

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD

April 2, 2020 - Town Hall

School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deborah Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Online attendance: Chair Deborah Brooks, Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Heather Clark, Member Robin O'Day, Member Ben Leavitt, Superintendent Valerie McKenney, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Student Faith Williamson, and Student Taya Morgado.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Member Heather Clark nominated Deborah Brooks for the School Board Chair position. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Ben Leavitt nominated David Mylott for the School Board Vice Chair position. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Vice Chair David Mylott abstained.

Member Heather Clark nominated Dagny Wilkins for the School Board Secretary position. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Mylott nominated Ben Leavitt and Deborah Brooks with Heather Clark as a substitute for the Manifests. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Mylott nominated Heather Clark for the Budget Committee position. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Heather Clark abstained.

Chair Deborah Brooks nominated Robin Oday for the Policy Committee position. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

Chair Deborah Brooks nominated Robin Oday for the Wellness Committee position. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Chair Deborah Brooks nominated Ben Leavitt for the Climate and Culture Committee position. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark nominated David Mylott for the Emergency Management position. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark nominated David Mylott for the Safety Committee position. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

The Epping Oversight Committee will be revisited after the end of this school year.

Member Heather Clark nominated Ben Leavitt and David Mylott for the Technology Committee positions. Seconded by Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Clark nominated Heather Clark for the Life of a Blue Devil position. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Mylott nominated Heather Clark and Robin Oday for the Fields Committee positions. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark nominated Ben Leavitt for the Facilities Committee position. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark nominated Deborah Brooks for the NHSBA position. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Mylott nominated Robin O'Day and Heather Clark as an alternate for the SST position. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Chair Deborah Brooks nominated Heather Clark for the middle school PTO position and Ben Leavitt for the elementary school PTO position. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Mylott nominated Deborah Brooks for the Selectman Representative position. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair David Mylott nominated Heather Clark and Robin O'Day as an alternate for the Para Negotiations positions. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

Member Heather Clark nominated 49 professional educators for employment at the Epping Elementary School for the 20-21 school year. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Ben Leavitt nominated 23 professional educators for employment at the Epping Middle School for the 20-21 school year. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark nominated 26 professional educators for employment at the Epping High School for the 20-21 school year. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Ann Saari maternity leave of absence for the 20-21 school year. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Jillian Foot's leave of absence through the beginning of second quarter for the 20-21 school year. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

a. Student Report

Taya said that she likes online learning and how she can pace herself. She also likes that her teachers have attendance check-ins. Her teachers started holding Google Meets, and she likes seeing people's faces. Teachers have been leaving comments on assignments quickly and communication has been good. The teachers sent out a nice video to all of the students today.

Faith agrees with Taya. She likes the flexibility of online school. She also likes that teachers are offering office hours. Additionally, she has been getting immediate feedback from teachers as well. She said that some teachers are setting up reassessment blocks. She had a video call with her band class today and really liked it. She is enjoying this time with her family before she leaves for college. Heather asked Faith about her younger siblings and how they're adapting to online school. Faith said that they're reluctant to do their work, but they're receiving a manageable amount of work.

b. Superintendent Report

Superintendent McKenney discussed the district's quick transition into remote learning. The students need to demonstrate that they can complete their work. She can't thank the staff and parents enough for all that they're doing. She stated that all NH schools are closed until at least May 4th. However, they have been advised to plan for long term closure. All employees are being paid during this time. All the culture and climate work is on hold for the time being. All the buildings have been thoroughly cleaned. The custodians have been taking turns doing projects throughout the buildings. When it's nicer out, they will start doing stuff outside as well. The district has donated a bunch of supplies to the Epping Police and Fire departments. She would like students to return to a normal school routine as soon as possible. They are rethinking the spring celebration events such as prom and graduation. They want to ensure that the students don't miss out.

They are fully supporting the teachers and are trying to provide them with all the resources for them to be successful. She also stated that "seat time" is not the most important consideration in a competency-based system. She went over the recommendations for screen and work time for the different age groups. Teachers are up to date on this information, and if any parents have concerns about the amount of work being assigned, please reach out to the teacher. In terms of April Break (4/27-5/1), it is recommended that the students continue working through it. This way they would be able to finish school five days earlier if all of their work is completed. If a student is unable to work during vacation, they need to let their teachers know. Additionally, teachers are on board with this idea. The last day of school will be on June 5th, and June 8th-9th will be reserved for students who need to finish work. The district will be starting a four-day remote learning schedule for the students on Monday April 6th. The students will do their schoolwork Monday through Thursday and have Fridays off. Friday will work as a flex day for teachers, and it gives them the opportunity to work with students if needed. This schedule was recommended by EEA, NHSAA, and NHSBA. This schedule will stay in place until May 4th. Teachers will go back on May 4th, and students will go back on May 6th as of now.

As of Friday April 3rd, all public playgrounds in Epping will be closed to the public. Superintendent McKenney urged the public to turn on favorites for the Epping website in order to get notifications when there are updates. Heather asked if they have thought about changing the grading scale to pass/fail, and there has been no discussion about this yet.

Principal Benna said that he is proud of his staff's ongoing commitment and passion. He also mentioned that the development range at the elementary school is large, and they are doing the best they can to adapt to online learning. Principal Benna briefly discussed Kindergarten registration. As of now, they're focusing on current students. Email him with any questions.

Principal Troidl said that they've been utilizing Google Classrooms. Teachers are trying to make things joyful for their students. They have been putting a "Joke of the Day" on their Facebook

page. The teachers have been pulling really long days. Students have access to a school guidance counselor online now which is awesome.

Principal Ernest said that his staff has been very dedicated. The high school is still seeing very high attendance from the students. He mentioned that most students' sleep and work schedule has changed. He thanked the food and tech staff along with the custodians.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Business Administrator Bonnie lowered the cost for substitute teachers and supply costs. She stated that teachers are going to need more software. All of the software is going through a requisition process. The head of technology and her team are a part of this process. Right now, there is an additional \$249,000 leftover, but she doesn't think that it will stay that way. Superintendent McKenney also mentioned that there will be a possibility to receive some money back from the federal government for unanticipated expenses.

MINUTES

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from 3/5/20 as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Non-Public Minutes from 3/5/20 as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from 3/13/20 as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

MANIFESTS

a. Payroll

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve payroll manifest #19 dated 3/20/2020 in the amount of \$503,551.78. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #19 dated 3/12/2020 in the amount of \$146,830.08. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #20 dated 3/26/2020 in the amount of \$131,867.43. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMENTS

Vice Chair David thanked Superintendent McKenney and Chair Deborah. He also thanked the principals for being a part of the meeting tonight. He also thanked ETV for their hard work. He has been really impressed with the teachers.

Member Heather asked about the elementary school principal search. They are currently interviewing several candidates. Member Ben elaborated and said they're working hard and meeting frequently.

Member Robin is happy to be on the Board.

Chair Deborah said that her heart goes out to medical staff, first responders, and business owners. She mentioned that the playgrounds will be closed. She hopes that everyone is staying safe.

Superintendent McKenney thanked the Board for their support and hopes everyone is staying safe.

Member Ben said that it is very nice to see how the town has come together and echoed David's points.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The Board is going to continue having two meetings per month.

- a. April 16, 2020 – Regular Remote School Board Meeting
- b. May 7, 2020 – Regular Remote 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

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Seconded by
Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Minutes submitted by,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary