

## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**November 5, 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, Member Robin O'Day, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Student Taya Morgado, and Student Emily Kelly.

### **SCHEDULED GUESTS**

#### **a. Ben Bourgoin - Winter Sports**

Ben went over his proposal for winter sports this year. He proposed that winter sports' practices and tryouts at EMS and EHS should start on 12/14. There are different phases in place for the sports team in case the pandemic situation changes. He went over the different sports and their risk levels. There are different recommendations per sport. He also went over their general procedures. They will try to limit close contact. The coaches and staff will be trained appropriately. They have screening procedures in place. He went over participant expectations. He also discussed training session procedures. He explained how athletic contests will be handled such as schedules, away games, equipment, and spectators. David said that the football game he attended was awesome. He thanked everyone who made it possible. He also asked about the risk level associated with competitive cheer; Ben said that it is high risk. Robin had a clarifying comment about competitive cheer. Robin asked if parents could bring multiple athletes to the games. Ben said that it is possible under their policy. Spectators' comments will be addressed at the end of December. Heather asked what the policy is when they play games against schools that require masks. Ben said that he is hesitant to schedule games against those schools. If needed, he would, but he'll try to fill the schedule with other schools. He doesn't think it will be an issue. Ben thanked him for all his work. He asked if Ben has had those

conversations about other schools' mask requirements. Ben, Athletic Director, said that he has and that they've been really positive conversations.

**Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Winter Sports Plan as presented. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Executive Order 29 - Remote Learning Inclement Weather Discussion

The district is no longer required to submit a plan for inclement weather. For a school day to count, 80% of students need to complete their work. There was a discussion about blizzard bag days and how they could potentially handle them this year. Superintendent Furbush said that snow days would get called the night before instead since there is the option for remote learning. This will help parents schedule childcare. Heather does not like blizzard bag days. She brought up a concern about elementary school students. Prior to the end of a school day before a blizzard bag day, Superintendent Furbush said that a warning or plan would be announced. This will ensure that materials are brought home just in case. David respectfully disagreed with Heather. He supports them especially since the district is technologically capable and thinks they're beneficial to the students. Ben sees both sides. Robin agrees with having remote blizzard bag days. Deborah respectfully disagreed with Heather too. She thinks remote learning days during snow days would be wonderful. Parent Amy had a couple of questions. Superintendent Furbush has never cancelled a day because it was too cold out. He also said if he was making too many bad calls or calling them too frequently, then the Board would hold him accountable. He agreed that in-person is better than remote. Emily asked a question about power outages. Superintendent Furbush said that makeup time would depend on the assignment, and they would have to take it case by case. Emily just wants to make sure that they'll be flexible if students don't have power on remote snow days. Robin asked if the bus company has a say about snow days; Superintendent Furbush said that they share their opinion.

**Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the plan to make remote learning possible on snow days. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 3-2. Motion carries.**

c. District Calendar 2021-2022

Superintendent Furbush presented the calendar for discussion and feedback purposes. Deborah initiated a conversation about whether they should have school start before or after Labor Day. Student Emily said she wants school to start before Labor Day. Superintendent Furbush said that he is in support of starting before Labor Day. He said that he'll draft a schedule that starts before

Labor Day with the Board's requests. Additionally, Superintendent Furbush will work with the Teacher Association in regard to Professional Development days. He also mentioned that they can send out a survey to the public and staff if the Board sees it fit. David wouldn't want to send out a survey if the Board has a set opinion. He also said that in the past, the town has been split. There was a discussion about whether they should get input or not. Deborah said that four Board members are in favor of starting before Labor Day as of now. Parent Amy Hodgdon agrees with Ben in how it depends on when Labor Day falls. Parent Jordenne Sargent supports starting before Labor Day as well. Heather asked the Facilities Director if ending school, a week earlier or later in June would affect their summer projects. He said that they'll be able to make it work either way. There was a discussion about SST's start date. Superintendent Furbush will check their schedule.

## **POLICY**

### a. DGA - Authorized Signatures (New Policy) - 1st Read

This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting if Bonnie and Kathy don't have any issues with it.

### b. DK - Payments, Checks & Manifests - 1st Read

This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting if Bonnie and Kathy don't have any issues with it.

### c. EBBC - Emergency Care & First Aid - 1st Read

This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting if Bonnie and Kathy don't have any issues with it.

## **PERSONNEL**

### a. 2022 Retirements

Pat Weisberg is looking to move back her retirement by one year. There is no one that was affected by this.

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Pat Weisberg's retirement for June 2022. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Carol Colgan is looking to retire on June 30, 2021 and potentially June 30, 2022 if necessary.

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept her retirement for either June 2021 or June 2022. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

There was a discussion about whether this should be allowed.

## **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### a. Student Reports

Taya said that SAT scores came out for seniors. Ben asked about the SAT results, and Taya said that some students were disappointed. She also mentioned that students are working on finalizing their grades before they close next week. Emily talked about the different classes and what they're working on. The Student Leadership Council is planning a canned food drive. Robin asked about it, and the girls said as of now it will be student donations only. The National Honors Society nominated their officers, and the results will be announced soon. Emily discussed the student newspaper and what they've been working on. The clubs and sports teams made videos to be shown in Flex classes. Additionally, the banners are mostly completed.

### b. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush thanked the sports teams for awesome seasons. He was glad that they were able to happen. He shared some of their highlights at EHS and EMS. He said that the Halloween celebrations were awesome. He also mentioned that tomorrow the school community will get a notice about holiday travel. He has had conversations with the Reopening Task Force. Their number one priority is safety, and they will follow DHHS guidelines. The current guidance is to discourage travel. They don't want to adjust the schedule and accidentally encourage travel. There is a 14-day quarantine period required if traveling outside of New England. The District believes that in-person is better than remote, so there will be no change to the schedule. Ben asked about people's ability to switch from in-person to remote and when that deadline is. Superintendent Furbush said that they could extend the deadline if necessary.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES**

### a. Business Administration Updates

Bonnie discussed their budget. The Board told her to send a digital copy to the Budget Committee as soon as possible and let the Budget Committee know that there might be one

change. The district will be receiving an extra \$178,400 in additional CARES money from the State. It will be mailed next week, and they'll need to prove that they've spent that money. Ben had a clarifying question. Heather wants Bonnie to send the updated COVID spending to the Board each meeting. Superintendent Furbush and Bonnie talked to First Student and will update the Board on 11/19. Parent Jordan wants them to talk to First Student about the actual bus routes as well.

#### b. MB Mechanical HVAC Upgrade Discussion

David summarized the revised proposal. He stated what the upgrades would be and why they're necessary. The different costs were broken down, and he summarized the different options. He supports the more expensive option of getting new cabinet ventilator units. The charge of the engineering is included in the cost. They haven't done the planning yet. Heather doesn't think they should go past the million-dollar mark. Parent Amy brought up EEI and their budget neutral solution. She is worried with how similar the costs are from last year. The work that is being done is different. She also asked if the Board would go out to bid again after the engineering. David said that it is not their intention, but Heather and Amy think otherwise. There was a brief discussion about it. Superintendent said that there are cost savings with MB Mechanical as well. They are more traditional compared to EEI. Deborah asked about the exclusion. If need be, that work can be done in house. Heather said it makes sense to switch over to LP since they'll have to in a couple years. Bonnie hasn't figured out the loan options or cost per year yet since this is still in the initial stage. Heather said that the plans are different. There was a brief discussion between the differences. Deborah thinks they're getting less with this plan compared to the EEI plan. David said that they shouldn't tie the cost savings to the necessities. He thinks it's smart to separate the two. There was a discussion about the RFP and this whole process. David is looking for them to move forward with the more expensive option. Deborah would like to know how they will finance it. Ben had a clarifying question about which boiler is being removed and how many boiler plants there will be. Deborah wants them to voice their approval on 11/19. Deborah's having a hard time because she was such a big EEI fan. There was a consensus among the Board to go with the more expensive option which will cost \$998,800.

#### c. Affiliated Agreement - Project Graduation

The authorized signer will be Amie Morgado.

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Affiliated Agreement for Project Graduation. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Robin asked if affiliated agreements under the school all read the same. Heather said that they don't and explained why.

#### d. Resource Officer Discussion

Superintendent Furbush had a conversation with Chief Wallace and Captain Newman earlier this week regarding the SRO position. He described the SRO position. He said that the current SRO is looking to move forward with his career. Chief Wallace needs to hire a completely new SRO because no one currently wants the position. He doesn't want to force someone into a position that they don't want; he doesn't think that it would be a good situation. Chief Wallace is asking that the Board/District fund 50% of the costs associated with the new position and that the other half would come from the town. It would cost the District \$38,000. Heather asked a quick question about the insurance costs for the position. Deborah said that the community loves having an SRO. David said that he doesn't want to increase their head count when the Board is unable to do so. He doesn't have any issue with the cost since it's all the same tax dollars, and Deborah agreed. Parent Amy stated that the town voted to have an SRO. The SRO position is the police department's jurisdiction even if the School Board funds it. She wants some reassurance that the SRO will be a permanent position which is not possible. Emily asked if they would advertise for a specific SRO position. They would, and it'd be a permanent position. Robin stated that she doesn't support the SRO position. David doesn't think that they should take away the SRO position and also doesn't think that someone should be forced to do the job. He is in support of paying half. Heather thinks that it's a really hard year to add to the head count, but she supports the SRO position. Ben supports the SRO position and thinks it's unfortunate that no one in the department wants it. He wants to hear what the Selectmen have to say. Deborah also supports the SRO position. The Board is still willing to talk and encourage him to come back after hearing what the Selectmen have to say. The Board and Police Department are on good terms and respect each other.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### a. Public Minutes for October 15, 2020

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the October 15, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

#### b. Non-public Minutes for October 15, 2020

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Non-public Minutes from the October 15, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### **MANIFEST**

a. Payroll Manifest

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #8 dated 10/16/20 in the amount of \$454,263.34. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Payroll Manifest

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #9 dated 10/30/20 in the amount of \$444,611.85. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

c. Accounts Payable

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Accounts Payable #9 dated 10/22/20 in the amount of \$198,847.76. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Parent Amy mentioned bus drivers and how having no school on Fridays affects the bus drivers. There was a brief discussion about this.

### **COMMENTS/OTHER**

Robin has committee updates that will be discussed at the next meeting. She also asked about the traffic backup on Main Street. Superintendent Furbush said that they're trying their best to fix the problem.

Heather congratulated all athletes. She thanked the Elementary Principal and her team; she was very happy that the kids could wear costumes. She said that the Middle School Turkey Raffle will be sold by all grades this year. The monies will be kept for when it can be spent if it isn't possible to travel this year.

Ben said that the Elementary School PTO Movathon has wrapped up. He said that they will try to do another fundraiser at some point this year. He also mentioned that the Book Fair is still going on.

David thanked everyone for keeping the schools open and for all their hard work. He mentioned that the Reopening Task Force still meets consistently.

Deborah wished Principal Troidl well during her absence. She also agreed with David and said that the district is doing a great job.

### **NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED**

a. Meeting to be scheduled for November 19, 2020

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

Non-Public Meeting is not scheduled for November 5, 2020 following the public meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 pm.  
Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary