

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD

November 21, 2019 - Town Hall

School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair David Mylott called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: 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. Chair Deborah Brooks was absent.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. EEI Presentation - Mike Davey and Don Nichols

Mike Davey discussed the budget neutral project that he created for the Board. Heather asked if the past projects he proposed were 20-year leases. He said the first ones were shorter but in order to make the proposal more budget neutral he increased the length of the lease. It was noted that leases can be paid off early if there is extra money available to do so. Ben asked about the boiler controls. The project would alleviate the need for someone to come in on the weekends to adjust the controls. The interest rate for the project will be fixed once a number is decided. Leasing typically happens in April or May, so the rate will most likely be different from the proposed rate. Heather said that she believes there is a possibility for the district to transition to natural gas in the future. There was a general discussion about the cost, natural gas rates, and potential tariffs. Nicole asked when the project would start if it was passed. It would most likely be completed in September of 2020. Heather questioned the available rebate. It would be \$25,000 for using propane. David is very supportive of the budget neutral project. The last day to present any warrant articles is January 8th. Heather is not in favor of this project and thinks that the proposed LED lights are carrying the payback savings versus the conversion to propane. David doesn't think \$25,000, the cost savings from propane, is a small number. Eckhardt and Johnson said that the cost for two big boilers would be \$260,000 and that wouldn't include fixing any of the other issues. They recommended a company like EEI to fix all of the issues. Both Don and Mike think a transition to natural gas is in the near future and that propane tanks will make it an easier transition compared to oil tanks. Nicole thinks that they should present this project as a warrant article. Bonnie talked to the district's attorney and agreed with her. Ben is also in favor

of a warrant article. Heather asked what the next steps would be for the heating system. Mike said that they would have to budget for the rest of the controls, ventilation, and air conditioning. They discussed the costs of these add-ons.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to enter into an agreement with EEI for up to \$995,045. Seconded by Member Heather Clark with further discussion. VOTE 3:1 Motion carries. Member Heather Clark opposed.

b. Krista Gulick and Valerie McKenney: Epping Academic Achievement 18-19

They presented last year's student achievement data for the Epping School District. They are going to present it to all the schools.

Ms. Gulick discussed the 19-20 preparation measures that were taken to assist students and faculty. There was training for STAR, planning for NH SAS, data meetings, presenting data to staff, and setting a district goal. Ms. Gulick also discussed the Class of 2019's graduation rate, GPA, and post-secondary education. The graduation rate has improved. GPA is not a bell curve which she found interesting. One theory her and Valerie came up with was grade inflation. 72% of students continued to some form of post-secondary education. Next, she discussed the Spring 2019 accountability assessments: SAT, NH SAS, PACE, STAR, and summatives. The SAT results for the 18-19 school year were comparable to the State. The science results were lower, but students don't receive the same amount of preparation for this test, and the user interface is different. Heather asked about interim science tests, but there are none. There are modular shorter assessments that focus on one skill that are used to prep kids. Even though scores are lower for the science tests, New England scores more highly compared to the rest of the country. The test is computer adaptive meaning the questions get harder when students get more questions right.

She looked at the Cohort comparison for ELA and Math. She is concerned about the Class of 2026. She thinks that a move to just SAS could lead to a clearer picture of how students are performing. She is having a hard time comparing SAS scores to PACE scores, and even PACE scores year to year. There were five PACE teachers out during Spring 2018 on MFLA.

Her predictions for Spring 2020 are positive. She predicts to increase future scores through preparation for SAS, and the plan they're developing to acknowledge students' efforts.

There will be interim testing in January. Member Heather Clark would like to see a note about the results after the testing.

Ms. Gulick predicts it will take a couple of years to see the full picture. She thinks that interim tests will be helpful.

Parent Amy Hodgdon thinks exams are harder nowadays especially since they're online. The exams are state mandated tests which are computer based, so there's no way to avoid it. Ms. Gulick attends monthly meetings to find more ways to help students.

Parent Adam wants his child to be able to take advantage of the extra help that is offered after school and asked if a late bus is possible. He also suggested having a staff member wait with students until parents are able to pick up their children as an alternative. Valerie is going to look into it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

POLICY

a. Policy ECA- First Read.

Ben Leavitt noted a spelling mistake. Moved to a second/third reading at the next meeting.

b. Policy ECAB- First Read.

Moved to a second/third reading at the next meeting.

c. Policy DIA- First Read.

This policy is recommended by auditors. There were some formatting issues that will be fixed. Moved to a second/third reading at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

a. Nomination

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the nomination for Kate Keniston as a math teacher in the Epping School District. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

She will start on Monday, November 25th.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report: 20-21 Calendar

The only change to the calendar was moving Professional Development days to line up with most of the voting days.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the 20-21 school year calendar as presented with a September 9th start date. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

b. Student Reports

The “I Am College Bound” event went well. The Mental Health assembly was also received well. The students had a debriefing session with their flex groups afterwards; student Faith Williamson liked that they had the chance to talk about the assembly. They also discussed the SLC Food and Goods Drive. Students Faith and Taya reminded everyone of Thanksgiving break next week. They also briefly discussed their upcoming rival week with Newmarket. The student leadership council was responsible for the positive messages on some of the cafeteria doors. Student government was responsible for the positive sticky notes. Heather would like to put those things on Facebook to spread the positive messages.

c. Committee Reports

Nicole Carleton said that four applicants have applied for the superintendent position.

Heather Clark said that the budget committee addressed and discussed the town budget.

Ben Leavitt discussed the Monster Mash and Movathon and said that they went very well. He also mentioned the upcoming Restaurant Week and Christmas concerts.

David discussed the safety meeting. There was an inspection of the buildings at the beginning of the year, and there were no issues found. From the SST meeting, Valerie wanted to note that there is going to be a change in how special education is funded at SST. The smaller districts are going to feel more of the heat from this and will be more affected by it.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Bulldogs Football and Cheer Organization

The nonprofit organization would like to have their rental fee waived. Policy KF allows the Board to waive certain fees. Most of the girls in the cheer organization are from Epping and Deerfield. The organization is still new and has only been around for a year. Valerie stated that she thinks the organization will help build the cheer teams within the Epping School District.

Member Nicole Carleton made a motion to waive the rental fee retroactively for September and October for the Bulldogs Football and Cheer Organization. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Financial Update

Bonnie, Business Administrator, tabled this.

c. Final Budget Vote

The budget total was \$20,671,464. The default budget was \$20,383,745. This is a difference of \$278,719 over the default budget.

The final budget will go before the budget committee on December 4th.

Heather thanked the administration team for all their hard work involving the budget.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for November 7, 2019

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the public minutes from November 7, 2019 with adjustments. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Nonpublic minutes for November 7, 2019

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes from November 7, 2019. 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 #11 dated 11/21/2019 in the amount of \$273,234.57. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

Nicole Carleton was happy about the posters and sticky notes at the high school. She said that it made her smile. Superintendent Valerie will start posting those types of things when she can.

Ben thanked everyone for their time and efforts.

David asked how posting information prior to meetings was going. Valerie said that it has been going smoothly. David said best wishes to Deborah for a speedy recovery. He echoed thanks to everyone for their hard work.

The Board Members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. December 5, 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)

ADJOURNMENT

**Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by
Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary