BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37

Monday, June 22, 2026 **Immediately following the Public Hearing**

1. Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Mayor Ruais called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ruais welcomed Principal Frier and students from Southside Middle School to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Committee Members St. John and Garrity introduced the students:

Southside Middle School – Principal James Frier

Geremy Breban – Grade 8
Jayvon Goncalves – Grade 8
Jayvrian Goncalves – Grade 8
Jaxon Jolicoeur – Grade 5

3. A moment of silence was observed.

Vice Chair O'Connell asked that everyone keep Dr. Chmiel and her family in our thoughts and prayers, due to the recent passing of her father, Alan Chmiel.

4. The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Committee Members Parr, Georges, Want, Taylor, Bergeron, Stewart, O'Connell, St. John, Garrity, Hamer, O'Neil-Wong, and Mayor Ruais.

Absent: Committee Members Turner, Potter and Smith.

5. RECOGNITIONS

a. Recognition of the finalists in the Manchester School District Food & Nutrition Services coloring contest:

The administration recognized students who participated in the Food and Nutrition Services Van Wrap and Slogan Contest. The contest gave students an opportunity to create a new look and identity for the district's food and nutrition delivery vans. Sousa Signs donated the vehicle wraps, allowing the district to replace the appearance of two plain white vans with designs reflecting student creativity and the important role healthy meals played in supporting learning.

The administration thanked all students who submitted designs and slogans and recognized the time, effort, creativity, and imagination reflected in the entries. More than 400 votes were cast in the contest. The winning submission received 45 percent of the votes. The students recognized were:

Smyth Road:	Elena Bartolomei; Savannah Gullo; and, Jonah Berry
Webster School:	Neary Mutita Tann; and, Ashly Matamoros Ortiz
Parker Varney:	Leona Grajcevci; Alexa Garcia; and, Patience Gilmartin

b. Spring Athletics Recognitions

The administration stated that one of the district's core commitments was to provide transformational learning experiences and ensure that every Manchester student graduated with high-quality opportunities for the future. Athletics were described as an important part of the student experience because sports taught perseverance, teamwork, leadership, resilience, and the value of hard work. The recognitions included:

1. **McLaughlin Middle School** Boys Track and Field – D2 East Champions

The McLaughlin Middle School boys' track and field team was recognized for becoming the Division II East champion. The achievement reflected months of hard work, dedication, and commitment by the student-athletes and their coaches.

The high school spring sports recognitions included:

2. **Central High School**

Girls Central Girls 4 x 100 – 3rd Place (outdoor) – Meet of Champions
4 x 100 Team: Angela Cenesca, Mia Sarmiento, Nyalise Laboy, Ella Guiliano and Yarelis Galvan (Coach: Sam Venator)

Angela Cenesca – 3rd Place in the 400 M (outdoor) – States
3rd Place in the Long Jump (outdoor)
State Champion – 300 M (indoor)
State Champion – Long Jump (indoor)
2nd Place – 55 M (indoor)

Josie Lefebvre – 2nd Place in the Javelin (outdoor) – States
9th Place in the Discus (outdoor) – States
11th Place in the Shotput (outdoor) - States

Boys

Caesar Flan – 2nd in the 100 M (outdoor) – States
State Champion – 55 M (indoor)
State Champion – Long Jump (indoor)

3. **Memorial High School** Outdoor Track and Field – Division I – 3rd Place

Memorial Boys 4 x 100 – 4th Place (outdoor) – States
Memorial Boys 4 x 400 – 3rd Place (outdoor) – States

Ewa Edokpolo – State Records in 400M:m (outdoor)
3rd in the 200 M (outdoor)
3rd in the 300 M (Indoor)

Joel Elliot – 2nd in the Long Jump (outdoor) - States
2nd in the Long Jump (outdoor) – Meet of Champions
2nd in the 100 M (outdoor)

Michael Georges – 6th in the High Jump (outdoor)

Elijah Torres – 5th in the Long Jump (outdoor)

4. Tennis Recognitions:

Lindsay St. Pierre – First Team All State DII – West High School
Karen LeClerc – Division 1 Coach of the Year – Central High School (Girls)
Andrew Philbrook – Division 1 Coach of the Year – Memorial Boys (Boys)

Memorial High School Girls Tennis Team – NHIAA Division 1 Sportsmanship Award

The administration stated that championships and records were important accomplishments, but sportsmanship awards also demonstrated that how students competed mattered as much as the

final outcome. The award reflected the character, respect, and integrity demonstrated by the athletes.

PUBLIC FORUM

6. The purpose of the public forum is to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three (3) minutes to do so, and any comments must be directed to the chair. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Speakers may offer comments on school operations and programs that concern them. In public session, however, the Board shall not hear personal complaints of school personnel or complaints against any person connected with the District. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving school district employees, which should be referred to the Superintendent. Speakers are requested to refrain from providing confidential information during this comment period. Any comments that are given regarding personnel matters, will not be responded to by the Board or Administration during the public meeting, as these items should be discussed in non-public session.

Alderman Daniel O'Neil, of 249 West Haven Road, stated:

He thanked members of the district and community for their time and guidance during the budget process. He thanked Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Gillis Chmiel and Karen DeFrancis for meeting with him. He also thanked the Mayor and the Board of School Committee members with whom he had spoken. He stated that principals played an important role in helping him better understand the schools. A conversation with Rick Lawton of the Teamsters led to a meeting with Brian Watson and Sean Baskerville of the principals' association. Those conversations resulted in invitations to visit several schools. He thanked the principals and staff members who invited him to Hillside, West, Parker-Varney, Memorial, Jewett, and Bakersville. During those visits, he observed calm, compassionate, and caring professionals. He stated that principals and assistant principals led by example and that students wanted to learn. Alderman O'Neil said that he repeatedly heard the phrase that educators had to "meet students where they are." Although some community members criticized student test scores, he observed students being given an opportunity to achieve what he described as the most important score: the opportunity to succeed in life.

a. If there is no one else present wishing to speak, a motion is in order to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented and to table the remaining minutes for public comment to the end of the meeting for those that have not already spoken.

*On motion of **Committee Member Stewart,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Parr,** it was moved to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented. All present were in favor and the motion passed.*

7. Response to Public Comment
(Note: Motions limited to sending items to Committees only.)

Vice Chair O'Connell thanked Alderman O'Neill for visiting the schools. He stated that district schools had worked during the budget process to encourage Board members and aldermen to visit. He believed that increased exposure to the schools helped municipal officials better understand the daily challenges faced by staff and the strong work being completed by students.

Committee Member Want agreed that it was important for aldermen to visit district schools. She stated that visitors were consistently impressed by the work taking place and that the district did not always receive sufficient recognition for meeting students where they were academically and socially.

8. PRESENTATIONS

a. District and School End of Year Goals – by Dr. Jennifer Chmiel

Dr. Kelly Espinola, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Roth, and Assistant Principal Nicole Doherty presented an informational update regarding the district's 2025–2026 goals.

The goals were organized under three primary areas:

- Grow learners.
- Grow educators.

- Grow systems.

The presentation included progress across departments, accomplishments from the year, and work that would continue into the following year. The administration noted that some final data would not be available until later in the summer or fall.

District Profile and Strategic Alignment

The administration explained that the district's student population had changed during the previous three years.

The district had experienced increases in:

- Economically disadvantaged students.
- Students with disabilities.
- Multilingual learners.
- Students with increasingly complex academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

These demographic changes affected the services, supports, staffing, and resources required by the schools. The district remained focused on providing equitable access to high-quality instruction, intervention, and opportunities for every student. The strategic plan served as the framework for district goals, department goals, and annual priorities. Each school also developed ABC goals addressing attendance, behavior, and core curriculum.

Goal One: Student Achievement

The district sought to improve student achievement, with a particular focus on reading growth and graduation outcomes. The goal was for 85 percent of students to demonstrate growth in reading proficiency. The district also worked to strengthen its academic and behavioral Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, known as MTSS-A and MTSS-B.

Graduation supports included:

- Literacy intervention.

- Credit recovery.
- Progress monitoring.
- Identification of students at risk of not graduating.
- Collaboration among curriculum, student services, multilingual learner services, counseling, attendance, and behavioral health staff.

All kindergarten-through-Grade-8 schools implemented curriculum maps and common assessments, creating greater consistency across the district. Professional learning communities met regularly to review assessment data and guide instruction and intervention.

The Multilingual Learner Department reported a 25 percent increase in students reaching language proficiency. Because the assessment established a new baseline, direct comparisons were limited, but the increase was viewed as a promising indicator. Reading proficiency among students receiving specialized instruction reportedly increased from 83 percent to 90 percent. Among students with identified literacy goals, 93 percent demonstrated progress based on IEP monitoring, classroom assessments, and local and state literacy measures.

The district also worked to improve student connectedness and engagement through:

- Student and Staff Leadership Councils.
- Achievement Mentoring.
- Peer Buddy and Ambassador programs.
- Ward School Connect family-engagement initiatives.
- Development of the Student Belonging and Leadership Institute.

The administration stated that the combination of academic, behavioral, and relationship-based supports reflected the district's comprehensive MTSS framework.

Goal Two: Supporting and Retaining Staff

The second goal focused on professional learning, instructional support, staff retention, and creating an environment in which employees felt valued.

Departments provided:

- Professional development.
- Instructional resources.
- Wellness initiatives.
- Improved support systems.
- More efficient hiring processes.
- Additional voluntary employee benefits.

Approximately 80 percent of professional-development participants reported increased confidence after completing the training. Feedback from professional learning sessions was being used to inform planning for the following year. Final staff-retention data would not be available until the fall.

Goal Three: Strong Operational Systems

The third goal addressed:

- Responsible budget management.
- Transportation.
- Technology infrastructure.
- Federal grants.
- Facilities.
- Compliance with state and federal requirements.

The administration stated that strong operational systems might not always be visible but were essential to teaching and learning. The district conducted ongoing budget monitoring, quarterly financial reviews, and cross-departmental collaboration. Federal grant funding was fully encumbered and aligned with approved plans. Required reporting was completed on time. Special education services were implemented in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act despite increasing student needs.

The Technology Department replaced approximately 400 wireless access points and completed wireless heat mapping throughout the schools.

Transportation continued to experience staffing and service challenges, but the department worked to improve route efficiency, fiscal oversight, reliability, specialized transportation, and family communication. All specialized transportation services were delivered in accordance with student IEP requirements.

The Finance Department expanded outreach regarding free and reduced-price meal applications through community events, multilingual communications, and earlier application availability.

Overall Progress

The administration reported that approximately 86 percent of the goals had been met and 14 percent had not fully achieved their targets. Several goals remained incomplete because final assessment, graduation, and retention data were not yet available. The district would review final data, develop goals for the 2026–2027 school year, and establish professional-learning priorities based on identified needs. The administration thanked educators, administrators, support staff, students, families, community partners, and Board members for contributing to the progress.

Questions and comments by the Board included:

1. Committee Member Want asked whether every student who failed a course was immediately offered credit recovery. The administration explained that guidance departments worked with individual students to determine whether credit recovery was appropriate during the school year or summer, depending on the student's schedule and circumstances. The decision was made at the school level. Committee Member Want asked that parents be consistently consulted when credit recovery was being considered. The administration agreed.
2. Committee Member Want expressed concern that district goals frequently emphasized reading and mathematics but did not give equal attention to writing. She noted that some

elementary students could read above grade level but struggled to write two complete sentences. The administration explained that the district had implemented Self-Regulated Strategy Development as a writing support and was entering its second year of implementation. Writing would be a continued focus during the following year.

3. Staff-retention data would become available after the October 1 report was filed with the New Hampshire Department of Education.
4. Graduation rates and New Hampshire SAS assessment results were expected to become publicly available near the end of October or in November.
5. Approximately four district goals remained dependent on final data.
6. Several Board members noted that the strategic plan had been approved in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. They stated that strategic plans were commonly updated after approximately five years and that significant changes had occurred since its adoption. They requested that a comprehensive strategic-plan update be placed among the district's priorities for the coming year and include public and community input. The administration agreed to bring the request to the Superintendent.
7. Vice Chair O'Connell discussed the district profile, which reported an enrollment of 11,865 students. The administration clarified that the figure was based on the Department of Education's October 1 enrollment report and was updated only once each year. Vice Chair O'Connell noted that student enrollment changed throughout the year as students entered and left the district.
8. Vice Chair O'Connell requested development of an accessible public dashboard displaying trends over time, including:
    - Enrollment.
    - Student achievement.
    - Economic disadvantage.
    - Special education needs.
    - Housing insecurity.
    - Graduation data.
    - Reading proficiency.
    - Progress toward district goals.

He stated that the dashboard could help correct inaccurate public claims that the district continued requesting additional funding while serving substantially fewer students.

9. Vice Chair O'Connell praised the administration for providing significantly more data and information than the Board had received in previous years.
10. Committee Member Taylor asked about an MTSS-B schoolwide leadership and support goal that sought to increase a score from 43 percent to 75 percent but had reached approximately 48 percent. The administration explained that schoolwide Tier 1 teams had been established longer and continued to improve in fidelity. Intervention teams were newer and were still being implemented. The district assessed whether teams met regularly, followed agendas, and completed the required functions.
11. The administration determined that additional training was needed for school administrators. Training was being planned for August to help administrators understand and strengthen intervention systems.

9. ACTION AGENDA

a. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget in the amount of $238,492,749.00, as well as the FY27 School Food and Nutrition Budget of $6,300,000.00 and the FY27 Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Priority Listing of $7,850,000.00 – by Dr. Jennifer Chmiel

The Board considered approval of:

- The fiscal year 2027 general fund budget of $238,492,749.
- The school food and nutrition budget of approximately $6.3 million.
- The capital improvement priority list of approximately $7.85 million.

The administration presented its recommendation for addressing the approximately $12.9 million difference between the district's requested budget and the amount approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The recommendation was developed with the goal of minimizing the effect on students while maintaining the programs, systems, and services that supported teaching and learning.

The plan preserved:

- Current athletic programs.
- Existing student transportation services.
- The existing approximately 1.4-mile transportation walk zone.

The reductions included elimination of 41 vacant full-time positions. Over two years, reductions totaled:

- Approximately 10.5 district-level positions.
- Approximately 59.5 school-based positions.
- Approximately 70 positions districtwide.

The administration emphasized that the reductions represented more than accounting adjustments and required the district to continue operating with fewer resources. Because the reductions were limited to vacant positions, they were not distributed evenly across schools, grades, or departments. Principals were consulted when practical, and the reductions were reviewed in relation to the district's mission, strategic priorities, and ABC goals.

Projected class sizes remained relatively close to Board guidelines, but some sections were expected to exceed the class-size policy. The administration did not recommend changing the class-size policy because the existing standards reflected research-based practices and remained what the district believed was best for students.

The administration stated that it did not support reducing district resources. They emphasized that the district had made progress by:

- Reducing class sizes.
- Aligning curriculum vertically and horizontally.
- Expanding professional learning.
- Improving compensation.
- Strengthening recruitment and retention.
- Expanding academic and career pathways.
- Moving toward 21st-century learning environments.

Board Questions and comments included:

1. Committee Member Hamer asked about a $1.1 million reduction identified under books and information resources. The Finance Department explained that the amount, along with another $400,000 item, represented a proposed withdrawal of approximately $1.5 million from the expendable Teaching and Learning Trust.
2. Several Board members stated that continued use of the trust was not sustainable and reduced its principal and future investment income. One member emphasized that the trust was not an ordinary rainy-day reserve and that the district could not continue relying on one-time funding.
3. Committee Member Hamer asked about positions identified as currently contracted. The administration confirmed that contractors were currently filling those positions. The district intended to hire Manchester School District employees when possible rather than continue using more expensive contracted personnel.
4. Committee Member Stewart thanked the Mayor and acknowledged the significant time and effort that went into developing and approving the budget. Special appreciation was extended to Dr. Chmiel for her dedication and persistent advocacy on behalf of the school district. She emphasized for the public that, despite the approved budget, the school district must still reduce its budget by approximately $12.9 million. This significant reduction will limit the district's ability to provide not only aspirational programs and services, but also many of the basic resources and supports that enhance the district's operations and effectiveness. She noted that the budget should be viewed as a living document that may need to remain flexible as the district approaches the new school year. The Board member expressed confidence that the administration and the Board would continue working in good faith to make responsible adjustments as circumstances and previously unknown factors arise over the coming months. The current budget was described as a starting framework rather than a permanent or inflexible plan. She also addressed the use of $1.5 million from the Teaching and Learning Trust, noting that this further reduces the trust's principal balance and is not a sustainable long-term practice. While rebuilding the trust would be beneficial, the public should understand that the district cannot continue relying on those funds. The trust is not intended to function as a

general reserve or rainy-day account and must be used prudently. Although the passage of the budget provided some relief by avoiding reductions that could have been devastating to the school district, the Board member stated that the district continues to face significant financial challenges. The Board and administration must continually reassess the budget and recommit to making good-faith decisions that prioritize the needs of the district's children and students.

5. Committee Member Want expressed concern that middle schools appeared to be carrying a significant portion of the reductions. She stated that middle school was a difficult developmental period during which students transitioned from childhood toward adulthood. She supported the district's four-year middle school model but worried that the budget reduced the resources needed to make that model successful. She emphasized that while elementary support remained critical, the reductions would harm the entire district and disproportionately affect middle schools.
6. Vice Chair O'Connell stated that the district had approximately $32 million in reserve funds two and one-half years earlier and expected to have approximately $10 million remaining at the end of the fiscal year. He noted that the reduction in reserves also eliminated approximately $2 million to $3 million in annual investment income. Of the approximately $12.9 million funding gap, approximately $8.6 million would be addressed using money previously designated for debt payments and approximately $1.5 million would come from the trust. He characterized approximately $10.1 million of the solution as one-time funding. The remaining operating reduction was approximately $2.8 million and included elimination of the vacant positions. Vice Chair O'Connell stated that the district had also reduced approximately 30 positions during the previous year and would now have approximately 41 fewer positions. He argued that the trend was not sustainable.
7. Vice Chair O'Connell also stated that Manchester was among the lowest-funded districts in New Hampshire on a per-pupil basis while serving a population with substantial poverty, homelessness, and housing insecurity. He rejected the perception that the district's financial difficulties resulted from poor budget management. He stated that district funding increases had averaged approximately 1.5 percent during the previous six years and had not kept pace with inflation and rising utility and operational costs.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Garrity,** it was moved to approve the budget as presented.*

8. Committee Member St. John asked about approximately $8 million in tuition. The Finance Department explained that the amount was for out-of-district tuition for students with IEPs and specialized needs. The number of students fluctuated, and administration offered to provide the exact figure. He stated that he opposed the budget and stated that he could not support a plan that eliminated approximately 40 positions. He stated that he believed the Board should have been presented with multiple scenarios, including alternatives involving:
    - School start times.
    - Transportation walk zones.
    - Athletics.
    - Additional trust funding.

He requested that the matter be tabled and returned to the administration for additional options. There was no second to his motion. He then asked for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor to approve the budget as presented.

Roll Call:

Committee Members Garrity, Hamer, O'Neil-Wong, Parr, Georges, Taylor, Bergeron, Stewart, O'Connell, and Mayor Ruais voted yes.

Committee Members St. John, and Wanted voted no.

Committee Members Smith, Turner and Potter were absent.

Motion passed 10-2-3.

As a note: At the time of the original motion, Committee Member O'Neil-Wong had stepped out of the room. The Board awaited her return to complete the vote.

Vice Chair O'Connell clarified that approval of the budget preserved the existing transportation walk zone and current athletic programs. He noted, however, that potential future programs, including additional Unified Sports or other athletic opportunities such as volleyball, would remain on hold because of the budget constraints.

b. 21st Century and CLIF Grants – by Polly Golden, Grant Manager, and Nicole Doherty, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Leading

There was no discussion on this item.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Want,** it was moved to approve the 21st Century and CLIF Grants as submitted. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

c. Indemnification Contract Language (YMCA Power Scholars and Starbase) – by Nicole Doherty, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Leading

There was no discussion on this item.

*On motion of **Committee Member Parr,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Want,** it was moved to approve the indemnification contract language for the YMCA Power Scholars and Starbase as submitted. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

d. RFP Results – Transportation Relocation – by Dr. Kelly Espinola, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Espinola presented the administration's recommendation regarding transportation fleet parking, maintenance, and operational services. She explained that the district's current

arrangement with the Manchester Transit Authority (MTA) would end in early September because MTA had received a $20 million federal grant and was required to begin an expansion project by September 3. As a result, the district would no longer be permitted to house its buses at the MTA property.

Administration had worked for approximately one year to identify both short- and long-term transportation solutions. Beginning in June 2025, district transportation leadership met with the Mayor to discuss potential locations within the city. Possible sites and partnerships included the Manchester Airport, Saint Anselm College, Goffstown Trucking, Elliot Hospital, Comcast, Southern New Hampshire University, One Bouchard Street, and other properties. Many locations could not accommodate the approximately 57,000 square feet required for the district's fleet, lacked the necessary maintenance infrastructure, or presented significant financial challenges.

The district also explored renting limited maintenance space from MTA and utilizing the City of Manchester Department of Public Works fleet maintenance operation. Although the discussions were productive, the City's fleet operation did not have the capacity, specialized equipment, staffing, or certifications needed to maintain a school bus fleet of the district's size.

In February 2026, the district issued a request for proposals for transportation fleet parking, maintenance, fueling, and related services. First Student was the only vendor to respond. Its proposal included fleet storage, maintenance staffing, repair services, operational support, and dispatch office space at an estimated annual cost of approximately $979,000.

Administration also evaluated a decentralized approach involving multiple vendors for parking, maintenance, repairs, towing, snow removal, and other services. That option was estimated to cost approximately $400,000 more than the First Student proposal and would require district staff to manage multiple contracts, schedules, vendors, emergencies, and operational responsibilities. Dr. Espinola stated that First Student would provide mechanics dedicated specifically to the Manchester School District fleet, which could improve repair turnaround times. At the time of the meeting, approximately 50% of the district's buses were reportedly out of service because MTA did not have sufficient capacity to complete the necessary repairs.

The proposed First Student facility was located in Candia, near Exit 3 off Route 101. Administration recommended approving a two-year agreement with an option for a one-year extension. The contract was presented as a temporary solution that would provide operational stability while the district continued investigating opportunities to establish a district-owned, supervised, and operated transportation facility in Manchester. New possibilities at the Manchester Airport had recently emerged and warranted further review.

The fiscal year 2027 budget included $600,000 for transportation maintenance and fleet services. Administration stated that delaying the hiring of seven vacant bus drivers could provide approximately $240,000 in salary and benefit savings, while a recent departmental reorganization had generated approximately $40,000 in additional savings. Together, those funding sources could provide approximately $880,000 toward the anticipated costs.

Board questions and comments included:

1. Vice Chairman O'Connell referred members to the Finance and Facilities Committee minutes and noted that the proposal had been forwarded without a recommendation. He expressed concern that an agreement involving such a significant operational responsibility was being presented shortly before it would need to take effect. He emphasized that the district's primary responsibility was to ensure students were transported safely, efficiently, and on time. He stated that transportation difficulties should not become the primary issue during the first week of school.
2. Vice Chairman O'Connell acknowledged that the district had explored numerous locations and that no viable Manchester-based option could be operational before September. Although he remained dissatisfied with the circumstances, he reluctantly supported contracting with First Student as a temporary solution.

*On motion of **Vice Chair O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Want,** it was moved that the district pursue a one-year contract with First Student, with two optional one-year extensions, and that administration continue negotiating the cost and scope of the contract.*

3. Vice Chairman O'Connell acknowledged that several operational and financial questions remained unanswered, including:
    - The response of district transportation staff and bus drivers;
    - Additional costs that could arise during driver contract negotiations;
    - Fuel expenses associated with traveling to and from Candia;
    - Mileage and wear and tear on district buses; and
    - The district's reduced control over its fleet.

    He stated that the district was facing a no-win situation but believed shortening the initial contract term would place pressure on the district and City to identify a permanent Manchester-based solution.

4. Committee Member Garrity expressed frustration that the district had reached a point where the primary option involved relocating its buses to Candia. He questioned whether the need for a permanent parking and maintenance location had been adequately considered when the district initially brought transportation operations in-house. He raised concerns regarding the distance to Candia and the potential effect on transportation operations, including:
    - The time required to transport drivers to the facility;
    - The impact of driver lateness;
    - Delays in morning and afternoon routes;
    - The district's existing challenges with timely transportation; and
    - The effect of additional travel on students and staff.

    Committee Member Garrity stated that he could not support locating the district's buses in Candia and believed the district needed to find a location within Manchester. He also asked whether administration had consulted a real estate professional to assist with identifying a suitable property. Dr. Espinola confirmed that professional real estate assistance had been sought.

5. Committee Member St. John asked whether administration had considered a piecemeal approach involving separate vendors and locations for parking, maintenance, repairs, towing, snow removal, and other services. Dr. Espinola confirmed that the option had been evaluated but estimated it would cost approximately $400,000 more than the First Student proposal.
6. Committee Member St. John questioned whether the additional expense might be justified if it allowed the district to keep its operations and tax dollars within Manchester. He also asked whether the district had explored merging school transportation operations with MTA. Dr. Espinola explained that school bus transportation was separate from the public transit services MTA was legally authorized to operate.
7. Committee Member Parr asked whether the estimated additional $400,000 cost of a Manchester-based piecemeal approach accounted for potential savings in fuel, mileage, and wear and tear that could result from keeping the buses within the city. Dr. Espinola stated that fueling costs had not been included in the estimate.
8. Committee Member Parr expressed concern that the district did not yet know the full cost of operating from Candia, including additional mileage, fuel consumption, and vehicle wear. He stated that he understood the immediate need to move forward with First Student but supported limiting the initial agreement to one year. He also suggested that the Board consider a separate motion directing administration to develop a permanent solution by a specific deadline.
9. Committee Member Taylor urged the Board to consider the financial and operational realities facing the district. He noted that the Board had recently spent considerable time negotiating for every available budget dollar and had considered difficult reductions affecting transportation and classroom staffing. He stated that the additional $400,000 required for a piecemeal approach represented funding that could otherwise support teachers and classroom services. Committee Member Taylor emphasized that the possible airport option was not yet fully available because of federal aviation requirements and property-use restrictions. He cautioned against making a significant decision based on an option that did not yet exist in a workable form.

10. Committee Member Taylor commended Dr. Espinola for her work throughout the search process and stated that the Board should not make a rushed decision after administration had spent approximately one year evaluating alternatives.
11. Committee Member Taylor asked Attorney Upton to clarify whether a one-year contract with two optional one-year extensions was a viable arrangement.
12. Committee Member Stewart agreed that locating the buses in Candia was not ideal but stated that the district also needed to avoid remaining in a constant state of uncertainty and emergency planning. She described the First Student proposal as a temporary or "band-aid" solution that would provide operational stability while the district pursued a long-term plan.
13. Committee Member Stewart expressed concern that a one-year timeline might not be realistic for a project involving property acquisition, engineering, design, approvals, and construction. She also stated that the district did not have an additional $400,000 available for a piecemeal solution and noted that those funds could instead support classroom positions. She urged the Board to recognize that the First Student arrangement would provide the district with time to negotiate and develop a more permanent solution while helping ensure that students were transported on time.
14. Committee Member Stewart asked whether the City had any remaining surplus property that could be used to build a district-owned transportation facility. The Mayor responded that one potential City property remained under consideration. However, the site would require significant planning and development and could not be prepared before the beginning of the school year. The Mayor stated that the First Student agreement was intended as a short-term solution and that the long-term goal remained locating the district's transportation operations within Manchester.
15. It was asked whether the district's options were effectively limited to placing the buses at the First Student facility in Candia. Administration and legal counsel explained that the district had investigated numerous alternatives, but no other location offered the necessary space, maintenance capabilities, staffing, certifications, equipment, parts, and dispatch facilities. Attorney Upton stated that without an agreement, the district might be required to park buses at school properties, which could displace staff parking and leave the district without an adequate maintenance operation.

Dr. Espinola provided estimated costs associated with a piecemeal Manchester-based approach, including:

- Approximately $248,800 for rental of an MTA maintenance bay;
- Approximately $50,000 for airport parking;
- Approximately $675,000 for mobile maintenance services;
- Approximately $60,000 for snow-removal equipment;
- Approximately $50,000 for parking-lot maintenance and upkeep;
- Approximately $228,000 for fleet repairs and parts; and
- Approximately $6,000 for towing services.

Fueling costs were not included in those estimates.

Attorney Upton explained that the potential Manchester Airport property was designated for aeronautical use. The airport's master plan and the federal designation of the property would need to be amended before it could be used permanently for the district's transportation operation.
He stated that temporary use might be possible, but administration was uncertain whether the necessary approvals and arrangements could be completed before the start of school.

Attorney Upton also cautioned that a one-year initial contract could affect First Student's pricing or the district's bargaining position. First Student would likely seek longer-term stability before hiring staff and committing resources. He estimated that developing a permanent district facility could require a minimum of 18 months because of the need for site review, soil testing, engineering, design, permitting, approvals, and construction.

Attorney Upton recommended that the Board communicate its preference to return transportation operations to Manchester as quickly as possible while allowing administration sufficient flexibility to negotiate the most favorable agreement.

The Board determined that additional information involving legal and contractual matters should be discussed in nonpublic session before taking final action.

8:23 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Hamer**, it was moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, I (b) consultation with legal counsel.*

Roll Call: Committee Members Parr, Georges, Want, Taylor, Bergeron, Stewart, O'Connell, Garrity, Hamer, O'Neil-Wong, and Mayor Ruais voted yes. Committee Member St. John voted nay. Committee Members Turner, Potter and Smith were absent. Motion passed.

Present: Administration: Karen DeFrancis, Ryan Roth, Dr. Espinola, Michelle Evans, Attorney Matt Upton and Daley Frenette (Mayor's Office).

During this session, the board received legal advice from legal counsel, Attorney Matt Upton.

8:43 p.m.
*On motion of **Committee Member Want**, duly seconded by **Committee Member O'Connell**, it was moved to call the meeting back to order. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

Following discussion in nonpublic session, Committee Member Want rescinded her second to Vice Chair O'Connell's motion for a one-year contract with two optional one-year extensions.

Because the motion no longer had a second, it did not proceed.

*On motion of **Committee Member Want**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Stewart,** it ws moved to approve a two-year contract with First Student, with an option for a one-year extension, with the administration to provide monthly updates to the Finance and Facilities*

Committee and that the full Board and public would be kept informed of the City's efforts to identify an alternative Manchester location.

Committee Member St. John reminded the Board that administration could investigate and present options, but elected Board members were ultimately responsible for making the final decision. He encouraged members to oppose the proposal and retain district transportation funds and buses within Manchester.

Committee Member Parr requested that multiple scenarios be presented as the district evaluated long-term options rather than bringing forward only one recommendation.
A roll-call vote was conducted by Committee Member Want.

Roll Call:

Committee Members Want, Taylor, Bergeron, Stewart, Garrity, O'Neil Wong, Parr, Georges and Mayor Ruais voted yes.

Committee Members O'Connell, Garrity and Hamer voted no.

Committee Members Smith, Turner and Potter were absent.

Motion passed.

10. CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 10 – 17)

a. Mayor Ruais advises if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, only one motion will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

*On motion of **Committee Member Taylor,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Stewart,** it was moved to approve the consent agenda. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

The approved consent agenda is as follows:

b. Approval of minutes from the Board of School Committee meetings on: June 8, 2026.

c. Report(s) of the Committee on Policy, if available.

1. Minor Policy/Procedure Updates
   (Procedures include: Personnel and Hiring 405-R1 and 405-R2; Students 500-R1 and 500-R2) (Policies include: Students 557; Instruction 701; Fiscal 915; and Fiscal 916.)
2. Revisions to Policy Community, Agency and Foundations 202: Student- Teaching and Internships
3. Approval for use of the District Name, Logo or Likeness, by Parent Groups
4. Revisions to policy Students 510: Homeless Students

d. Report(s) of the Committee of Teaching and Learning, if available.

1. Research Proposal: Teacher's Perception of At-Risk Middle School Students, Learning Loss Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic
2. Out-of-State Field Trip: SHOALS Marine Laboratory
3. Multilingual Learner Education: Program Recommendations for 2026-2027
4. Policy: Instruction 733 High School Graduation Requirements and Promotion
5. Policy Instruction 703: Curriculum Development, Management, and Instructional Resources

e. Report(s) of the Committee of Finance and Facilities, if available.

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Grants, Gifts & Donations Report ($6,026,062.92)
3. RFP Results - Stop Loss Health Insurance
4. SmartShopper Renewal
5. City Service Invoices ($31,854.87)

6. Assurances for USDA Commodities Application
7. RFP Results - School Food and Nutrition Services
8. Apptegy Website and Communication Platform
9. Donation from Caite's Closet
10. Manifest of Authorized Expenditures - May 2026 ($24,501,573.89)
11. Indemnification Contract Language
12. RFP Results - Copy/Printer Paper
13. RFP Results - School & Office Supplies
14. Paid Meal Price Increase
15. RFP Results - Legal Services
16. Salary Increases for Non-Affiliated Employees
17. Financial Reports

f. Report(s) of the Committee of Student Conduct, if available.

g. Report(s) of the Committee on Education Legislation, if available.

h. Report(s) of the Joint School Buildings Committee (City Committee).

i. Special Committees, if applicable:

- Report from the Special Committee on Athletics, if available.

COMMUNICATIONS

11. Superintendent's Communications.

a) Superintendent Updates:

1. Specialized Transportation

Assistant Superintendent Roth reported that specialized transportation would continue throughout the summer, including during Extended School Year programming. The district would continue working closely with transportation providers to review routes, schedules, and student needs to maximize efficiency while maintaining all required service levels.

2. **Recruitment and Hiring**

   Michelle Evans, Director of Human Resources, reported that staff continued supporting principals as they screened and interviewed candidates for building vacancies. Elementary principals had made strong progress, and approximately 11 elementary classroom vacancies remained across the district.
   Candidates continued to apply, creating a pipeline for principals to review and interview. They continue supporting middle and high school principals, particularly in recruiting special education teachers and other hard-to-fill positions. Hiring for other middle and high school positions had been paused while the district waited for final approval of the budget reductions for the 2026–2027 school year. Now that the budget had been approved, Human Resources and district leadership would work with principals to finalize and post approved positions.

3. **District Summer Hours**

   The district office would remain open throughout the summer from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Families were encouraged to check individual school websites or contact schools directly for school-specific summer hours.

Vice Chair O'Connell asked whether all approved vacant positions would be posted immediately now that the budget had passed. He expressed concern that candidates might be lost if the district delayed posting positions that had previously been held because of budget uncertainty. The administration confirmed that principals had reviewed the position list and that Human Resources would begin posting approved positions the following day.

Vice Chair O'Connell also asked whether the reductions would require a substantial number of involuntary transfers before the contractual notification deadline. The administration stated that

very few involuntary transfers were anticipated because most of the affected positions were vacant.

12. Board of School Committee Members' Communications.

a. Board Self-Evaluation – by Vice Chair O'Connell

Vice Chair O'Connell thanked Board members for completing the Board self-evaluation. He noted that the Board had struggled in prior years to receive full participation and expressed appreciation that all members had submitted their evaluations.

The results would be discussed during the Board retreat and would help guide development of Board goals for the following year.

The originally proposed retreat dates did not work for enough members. The Board Clerk had contacted the New Hampshire School Boards Association to identify alternative dates later in August after vacation schedules had concluded. Once dates were received, Board members would be sent a Google form to indicate availability.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Hamer,** it was moved to approve the results of the Board Self-Evaluation. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

b. Superintendent Evaluation Form – The forms have been sent to the Board Members. The finalized form MUST be submitted to the Board Clerk by Wednesday, June 24th, 2026.

Vice Chair O'Connell reviewed the process for the annual Superintendent evaluation under Board Policy Administration 304. He stated:

1. Board members are required to complete the annual evaluation as part of their responsibilities. The evaluation forms had been distributed following presentation of the district goals update.
2. Completed forms are due to the Board Clerk no later than Wednesday, June 24.
3. The Board Clerk would compile and tally the responses and provide the results to the Chair and Vice Chair.
4. The Chair and Vice Chair would then review the results and complete the summary evaluation required under the policy. They would meet with Superintendent Dr. Chmiel to review the evaluation no later than August 15.
5. Following the meeting, Dr. Chmiel would have the opportunity to submit written comments. Those comments would be included in the agenda packet for the August 24, 2026 Board meeting.
6. Policy Administration 304 was included in the meeting packet on pages 322 through 325.

13. Personnel Report.

No items were removed from the personnel report.

*On motion of **Committee Member Parr,** duly seconded by **Committee Member O'Connell,** it was moved to approve the personnel report and supplemental report as submitted. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

The approved report was as follows:

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: ADMINISTRATION

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Sheila Jacobo-Ahmed	Assistant Principal	Southside	$106,037.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Anne Farley	Special Education Teacher	Bakersville	$83,444.00

Keith Matte	ESOL Teacher	Beech	$53,016.00
Sharon DeVincent	Fourth Grade Teacher	Jewett	$92,016.00
David Elliot	Family/Consumer Science Teacher	McLaughlin	$64,704.00
Mary Provost	Science Physical Teacher	McLaughlin	$46,350.00
Emily Major	Special Education Teacher	Memorial	$58,100.00
Raychel Pfeffer	Special Education Teacher	Northwest	$58,100.00
Corey Gott	Second Grade Teacher	Northwest	$53,016.00
Alexis Miller	Third Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	$48,611.00
Peter Van Amburg	Math Teacher	Parkside	$48,611.00
Jessica Gifford	Spanish Teacher	Parkside	$67,422.00
Cali Nunes	Fifth Grade Teacher	Parkside	$48,611.00
Rebecca Domin	Library Media Specialist	Webster	$87,135.00
Emma Wright	Health Teacher	Hillside	$46,350.00
Steven Carey	ESOL Teacher	Beech	$49,748.00
Aaron Czysz	Art Teacher	West	$85,470.00
Alyssa Gonzales	Math Teacher	Hillside	$49,748.00
Ann Kalasky	First Grade Teacher - 1 Year	Jewett	$87,340.00
Regan Carpine	Second Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	$46,350.00
Alanna Langley	Kindergarten Dual Language Immersion Teacher	Bakersville	$81,730.00
Baron Richardson	7th Grade Science Teacher	Hillside	$81,730.00
Tracy Smith	Business Teacher	Central	$89,960.00
Kelly Hughes Keravich	Speech Language Pathologist	Bakersville	$87,340.00

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Jamie Duquette	Fourth Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	$53,970.00

NOMINATIONS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Lindsey Hicks	Fourth Grade Teacher	Highland GF	$47,741.00
Joseph Carrero	Music Teacher	Jewett	$47,741.00
Gillian Hunt	Third Grade Teacher	Northwest	$47,741.00
Emily Robinson	Social Worker	Weston	$55,771.00
Kristina Currier	Art Teacher	Bakersville	$89,960.00
Nicole Abusamra	Biology Teacher	Central	$71,890.00

Jennifer Macrigeanis	Fourth Grade Teacher	Bakersville	$55,771.00
Maura Burns	Kindergarten Teacher	Highland GF	$84,182.00
Melissa Berry	Social Worker - 1 Year Position	Southside	$74,346.00
Kathryn Taft	Special Education Preschool Teacher	Weston	$84,182.00
Lydia Payne	Third Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	$47,741.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Madeline Swensen	Paraeducator I	Parker Varney	$17.51
Basmina Shinwari	Paraeducator II	Webster	$18.03
Olivia Mazzoni	Registered Behavior Technician	Northwest	$30.90
Alexandra Mlodynia	21st Century Site Coordinator	Bakersville	$33,053.59
Jessica Engel	Paraeducator I	Webster	$17.51
Amanda Carter	Speech Language Pathology Assistant	Northwest	$32.00
Hannah Cloutier	Paraeducator II	Northwest	$18.03
Karla Heredia	Registered Behavior Technician	Hillside	$30.90
Elizabeth Madol	Paraeducator II	Hillside	$18.03
Michelle Cassavaugh	Assistant Director, MTSS-B	District	$95,000.00

NOMINATIONS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Matthew Larochelle	School Safety Facilitator	District	$60,000.00
Kayla Picard	Registered Behavior Technician	Mill Falls Charter	$30.90
Diana Moran	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant	Highland GF	$32.00
Alexis Galloway	Administrative Assistant III	Hillside	$22.53
Olivia Weibel	Paraeducator I	Northwest	$17.51
Sarah Constantino	Paraeducator I - Self Contained	Weston	$17.51

TRANSFERS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Current Assignment	Current School	Effective Date
Alison Potoma	Art Teacher	Hillside	08/27/26
Ashley Marchand	Fourth Grade Teacher	Bakersville	08/27/26
Athena Anger	Computer Science Teacher	Parkside	08/27/26
Kelly Chaisson	Fourth Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	08/27/26
Makenna Platte	Second Grade Teacher	Beech	08/27/26
Maria Andary	Kindergarten Teacher	Parker Varney	08/27/26
Michaela Hoffman	Second Grade Teacher	Beech	08/27/26
Nicole Glejzer	Math/Literacy Interventionist	Northwest	08/27/26
Regan Carpine	Second Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	08/27/26
Samantha Brisson	First Grade Teacher	Bakersville	08/27/26
Shona Sulzbach	Third Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	08/27/26
Sophia Capistran	Third Grade Teacher	Bakersville	08/27/26
Theresa Carbone	First Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	08/27/26
Tracy Roberts	First Grade Teacher	McDonough	08/27/26
Troye Anne Fennell	French Teacher 60/40	Memorial/MST	08/27/26
Steven Carey	ESOL Teacher	Beech	08/27/26
Melanie Burns	Second Grade Teacher	Parker Varney	08/27/26
Nicole Flurey	Literacy/Math Interventionist	Weston	08/27/26
Charles Dunn	ESOL Teacher	Central	08/27/26
Shayla Stickney	Second Grade Teacher	Bakersville	08/27/26
Jennifer Atkins	Literacy/Math Interventionist - 1 Year	Cardinal Lacroix Academy	08/27/26

TRANSFERS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Current Assignment	Current School	Effective Date
Michael Killoran	Paraeducator II	Bakersville	09/03/26

14. TABLED ITEMS

a. School Start Time Survey Results, Presentation and approval of Proposed Adjustments to the School Bell Schedules – by Dr. Jennifer Chmiel

*On motion of **Committee Member Parr,** duly seconded by **Committee Member St. John,** it was moved to remove item 14-a from the table. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

Committee Member Parr stated that the administration had previously provided information regarding potential bell schedule changes. He had requested additional details showing how approximately $600,000 in savings would be achieved. He noted that even several hundred thousand dollars could affect staffing levels and help the district maintain a more complete instructional workforce. Committee Member Parr acknowledged that implementation for the 2026–2027 school year was likely no longer practical because of the limited time before the beginning of school. However, he believed the district should receive a fuller update and develop a detailed plan for possible implementation during the 2027–2028 school year.

The administration explained that the estimated $600,000 in transportation savings would primarily result from moving from a three-tier transportation system to a single-tier system. Under the existing schedule, separate bus runs were required for high school, middle school, and elementary students. The proposed schedule would allow buses to transport students across levels within a single transportation tier rather than completing multiple sequential routes. This would reduce the number of buses and drivers required.

The projected savings would result from eliminating approximately one full bus route and associated driver position, along with related costs for:

- Fuel.
- Maintenance.
- Vehicle replacement.
- Other transportation operations.

The administration clarified that the savings would result from reducing transportation resources and staffing needs.

The administration did not recommend implementing a bell schedule change for the 2026–2027 school year.

Through discussions with families, staff, community organizations, and before- and after-school providers, it had become clear that more planning time was needed. If the Board wished to continue exploring the change, the administration recommended using the 2026–2027 school year as a planning year.

That process would include continued collaboration with:

- Families.
- Community organizations.
- Childcare providers.
- Charter and parochial schools.
- Municipal stakeholders.
- Employee bargaining units.

The administration recommended that implementation occur no earlier than the 2027–2028 school year.

Questions and comments by the Board included:

1. Committee Member Hamer asked when the administration could reasonably return with a detailed plan. The administration recommended returning in December. He stated that a December presentation would allow the Board to evaluate the proposal and, if approved, notify families by approximately March so they would have adequate time to prepare.
2. The Manchester Education Association would also need to be included because school start and end times were affected by collective bargaining agreements.
3. Committee Member St. John stated that research supported the proposed bell schedule and suggested that it could improve student outcomes. He moved to approve the change.
4. Other members questioned whether the district had sufficiently considered the experiences of principals, assistant principals, teachers, students, and families.

It was reported that while visiting elementary schools and speaking with school staff, most of the elementary schools visited did not support the change, while two indicated they could accommodate either schedule because most students were transported by bus or family vehicles.

Concerns raised during the visits included:

- Elementary students waiting for buses in darkness and cold winter weather.
- Students walking behind snowbanks where drivers might not see them.
- Whether students would have sufficient time to eat breakfast.
- The effect on students experiencing homelessness.
- Increased student tardiness.
- High school and middle school students who picked up younger siblings after school.
- Childcare needs for staff members.
- Possible employee transfers or resignations.
- Effects on athletics and after-school activities.

The administration also stated that they reviewed survey data, which included:

1. Approximately 25 percent of elementary families and 41 percent of staff responded.
2. Approximately 62 percent of respondents agreed with the research supporting later secondary start times.
3. Approximately 32 percent believed the proposed shift would positively affect their household.
4. Overall support for the proposed schedule change was approximately 52 percent.

Board members disagreed about how the results should be characterized. Some stated that respondents understood the research but were not clearly supportive of the practical change.

The district does not have sufficient time to implement the change for September 2026.

*On motion of **Committee Member Want,** duly seconded by **Committee Member St. John,** it was moved to receive and file the current proposal and direct the administration to continue its work. The administration was asked to return in December with:*

- *Updated information.*
- *A detailed implementation plan.*
- *Analysis of the viability of implementation for the 2027–2028 school year.*
- *Information from community partners.*

- *Consideration of effects on families and staff.*
- *Multiple potential scenarios.*

All were in favor and the motion passed.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT- 9:06 P.M.

Sue Hannan, President of the Manchester Education Association (MEA), stated:

In this discussion you just had, I just need to caution you that this is part of my contract, and therefore, it is negotiated. I can't guarantee you all that you're going to get a detailed plan in December because it will come through negotiations with us starting in September. My contract right now is the one that kind of controls the start and stop times of schools. So, all of this discussion is great and includes things that I have most definitely heard from members and so on. At this point, some of you are right. It is too late in the game to be able to make that kind of change for next year. But just be aware that this is not yet your decision to make. Once we have a contract and have pulled all that kind of stuff together, I'm sure we will be able to have some great conversations about that, and we will be able to cite research, even within the contract, to make sure that it is understood how well it should work. So, thank you.

*On motion of **Committee Member Want,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Stewart,** it was moved to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented. All present were in favor and the motion passed.*

Responses to public comment included:

Vice Chair O'Connell added that any detailed plan should also address the effect on:

- Bus drivers.
- School nurses.
- School resource officers.
- Other school employees.
- Families.
- Community partners.

He stated that the district should consult all affected groups to avoid unforeseen consequences.

15. NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Hamer:
   He reported attending the City Year graduation with Committee Member Stewart. The graduates spoke about what they had learned during the year and demonstrated commitment to serving district students, including some of the district's most vulnerable learners. He described the event as inspiring and commended the City Year participants for their dedication.
2. Committee Member Taylor:
   He announced that the City, in partnership with City Year, would offer a free summer concert series at Veterans Park on many Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. The events would feature a variety of musical artists and would be free, family-friendly, and open to the public. Community members were encouraged to bring picnic baskets, blankets, and chairs.
3. Committee Member Want:
   She praised the district's graduation ceremonies and thanked the administration and staff members who organized them. She stated that each ceremony was unique and highlighted the potential, excitement, and accomplishments of the graduates. She also thanked the families who supported the students.
4. Vice Chair O'Connell:
   a. He recognized the start of a new bus service from Valley Street to Livingston Park. He credited former Board member and Ward 5 Alderman Jason Bonilla with helping establish the service. The service would provide children from central Manchester with access to the Livingston Park swimming pool and other recreational facilities.
   b. Vice Chair O'Connell announced a World Cup watch party at the JFK Memorial Coliseum for the United States game. The event had also been organized with the involvement of Alderman Bonilla. Community members were invited to attend and support the United States team.

16. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A motion is in order to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting; (k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A and RSA 91-A:2, I (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; and, (b) consultation with legal counsel.

A roll call is required on the motion.

9:11 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Parr**, it was moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting; (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions; (j) Consideration of confidential, commercial, or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RSA 541 or RSA 541-A; (k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A and RSA 91-A:2, I (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; and, (b) consultation with legal counsel.*

Roll Call: Committee Members Parr, Georges, Want, Taylor, Bergeron, Stewart, O'Connell, St. John, Garrity, Hamer, O'Neil-Wong, and Mayor Ruais voted yes. Committee Members Turner, Potter and Smith were absent. Motion passed.

Present: Administration: Attorney Matt Upton, Karen DeFrancis, Ryan Roth, Dr. Espinola, Michelle Evans and Daley Frenette (Mayor's Office).

Items discussed include:

1. *There was discussion on a personnel matter, which fell under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.*
2. *There was a discussion on a student matter, which fell under the provisions of RSA 91-a:3 II, matters if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person.*
3. *Ther was a discussion on negotiations, that fell under the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, I (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.*

17. A motion is in order to call the meeting back to order.

9:27 p.m.
*On motion of **Committee Member Taylor**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Want**, it was moved to call the meeting back to order. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

18. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.

On motion of ***Committee Member O'Connell,*** *duly seconded by* ***Committee Member Stewart,*** *it was moved to adjourn. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.*

True Copy. Attest.
Respectfully Submitted,

Angela M Carey

Clerk of Committee