

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD

November 7, 2019 - Town Hall

School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deborah Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Chair Deborah Brooks, Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Nicole Carleton, Member Ben Leavitt, Member Heather Clark, Superintendent Valerie McKenney, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Student Faith Williamson, and Student Taya Morgado.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

- a. Don Nichol/Mike Davey - Energy Efficient Investments, Inc.

Mike Davey compiled a matrix with many different improvement options and looked at different scenarios. He narrowed the list down to four options. There was a general discussion about the four options. Only one of the options includes air conditioning. He's seeking the Board's approval for one of the options in order for the Board to put out a warrant article and type up a formal report for that option. Deborah asked about the propane to oil BTU comparison. Propane is more efficient, and oil isn't technically a heating fuel. The rebates listed in the calculations are a one-time thing. Mike Davey's company, Energy Efficient Investments, Inc., will pay the difference if the annual energy savings aren't met. However, the company usually beats the predicted savings. David asked what the cost would be to fix the issues and do the bare minimum amount of work. Don said that it would cost roughly \$262,000, a one-time cost. The SAU and elementary school's underground oil tank were recently replaced. The equipment is only at the end of life when it starts leaking. The current boilers' age makes Don concerned. Deborah asked how much the school district has spent this past year to repair the six troubled boilers. It has cost them around \$25,000. The school district is using 6 residential boilers in a commercial setting. Don doesn't feel comfortable saying that the heating system will last another year. If they lose one or two boilers, the pipes may be okay, but it wouldn't be enough heat to warm the classrooms. Don investigated the idea of renting heat, and it is super expensive. Payback isn't relevant to the decision making because necessities are mixed in with nonessential items, such as LED lighting. Deborah asked if the price could go up in a month if they chose option four. Mike said that the numbers given are 98% accurate. He also reminded the Board that their decision is not binding during this stage of the process. They would know the cost within two weeks' time. Heather said that the town has been supportive of warrant articles in the past, but numbers are high right now for taxpayers. She doesn't think that the community is up for it. She doesn't think that Mike should waste his time writing a report for any of these options. Nicole agrees with Heather and doesn't think the town will support the vote since the tax rate just came out. Don said that it is bad timing in terms of the tax rate but doesn't want to risk the boilers breaking in January. David said the challenge is with how reluctant Don is about the heating system getting through the year. If the warrant article doesn't pass, then they'd have to wait another year before

getting to fix the system. Valerie said that it is frightening to think that the schools could get shut down due to lack of heat. She would recommend getting two new boilers installed over Christmas break. She would rather be safe than sorry. Mike suggested a budget neutral project. It would fix the boilers and include budget neutral components. Ben said that he doesn't like the chance of finding themselves without money to complete this project. He would like to save the reserve money for the roof repairs. He thinks that they need to stop pushing projects out, but he wants to feel comfortable that the town is behind this project. He potentially thinks that they should go forward with the budget neutral project. David said that learning more about the budget neutral option is a no brainer and Heather agreed. Deborah said that the repairs are getting out of hand. She thinks that option three would make the most sense since its lower than the \$25,000 they've already spent on repairs this year. She agreed with Don about the control problem and thinks that option four is the best option; however, option three is more budget friendly. She said it's good long term versus just replacing the boilers. She is also interested in the budget neutral option. Heather thinks that AC in the high school will happen in the near future. Bonnie said that on December 11 is the warrant article review. Mike said that they can put controls solely on the big pumps which will save money in the short and long term. If the school district adds central air conditioning, they would have to get rid of all the classroom controls anyways. Mike Davey will be back on November 21 with a budget neutral option.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

POLICY

- a. EHAB - Data Governance and Security - Second/Third Read

Member Nicole Carleton made a motion to approve policy EHAB - Data Governance and Security as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

- b. JJA - Student Co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities - Second/Third Read

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve policy JJA - Student Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Heather wants this policy sent out to middle and high school families in order to raise awareness about the change. Valerie said that it's possible.

PERSONNEL

- a. Retirements 19-20

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the retirement of Don Bender. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Vice Chair David Mylott abstained.

He was a math teacher at the high school.

- b. Anticipated Retirements 20-21

Three people plan on retiring in June of 2021. They reported it for budget purposes.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Student Reports

The “I Am College Bound” event is tomorrow for seniors. It allows students to apply to NH colleges for free. The NHIAA representatives, Ben and Sara, attended the SLC meeting last Tuesday. They taught the students about time and stress management along with team culture. The SLC is setting up a rival week with Newmarket high school filled with mini competitions between the two schools. Sara and Ben would come to it to teach students and raise awareness about SLC. Some of the students want information on the superintendent search. Deborah told Taya and Faith to point students towards Austin Clark and Kayla Orthmann. They are the student representatives from the high school for the superintendent search committee. An advertisement to find a superintendent is going out by the end of the week, and they’re hoping to start getting applications sometime next week. The school district’s website has the superintendent survey available for people to take. Deborah encouraged students to fill it out.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Project Graduation Affiliated Agreement

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Project Graduation Affiliated Agreement for the upcoming school year. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Budget Discussion and Approval

Deborah discussed the extreme importance of the budget approval and why they postponed their decision. Administration reviewed the budget. They know taxes are going up \$1.76 on every \$1,000. The board has already made numerous cuts in order to lower the budget. They’re going to finalize the budget at the next November meeting. Valerie and the principals are going to obtain more information about personnel in order to help with the budget. They’re currently slightly over the default budget. David said that it is a difficult process. They didn’t feel comfortable making the decision yet because they still have more questions on how to lower the budget without jeopardizing students’ education. Deborah made a statement that any decisions made aren’t personal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for October 17, 2019

Member Nicole Carleton made a motion to accept the public minutes from October 17, 2019. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Nonpublic Meeting October 23, 2019

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes from October 23, 2019. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Public Minutes for October 26, 2019

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the public minutes from October 26, 2019. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 3-0. Motion carries. Member Nicole Carleton and Member Heather Clark abstained.

d. Budget Meetings October 21, 23, 29, 2019

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the budget meeting minutes from October 21, 2019 as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the budget meeting minutes from October 23, 2019 with changes. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the budget meeting minutes from October 29, 2019 as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Vice Chair David Mylott abstained.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve payroll manifest #9 dated 11/1/2019 in the amount of \$381,754.39. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve payroll manifest #10 dated 11/15/2019 in the amount of \$380,518.30. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest #9 dated 10/24/2019 in the amount of \$258,263.02. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest #10 dated 11/7/2019 in the amount of \$588,341.69. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

David mentioned the wonderful Veteran's Day event at the elementary school. He thanked the school for coordinating the event.

Heather informed the public that the middle school assembly regarding Veteran's Day is at 9:30 am on 11/8/19. She reminded people that there will be no school on Monday, 11/11.

Ben thanked the community for maintaining faith and coming to the School Board meetings.

Valerie reminded parents that they've reached mid semester and to check their student's grades tomorrow, 11/8.

Next Tuesday, there is going to be an assembly to discuss suicide and opioid prevention.

Deborah said that there are wonderful people on the superintendent search committee, and that they're all learning more about themselves. They're starting the search early because they don't want to end up with applicants who have been turned down by other districts. The Epping community can watch the interviews online.

Heather said that the play this past weekend was fabulous and had some great humor.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. November 21, 2019 - Regular School Board Meeting

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II*

(*a. personnel, b. hiring, c. adverse reputation, d. property, e. legal, g. security functions, i. emergency functions)

The meeting went into nonpublic session at 8:14 pm to discuss the budget for 2020-2021 and *a. personnel.

The public meeting reconvened at 9:35 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Heather Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary