

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Regular School Board Meeting to follow Bond Hearing

January 7, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD - ZOOM MEETING - 100 Attendees Maximum

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, and Student Taya Morgado. Student Emily Kelly was absent.

BOND HEARING

Deborah and David discussed the boiler project in the middle/high school. The boilers are currently 32 years old. The district hired an engineering consultant. The district has a committee and has brought in an expert from the town as well regarding the boilers. They have done a lot of research. Deborah read what the bond will say in the voting booth. They will need a 3/5 ballot vote to pass it. The bond will be up to \$998,800 for this project. The Budget Committee is in support, and the School Board unanimously supports it as well.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to curtail the Epping School District public bond hearing at 7:07 pm. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. Launch Now-Platform to support student directed skills assessment Tyler Nekton/Melora Bisailon

Melora summarized the Launch Now program and the different sections of it. She also gave an update on where Launch Now is currently. The student section is ready for testing. The community and guidance side of the project is still being developed. Tyler provided an update on

the data privacy surrounding this application. It is an opt-in program. They're using an AWS server. They said that they can set up a live demo of the app if the Board would like to see how it works. Launch Now will be free indefinitely for the Epping School District. Parent Amy Hodgdon asked how companies who are offering internships are getting vetted. The companies must go through a process with the Department of Labor and fill out certain forms. Heather asked how many companies within the community the district is currently working with. Melorah said that there are a handful. In terms of the student section testing, they're looking for feedback from a smaller group of students. The guidance department has to do career exploration with every student in the school. There is no standard time or class that this is done in. Melorah said that there are typically 20 to 30 ELOs in a year. She currently only has five students completing one. An ELO is anything that happens outside of the traditional classroom. Launch Now is not the same company as before. The current scope of the project is just Epping and then they will most likely scale up. Ben was under the impression that this was a long term data collection tool through the students' college careers. Melorah and Tyler said that this is something they'll talk about with the new owners. The guidance department currently uses free online surveys or pencil/paper surveys to complete the career exploration requirement. There was a discussion of whether they need a new proposal or not since the company is different. There was a discussion between Melorah and Parent Amy Hodgdon.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to get a second agreement with Launch Now. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

David requested a live demo of Launch Now and to make it a public meeting.

There is a timeline for Launch Now, and they're hoping to roll it out this coming Fall.

b. Principal Update

Principal Ernest said that they have a positive COVID case at the high school. They contact traced earlier today. There are seven students who had direct exposure with the student and several staff members. Principal Ernest thanked a handful of people for how they handled the situation. He also added that attendance has been good, and discipline is down.

Vice Principal Gualtieri mentioned all the middle school winter sports. She said that quarter two ends on February 2nd. She gave a shout out to Sean Meagher for being published in a national magazine.

Principal Cantagallo discussed the transition to remote learning and how it went. She said that their advisory team took a mid-year look at the school goals. The long-term substitute for the

science position started this week. She discussed Child Find and described what it is. It is for incoming preschool aged children, between 2½ - 5.

Parent Amy Hodgdon complemented the elementary school's transition to remote learning. She mentioned that School Messenger has an app which ensures messages aren't missed, and she wanted to make sure that other parents were aware of this. Heather said that the app is available for all schools.

POLICY

a. EIB - Liability Insurance Pooled Risk Management (New Policy) - 2nd/3rd Read

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Policy EIB - Liability Insurance Pooled Risk Management with the revised dates removed. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

One custodian position is available.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Taya discussed what the different classes are working on. NHS is still working on their community outreach program. The basketball season has started. SLC and Granite Youth Alliance will start having meetings again soon.

b. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush briefly discussed COVID. The district will update the community tomorrow about the case at the high school. He reminded the Board about the upcoming New Hampshire School Board Association meeting.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Discuss and decide on length of Bond for EMS/EHS boiler project

Bonnie recommended a 15- or 20-year loan term. There would be \$172,000 in interest with a 15-year loan term or \$275,000 in interest with a 20-year loan term. Bonnie recommended these term lengths since it flattens out the payments. Parameters haven't been set for the COVID related money that the district will be receiving. David supports the 15-year loan term. Heather would prefer a 10-year loan term. They went through the different costs with each option.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve a 10-year bond with the prevailing interest rate at the time for the boiler system and ventilation warrant article. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Bonnie will figure out the estimated dollar amount effect on the tax rate for the 10- and 15-year loan terms.

b. Sign Warrants and Default Budget

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the default budget of \$21,218,052 as presented. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

The Board delegated who will discuss which warrant article at the upcoming deliberative session. The Board will present first at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for December 15, 2020

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

b. Non-public Minutes for December 15, 2020

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Non-public Minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

c. Public Minutes for December 17, 2020

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the December 17, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Manifest

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #13 dated 12/24/20 in the amount of \$479,708.51. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable #13 dated 12/31/20 in the amount of \$449,578.32. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMENTS/OTHER

Heather wished everyone a happy new year.

Ben was happy to hear from Melorah and Tyler.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. Meeting to be scheduled for January 21, 2021.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II (a. personnel)

A Non-Public Google Meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2021 following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm.
Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary