Jeanine Notter, 19 Whittier Road, addressed the Board and expressed support of the parents who were opposed to face coverings and divisive concepts.

Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:

Ms. Kate Gagnon, 6 Glenwood Lane

The wonderful book called "The Death of Expertise" – an overly simplified summary is that it outlines our society's strain from trusted experts in their respective fields. It details how people believe they can find information just a click away that overrules a field expert's years of knowledge. I'm not writing to share my stance on masks or vaccines because mine is irrelevant. What I am asking is that you defer to the experts. We are privileged to live in close proximity to some of the top hospitals in not just the country, but the world. Boston Children's Hospital is currently ranked #1 in the nation, Massachusetts General is ranked 5th, and right here in New Hampshire, we have CHaD. Let those voices, the top medical experts be the ones that guide your decisions. In addition to the medical experts, I would encourage you to survey teachers and staff in the District to gain their input on having children masked or not. Our family has had the pleasure of attending three of Merrimack's schools. At each school, we have been truly blessed by the education and support provided by each of its teachers and staff. We have seen firsthand the level of commitment and the heart they bring to work each day. I thank all of the district employees for their Herculean efforts during these abundantly strange times. Their voices should be heard and weighed in the decision-making process. After all, they are the heroes showing up to educate our children.

Ms. Shayna Debork, 89 Belmont Street, addressed the Board, said she did not feel that the Board had the authority to force a medical device on her child, and the decision to wear a mask should be left to the parents.

Ms. Debork stated she was not aware that the Merrimack School District had contracted with 2Revolutions. She asked for a more clear and simplistic explanation as to what their purpose was. She said she felt the company had an extreme ideology whose sole objective was to make the children into "change agents." Ms. Debork said she felt the contract with 2Revolutions should be terminated.

Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:

Mr. Matt Clement, 65 Patten Road

I would like this entered into the meeting minutes. I will not be attending the meeting because I do not want to be in a confined room indoors with people not wearing masks. We should be following the CDC guidelines and listening to the professionals. I have watched most of the School Board meetings and must admit that I am shocked that you have people on the School Board that sit there without MASKS (you know who you are and a lot of voters are watching). This is clearly a political statement and one that I know many people will not forget when it comes time to vote you out of office. I see the anti-mask people coming to the meetings and making a complete circus of the process and a few Board Members cave to the loud minority. If you ask at the beginning of the meeting that everyone wear masks and they don't, THEN ASK THEM TO LEAVE! There has been ample time to simply send out a survey to poll the district parents about whether they want masks or not, yet you have chosen NOT to do that because you want to circumvent the choice of the parents in the district for your own political bias. Had you taken a poll (after the numbers for Delta started to rise), you would overwhelmingly see that parents and faculty want to wear masks and not allow people to opt-out and spread the virus. Stop ignoring the scientific research and do what should be done to protect our students before we can no longer say 0 students have died in NH. It's not a matter of IF, but WHEN. When that day does come, let's not let it be a Merrimack student or faculty.

From the CDC website:

0-17yr old deaths involving COVID in the US is 439.

0-17yr old deaths involving COVID in FL is 33.

0-17yr old deaths involving COVID in TX is 62.

0-17yr old deaths involving COVID in CA is 41.

0-17yr old deaths involving COVID in GA is 20.

These schools have been in session longer than New Hampshire so the numbers are higher, but it's very naive to think that NH is somehow invincible and it can't/won't happen here too. I encourage you to read the article here for some interesting and relevant information on masks and children. <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/face-masks-and-kids-separating-fact-from-fiction/2021/08>

I want to also say that because you have decided to allow parents to opt their kids out and allowing potential spreaders into the classroom with other kids who have opted to wear masks, you should provide numbers to parents on a class by class basis so that parents can make an informed decision to pull their kids out of school if the risk is just too great. My child could be in a class with 90% of the kids opting out and spreading the virus to everyone in the room and I wouldn't even have that information with the exception of asking my kid to "SPY" on other kids for us so that we can make an ADULT decision. Why is it so hard to be transparent and give us the information? I'm not asking

103 for names or any personal information just a number of students that will NOT be
104 wearing a mask in my child's classroom, I get almost daily emails from the school for
105 various pieces of information so it is not because you do not have the ability to
106 communicate with parents, but that you chose not to do the right thing.
107

108 Ms. Michelle Carcatos, 25 Swift Lane, addressed the Board and said she felt masks were
109 psychological stresses for children and were destructive to learning and communicating in
110 classrooms. Ms. Carcatos also said she did not agree with the district's hiring of 2Revolutions
111 and felt Critical Race Theory was illegal in the State of New Hampshire.
112 Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:
113

114 Ms. Ashleigh Lowe, 2 W. Chamberlain Road
115

116 I have been watching the meetings on TV and do not currently feel comfortable coming
117 to the meetings in person. From what I have seen the room where the meetings are
118 held is rather small, and it had lately become very crowded with the vast majority of
119 those in attendance not wearing masks. I feel this is not a safe environment to put
120 myself in during a pandemic that seems to be gaining steam rather than slowing down.
121 I also have fears about my personal safety as my opinion will be different from that of
122 most of the people in attendance and the behavior of some residents give me pause
123 to attend in person.
124

125 I write to encourage the Board to rethink the current policy on making masks mandatory
126 for everyone in a School District. The entirety of the preschool through elementary
127 school population is not yet age-eligible for a vaccine. In recent weeks, pediatric cases
128 have been steadily climbing, as well as hospitalizations and PICU admissions among
129 children who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. I feel that the very least we can
130

131 do to help protect our children, who are largely unprotected without access to vaccines,
132 is to have them wear a mask while inside district buildings as well as on buses to and
133 from school. Masking is a simple and easy way to offer them at least some protection.
134 My son has autism, has an IEP, and attends Merrimack High School. Wearing a mask
135 is extremely challenging for him because he has fairly severe sensory issues. I send
136 him with a mask every day because I feel it is the right thing to do. He is doing his part,
137 (even with his disability) and we, as a family, are doing our part to help protect others
138 and control the spread of the virus.
139

140 Please note that this pandemic looked vastly different in May when the district asked
141 parents to make choices about their students return to school. We were asked when
142 case numbers were low and the district was offering mitigation strategies for COVID-
143 19 with distancing and masks. A couple of months later the reopening plan was
144 announced. It stated that even though state agencies recommended students and staff
145 be masked while in buildings, masks would be optional. A motion was made to make
146 masks mandatory but the district offered parents an "opt-out", essentially making
147 masks optional. It wasn't a policy it was a cop-out. Around the same time, any truly
148 district-supported, robust remote options for the majority of the students were taken
149 away. Special education aside, where there seems to be much more flexibility for those
150 who are on an IEP to access their curriculum remotely, the vast majority of students
151 lost the full remote option. The Delta variant has driven case counts up, and it has
152 caused an exponential spike in cases among children. Vaccines help to prevent severe
153 illness and death. Our youngest student population can not yet reap the benefit of
154 those vaccines. Their parents, as well as the parents of vaccinated children with

155 compromised immune systems or those who have family members who are more at
156 risk for severe disease, had to make an impossible choice when those robust, remote
157 options were taken away. The Delta variant changes things and it is a very different
158 landscape than it was in May.

159
160 I ask the Board to please consider making masking mandatory for everyone while in a district
161 building and while using district contracted transportation services to and from school. I also
162 ask the Board to please strongly consider offering a remote option like parents had access to
163 for the 2020-2021 school year. Asking parents to send their children into an unsafe school
164 building OR have to homeschool their children because the remote options are no longer
165 available just is not right. Masks will offer an inexpensive layer of protection that would make
166 parents feel a little bit better about the choice to send their child into a building to access their
167 education.

168
169 There is no substitute for in person education. It is the best choice for everyone when it can
170 be delivered safely for all involved. The last thing I want to see is for cases to spread quickly
171 again and for the district to have to go back to remote for any amount of time. My son
172 deserves better than that. He was remote from March of 2020 until June 28, 2021. Never did
173 I ever think that my son, with a significant intellectual disability, would not enter a school
174 building for more than a calendar year, more than an entire school year. He got through it,
175 his team was nothing short of superheroes, but he deserves better. He has the right to access
176 his curriculum in an appropriate and safe environment. Masks will help make both of those
177 qualifications a reality.

178
179 Mr. Bill Phingston, 17 Jessica Drive, addressed the Board and thanked them for listening. He
180 said he considered the gym a classroom and noted his child could opt-out of wearing a mask
181 during music class unless he/she was singing. He also said there was verbiage added to the
182 opt-out option and requested clarification. Mr. Phingston also said he did not agree with the
183 district's contract with 2Revolutions.

184
185 Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:

186
187 Ms. Naomi Schoenfeld, 10 Independence Drive

188
189 Please be aware that those attending tonight's meeting in person do not necessarily represent
190 the broader voices of the Merrimack community. Rather, they represent those who are
191 comfortable attending an unmasked indoor gathering, in a manner that is counter to the
192 Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) published guidance that masks be worn in indoor groups
193 by all individuals, whether vaccinated or not, in places at or above specific levels of
194 community transmission.

195
196 Similarly, I urge you to take any unilateral petitions or demands made by small groups of
197 Merrimack residents in their proper context. While they may provide valuable insight into the
198 beliefs and desires of that sub-group, they do not represent Merrimack as a whole — and
199 should not be treated as if they do.

200
201 Lastly, I would like to voice support for the district's consideration of a 2Revolutions strategic
202 planning initiative, recently posted to the School District Facebook page. Whether this specific
203 vendor or some other approach is ultimately chosen for our district after public and district-
204 level evaluation, it is wonderful to see competency-based and student-centered approaches
205 being considered by our schools.

Ms. Natalie Reyes-Silverman, London Court, addressed the Board and said she heard that whether or not students were wearing masks depended upon the individual teacher's feelings who were policing the use of masks.

Ms. Reyes-Silverman also stated she was not in favor of hiring 2Revolutions and said she was a Hispanic American and never felt to be the subject of systematic racism.

Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:

Ms. Kim Elliott, 78 Jessica Drive

I would like to attend tonight's meeting. I'm choosing to provide comments through this email after watching the last couple of meetings and seeing people in a small contained space without masks. Thank you for allowing this option, so that other voices may be heard.

This is my 24th year teaching in Nashua, and my 13th year as a parent in the Merrimack School District. I have been attending School Board meetings since the 90's. Sometimes, the only people in attendance are the people who are presenting something that night. Perhaps we have the pandemic to thank for the increased involvement in our system. However, right now, the optics look very skewed. The people who are choosing to come in person are not representative of all the stakeholders in Merrimack. Please know that

many families support the health and safety decisions the Board has made; even if we aren't there to fill the room.

I provided some local numbers to show the difference between these district-based decisions. On September 14th, the Superintendent of the Nashua School District released the weekly numbers for positive Covid cases within the entire district. Nashua has 17 schools and over 10,000 students. Over a four-day time period, there were 10 new cases reported. In comparison, Bedford High School (just the high school, not the district) reported 21 new active cases during that same time period. Nashua is mask mandated. Bedford is mask optional (with very few kids wearing them).

Regarding curriculum decisions, I know the proposed new curriculum goes through extensive analysis, possible pilot programs, and committee review. Curriculum was never flashy. It never drew large numbers of people to School Board meetings in the past. I've watched Nashua Board of Education meetings draw groups of protesters, even when nothing curricular was on the agenda. I hope that does not happen in Merrimack. If it does, I ask that all Board Members stick to the process, and evaluate materials/programs as you always have done.

Thank you for your commitment to our community. Thank you for maintaining order during public comment. From home, it is noticed that you are all remaining objective and professional.

Ms. Lindsey Thibeault, 19 Pleasant Street, addressed the Board and said it was becoming clear that no matter how much data was presented by either side there would never be a definitive answer and there were multiple different opinions. She said she felt people should be able to make health-related decisions for themselves, including herself, and her children. Additionally, Ms. Thibeault commented that she did not think the educational focus should not be under the guise of transformation as 2Revolutions solicited.

Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:

Mr. Robert Reisman, 8 Iris Drive

I am emailing to advocate that Merrimack adopt a masking policy that is similar to that of Hudson, NH. In brief, the policy is informed by the number of cases in the town where numerical thresholds set each option. I believe that masks are mandatory if there are over 50 cases in the town, for example. Also, there is universal masking below the age of 12, as these kids cannot be vaccinated. Individual students may be opted out based on Individual Education Plans (IEP) and doctor's notes. With pediatric Covid cases rising and no vaccine yet for kids under 12, this makes sense at the moment. I also wish to vocalize support for the use of 2Revolutions as a tool for moving toward equitable and learner-centered schools and systems.

Ms. Sabrina Bebe, 81 Wire Road, asked if it was still in the Board's purview to allow the district to go remote because they were no longer under a government order state of emergency. Chair Guagliumi replied to her knowledge the Board could not allow the district to go remote. Ms. Bebe also said she was not in favor of using 2Revolutions. She said she did not believe systemic racism happened in New Hampshire.

Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:

Ms. Sara Hartwell, 49 Joppa Road

I believe in a time of a health crisis so large it's categorized as a pandemic; we should be listening to the doctors and scientists. Those doctors and scientists "in charge" recommend masks in conditions like we are in now, especially for the unvaccinated. I truly feel that, until kids are eligible to be vaccinated, they should be protected. To protect all, but especially the involuntarily unvaccinated, masks are worn at all times in the building.

Mr. Tom Gibson, 25 Packard Drive, addressed the Board and asked if the only emails that the Board received were pro masks. Board Member Barnes replied she was reading all of the emails that were sent to publiccomment@sau26.org and there were no more to be read until the end of the meeting.

Ms. Heather Callahan, 5 King Henry Court, addressed the Board and read aloud the following statement which had 100 signatures as summarized as follows:

As of October 1, 2021, we, the undersigned, will not comply with the mask mandate in our Merrimack Schools. Masks have not proven to be effective at reducing transmission of COVID-19 in school settings. A mask mandate infringes on our parental autonomy to make medical decisions for our own children.

Merrimack's current mask policy violates safety guidelines put forth by the World Health Organization in that "Children aged 5 years and under should not be required to wear masks. There may be local requirements for children aged 5 years and under to wear masks or specific needs in some settings, such as being physically close to someone who is ill. In these circumstances, if the child wears a mask, a parent or other guardian should be within direct line of sight to supervise the safe use of the mask." "Children should not wear a mask when playing sports or doing physical activities as not to compromise their children."

309 *We expressly prohibit any employees or associates of the Merrimack School District from*
310 *coercing or encouraging our children to wear a mask. We support the right of the parents to*
311 *decide.*
312

313 Ms. Jennifer Greenwood, Dahl Road, addressed the Board and stated she felt choices to
314 make medical decisions were still being taken away. She said while there was an opt-out
315 option for students to wear masks they still had to wear masks in school buildings at certain
316 times. Ms. Greenwood also said she had multiple questions regarding surveys and asked
317 who she could speak with to obtain answers.
318

319 Ms. Alyssa Smokler, 26 Beacon Drive, addressed the Board and said she felt the choice to
320 mask the students should be up to the parents. She also said she was strongly against the
321 CRT (Critical Race Theory) program and would pull her child from the district if that were to
322 come to fruition.
323

324 Ms. Naomi Holter, 10 Everest Drive, addressed the Board and said she liked the fact that
325 there was a compromise when it came to the use of masks; although she said her personal
326 preference was for all students to wear masks.
327

328 Ms. Shannon Rand, 1 Blair Road, addressed the Board and stated she felt the use of masks
329 should be left up to the parents. She also said she was not in favor of hiring 2Revolutions.
330

331 Emma, a student at Merrimack High School, said she refused to wear a mask despite what
332 the School Board thought or imposed.
333

334 Mr. Mark Fazio, 9 Whitewood Lane, stated he had concerns regarding the selection of
335 2Revolutions as a consulting group and strategic planning advisor. He said he was unable to
336 find anything that discussed any improvements they had delivered to other districts.
337

338 Board Member Barnes read aloud an email as summarized below:
339

340 Ms. Brittany Damon, Turnbuckle Lane
341

342 I wish only to go on record against masks in our schools. I will say only that it is a decision
343 that should be made by parents and parents only. As far as 2Revolutions, again it seems as
344 though many have already stated their opinions on this. I cannot express my disgust with this
345 organization. When the people who are the instructional disruptors I do not see a bright future
346 with these people. The proponents of this group state well, it hasn't started yet so let's see.
347 My defense to that is that it has started. According to the email we received from Bill, we are
348 already in a partnership with 2Revolutions and they will be involved in helping to select the
349 next Superintendent. This is one of the most troubling parts. They state that they believe in
350 the staff being diverse as well. I am surprised that the teachers are on board with this knowing
351 that they want teachers to look very different than most of those that we have.
352

353 As said earlier, you can opt-out with a 30-day notice as two other districts have already done
354 in New Hampshire. Hopefully, Merrimack will do the right thing and think of our children, and
355 if not, I know a lot of parents that will seek alternative ways of education, me being one of
356 them.
357

358 Ms. Cheryl Davillis, Cota Road, addressed the Board and said she was very concerned about
359 the use of masks because the Delta variant was so much more contagious. She also stated
360 she was in favor of educating students about the history of systemic racism.

Mr. A.J. Gutierrez, 10 Danbury Drive, addressed the Board and said masking students should be up to the parents.

Ms. Kathy Komar, Belmont Drive, addressed the Board and stated per the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), there was no evidence that showed masks were effective against COVID-19. She said she felt it should be up to the parents whether or not their children wore a mask.

Ms. Lila York, 46 Belmont Drive, addressed the Board and said she believed the use of masks should be left up to the parents.

Ms. Tiffany Castelluci, Baboosic Lake Road, addressed the Board and said it was never her intent to say anything to anyone on Board that was hurtful. She said forcing children to wear a mask was taking away their rights and felt it should be up to the parents to decide if their children wear a mask.

Ms. Castelluci said a Special Meeting of the School Board was being requested and noted the members each received a copy of the petition. She said the meeting would be to:

- To see if the voter's of the Merrimack SAU 26 School District will vote to adopt the following provisions pertaining to requirements to wear face coverings within the Merrimack SAU 26 School District.
 - The use of face coverings shall be optional on school property for all students at all times at the sole discretion of their parent or guardian.
 - The use of face coverings shall be optional at all times for any employees and visitors on School District facilities and attending school-sanctioned events.
 - The use of face coverings shall be optional at all times on school property for all students at the sole discretion of their parent or guardian during sports practices and events.

Ms. Castelluci said 148 people had already signed the petition.

Ms. Castelluci asked about other precautions that were supposed to be taken along with wearing masks. She also said she did not feel Critical Race Theory should be taught in the Merrimack School District.

Mr. Mike Drouin, 5 Vanderbilt Drive, suggested they focus more on the \$80 million school budget. He pointed out there were multiple open volunteer positions to serve on Boards and Committees in the town.

Ms. Jeanine Notter, 19 Whittier Road, said she received a message stating that \$76,000 had been spent for the Merrimack School District to enter into a contract with 2Revolutions.

3. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions.

410
411 **4. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**
412

413 a. Superintendent Update
414

415 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School was being
416 recognized by the American Heart Association as a “Heart of Gold Top School” in New Hampshire
417 based on their dedication and mission of the health and well-being of the students.
418

419 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen congratulated Mr. Kevin Freeman, Custodian at the
420

421 Merrimack High School for recognition the previous week on New Hampshire Chronicle regarding
422 his positive attitude and the positive impact he had on students. He added the Merrimack High
423 School football team won the game with Nashua South the previous weekend with a final score
424 of 28 – 26.
425

426 b. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Update
427

428 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Yarlott stated she would provide updates at the next
429 School Board meeting.
430

431 c. Assistant Superintendent for Business Update
432

433 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell shared that the operating budget for 2022 –
434 2023 would be coming up and one of the major portions included in all of the operating budgets
435 was benefits. He said the district would be provided with the guaranteed maximum rate soon and
436 he would announce that number at the next meeting.
437

438 d. School Board Update
439

440 Chair Guagliumi stated the Board received a petition for a Special Meeting regarding masks
441 optional everywhere on school property at all times for students, staff, and visitors. She said the
442 petition had been sent to legal counsel and she would keep the public posted.
443

444 e. Student Representative Update
445

446 Student Representative Vadney said she had no updates to share.
447

448 **5. OLD BUSINESS**
449

450 a. Health & Safety Task Force Update
451

452 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said the School Board passed a revised mask policy on
453 August 23, 2021, which indicated that all students would not have to wear masks in the
454 classrooms but would have to wear masks everywhere else (hallways, etc.) in the building. He
455 said it was agreed that the policy would be re-evaluated on a monthly basis. He said he met with
456 the Health & Safety Task Force, the leadership team, and listened to the New Hampshire
457 Department of Health and Human Services presentation on September 15, 2021, whose
458 recommendation was that everyone; staff & students wear masks indoors at all times. He said,
459 however, that his recommendation was to continue with the current policy. He also pointed out

460 that there was an increase in positive COVID cases and an increase in students and staff who
461 had to quarantine.

462
463 Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen reminded everyone it was his job to keep the students in
464 school and fully understood how awful the previous year was due to COVID. He recommended
465 to continue with the current mask policy and felt it was currently the best compromise possible.
466

467 Board Member Barnes asked what the expectations were for quarantining and who would be
468 asked to quarantine and when. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied the
469 recommendation was that those who were in close contact with people with COVID, particularly
470 in the same household, and were unvaccinated quarantine for 14-days with a test 3 – 5 days into
471 the quarantine.
472

473 Board Member Barnes asked if the School District had a record of who was vaccinated. Interim
474 Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied they did not ask people what their vaccination status was,
475 noting they used an honor system.
476

477 Board Member Barnes asked if they should really be operating with the thought that everyone
478 was not vaccinated (between the ages of 12 to 18) because statistics indicated they probably
479 were not. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen said two-thirds of eligible children in Merrimack
480 were not vaccinated.
481

482 Board Member Hardy asked what defined a close contact. Interim Chief Educational Officer
483 Olsen replied a close contact was defined as a student who was exposed to another student who
484 was within 3 to 6 feet for more than 15 minutes or within a 24-hour period of time masked or
485 unmasked. He added the nursing staff was very careful about who was masked and not masked
486 in terms of the likelihood of a child being exposed.
487

488 Chair Guagliumi asked Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen to review the positivity numbers
489 of COVID for the past month. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied the number (per
490 100,000 people) was 162 with a test positivity rate of 8.80% on August 12, 2021; on August 23,
491 2021, the number was 195 with a test positivity rate of 7.30%; on August 31, 2021, the number
492 was 355 with a test positivity rate of 11.6%; on September 2, 2021; the number 302 with a test
493 positivity rate of 7.40%; and on September 16, 2021, the number of cases was 310 with a test
494 positivity rate 6.60%. He said the above data, according to the Department of Public Health
495 matrix, put Merrimack in the category of substantial transmission which recommended universal
496 masking.
497

498 Chair Guagliumi asked if there were any evidence that COVID was being spread within the School
499 District. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied it was difficult to determine if the positive
500 cases were due to children being in school or whether it was coming from the outside.
501

502 Board Member Peters said she felt it was important to clarify the mask policy with all of the
503 teachers so there was consistency across the board.
504

505 Board Member Barnes commented she felt when addressing quarantining they should do so with
506 the assumption that the students were not vaccinated.
507

508 **MOTION:** Board Member Barnes made a motion to instruct the administration to have a
509 quarantining practice with the assumption that any student in close proximity to an active COVID
510 case is assumed to be unvaccinated. Chair Guagliumi seconded the motion.
511

Discussion:

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen clarified that quarantining only applied to those students who were within close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID within the community or within their household. He said, otherwise, in the community or in a household where a child might be fully vaccinated, they should self-assess for symptoms.

Board Member Peters said she did not feel that students who were vaccinated should be forced to quarantine simply because the other two-thirds had not been vaccinated.

Board Member Hardy said she did not want to assume everyone was not vaccinated because if a child was in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID that parent could (if they so choose) produce a vaccination card and they would then not need to quarantine.

Board Member Barnes explained the reason behind her motion was that she was not aware that the district was giving parents an opportunity to produce a vaccination card. She asked Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen for clarification. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he would have to check with the nursing staff.

Board Member Hardy commented that the parent could offer proof of vaccination and that would not violate HIPPA laws.

Board Member Barnes withdrew her motion but stated she felt there needed to be clarification. Chair Guagliumi also withdrew her motion and noted administration needed to provide clarification.

MOTION: Board Member Hardy made a motion to continue the current mask policy for one month and to be re-evaluated prior to the month of November. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

b. Update to the Use of Masks by Students and Staff Policy (EBCVM)

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen noted on September 23, 2021, the School Board approved a mask policy that was different from the one originally approved on August 19, 2020. He said he checked with Attorney Kathy Peahl, who suggested that the original policy be rescinded since the later policy was substantially different.

Chair Guagliumi pointed out the policies usually had three readings but that under emergency situations the Board could waive that protocol. She said she wanted to treat the policy as a first reading, the second reading would be placed on the next meeting's agenda, and then on the Consent Agenda at the following meeting.

Board Member Hardy read the proposed use of masks by students and staff policy into the record.

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY

Masks will be worn by students, staff, visitors, and volunteers within the school building with the following exception:

At the written request of a parent or legal guardian, a child may opt-out of wearing a mask only while in a classroom. Please note that this opt-out applies only to students. All staff are expected to be masked while indoors when students and/or other adults are in their presence.

Masks do not have to be worn when students, staff members, or volunteers are outside, at lunch, snack time, or during mask breaks that are held outside.

Masks will be worn while on a van or school bus.

Except as stated above, masks will be required in the school buildings at all other times, including transition time.

Masks will be worn by athletes who participate in indoor sports.

No person, including a student, shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents them from doing such. In such cases, documentation of the disability or medical condition will be required, and in such cases, alternative precautions will be sought in order to achieve the same or similar safety benefits.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with students who are deaf or hearing impaired, students learning to read, and students who rely on lip-reading shall wear clear masks or visors/clear face shields which enhance service provision.

*Mask decision will be revisited and possibly modified on a monthly basis, based on local COVID data.

Duration

This policy will be enforced as of September 1, 2021. It will be reviewed on a monthly basis upon analysis of Merrimack COVID data in relation to the NHDHHS (New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services) Matrix and criteria on levels of community transmissions. Outbreaks or multiple clusters within a school/school district, as defined by NHDHHS or a change in the NHDHHS-defined level of community transmission for Merrimack may result in a change to this policy.

Legal References were also read aloud and can be found on the Merrimack School Districts website.

Board Member Peters stated she was concerned about athletes who participated in indoor sports who had to wear masks. She suggested a compromise might be that when the athletes were benched or on the sidelines, they did not have to wear a mask but when on the "court" they would not have to wear a mask. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied the NHIAA had not taken a position on the subject and said the collective interest was what was best for the students. Board Member Hardy suggested that the sentence "*Mask decision will be revisited and possibly modified on a monthly basis, based on local COVID data" be removed because it was covered under the subject of "Duration."

Vice Chair Rothhaus commented that she felt the line that stated "Masks will be worn by athletes who participate in indoor sports" should be removed.

Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen stated he would draft another copy of the policy to include the Board's suggestions and send it to them prior to the next meeting.

Board Member Peters commented it had come to her attention that some doctors were not providing a note of exemption for some children who had asthma. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he would speak to the leadership team and nurses regarding that issue.

Board Member Barnes agreed that the sentence “*Mask decision will be revisited and possibly modified on a monthly basis, based on local COVID data” should be removed.

Board Member Hardy stated all spectators of sporting events would have to adhere to the “all visitor’s to wear masks policy.” Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied that was his assumption.

Board Member Peters suggested the sentence “It will be reviewed on a monthly basis upon analysis of Merrimack COVID date...” be changed to “It will be reviewed **and possibly modified** on a monthly basis upon analysis of Merrimack COVID date...”

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Surplus from 2020 – 2021 Operating Budget to Reduce 2021 – 2022 Tax Rate

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell stated the previous year’s surplus was approximately \$4.7 million that went towards the reduction of the tax rate. He said the school rate for taxes went down by .35 cents.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the current year’s surplus (2021) was \$8.163 million. He said the school portion of the tax rate would also go down.

b. Lunch Program Update 2021 – 2022 School Year

Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell said the prior year the revenue for the Food Services Department had taken a drastic hit due to COVID. He said all of the students were currently back to school and the revenue had gone up. He reminded people to please fill out applications for the free and reduced lunch program and added some of the grant-funded operations were based upon the number of people enrolled in that program.

c. Other

Chair Guagliumi asked if there was any other new business the members would like to bring before the Board. There was none.

7. APPROVAL REQUESTS

a. September 7, 2021 Minutes

Edits:

Page 3, line 136 – “Handwriting without Tiers” was changed to “Handwriting without Tears” – Board Member Peters

Board Member Barnes questioned the numbering order.

Page 4, line #158 - #161 – Requested that the paragraph be split into two separate thoughts. – Chair Guagliumi

Page 8 – under “Correspondence” – Requested that the correspondence section have more detail. – Chair Guagliumi

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to rescind her motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021, meeting. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

MOTION: Board Member Barnes made a motion to table the approval of the September 7, 2021, meeting to seek clarification of the numbering order. Board Member Hardy seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Administrator Resignation

- Ms. Nancy Rose, Director of Technology and Library Media Services

Comments

Board Member Barnes commented the memorandum dated September 3rd included in the Board's package stated: “I believe we should require students who have opted out to wear a mask at all times in our schools indoors if they have been identified as a close contact of a family member in the home who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is my recommendation that also applies to a student who has been identified as a close contact with someone in the community who has tested positive.” She asked why those students were not being asked to quarantine and also stated she felt it was very important to vet that issue. Chair Guagliumi said she would make sure the discussion was added to the next meeting's agenda.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

b. Educator Nominations

There were none.

9. OTHER

a. Committee Reports

Chair Guagliumi stated she and Board Member Hardy had a call with the Superintendent Search Firm who would begin the process in the spring. She said they discussed the timeline and the firm would be reaching out to the Director of Human Resources and would coordinate with administration. She said she would keep the community and the Board updated.

Board Member Hardy added that there would be significant community involvement in gathering feedback regarding what qualities were being looked for in a new Superintendent.

Board Member Barnes stated she attended the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on September 15th where they discussed annual park reviews which included O’Gara Drive and the fields at Reeds Ferry. She added they also discussed what improvements were needed at the skate park and the basketball court at the end of O’Gara Drive.

Board Member Barnes noted the following:

- The Dog Park Subcommittee was looking for new members.
- Dog Park was looking for donations of “poop bags” and money for mulch.
- Blood Drive on Friday, September 24th.
- Merrimack 275th Celebration on Saturday, October 30th.
- Halloween Event on Saturday, October 30th from 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (fireworks display)
- Student Representative opening on the Committee.

b. Correspondence

Chair Guagliumi said she and the entire School Board had received some emails relating to:

- Would like students to wear masks in school and/or concern for health regarding not wearing masks.
- Would like no mask and would like kids to opt-out of optional masks.
- Thank you for reinstating public comment.
- Thank you to the School Board for their service and for adding a teacher at James Mastricola Upper Elementary School.
- Expressed concern regarding hiring 2Revolutions (the firm hired to support the District regarding facilitating vision work with the community.)
- Thank you for the School Board’s service and expressed concern regarding the lack of respect and poor language during public comments.
- Thank you for the Board being respectful at the last meeting and requested an open mind and an open mind regarding upcoming decisions.
- Would like masking in schools to have a more defined criteria.

Chair Guagliumi also said she had a request for an upgrade or breakdown on the website by class so parents could make a choice regarding what percentage of students would be masked.

Chair Guagliumi said she received one personal email that was a personal attack of her character and would like masking decisions to be left in the hands of parents.

Chair Guagliumi said she also received an email regarding concern with the selection of 2Revolutions and requested a statement from the School Board denouncing its relationship.

Chair Guagliumi said she and Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen received correspondence from someone wanting masking decisions to be left in the hands of parents and not the school.

Chair Guagliumi said she and Board Member Hardy received correspondence from someone who was concerned regarding how opt-out communication was being handled by a teacher in a classroom. She said Board Member Hady responded to that email.

Board Member Barnes stated she received an email from a student who had concerns regarding 2Revolutions.

Board Member Barnes stated she also received correspondence from an educator with concerns regarding implementation and enforcements of the mask policy in hallways.

Board Member Barnes said she received correspondence from a parent who had concerns about a bus stop near his home and she redirected that person to Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell.

Vice Chair Rothhaus stated she too received correspondence regarding 2Revolutions that asked what they were going to actually do in the schools.

c. Comments

Board Member Barnes commented that her intent of voting yes on having a parent opt-out option for the use of masks was that the Board needed to look after 100% of the district and felt it was very important to find a compromise. She said her motion supported the administration's recommendation, however, if they only took that route she feared a lot of children would be left behind. She added she would prefer students wear masks but they would lose students and they would fall further behind academically if they had a hard and fast rule.

Chair Guagliumi thanked all of the public who attended for their comments and for being respectful.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kathy Komar, Belmont Drive, addressed the Board and said she had sent Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen an email approximately four to five days prior regarding the links that were not working on the district's website. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied he would check into that the following day.

Mr. Gary Martin, 38 McQuestion Drive, asked Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen what the justification was in terms of the recommended quarantine guidelines. Interim Chief Educational Officer Olsen replied the recommendation came from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. He said he was opposed to the hiring of 2Revolutions and emphatically opposed teaching the students about Critical Race Theory. He added he was in support of having a Special Board Meeting to discuss the mask policy.

Ms. Tiffany Castellucci, South Baboosic Lake Road, asked why the names and addresses of the people who emailed their comments were not provided. Board Member Barnes replied she had read all of the names and addresses into the record. She also suggested that the Board look into using dog feces as renewable energy; noting Lamp Post in New England was a company that did that.

Ms. Jen Page, Nichols Lane, addressed the Board and said it would not be a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPPA) violation for a school nurse to ask if a child was vaccinated

but it would be a violation if that same school nurse shared that information with someone else. She also said she felt all athletes should be required to wear masks while seated on the bench and while playing their sport.

Mr. Bill Pfingston, 17 Jessica Drive, addressed the Board and said he did not agree with anyone having to prove they were vaccinated by providing a card.

Ms. Shannon Rand, 1 Blair Road, addressed the Board and said she was against having the athletes wearing masks while playing sports.

Ms. Jennifer Greenwood, Dahl Road, addressed the Board and asked what the data point would be to allow for the removal of the mask policy. She added she did not support 2Revolutions or Critical Race Theory.

Ms. Natalie Reyes-Silverman, London Court, addressed the Board and read aloud from an email she received from Ms. Stephanie Lin, a resident as summarized below:

I am too afraid to come and speak in person as there have been members of the community who have had people show up at their homes. Perhaps you should have a sign-in page rather than a recorded event with everyone's addressed. I will say that I appreciate the compromise made for the opt-out option regardless of how senseless I think it is for my 8-year old to wear a mask for 24 seconds to physical education only to then take it off. When it comes to exercising in a mask, let's use our common sense. If the parents are scared then they should pull their children out of whatever it is that they are scared of. I will not teach my asthmatic daughter to cover her face as if she is some walking form of infection. As a nurse, I am encouraging you to research what will stop the spread of COVID-19. The N-95 and the K-N95 masks are the only way to stop the spread. Take the masks off of these kids. As far as CRT goes, I think it is absolutely disgusting and I will pull my child immediately.

Ms. Reyes-Silverman said she did not want any child learning about Critical Race Theory. She added parents did not receive a survey prior to the District hiring 2Revolutions.

Chair Guagliumi asked if additional emails had been received. Board Member Barnes replied there were not.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: At approximately 10:07 p.m. Board Member Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Rothhaus seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 – 0.

COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT EXPOSURE?

UNVACINATED PEOPLE EXPOSED TO COVID-19 IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD

Source: NHDPHS

1. Stay Home (quarantine) for **10 days from your last exposure to the person.**

- You should not go out in public places.
- Maintain distance from others in your home.
- If you do not develop any COVID-19 symptoms, you can stop quarantine after 10 days.

2. Get Tested

- Get tested (PCR test) 5-7 days after you last exposure to a COVID-Positive person in your household.
- Since it can take up to 14 days for a virus to express itself, a negative test after 5-7 days does not mean you can end quarantine. You need to quarantine for a full 10 days.
- If you test positive, then you need to isolate*.

3. Monitor for Symptoms

- Take your temperature twice per day for 14 days after your last exposure (even if you end your quarantine after 10 days).
- If you develop any symptoms** seek medical advice and get tested.

4. Take Care of Yourself

- Reach out to your healthcare provider or seek emergency care if you have any concerns about your health.

ISOLATION GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE COVID-19

Source: NHDPHS

If you have symptoms* of COVID-19, you should be tested so you can know if you actually have COVID-19. If you test positive for COVID-19, please follow these instructions.

1. Stay Home

- **If you have symptoms** of COVID-19 with a positive test, you must stay home until:
 - ✓ At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first started.
 - AND**
 - ✓ At least 24 hours have passed since you had a fever (without using fever-reducing medication) **and** your symptoms are improving.
- **If you do not have symptoms** but have a positive COVID-19 test, you must stay at home until:
 - ✓ At least 10 days have passed since the date of your positive COVID-19 test.

2. Tell Your Contacts

- Tell any household or non-household close contacts.

3. Take Care of Yourself

- Reach out to your healthcare provider or seek emergency care if you have any worsening of symptoms.

COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT EXPOSURE?

Community Contact

If you were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the community (non-household contact).

OR

Household Contact

If you are a contact to someone in your house who has COVID-19 – but you are fully vaccinated.

1. Monitor yourself closely for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days after your exposure.
2. Close household contact with someone with COVID-19 and you are fully vaccinated?



No Need to Quarantine.



Have a PCR COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure (even if you do not have symptoms).



Wear a facemask in indoor public settings for 14 days, or until you receive a negative test result.



If you become sick with any COVID symptoms, seek medical advice.



If Negative



If Positive

Stay home until you are fever free for at least 24 hours

Isolate