MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2017, MEETING MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL #182

1. Call to Order

 Board Chair Ron Carvell called the meeting to order in Lecture Hall #182 at the Milford High School at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Board Vice-Chair Kevin Drew, Ms. Jennifer Siegrist, Mr. Len Mannino and Mr. Bob Willette. Also in attendance were Superintendent Robert Marquis, Bill Cooper, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Business Administrator Jen Burk. The recording secretary was Trish Gedziun.

2. Board Member Comments

There were none.

3. Public Comments

There were none.

4. Reports and Presentations

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marquis read aloud from his report as summarized below:

The Jacques Memorial School Annual Autumn Adventure Day will be held on October 5, 2017, which includes curriculum based activities using fall themes. Some of our teachers have been taking advantage of the weather and have been doing Yoga outside with the students to help with multi-step directions and the calming effects of deep breathing.

Project DRIVE at Bales: Students have worked on a community service project in helping prepare dinner for the SHARE program. This week the students will be doing some community service hours at SHARE to help take down and reassemble their dining area.

The Career Day that was held this past week was on working on Career Interest Inventories and researching jobs that they would like to do in the future.

 The middle school's Innovation Lab is up and running. The lab is open to teachers during the day to bring students to work on problem solving skills and performance tasks. Students can access the lab themselves throughout the day and before and after school. The lab is run by our Technology Integrator, Pam Moreau. We recently got a 3D printer given to us by the ATC. We need a computer powerful enough to run it... coming soon!

The Computer Club at the Milford Middle School is starting up again. The new club is focusing on coding, robotics and STEAM activities. We have secured money to purchase two EV3 Lego Robotics Kits, one through Box Tops and the other through the Milford Middle School PTO. We have a number of students that have expressed interest in the club and plan to start hold meetings this month.

Nature's Classroom: 6th grade students will be leaving on October 16th and returning on October 20th

This Friday will be a Teacher Workshop Day. Each building is planning specific professional development activities so that teachers will be able to better meet the needs of their students. Teachers will be working with NWEA representatives to better understand how student scores could inform instruction. There will be cross school curriculum discussions between the high school and the middle school. Some of our teachers will be visiting local industries to learn how the skills we teach students are transferable to helping our students acquire and keep jobs.

As you know, last week the middle school experienced a power outage (one phase was lost and we run off of a three phase system). Essentially it was a brown out but there wasn't enough power to run the entire building. The students and staff were moved to the high school and were subsequently sent home when we were told that power was not going to be restored until 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. I would like to commend the students for being very well behaved and publicly thank the staff for providing supervision during this event. I would also like to thank the high school staff for being so accommodating and flexible - as the cafeteria and gymnasium were used and the A Block needed to be restructured a bit. The Milford Police Department were also very responsive and provided us with assistance as did the Butler Bus Company. Finally, I would like to thank the parents of the middle school students for working with us and remaining calm during the student dismissal process. Dismissal during these types of events can be quite chaotic and without your cooperation it would not have gone as smoothly as it did.

b. Bass Fishing Club Presentation, Mr. Richard Parent, Biotechnology Program at Milford High School

Mr. Parent addressed the Board and stated that he was also the advisor for the senior class, the Science Olympiad Team and also the coach for the Bass team at the high school. He said the program had been in place for about six years. He introduced Jamie Peret and Jake Fantasia who were both part of the club. Mr. Parent said that he had kids that were interested in becoming tournament anglers as well as kids that just wanted to learn how to fish. He said the club started in the fall when they talked about knots and lures and worked all through the winter on the stuff that they wanted to do as Bass fishermen. He said they also talked about the ecology and the biology.

Mr. Parent said that once ice fishing started he would take the kids fishing locally but that on the weekends they would go to Lake Winnipesaukee. He said in Bass fishing there was an organization called BASS and all of the kids paid \$10.00 to be BASS members. He said in the past year they started getting into the FLW which was a group of Nashua people who sponsored high school Bass fishermen. He said it allowed the kids to fish in qualifying tournaments and then there were championships at the end and that those championships led to national tournaments. He further said that once the school year began the NHIA had a Bass tournament.

Mr. Parent commented that he had more kids that wanted to be out on the water but that not having enough boats limited that.

Mr. Parent said there were about 20 members on the team this year and noted that there had been a pretty consistent female representation over the years.

Mr. Parent stated that they were very fortunate in that they had received some donations. He said that Mike McNamara, who was a Milford resident and was very involved in the Bass community in New Hampshire. He said that unfortunately Mike had passed away and his wife donated the hats that they were wearing as well as some bags and lures.

Mr. Parent said the team practiced a lot and they took trips to the Fishing and Outdoors Expo in Massachusetts and got to meet some pros.

Mr. Parent commented that the kids had fished in a qualifier on Lake Wentworth and they came in 7th which qualified them to fish in the championship which was on Lake Winnipesaukee and they finished 1st. He said they were the first team from Milford that qualified to go to the National Championship which would be on Kentucky Lake in Tennessee. He further said that they would be looking to raise funds for that trip.

Mr. Parent stated that the program did not run for free and in the 2015/2016 school year he had not asked the kids for anything but did it all on his own. He said the following year they did some fund raisers and the travel costs went down a little bit because the school picked up some of the miles that were used for the practices.

Both Mr. Peret and Mr. Fantasia expressed their thanks to Mr. Parent and stated that they learned a lot about Bass fishing and wildlife.

Mr. Carvell stated that it was a great presentation and said that he had attended a few of the events.

Superintendent Marquis also told the presenters that he thought they did a great job.

c. Running Start - Mr. Don Jalbert, Director of Technical Studies, Milford High School

Mr. Jalbert stated that Running Start was a program of the Community College System of New Hampshire whereby high school students were able to earn college credits for the high school classes that they were taking; he said it was called a "dual credit option." He said he had seen students earn nine, twelve and even fifteen credits towards their college education while they were in high school at a significantly reduced rate. Mr. Jalbert noted that many of the classes that were Running Start eligible were classes that were in the Applied Technology Center but there were also a few in the high school which were academic and eligible for Running Start credits. He said that the colleges had some significant vetting; the instructors are required to have a Master's Degree in most cases, although there were exceptions to that rule. He said in

the last month the legislature, with the help of Governor Sununu, had come up with a program 142 143 which offered that any of the Running Start classes that were in the STEM or STEAM world 144 would be essentially free to the student on a reimbursement type of basis; i.e. if the students 145 earned a grade of C or better in the class then the tuition cost would be reimbursed to them by 146 the state. Mr. Jalbert said he had not been able to determine whether the money was new 147 money that was being set aside by the legislature to support the program but that he was still 148 waiting on some of the details. He further stated they there was a draft copy of the 149 memorandum of understanding between the state and the local districts but it was just a draft 150 and the New Hampshire School Board Association was going to be the agency that was actually going to come to the Board through the Superintendent's office to have that 151 152 agreement signed and short of any entanglement that they did not want to get involved with 153 financially, it was a win/win. Mr. Jalbert said that it currently cost \$150.00 per a 3-credit 154 course.

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Mr. Mannino asked if it was the same School Board Association that the Town of Milford had a membership in. Mr. Jalbert replied that it was.

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Mr. Mannino asked how that worked because it was an association geared towards supporting or not supporting legislative agendas.

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Superintendent Marquis replied that he thought it was and that it would be vetted through them first.

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Mr. Mannino clarified that the state would present the agreement but it would be vetted by the School Board Association. Superintendent Marquis replied that was correct.

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Mr. Drew asked if some of the Running Start courses that were taken were taught at the ATC.
Mr. Jalbert replied that was correct.

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Mr. Drew clarified that the students were eligible for credit at local community colleges with the US NH system?

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Mr. Jalbert replied that the credits, if they were through the Running Start program, were transferable credits. He said that the Community College provided a map of the United States that showed hundreds of colleges that would accept those classes and that sometimes they were accepted as elective credits and not specific to the major but other times they would take them at face value. He emphasized that these were only courses that were STEM or STEAM related.

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Mr. Carvell said that he had heard of the program but they were waiting to map out the funding; if it was new money or if it was based on some qualifier that local taxes absorbed. He said that he felt the program was positive overall and it was a matter of finding the money to make it work.

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d. Annual Report on Test Scores – Mr. Mike Tenters, Applied Technology Center

Mr. Tenters explained that he was present to share some of the statewide assessment results with the Board regarding the Smarter Balanced results that he had from the 2016/2017 school year.

Mr. Tenters said that this was the third year of the Smarter Balanced Assessment and the last year and there would be all new baseline data which would start next year. He said that on the chart you would see Milford's scores in relationship to the state's scores and Milford did quite well; noting that in the third and fifth grade they were a little bit below the state average but in all the other areas they were at or above the state average.

Mr. Tenters said they were very close to the state's average on the overall SAT scores with 65% of the students meeting the benchmark.

Mr. Tenters stated that the NWEA data was much more valid and meaningful than some of the statewide assessment data because it was used regularly and the teachers and kids were familiar with it. He further stated that the different grade levels as well as Title I and special education set goals based around the NWEA data. He said grades one through five all met their goals. (Exhibit attached to agenda.)

Mr. Tenters noted that only about 10% of the senior class took the ACT's but the most recent scores were the best they had ever had in all areas; English, Math, Reading and Science. He said he was very impressed that 79% of the students met the college benchmarks in all four areas compared to the State of New Hampshire's average of 56%.

Mr. Tenters said that they had 109 AP exams last year which he said was the highest they had ever had with an average score of 3.01 with 65% of the kids receiving a score of 3 or better. He noted that AP calculus students continued to do exceptionally well with an average of 4.1 and 15 out of the 20 students that took the test received a 4 or 5. He said the same was true for English Literature which had a mean score of 3.73.

Mr. Tenters stated that they would continue to use the NWEA data and there were new reports that were available and that they were going to have training on Friday.

Mr. Tenters said that they were going to design SLO's (student learning objectives) around math and increase tools and resources for math instruction. He said they were hoping to continue to increase the use of technology to differentiate instruction, personalize learning and provide supplemental supports and practices. He also said that they wanted to continue providing additional professional development on problem-based learning and the creation and assessment of performance tasks which was an area where students had been struggling.

Mr. Tenters also stated that they would continue to monitor changes and updates to the statewide assessments, all of which would be new in the coming year. He said they would update curriculum maps to increase interdisciplinary opportunities and improve communication about when and where skills/standards were taught and reinforced.

Mr. Carvell stated that when he looked at the math section and even the ELA's, he saw a big drop from fifth grade to sixth grade in both 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 from 68 to 56 and in math from 66 to 53. He asked what was causing that particular drop.

Mr. Tenters replied that he felt it was a couple of things; first of all it was the change from elementary to middle school as the curriculum became more difficult. He said the other thing that he would say was that the assessment had changed and it was only in its third year. He also said there was always a drop-off from the fifth grade to the sixth grade just like there was from the eighth grade to the eleventh grade. Mr. Tenters said that it was tricky because the students tested at different times; pointing out that last year the students took the assessment at the middle school between April and June and therefore some of the students had two more months of instruction before they took the assessment. He also said that they had the Everyday Math Program and they were looking at doing some shifting of resources.

Mr. Mannino asked what Mr. Tenter's thoughts were on technologies' impact with the scores? Mr. Tenters replied that it was shown more with the NWEA data but again the assessments had changed so much over the past few years that it was hard to pinpoint. He said the NWEA, which was very consistent, showed that the kids were making growth and much of that growth was due to some of the newer technology that was being pushed in. He further said that he felt they would see a bigger increase in the future as they started to infuse technology at the elementary level. Mr. Tenters also said the amount of testing time had significantly been reduced because of the amount of technology that was available. He said it was really making a difference in what was done in the classroom.

Mr. Carvell asked if they were running the risk of having some of the students say in the fifth grade having the technology and then going to the sixth grade where that technology had not been instituted yet. Mr. Tenters replied that he felt they had done a pretty good job at planning for that.

Mr. Carvell asked if the same integration was being used at Project Drive. Mr. Tenters replied that it was and that the students were able to tap into more to some of those resources that they might need for the extra support. Mr. Carvell confirmed that the goal was to have the Project Drive students integrate into the same educational platform as all of the schools. Mr. Tenters replied that was correct and said that the staff had conversations between the buildings and they also shared materials and did their budget together.

e. Quarterly Reports: (Granite Town Media Advisory Committee, Wellness, Technology, ATC Regional Center Advisory Committee, Capital Improvement Plan)

I. Granite State Media – Mr. Carvell stated that he was on that committee and that the meeting had been cancelled on Thursday.

II. Wellness Committee - Mr. Willette stated that the only thing that had

happened so far was that they had all received an e-mail to find out who was on the committee and who was not on the committee. He said that a meeting was being planned in the near future.

- III. Technology Committee Mr. Carvell stated that he may have absorbed that position on the committee but that he had not heard anything from the Technology Committee but he would look into it.
- IV. ATC Regional Center Advisory Committee Ms. Siegrist stated that she was on the committee but still needed to get in touch with them.
- ٧. Capital Improvements Plan – Mr. Drew stated that the committee had met over the past three weeks and would probably meet with a couple more of various town departments. He said ultimately they were presenting on what potential Warrant Articles they may have and that they got together as a committee and voted on a plan that would be presented to the Selectmen. He further said that historically there had been a School Board member on the committee because the Board had a piece of what was presented. He said although the Board did not necessarily come up with a Warrant Article that sometimes they would project a few years into the future. Mr. Drew suggested that the following year they not have a School Board member on the committee but that they should report to them the same as one of the other departments would because his role was not that much more than just being a community member and voting on what he thought the town departments should be doing. Mr. Drew said that they could think about having a Capital Improvements Committee for the schools themselves.

5. New Business

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a. Co-Curricular Discussion With Matrix (Exhibit is attached to the agenda)

Mr. Carvell stated that he had asked Superintendent Marquis to provide a current cocurriculum matrix of the program and that the Board had worked hard to get it developed. He said he went through the matrix pretty well with the formula and he did not see any concerns. He said he wanted the Board to be aware that as they went through the budget process some of these courses may come up for funding and some may have presentations.

- Mr. Carvell asked if there were any members of the Board who had questions or comments. Mr. Mannino stated that he would have questions during the budget process.
- Ms. Siegrist asked if the ones highlighted in green were the new ones that were just funded this year. Superintendent Marquis replied that was correct.
- Superintendent Marquis asked if the Board would entertain the idea of inviting hockey parents to visit the Board members so the Board could ascertain the interest level. He also said he

321 322	could reach out to the athletic director to develop a possible budget around that before it g too far into the budget season.			
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324 325	Mr. Carvell replied that he would like to see that at one of the meetings in November but he would like to see what the possible budget would be.			
326	Would like to coo What the possible suaget Would so.			
327	Superintendent Marquis asked if it would be reasonable to put that parent group on the agenda			
328	for the second week of November and have Mr. Maurais come in sometime prior to that?			
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330	Mr. Carvell replied that was fine.			
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332	b. Full Day Kindergarten - Results of Questionnaire			
333	Cuparintendent Marquia stated that there was a questionnaire given at the Open House the			
334 335	Superintendent Marquis stated that there was a questionnaire given at the Open House tha was held at the Jacques Elementary School for the parents of kindergarten students.			
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338 339	and 70 parents chose to respond to the questionnaire which is summarized as follows:			
340	1. Were you aware that Jacques was originally offering a self-funded full day			
341	kindergarten program for this year?			
342	64 (91%) parents respondedYes			
343	6 (8%) parents respondedNo			
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345	2. If not (aware) was it because you are new to Milford?			
346	4 parents respondedYes			
347	2 parents respondedNo			
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349	3. If you were aware of the full day option, but did not choose it, what was the			
350	reason for your decision?			
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352	The program was too costly. 31 (44%) parents respondedYes			
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354	My child was already registered somewhere else that I preferred. 4 parents			
355	respondedYes			
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357	The program was too new. 3 parents respondedYes.			
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359	The hours didn't work for our family because of transportation issues. 3 parents			
360	respondedYes			
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362	The hours didn't work for our family because of child care issues. 3 parents			
363	respondedYes			
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365	I missed the sign-up period. 1 parent respondedYes.			

4. Other (please explain)

Parents listed personal choice / not interested. 3 parents responded......Yes

Parents noted that they were home and did not need full day K. 4 parents responded.....Yes

Parents responded that they felt it was too long a day. 8 parents responded......Yes

Parents reported that they were already registered for a full day K program. 9 parents responded......Yes

5. Parents were asked to provide any additional information that they thought would be helpful to us in designing a Full Day Kindergarten program.

Parents responded to this question:

Noted that "It might be good to flesh out the program structures for parents to evaluate whether or not their children are ready for a full day.".....1 parent responded.

"When the full day option curriculum is the same as the half day program...why would anyone opt for it? Kindergarten should be 100% municipally funded and in place 10 years ago......1 parent responded.

Superintendent Marquis stated that one of his goals for the next year was to assist the Board in evaluating the full day kindergarten program, however they did not have a full day kindergarten program so he backed it up a little bit and tried to evaluate the reasons why.

Ms. Siegrist asked if, going forward, it would be possible to flesh out what the program was in a written form and base it on why they were doing it that way and why it was the same amount of academics as the half day program. She said it seemed to her as though the half day program was trying to stick all of the academics for a full day kindergarten program into a half day program which left very little time for anything else that was much more developmentally appropriate and it tended to overwhelm the younger kids. She further said that when it was done properly then that was the right amount of academics mixed in with all of the other things that enriched the curriculum and made it more developmentally appropriate and the half day really was not meeting that. Ms. Siegrist stated that full day kindergarten was not the same as half day kindergarten because full day was a fuller, fully planned program that was much easier developmentally on the children. She said she felt that would help the community better understand what they were trying to do.

Mr. Carvell stated that he was for the full day kindergarten program but felt they were limited in

the options and the structure. He said he felt there were two options; to run the program again the way they had it last year and put it back in front of the voters or to build the program up and the projections of those that were free and reduced to throw onto the ballot as being a cost impact to the taxpayers.

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Mr. Mannino asked if and when the state required full day kindergarten, if they wouldn't be required to fully fund it because the Constitution of New Hampshire prohibited the state from passing on an unfunded mandate.

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Superintendent Marquis replied that they were required to provide an education for students but that they did not get fully funded. He said he would suspect that the kindergarten would not be fully funded either.

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Mr. Mannino stated that it would be easier to consider it if attendance was compulsory and it was not.

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Mr. Carvell stated that he felt he did not want to add anything to the taxpayers but he also felt that full day kindergarten was a positive thing. He further stated that the pressure to fund it correctly should be on the state.

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Ms. Siegrist commented that the State of New Hampshire was already behind the 8 ball and that other states were already trying to implement full day Pre-K. She asked if it wasn't going to affect the taxpayers then it might not have to go on the Warrant Article.

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Mr. Carvell asked Ms. Siegrist to compile some data and the Board would continue to discuss it at its' next meeting.

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6. Old Business

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a. Budget Parameters

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Mr. Carvell said that the Board had a discussion at the last meeting regarding the budget and the parameters that they would give the administration and the superintendent on building the budget.

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Mr. Drew reiterated that setting a limit and using a 1.5% or 2.0% would most certainly have put positions on the block. He said that being the case he did not feel that was a position they should be putting the administration into. He further said that he could not support doing it that way.

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Ms. Siegrist stated that if everything were to stay the same and the teachers typically received a 2% COLA that was basically the only place where the budget increased. She asked how there could not be an increase in any way.

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454 Mr. Carvell replied that he did have an idea.

Mr. Willette said he felt there were two ways of looking at what Ms. Siegrist had just said. He said number one was that a larger enrollment did not necessarily mean an increase in cost.

Ms. Siegrist said that they had to hire two teachers this year.

Mr. Willette said they were not going to pay any more for lights or electricity and they would be getting money from the state for the increased enrollment.

Ms. Siegrist replied that they received about \$3,600 per student and it cost over \$14,000 per student so it would still mean an increase.

 Mr. Carvell said their current budget was a little over \$40 million and with their contract obligations and the obligated monies for increases on the contracts it brought them to roughly \$41.5 million for the next year as a starting point. Mr. Carvell suggested that from that \$41.5 million that they get two budgets from Superintendent Marquis or a max budget of 2% which would bring another \$830,000 for increases which would bring the limit of the budget to \$42,350,000. He said that would cover all of the contracts, the increases that were mandated by the contracts and it stripped out the one-time purchases and everything set up as a default and it was a controlled increase to the school budget of approximately \$830,000 for additional spending. Mr. Carvell said that he felt that was a good starting point and if they had things that needed to be forwarded then those items would be prioritized as presentations.

 Mr. Drew stated that the challenge was on the administration to make that number work. He said every year they rung everything they could out of the budget and it still went up. He also said that if they were starting with a limit then if there was a position to be eliminated then it put it right there. Mr. Drew said they then would have to decide if that person/position was worthy of getting in the budget somehow. He said he thought it was going to be a challenge to try to make all of the numbers work and not end up eliminating positions. He commented that if they went the other way they could see what the limits were moving down towards a number rather than up.

Mr. Carvell stated to be clear the budget for this year was \$40,636,000 and what was being asked for was a limit of \$42,350,000 which he felt was well within the controls.

Mr. Carvell made a motion to give Superintendent Marquis a restriction of the 2.0% above contract which put the dollar value around \$42,350,000; noting that would be the target for the budget. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3 – 2 - Nay; Drew and Siegrist

MOTION CARRIED

7. Housekeeping Items

500	a. Approval of Minutes 9/18/17
501 502	Line 262, Change "they sent" to "we send" – Siegrist
503 504 505	Mr. Drew made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2017, meeting, as amended. Ms. Siegrist seconded the motion.
506 507	VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED
508 509	b. Approval of Professional Nominations
510 511 512	Mr. Drew made a motion to approve the Professional Nominations. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.
513 514	c. List of Classified Appointments (Information Only)
515 516 517	d. Approval of Manifests: 5,7,1022,1023,1024,1025,1026,1027,1028,1029, 1030,1031,1032,1033,1034,1035,1036,1037 and 1038.
518 519	Mr. Willette made a motion to approve the manifest. Mr. Carvell seconded the motion.
520 521 522	VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED
523 524	e. List of Email Correspondence (Information Only)
525 526	8. Public Comments
527	There were none.
528 529 530	 Non-public Session: Pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I (a) Strategy or Negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, and/or RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel.
531 532	Mr. Willette made a motion to go into a non-public session. Ms. Siegrist seconded the motion.
533 534	VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED
535 536 537 538	Mr. Drew made a motion to come out of the non-public session. Mr. Willette seconded the motion.
539 540	VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED
541	10. Adjournment
542 543 544	Mr Willette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Drew seconded the motion.

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547	The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15 p.m.	
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557	School Board Chair	Date of Approval