

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
August 1, 2019 – Town Hall
7:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dave Mylott called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Nicole Carleton, Member Ben Leavitt, Member Heather Clark and Superintendent Valerie McKenney. Chair Deborah Brooks and Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom were absent.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. Valerie McKenney – Climate and Culture Update

Superintendent McKenney stated that on July 15th, 2019 Bill Preble presented the Climate and Culture results. Since that time, she has met two evenings with parents to generate discussion and questions. Val is asking the Board for a two-year commitment to the Center for Learning and School Culture at the cost of \$34,391 for one year. Val has secured a grant for \$20,330 which will leave a balance of \$14,061. She stated that they would need to budget for the second year and consider writing another grant. The Board discussed if the survey would be done yearly and at what time of the year and the various proposed options. Val recommends option 1, the action research model. There was further discussion about the cost of what work has already been done. Val will find out what the second-year estimate would be, what is the recommendation for the next survey and if the \$34 thousand includes an additional survey. Dave questioned if this would be for all three schools. Val stated that quote was for all three schools. Ben clarified the cost per school.

After further discussion and comments, the Board decided that they needed more information before voting on a two year commitment. They should be ready to vote at the August 15, 2019 meeting.

b. Justin Benna – EES Handbook Review

Mr. Benna reviewed the Elementary Handbook_revisions to the 19-20 handbook which included changes to language and student discipline procedures.

The Board had a general discussion to changes made in the handbook.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the Elementary Handbook as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

Prior to Mr. Ernest presenting his handbook, Val took the opportunity to let the Board know that Mr. Ernest has been working diligently over the summer on the comprehensive form.

c. Brian Ernest – EHS Handbook Review

Mr. Ernest asked the Board to also look at the athletics handbook this evening. He presented his annual revisions made to the 19-20 handbooks.

Heather stated that she did not have a chance to look at the proposed revisions and felt that with the amount of changes, she did not want to vote on the approval of handbook at this meeting.

There was general discussion by the Board in regards to changes in the high school and the athletic handbooks.

The Board will review the requested changes in the EHS handbook and athletic handbook and email their questions to the Principal to be ready to vote at the August 15, 2019 the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Parent Michelle Mylott asked if there was an answer from PowerSchool related to the change in grading. Val stated that she was told that it cannot be done and asked Ben to read the letter from PowerSchool stating that this type of system does not exist.

Nicole wants to create a committee to explore other options for a student information system. Val said that she and Deb Dwyer did a conference call with a company called Jump Rope which is an add-on to PowerSchool which could enhance PowerSchool. She said that it is a huge project to re-align grading software.

Dave said he would like a committee to review PowerSchool and other student information systems and that the committee should consist of one Board member, parents, an administrator and a member from technology. Heather suggested having a student as well.

Motion made by Dave Mylott to establish a committee for reviewing the student information systems at the three schools. Seconded by Heather Clark. Vote 4-0. Motion carries.

The Board discussed

- Timelines
- Feedback from other schools
- Number of committee members and who should make up the committee

Val said that she will speak to the District Leadership Team at the next meeting and put together what the committee would look like and have it ready for the Board at the next meeting.

The Board further discussed whether it would make sense to spend \$2,000.00 for PowerSchool to explore a different type of grading with no guarantee. Michelle Mylott questioned the clarity from PowerSchool. Val said she will be meeting with Mr. Whitesell and Mr. Ernest to talk in depth about thinking it through.

POLICY:

a. Policy EHBA – Email Retention – Second/Third Read

Val said that these are minor changes made by the Technology Director based on HB1612.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve policy EHBA Email Retention as written. Seconded by Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

b. Policy EDC – Use of School-owned Materials and Equipment – Second/Third Read.

The Board rephrased the language of the policy regarding responsibility. Val said that she will bring it back to the Technology Director to revisit and bring back on August 15, 2019.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent gave her report by speaking about

- District Leadership Team meeting that was held earlier in the day.
- Progress at the elementary school parking lot and walkway.
- The town’s Tabletop Exercise in conjunction with HomeLand Security.
- September 5th, 2019 will be the Board’s walkthrough of the buildings starting at the elementary school at 5:45pm.

PERSONNEL

a. Resignation - Erika Brazee resigned as the School Board Secretary.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the resignation of Erika Brazee with regret. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

The Board thanked Erika for her for her service.

b. Nominations – The following nominations to the School Board are:

Amy Hill – K-5 Science Position

Amy Newman – EMS/EHS Library Media Specialist

Dawn Thurlow – EHS Special Ed Teacher-Case Manager

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the nomination of the three candidates as presented. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

Val spoke about the chart she included in her report showing the states that have adopted Competency Based Education. Heather suggested to put the chart on the website so parents can see that this is not just New Hampshire who has adopted CBE.

Dave wanted to make sure that the handbooks would be ready prior to the August 15, 2019 meeting.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for July 18, 2019

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 3-0-1. Motion carries. Nicole Carleton abstained.

b. Non-Public Minutes for July 18, 2019

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the non-public minutes. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 3-0-1. Motion carries. Nicole Carleton abstained.

Ben wanted to know if Bonnie would have the final numbers for the 2018-2019 budget.

Dave asked the Board for a motion to allow him to sign the State's Annual General Assurance documents.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Vice-Chair David Mylott to sign the State's General Assurance forms. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #3 dated 8/1/2019 in the amount of \$372,570.51. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

Nicole - none.

Ben - There should be a payroll manifest #2 from July 26, 2019

Heather – Asked for the comment notes from the last Climate and Culture meeting. Val stated that she had emailed them to the Board.

Dave – On behalf of the Board, he and the Board are wishing Deb Brooks well.

Dave – Safety Table Top meeting tomorrow and how amazing it is to see how the town comes together. Dave would like to attend the next field committee meeting with Nicole Carleton.

Val - thanked the administrative team for their hard work this summer.

Heather – Thanks the schools for getting the word out about the cooling stations during hot weather periods.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. August 15, 2019 – 7:00 pm Regular School Board Meeting

b. August 29, 2019 – 7:00 pm Special School Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Member Heather Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Christine Cue
Acting School Board Secretary