

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD

January 2, 2020 - Town Hall

School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deborah Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. EES Principal Benna and Students' Update

Mr. Hinkle, Assistant Principal, started off the presentation by discussing the history of the current student handbook. He said that it's very lengthy and contains very specific examples. Each bullet within the handbook has a lot within it. Additionally, there weren't any core principles. It was written by adults, and they wanted to update and improve it, so they turned to the students. The students were asked to identify traits that are important to have in their school. The four most popular traits identified were; kindness, safety, helpfulness and respect. Some of the 5th grade Student Council members presented on what those traits mean to them.

Mr. Hinkle and the Student Council's next steps are to roll this out to the other students and staff. They're also going to do a PR campaign. They think it will help with the climate and culture at the elementary school. The girls thought that this process has been really cool, and they liked that they could share their ideas. Within the Student Council, there is a total of 19 students composed of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Heather would like to hear from the group after the new student handbook goes out.

Nicole asked how PowerSchool sign-ups are going. Principal Benna said that is a slow and steady process. Heather asked if they've brainstormed ideas for next year in order to avoid the PowerSchool issue from happening again. They haven't done that yet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

POLICY

a. ECA - Buildings and Grounds Security - Second/Third Read

Heather went over some of the changes that were made to the policy. It has been adjusted for the new keycard system. Valerie will be sending this policy out to staff.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept policy ECA - Buildings and Grounds Security as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

None

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Student Reports

The end of the semester is coming up. Epping lost Rivals Week against Newmarket. Taya said that it was a lot of fun. She said that there were good turnouts at all of the events. They would like to do it again next year. The Penguin Plunge is February 1st; there are around 30 students doing it this year. The winter formal is the same day. NHS is putting together baskets for Epping alum who are currently serving in the military. A link will be added to the school district's website, so the public has the ability to donate.

b. Superintendent's Report

The Competency Implementation Team met on 12/31/19. There are three parents and four students who are a part of this team. Valerie is looking for more people to join. Faith said it's really cool to see behind the scenes, and she recommended it.

Ted Hall from the Great Schools Partnership is going to be the linchpin from this year to next helping with transitions. He's grant funded. Valerie went over the active committees such as Climate and Culture Team, Communication Team, and Student Service Team along with four others. She briefly described what each committee works on. The other committees include work study practices team, policies related to CBE, and competency handbook. Valerie asked what other teams they'd like to see.

The Board can email her any ideas that they come up with. The final interviews for a new superintendent are currently scheduled for January 30th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be a meet and greet for the public prior to this. The tentative date and time are January 28th at 7:00 pm. The climate and culture parent/community meeting will be February 13th from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. On School Messenger, there will be an opt-in campaign for parents to sign up to receive texts.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Paraeducator 20-21 Calendar

The paraeducators will have the same days off as other staff members, but they'll get additional days off as well.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Paraeducator 20-21 Calendar as presented. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for December 17, 2019

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the public minutes from December 17, 2019. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Nicole Carleton abstained.

b. Public Minutes for December 19, 2019

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the public minutes from December 19, 2019. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Nicole Carleton abstained.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve payroll manifest #13 dated 12/27/2019 in the amount of \$519,433.87. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

Default Budget Vote

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the default budget of \$20,659,798. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

There was a general discussion about EEI along with the benefits and cost savings that come from using them.

There was a re-vote on the warrant articles, so Deborah could be included and have her vote recorded.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Article 01: Operating Budget. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Article 02: HVAC Middle/High School. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-1. Motion carries. Member Heather Clark opposed.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Article 03: Add to Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Article 04: Add to Special Education Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

David asked Valerie if a lawyer is necessary for the Fremont situation. Valerie said if Fremont chooses to come to Epping, then they would need to talk to a lawyer.

Heather is looking for more parents to join the middle school PTO. They are currently doing a Little Caesars pizza fundraiser to raise money for the PTO, activities, and spending money for the students going on the DC trip.

Ben asked the Board about the potential of an after-school bus and if there was any follow up after the issue was brought up. They discussed potentially conducting a survey to evaluate if there is a big enough interest and having Valerie look into the cost of an after-school bus. Valerie slightly investigated the issue after it was brought up. She said the middle school principal hadn't heard of any issues. There was a general discussion about it, and they brainstormed some ideas. Valerie is going to ask the district leadership team about it and will also take it to administrative team.

On January 8th at 7:00 pm, the warrant articles are going to be discussed with the budget committee.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

- a. January 15, 2020 - Budget Committee Budget Hearing
- b. January 16, 2020 - Regular School Board Meeting
- c. February 6, 2020 - Deliberative Session

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

Chair Deborah Clark made a motion to go into NonPublic Session: a. personnel and c. adverse reputation.

Minutes submitted by,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary