

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 3:00 PM
EPHING SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT
Epping Middle High School, RM 219

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 3:35 PM

In attendance: Chair Heather Clark, Vice Chair Ben Leavitt, Member Robin O'Day, Member Julie Knight, Member Jen Jacoby, Superintendent Bill Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Services Director Cathy Zylinski, Curriculum Coordinator Sarah Cantrell, Facilities Director Joe Parzych, Technology Manager Maria Hendrickson, Building Administrators Chris Mazzone, Chris Sousa, Mandy Murphy, Susan Gualtieri, and Tyler Nekton

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NONE

SCHEDULED TOPICS:

EES Goals and Progress

Literacy - taking in the science of reading, have the teachers be more self reflective. Getting better use of the data that we gather from our testing to help guide direction loosely around curriculum and results. Focus on small group instruction.

Community Standards - WSP recognition has gone to student council, continuing to teach the students about the vocabulary. Focus on kindness add the guiding principles to the compass points outside of the district compass.

Whole Child - behavior management and mtss development. Behavior matrix development. Hope to build and implement a draft come over the summer and present to the Board near the end of summer or early fall.

EMHS Goals and Progress

School Goals

Teaching and Learning

Portrait of a Learner

Updating the portrait, working on getting the bulletin boards updated with regular frequency.

Align the goals with EES to make sure that the path is unified. Digital portfolio, will pull in initiatives and wsp. This will help tie into the capstone projects in the future. Goals shouldn't just be a checklist. Better define the committees and their goals.

Midterms/Finals - First week/year of midterms and finals. Getting feedback from teachers that the kids are invested in the process and expectations for the testing blocks. Quick turnaround on how quickly the assessments were evaluated so that students could be aware so they could reassess if necessary.

Curriculum Instruction and Assessment - evaluate unit plans, instructional goals are being reviewed. Ongoing evaluation of rubric and assessment design. (over the next 2-5 years)

Culture and Climate - Positive action has been dropped at the emhs level. Working on an embedded curriculum, more responsive classroom. Responsive classroom is an approach not a curriculum. Used to be a k-6 focus, addresses how to address students, C.A.R.E.S. Being adapted for the middle school level to be developmentally appropriate. Getting the students to buy in and participate in the process of defining the norms and expectations. Quarterly pride assembly is recognizing wsp and the compass.

Facilities

Being included at all levels has helped drive involvement. Staff has been receptive to feedback and growth. More district support and recognition.

Special Ed

Fine tuning assessments. More alignment with behavior. Looking at connections with the community for opportunities for students with disabilities. Alignment in instruction. ESOL instructional practices are being evaluated.

CDA

Curriculum Evaluation Guidelines. Able to compare all programs on like aspects and determine if any are hitting/missing the goals as they relate to Epping needs. Evaluate student engagement. Looking at raising the rigor for the NWEA testing. Setting expectations around duration and effort required for the testing. Identified gaps in some of the reporting and working on strategies to improve that district wide.

Technology

Regular meetings with both buildings to address tech concerns. Continuing to evaluate where we are with software and hardware. Improving the communication to parents about what some of the technology and fees are for. Two built out computer labs, that will open up for the use of software for programs that we may not be able to run. Continuing to resolve infrastructure issues to have a more functional/reliable tech stack.

CDA Role discussion

Make this a dual position role. Instruction and Coaching (would this change the mentor program) Discussions about reconfiguring positions throughout the district to continue to improve performance.

CDA positions may move to stand alone contracts.

Newer model over the past 5-6 years (SAU 16, Lee, Northwood, Brentwood) Better to have curriculum work done by people familiar with the demographic that are being instructed. A position that bridges the gap between the teachers and administrators. We have a lot of teachers that are still in their first 3 years of teaching. Having someone to give more dedicated mentoring/direction.

Team Building

Athletics - make sure that communications are properly vetted. Advertising for Exeter hospital, violates policy, go back and do things the right way. Staff didn't communicate goals to students.

Entered Non public session at 8:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ben Leavitt