

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2021

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD - Epping TV Channel 22/Zoom Meeting

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deborah Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with a moment of silence.

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. Nature's Classroom - Susan Gualtieri, Joy Page

Typically, the 7th grade students travel to the camp for a week. It is now called Nature's Classroom New England. Nature's Classroom on Wheels will come to the Epping Middle School for a 3-day period the week before April vacation. The program has Covid-19 safety precautions in place. Susan went through their protocols. It is typically \$300 per student when they travel to the camp. This program will cost between \$20 to \$30 for all 3 days of the program. Deborah asked what would happen if there were inclement weather. It will still be held, and students should bring raincoats if necessary. They will also work on getting tents set up if the weather is bad. Heather thanked Susan, Joy, and the 7th grade team. She challenged the 8th grade team to do something in place of the DC trip. Robin asked if they've thought about remote students. They have, and they will also address issues if students don't want to participate. Parent Jordenne Sargent thanked them. Superintendent Furbush thanked them and told families not to worry about cost and that the district is able to help if necessary.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Nature's Classroom. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Suicide Prevention - Cathy Zylinski, Sarah Wagner, Melorah Bisailon, Julie Kratimenos

They discussed who is working on the Suicide Prevention Plan. They also noted that youth suicide rates are on the rise. They also discussed Policy JLDBB Suicide Prevention. They went through their plan and the key components of it. This plan formalized some of the practices that the district already had in place. Prevention and Intervention are crucial components. They discussed the specific prevention programming that they have in place at the different schools. They also created an SOS program, Signs of Suicide. They discussed the main takeaways from this new program. It will be taught in 8th grade and high school health classes. Ben asked about the depression screening tool. They said that it can't happen without parent consent. They haven't laid out a timeline for it yet; they are still looking into it. It could potentially be utilized this spring. David said that this is one of the most critical things that they do as a district. This year has been especially tough on the students, and he asked how they're supporting remote students. They meet weekly to look at remote students' engagement and reach out to them to check in. They provide the students and families with outside resources if necessary. They're working on developing remote counseling. Heather asked if any students missed any presentations on suicide awareness due to going remote last spring. They haven't. Robin mentioned the middle school students who have recently taken their lives and emphasized the importance of supporting middle school students as well. They are still teaching the middle school students the main points. Superintendent Furbush commended the team for their great work and how quickly they worked.

POLICY

a. BHE - School Board Use of Email and Other Electronic Communications - 2nd Read

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy BHE - School Board Use of Email and Other Electronic Communications as amended. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. JLDBB - Suicide Prevention (New Policy) - 1st Read

This is a required policy. The policy doesn't conflict with any other policies, so they do not need to delete any other policies. They can review this policy annually if they choose to do so. This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting.

c. JLCJ - Head Concussions and Head Injury - 1st Read

Ben Bourgoin briefly discussed the importance of this policy. This is a revised policy. This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting.

d. EBBB - First Accident Report - 1st Read

This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

a. Retirement Letter – Ronnie Bush

Superintendent Furbush thanked Ronnie for her 13 years and wished her well.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the retirement of Ronnie Bush with extreme regret. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Emily went over what the different classes are working on.

Taya discussed the extracurricular activities. The Student Leadership Council set up a table for students to write kind notes that they'll hang around the school. She mentioned the National Honors Society's community project. They are collecting donations for a local family affected by a fire. Project Grad is selling calendars. Spanish Honors Society teamed up with the French Honors Society for an event. There is a "Spill the Tea" event where students share books they've read in the past and the librarians make book recommendations for them. They are very excited for February vacation.

b. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush congratulated two students for reading 20 books in one month. The virtual book fair is finishing up soon. He mentioned EES spirit week. He thanked weatherman John Dickerson. The participants of the Penguin Plunge raised over \$2,000, and he acknowledged everyone who participated. He said that the ski trip to Pats Peak was a success. He

also noted that they are still working on literacy and curriculum at the elementary level. He thanked a handful of people for their work on it and for promoting literacy. The middle school boys' basketball team won the championship, and the girls' team came in 3rd place.

c. Committee Reports

Heather said that the Budget Committee has a deliberative session vote coming up on Tuesday March 9th. She told people to expect it to be busy. She also mentioned that it was Candidate Night yesterday. The middle school PTO is planning spirit week.

Robin discussed the SST meeting. She talked about the classes that students can get credit for from SST. They are going to talk about programming options and future course options at the next meeting. Heather would be interested to hear about any trades course offerings. There was a discussion about this.

David said that the Reopening Task Force is still very active. He thanked Superintendent Furbush for keeping people involved and motivated. He also discussed the Safety Committee. They have had no major issues. Their main concern has been icy parking lots and walkways.

Ben discussed the elementary school PTO and mentioned the Scholastic Book Fair. They are looking for people to record themselves reading a book and should contact the PTO if interested. The PTO is donating \$1,500 to the book fair. They are also organizing an event at the elementary school that will be held in April.

Ben also mentioned the Technology Committee. He said that the new Lenovo computers are in, and now it's a 1 to 1 ratio. They upgraded Google Meets. They are staying up to date with data security and privacy, and they will be updating the Technology Plan.

Deborah mentioned the Professional Development Committee. They are looking at new self-assessment forms.

Deborah apologized to Melorah for not having LaunchNow on the agenda tonight. She said that they will definitely be on the agenda for the next meeting.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Financial Report

The expense forecast is actually positive \$482,102, and Bonnie will update this on the website. Heather asked about the food service budget. Bonnie will give the Board an update at the first March meeting. They didn't continue the free lunches for all students this year.

b. DOE Suggested 21-22 Calendar

Superintendent Furbush recommended that they don't change the schedule because SST is planning on keeping the current schedule. It will add complications if the schedule is changed. Deborah thinks it will be good to wait to hear what other sending districts are doing. The Board agreed to wait and see. David and Robin are not interested in changing the schedule.

c. Substitute Rates

Superintendent Furbush said that they found a long-term substitute for the art position at the middle school. He also mentioned that other districts' substitute rates have started going up. He said that Epping's rates are comparable to the surrounding districts. He wanted to let the Board know that Epping's rates might go up in the future. David said that the cost is worth it if it's needed. There was a discussion of whether the increase in rates would be a spike that is not permanent or a smaller increase that is permanent. Everyone is open to discuss either. Heather asked how the district is doing in terms of substitutes. Superintendent Furbush said that they're teetering on the line of critical. He said that Covid-19 money could be used to help get more substitutes. He said that the district can always use more substitutes. Ben asked if other surrounding districts' rates spiked. Superintendent Furbush said that Sanborn's rates have gone up. Robin asked if the district would lose paraprofessionals to the substitute positions if substitute rates went up. Superintendent Furbush doesn't think so because paraprofessional positions come with other benefits. Robin is still worried about the paraprofessionals who don't need the benefits.

Deborah mentioned that Colleen Sousa brought up EYAA and their positive impact on the athletes' ability.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for January 21, 2021

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the January 21, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Public Minutes for January 28, 2021

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the January 28, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Manifest #15

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #15 dated 1/22/21 in the amount of \$453,928.55. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Payroll Manifest #16

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #16 dated 2/5/21 in the amount of \$459,009.60. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Accounts Payable #15

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Accounts Payable #15 dated 1/28/21 in the amount of \$442,102.86. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Accounts Payable #16

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Accounts Payable #16 dated 2/11/21 in the amount of \$103,524.37. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent Amy Hodgdon said that the hockey team won tonight. She is appreciative of all the work that goes into making it possible for the kids to be able to play. She is glad to live in a district that supports in-person learning. She also said that she appreciates the custodians and lunch service staff. Colleen Sousa agreed with Amy.

COMMENTS/OTHER

David made a request to the Policy Committee. He also said that he was proud of the district for being open four days a week this whole time.

Ben agreed with David. Ben also noted that there is snow on the ground during vacation and that the kids will be excited.

Robin also recognized the students and thanked them.

The Board wished everyone a great vacation.

Heather congratulated both basketball teams on their accomplishments.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. March 4, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting

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

Non-Public Meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021 following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to go into a Non-Public meeting and to adjourn the meeting shortly after at 9:17 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary