

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2020

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD - LIVE/Epping TV Channel 22

Epping Town Office

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 Heather Clark, Member Ben Leavitt, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, and Student Taya Morgado. Member Robin O'Day and Student Emily Kelly were absent.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. District Goals - Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush thanked a variety of people. He identified three focuses for the district's goals: COVID Planning, Facilities, and Technology Implementation. For each focus, he stated the district's specific goal and the action steps they laid out to make it happen. With Facilities, he covered the current status and items they want to make progress on. He thinks that the district can do a better job maintaining their facilities and be more organized. He shared several examples as to why facilities need to be a priority. For Technology Implementation, he thinks there are professional development opportunities available. He also discussed some of his other ideas surrounding technology implementation such as reviewing current software, looking at the structure of the technology positions, and the budget cycle.

Deborah said that the district has worked really hard to improve the competency-based learning and doesn't want Superintendent Furbush to lose sight of it. He said that he hasn't lost sight of it. He said that he will add in a section about competency-based learning and draft something up for the Board. Heather noted that past district goals are still in place, and these are more of his personal goals for the district. Deborah said that she still thinks it should be one of his goals as Superintendent.

Deborah mentioned communication and brought up the climate and culture work that the district has been working on. Superintendent Furbush said that it is slightly on hold for now because of COVID. They've made the decision to not start it quite yet. He said that they are still moving work forward with communication, and they just haven't brought Bill Prevel in quite yet.

Parent Amy Hodgdon brought up a couple concerns such as the climate survey, teacher advocacy, and the district goals. She also explained how instructional technology and technology are different.

POLICY

a. DB - Annual Budget - Second/Third Read

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy DB - Annual Budget as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. DIE - Financial Audit - Second/Third Read

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy DIE - Financial Audit as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

c. DM - Cash in School Buildings - Second/Third Read

Heather had a clarifying question, and Bonnie said that it was already addressed.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy DM - Cash in School Buildings as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

Superintendent Furbush said that they are down to two open paraprofessional positions.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Taya discussed specific classes and the interesting topics that they're working on. She also said that the articles for the Newspaper will be out soon and that it'll be sent over to the Board. Ben asked about the PSATs and SATs, and Taya said that she thinks they went well. Taya mentioned the Hockey Team Fundraiser that will be happening on 10/20. She also mentioned the different sports teams that will be competing this week. She said that today and tomorrow are Spirit Days. There will be a Virtual Open House on 10/22 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The homecoming banners will be ready by the end of the month. The new schedule started today, and she explained what it was like. She said that it was a nice change.

David asked how people's spirits have been. Taya said that everything is getting more real, and people are settling in. Deborah asked about homecoming, and Taya said that she has heard talk about a bonfire.

b. Superintendent's Report

He discussed the sports that are happening. The first football game against Somersworth was cancelled, but there will still be two other games. All the other sports are still going according to plan. He is starting to think about winter sports and planning for it. He said that the Open Houses went well at the elementary and middle schools. Tomorrow is a district wide spirit day. He said that the news coverage has been fair, and that all the students and staff will be back tomorrow. He thanked the elementary school staff and teachers for how well they handled it.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Business Administration Updates

Bonnie went over the financial numbers. She anticipates that the district will spend all their supply budget. She said that they received a glowing report from the auditors. The auditors came up with an estimated fund balance of \$295,909. The district is looking to have that fund balance roll over into this year to help out with COVID expenses. The estimated fund balance number is after \$250,000 is put into the Capital Reserve Fund.

Superintendent Furbush recommends that they utilize Executive Order #38. There are known and unknown costs, and he thinks it is smart to encumber the \$295,909. The district would use the operating budget first and then this fund balance if absolutely necessary.

Heather asked if there were any stipulations on what it can be spent on. It has to be used on COVID related expenses. The district would have to come to the School Board before spending any of the money. Bonnie also mentioned an update about the GOFERR fund.

David and Heather are worried about taking this money from the taxpayers without knowing how much the district will need. Superintendent Furbush said that the intent is to give back this money. They will exercise other available funds first.

Deborah had a clarifying question, and Bonnie said that they can't spend a cent of this money until the current budget is fully spent.

The district usually retains about \$200,000 per year, so this year they want to keep an additional \$95,909.

Parent Amy Hodgdon wants the district to retain the money. She thinks it would be worse to have to go back to the town and ask for more money later on. She thinks that the tax change would be minimal if they kept the full amount. She wants the district to be fiscally responsible. She doesn't think it's the district function to cut back the tax rate.

Heather asked the Board if they wanted to put the full \$250,000 into the Capital Reserve Fund, and there was a general discussion about it.

David said they should save the money and have strong guidance to not get to the point where they need to use the money.

Ben thinks it makes sense to keep the money and hope they can give back the full amount next year.

Last year, they gave back roughly \$84,000 to the town.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to keep up to \$200,000 in their fund balance and return up to \$95,909 to the town. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

Deborah asked Bonnie to pursue any money that she can from the State.

Heather asked Bonnie to keep track of COVID expenses and share that information with the Board at future meetings.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to put \$200,000 into the Building Capital Reserve Fund and \$50,000 into the Special Education Reserve Fund. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Affiliated Agreement - EMS PTO

Parent Jordan Sargent will be the authorized signer.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Affiliated Agreement with the Middle School PTO. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

c. Committee Reports

Heather discussed the Paraprofessional Negotiations and said that they are in process. She also said that the Budget Committee dates have been confirmed. The Middle School PTO is taking over the Penny Drive. She explained what the Penny Drive is and said that the winning grade will get a pizza party.

Ben attended the Selectman Meeting, so he wasn't able to attend the Elementary School PTO meeting. He said that the Move-a-thon is taking place virtually this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Non-public Minutes for September 17, 2020

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the Non-public Minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Public Minutes for October 1, 2020

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the October 1, 2020 meeting as amended. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Manifest

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #7 dated 10/2/20 in the amount of \$442,597.22. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Accounts Payable #8 dated 10/8/20 in the amount of \$438,263.82. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMENTS/OTHER

David said that the Board was invited to the Selectmen's Meeting and discussed what the meeting was about. He looks forward to working with them more in the future.

Ben thanked everyone for all the hard work at the schools and all the parents.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. Meeting to be scheduled for November 5, 2020

Deborah urged the public to attend the Budget Sessions to hear the administrators address the specific areas they need money for. The first one is next Tuesday 10/20 at 6 pm at Town Hall. The other sessions will be on 10/22 and 10/27 at the same time and location.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II

A Non-Public Meeting was scheduled for tonight under personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to go into Non-Public Session at 8:26 pm and to adjourn the meeting afterwards. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary

