

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Epping School Board News Corner for the July 21, 2011 School Board Meeting.

1. Business Administrator Report – Martha Williamson reported that effective July 1 member contributions to NH Retirement increased from 5 to 7%. District contributions to teacher retirement increased from 8 to 14% and non-teacher retirement increased from 9 to 11%. The non-teacher increase was budgeted, but the teacher increase was considerably more than expected. In anticipation of these changes \$280,000 from the 2011-2012 Budget was set aside by not fully hiring budgeted staff. The state has set aside \$3.5 million to offset these costs, but the distribution details are not known and not anticipated to offset the increase. At this time it is recommended that the District continue to hold these funds. The definition of full and part-time has also been changed. Full time status has been reduced from 35 hours to 32 hours per week. As a result a few employees that have retired and remain working for the District have had to cut their hours. This has resulted in the loss of their health insurance coverage.
2. Superintendent Report – Barbara Munsey presented the updated District model/action plan entitled *21st Century Student Outcomes for College, Career and Life Ready Students*. Goals for the 2011-2012 were recommended based on the revised model/action plan. In support of this work a correlation was done to the New England Association of Schools & Colleges Standards (high school accreditation) showing that the model/action plan is based on good practice and aligns nicely with our work toward reaccreditation. The District has also received notice that all three schools meet the NH Public School Standards.
3. Facilities – The damaged brick work on the front of the SAU and chimneys have been repaired. Work will begin soon on the roof. Work on the exterior walls of the elementary and high schools to address moisture issues have also begun. Work also continues on the playing and practice fields. The SAU phone system has also been replaced with a pilot voice over ip system.
4. Policy – The Board approved instructional policies (Section I) required by law or school approval standards. Policy on indoor air quality and animals in school and on school grounds were also included. A second reading on food service policy was conducted with the decision to not permit the charging of food service purchases due to outstanding food service balances throughout the year and at the end of the year. A first reading was held on policies updated for Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. Policies may be viewed on www.sau14.org under School Board policy.
5. Personnel – The resignation of the EES Guidance Counselor was accepted with regret. The nomination of Carrie Boelter for Grade 1 Teacher was approved.
6. Other – The schools were contacted by the town with regard to the possibility of setting up a shelter due to the excessive heat. Jeff Harris explained that the lack of a generator to qualify as a shelter was still an issue. The Board approved obtaining bids for a generator to service the MS gymnasium, locker room, and cafeteria areas.
7. Next Meeting – The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on August 4th in the SAU. A good part of the meeting will be dedicated to approval of handbooks.

Epping School Board News Corner is based on draft meeting minutes and is an unofficial meeting summary. Approved meeting minutes and other district and school publications can be viewed on the Epping School District, SAU14 website at www.sau14.org. Contact information is also located on the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Munsey
Superintendent