

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
EPPING TOWN HALL
December 17, 2009
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greg Dodge called the meeting of December 17, 2009 to order at 7:04 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were: School Board members Greg Dodge, Susan Kimball, Shawn Patton and Dave Mylott, and Superintendent Barbara Munsey.

II. SCHEDULED GUESTS: DAVE MOREJON/EHS/BIOTECHNOLOGY III PRESENTATION

Dave Morejon, one of 5 EHS Biotechnology III students who had made presentations at SST at Exeter last week, was asked to repeat his presentation in front of the Epping School Board tonight. His topic was Slow Rate Sand Bio-filtration using sand to remove potential harmful pathogens from water. He thanked members of the Water Treatment Technology Assistance Center. His PowerPoint presentation concluded with Mr. Morejon's statement that the work he did in the Biotech Program internship at UNH over last summer was a good experience for him. He worked both in the lab and on the field from 9 AM to 3 PM Mondays through Thursdays. He said the people with whom he worked at UNH were very cooperative. He said that they had to design and work small, looking for E. Coli and Total Coliforms. The work included sand filter preparation and sieve analysis data. Results showed that Slow Sand Filtration provides adequate filtration and turns river water or lake water into drinking water. He mentioned that the systems they used were now being tested in Africa and he said that the results there look fairly good so far. Mr. Booth asked how small the filtration systems were that they used at UNH and Mr. Morejon said they were about 3 feet tall and would handle a community of about 30 people. Mr. Patton asked about the cost and Mr. Morejon replied that he did not know for sure but he felt the cost was not too high.

Mr. Dodge said that he was impressed by Mr. Morejon's presentation and Ms. Munsey agreed. She said that the students had a good grasp of vocabulary and skills that they learned.

Mr. Morejon said that he is interested in microbiology and that this internship helped him a bit. He noted that UNH is on his list of colleges where he would want to attend.

Ms. Munsey recognized EHS students who made presentations (of the 10 presenters, 5 were from EHS):

Kristen Pitkanen: Children's Scientific Interest (Epping Community Center)
Victoria Seetaram: Finding Mutations in the VarA and GacA Genes (Microbiology, UNH)
Toria Sicard: Finding Mutations in the VarA and GacA Genes (Microbiology, UNH)
Marissa Bean: DNA Extractions from Wood frog Embryos (UNH)
Dave Morejon: Slow Rate Sand Bio-Filtration (Civil Engineering Department, UNH)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan Kimball made a motion to approve the public minutes of October 1, 2009 as amended. Dave Mylott seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:2 (abstentions from Scott Booth and Greg Dodge who were absent from that meeting).

Shawn Patton made a motion to approve the public minutes of November 5, 2009 as amended. Scott Booth

seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1 (abstention from Susan Kimball who was absent from that meeting).

Susan Kimball made a motion to table the public minutes of November 19, 2009. Scott Booth seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Scott Booth made a motion to approve work session minutes for November 19, 2009 as written. Shawn Patton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

MANIFEST

Scott Booth made a motion to approve Payroll Manifest P-12, dated December 11, 2009, in the amount of \$327,317.08. Susan Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Shawn Patton made a motion to approve Accounts Payable #12, dated December 17, 2009, in the amount of \$159,055.89. Motion passed 4:1 (abstention from Scott Booth who had a reimbursement check in this manifest).

V. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS (WRITTEN REPORTS)

The Administrators provided written reports.

Ms. Munsey highlighted the following notes.

Three Epping Middle School students: Brooke Hall, Spencer Holt and Shayla Pratt, were recognized by the Foster Daily Democrat for their writing talents. Their stories will be published in the Showcase Magazine on December 17, 2009. Pat Weisberg worked with the students.

The EMS First Lego League Robotics Team competed in the Seacoast Regional Meet at UNH on November 21, 2009 and won the Judges' Award for typifying the standards of the League's goals. They competed at the State Meet on December 6, 2009 at Bedford High School. They will also present at the Pride Assembly on December 23 at EMS at 7:30 AM.

Ms. Munsey reported that the eighth grade has sponsored different activities to help fund the Washington, DC trip. Parents are asked to provide an additional \$10 toward the cancellation insurance and will be contributing \$550 from fund raising efforts so all students will be covered. However, there was a request for the School Board to allocate \$1100 to cover cancellation insurance.

Ms. Munsey noted that the School Board has helped groups with things like bus transportation in the past. Mr. Patton was concerned about future insurance for trips. Ms. Munsey said that this came up because there might be another wave of H1N1 flu in the spring. Ms. Kimball thought that the Board should consider doing this since this is an annual trip from which students benefit. She agreed that it is an unusual year to be asked to provide extra insurance because of H1N1. Mr. Patton hoped that a precedent would not be set. Ms. Munsey felt that it could be made clear in the minutes that it is unusual this year because of H1N1 and not meant to be an annual occurrence. Mr. Patton said that there were pros and cons as to this being an atypical flu season this year but he was not against providing for the extra insurance for the trip. Mr. Mylott shared Mr. Patton's concern about setting precedent but he agreed that it is an odd year with H1N1 and financial difficulties so he supported the extra trip insurance. Mr. Dodge agreed.

Susan Kimball made a motion to agree to expend \$1100 to cover insurance for the eighth grade Washington, DC trip. Scott Booth seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

VI. POLICY

A. I – INSTRUCTION (APPROVAL)

Dave Mylott made a motion to approve IHAK, IJOA, IJOAA, IJOC, IKC, IKCA, IKFA, IKG and IMBD. Shawn Patton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Mr. Mylott said that the remaining “T” policies dealt with home-schooled students not being allowed to participate in EHS graduation and events. He agreed that home-schooled children should not get a diploma from Epping High School but they should be able to participate in walking during the graduation ceremony since that is an important social event. Mr. Booth agreed.

Mr. Patton said that families choose for children to be home-schooled vs. going to public school. He said there was nothing wrong with either option but he felt that children who go to public school earn the right to walk to get their diplomas. He gave an example of taking an online college course and not walking during graduation of that college.

Ms. Kimball agreed with Mr. Patton, noting that home-schooled children do participate in some degree with events at EHS. She agreed that it was a matter of families choosing different forms of education for their children and she felt that home-schooled children should not be included in Epping High School graduation ceremonies. Mr. Dodge agreed.

Ms. Munsey said that exceptions have been made for home-schooled children to participate in co-curricular activities and to get awards/be recognized.

Mr. Booth asked how often SST students attend EHS and Ms. Munsey replied that they attend one-third of the school day. Mr. Booth noted that some colleges allow online students to participate in graduation ceremonies but they are given a blank diploma. He said that the ceremony is significant to the matriculation process of the university. Mr. Patton noted that those students went to that university but home-schooled students do not go to EHS.

Mr. Mylott noted that home-schooled students could take liberal arts classes at EHS but not core curriculum courses.

Ms. Kimball noted that SST is an extension of EHS’s curriculum.

Shawn Patton made a motion to approve IHBG, IHBGR, and IKF. Greg Dodge seconded the motion. VOTE: 3:2 (nay votes from Dave Mylott and Scott Booth).

B. F- FACILITIES (DISTRIBUTION)

C. K-FACILITIES USE (DISTRIBUTION)

D. FACILITIES MANUAL (FIRST READING)

E. POLICY JJI: STUDENT ATHLETICS

The Athletic Director has requested a change in policy due to a request from two coaches that probationary academic students be able to sit on the bench in street clothes. The intent is to keep team integrity and communication between coach and athlete. Mr. Dodge asked to change the term to “appropriate street clothes” or “school-approved” clothing or “non-uniform” clothing. Mr. Patton asked if it was time well spent. Ms. Munsey noted that most times students are in the audience anyway as a part of the team and she said it is a good activity.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Booth said that the School District’s 2010-2011 budget was presented to the Budget Committee. Main expenditure focus was on increasing health insurance premiums of 28%. Main revenue focus was on attempts to make up for the large fund balance returned from last school year. Comments and questions were offered on health insurance, student data, and cost per pupil. The Budget Committee approved the school district budget as proposed with a unanimous vote (10:1 with Chair abstaining).

Mr. Dodge commended Ms. Munsey, Ms. Williamson, and Mr. Booth for their work on the budget. Mr. Patton agreed, saying that they came prepared and they could answer questions professionally. Mr. Patton said he felt proud to be on the Epping School Board.

B. TEACHERS’ AGREEMENT

Mr. Mylott reported that mediation was held on December 7, 2009 and an agreement was reached. There was a non-meeting prior to tonight’s School Board meeting to discuss teacher-board negotiations.

Scott Booth made a motion to ratify the Teachers’ Agreement. Shawn Patton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Mr. Dodge said that a lot of work went into negotiations and he thanked Ms. Kimball, Mr. Mylott and Ms. Munsey for their work. He suggested that a stipend of \$100 be given to Ms. Kimball in recognition of the fact that she took off time from her work to help with negotiations. Mr. Patton suggested that Mr. Mylott also get a stipend since he took time away from his family while he was on vacation leave to work on negotiations.

Shawn Patton made a motion to pay Susan Kimball and Dave Mylott \$100 each as a stipend for using personal and work time to work on teacher negotiations. Scott Booth seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:2 (abstentions from Susan Kimball and Dave Mylott).

Ms. Kimball thanked the board members for their gesture and she said it was appreciated.

C. NHSBA RESOLUTION

NHSBA denied the resolution submitted by the Board. RSA 32:5 Budget Preparation and RSA 40:13 Use of Official Ballot have been revised to permit the school board to include tally votes as part of the warrant article and that this vote would be printed on the ballot.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Munsey said that Local Government Center was not available this month and that they asked to attend a School Board meeting. Mr. Booth asked what the increase was last year and Ms. Munsey said it came in low (around 5%). She said it is now 27.8% and she noted that teachers take a sizable piece now (5% more of health premium).

Ms. Munsey reported that Media Paraprofessional Angela McCarthy has submitted a letter of retirement effective December 23, 2009. A party is set for after school on December 21st.

Mr. Mylott wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Patton congratulated the JV Girls and Varsity Boys Basketball teams.

Ms. Kimball asked where things stood with the athletic signs for the gym. Ms. Munsey said that Mr. Averill submitted a new proposal to Ms. Williamson. Mr. Dodge suggested adding this to the next agenda.

Mr. Booth gave an update on the conference he attended with Ms. Munsey, Mr. Vallone and Cathy Zylinski in Boston regarding high school redesign and the change in accreditation process. He said the conference was informative regarding technology literacy and critical thinking (making students competitive not only in NH but throughout the USA and world). Mr. Dodge asked about accreditation and Ms. Munsey said there would be a report out in March on accreditation. She said that frameworks call for standards and assessments and life and career skills, information media, etc. to fit 21st century themes. Ms. Munsey said that Harvard Professor Tony Wagner was there and talked about the Global Achievement Gap and importance of skills above and beyond core material and how technology will play a large role in the future. She said that the present system is about finding answers but the new education reform is about asking good questions and using a lot of thinking/problem solving skills. She said that accreditation would be changing in 2011. Mr. Dodge asked what that would mean in terms of the budget and Ms. Munsey replied that there would be cost implications in the forms of dues and site-visit costs.

Mr. Dodge thanked Ms. Kimball for the food she brought to tonight's meeting and he wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

IX. NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 7, 2010**X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 8:16 PM, Greg Dodge made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II and then into public work session and adjournment. Shawn Patton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll Call.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted, Susan Perry, Epping School Board Secretary

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD NONPUBLIC MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2009

The Epping School Board met in nonpublic session immediately following the regular meeting in the Epping Town Hall. In attendance were School Board Members Gregory Dodge, Dave Mylott, Shawn Patton, Scott Booth and Sue Kimball, and Superintendent Barbara Munsey.

The Board discussed personnel issues.

Gregory Dodge made a motion to exit nonpublic session, seconded by Dave Mylott. The motion passed 5-0. The Board entered public session at 8:49 pm.

No action was taken.

The Board entered a scheduled work session at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara D. Munsey