

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 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 7:00 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. Local Girls Scout Troop - Keeping Epping Beautiful - Heather Charkowski

The Local Girl Scout Troop put together a town cleanup initiative. They are working with the Epping Recreation Department and the Public Works. Their Keeping Epping Beautiful weekend is 4/22 through 4/25. The public can pick up bags and gloves at the Town Hall. The Highway Department will pick up the trash bags on 4/26. They are making sure this event is well advertised. They will be individually picking up the trash in their own neighborhoods. Heather commended them for their efforts. There is also an older Girl Scout Troop in Epping.

b. 2022 Europe Trip - Tyler Nekton, Molly Chiarantona, Jen Jacoby, Karen McCallion

Tyler said that he followed Policy IJOAA when creating this proposal. Their goal is to offer this trip to students in the upcoming 10-12 grades next year. They will be departing from Boston on either 4/21 or 4/22, and they'll be flying to London. He briefly went over the trip itinerary. A more detailed itinerary will be provided when the trip is officially booked; however, some of the places that they will most likely visit include Paris, Florence, and Rome. In terms of safety, they will keep an eye on the State Department, CDC, and NH DHHS recommendations. They will

also stay up to date with EF Tours' recommendations and guidelines. This is the touring company that the district will be using for this trip. He went through the cost breakdown. It will be roughly \$3,575 per student. He mentioned what this price includes. He went through the various insurance policies and offerings. There will be availability for a donation page through EF Tours. If there are more than 25 participants, all the excursions and tours will be private. More precise details will be released as available. The touring company has great emergency management in the event that it is needed. Heather asked how much people are typically able to fundraise. Some students have raised as much as \$1,000. There doesn't need to be Board approval for the fundraiser because it won't be school related. Students aren't allowed to mention the school while fundraising. There have been issues in the past with how fundraisers have been advertised. The fundraiser was for an individual, but people assumed it was for the whole school because it mentioned the high school. Maggie briefly spoke about fundraising. She said the amount students raise depends on the students themselves and their drive. There are scholarship opportunities available. EF Tours has also partnered with SNHU to provide an opportunity to receive three college credits. Tyler said that the district looked into many different destinations and then they narrowed it down. They then used a student survey to select this final location. Deborah asked Maggie about the different insurances. If a student gets sick while away and must go to the doctor/hospital, they still may have to pay out of pocket and then they'll have to file an insurance claim. For the most expensive insurance, they will get reimbursed for everything except the insurance price and the deposit if they decide to skip the trip. David asked how EF Tours handled any canceled trips last year. Susan Gualtieri said that they handled their cancellation really well. David thanked Tyler and the team for providing this great opportunity. Heather asked how many students they generally take on these trips. He said that the fewest they've ever taken was 28 students, and the highest number of students they've taken was around 40. There are 21 students that are currently signed up. Maggie explained the students' webpages. Heather asked about the returning customer discount. It is a \$50 discount for anyone student who has used EF Tours in the past. It will be automatically applied when they sign up. Parent Jordenne Sargent said that EF Tours is a great company.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the 2022 Europe Trip. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Krav Maga Global and Use of Building - Jen Jacoby

Jen said that she would like to start Krav Maga back up in early May for adults only. Krav Maga is a self-defense system. Ben asked how construction will affect facilities usability. It should have minimal effects during the school year. They will work with them. Her company is for profit, but she said it is more like a hobby for her. She would only be holding one class that'll be for an hour and 15 minutes. She would like the rate prorated since she only needs the area for

roughly two hours which includes cleaning time. In the past, she was charged \$100 for eight hours. Heather offered her outdoor time until a decision is made. Jen said that she is not in a rush.

d. Facilities Use by Outside Organizations - Bill Furbush

The New Hampshire Sports Page has asked to host an All-Star basketball practice and scrimmage in the EHS gym on 5/18 and 5/19. The scrimmage would be open to players' families. They would abide by all policies and guidelines. One of the coaches is currently one of the Varsity basketball coaches at EHS. The district is currently only allowing outdoor use of facilities. There was a discussion whether this should be allowed. The district supports this, but they will thoroughly review all organizations' safety protocols and COVID plans and make sure they abide by school policies. David asked about CDC guidelines. Superintendent Furbush said that they're always changing, but they'll make sure that they are being followed. Ben asked where the basketball teams would be coming from. Superintendent Furbush isn't sure, but it is a regional team. Deborah is worried about the uptick in COVID cases. Heather would like to hear from the Task Force and hear their thoughts. Heather and David think that the district should set the safety guidelines and not leave it up to the organizations. This topic was tabled until the next Board meeting, so they can hear the thoughts of the Task Force. Ben is a bigger fan of organizations using outdoor space. Robin noted that Spring sports are starting soon which will affect the amount of space that is available.

e. Program of Studies - Brian Ernest, Julie Morin

Principal Ernest went over the revisions that were made. They relabeled courses. He also mentioned that they reached out to SST in regard to Heather's question about college credit potential. Heather said she appreciates the revisions. She said that Julie has been awesome addressing her comments. Principal Ernest noted how important common language is.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the Program of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

f. Mowing and Grounds Maintenance Bids

They recently put out an RFP for Mowing and Grounds Maintenance. Joe reached out to five local companies, and they received bids from two of them. They also received a bid from a

company based in Holderness. Joe recommends going with a local company in case they need any last-minute work done. After looking at the two local bids, he recommends that the district goes with Links to Lawn for their lawn care. They will also be able to help with field maintenance if needed. Joe did not reach out to Granite Coast, but Bonnie will add them to the bid list. This will be a one-year bid. The company will only mow when needed. The cost for the work will be between \$960 and \$1,320 per week; it isn't a set price, and the district will only be charged if work is done.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Links to Lawn bid through 2021. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

POLICY

a. AC - Non-Discrimination (Revision) - 2nd/3rd Read

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy AC - Non-Discrimination as revised. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students (NEW POLICY) - 2nd/3rd Read

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students as amended. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees (NEW POLICY) - 2nd/3rd Read

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve Policy ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees as amended. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

a. None

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Student Reports

PSAT and SAT results are coming out this Friday. Heather said that 10th graders got theirs today. Emily discussed what the different classes are working on. The NHS Induction Ceremony will be on May 6th. LipSync is going to be happening during spirit week. Prom tickets are on sale right now. The baseball and softball teams played Newmarket this week. Project Grad has a GoFundMe page for banner donations. They also mentioned that April vacation is coming up.

b. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush said that the last remote Friday is tomorrow. He also said that the early release schedule has been sent out to parents. There are 58 (30%) EMS students and 59 (24%) EHS students participating in spring sports. He said that the EMS Pride assembly was today. They went over their guiding principles and recognized students for meeting those principles. He gave a big shoutout to NHS for their volunteer hikes that they took and for all the data they collected. He also discussed the Governor's announcement. Masks will still be required, and there will be no changes to their policies. They will be reviewing this going forward. They will follow DHHS guidance. All outside contractors and staff are still required to wear masks. Deborah asked about the percentage of staff that were vaccinated.

c. Committee Reports

Heather said that they haven't started negotiations yet. The Fields Committee is meeting in the first week of May. The Middle School PTO is currently planning events for Teacher Appreciation Week, and they're also coming up with fun events for the kids.

David said that the Safety Committee met a few weeks ago. The Emergency Management Committee meeting went well. He said that they are working closely with the town. The Return to School Task Force meets regularly. They added in an extra meeting because of the Governor's announcement. He mentioned that it is a large and diverse group. The HVAC/Boiler Committee meets regularly, and they are working out technical issues.

Ben said the Elementary School PTO adjusted some of their plans; Activity Night got pushed back a little bit. They are also putting together stuff for Teacher Appreciation Week. They are working on stuff for the custodial and main office staff as well.

Robin said that SST is considering having a Junior ROTC program. Marketing students created the first ever spirit event at SST. She also mentioned the NASA collaboration that is happening. She said that changes will be made to the automotive program. Students can learn how to deal with customers in this program now. They will be looking into automotive internships for the students. Automotive Two students will have to teach Automotive One students something as part of the changes. Heather mentioned that the SST NTHS was tonight, and several Epping students were inducted.

Deborah discussed the Selectmen meeting. John Cody will no longer be the School Board representative. It will now be Joe Tromblay. They are supposed to meet with the Selectmen on 4/19, but they will be postponing it until early May. Deborah will ask to be on their agenda at the 5/17 meeting. She would like the Board to send her potential agenda items for that meeting by 5/6.

Bonnie discussed what she has been working on with Lisa.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Special Education Bus Bid Acceptance

Bonnie said that they reached out to 10 providers, and they only received two bids from SLC and Durham School Service Company. Cathy recommends going with a multiyear bid from SLC. They have been the provider for the district for the past five years. They meet all the students' needs, and they have lower bids in all areas besides bus monitors. They put out a bid for a three-year contract. The cost would be \$227,040 for SLC for the first year or \$293,650 for Durham for the first year. Cathy said that she budgeted \$342,612 this year for special education bus expenses. This includes about a 15% buffer compared to the actual cost in case the money is needed.

Historically, they have only received two or three bids. Heather and David would like to know why they receive so few bids. They recommended sending out a Google Survey to all the companies in order to collect information.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the bid from the Seacoast Learning Collaborative bus company for the 2021-2024 school years. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

There are roughly two years left on the regular bus contract.

b. Financial Update

The district will no longer have Friday bus savings. The Food Service revenue from March has not been entered into the report yet. They are in the hole about \$60,000. Sales have been up this past month though. The MB Mechanical contract was signed. The RFP for the Food Service quotes came back. One company estimates that the district would lose \$90,000 each year with them. Fresh Pick hopes to break even. Superintendent Furbush recommends going forward with an in-person Food Service Director. He wants someone with culinary experience who will be connected to the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for April 1, 2021

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting as amended. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Non-public Minutes for April 1, 2021

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Non-Public Minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Manifest

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Payroll Manifest #20 dated 4/2/21 in the amount of \$442,381.25. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Accounts Payable #20 dated 4/8/21 in the amount of \$168,527.82. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMENTS/OTHER

Robin asked a question about the manifests. Bonnie said that they don't need to go into the SAU office to review payroll.

Heather had a parent ask about the high school remote schedule in relation to the SST schedule. There is a mid-afternoon bus to help with SST transportation. Superintendent Furbush said that they are working to alleviate any scheduling conflicts. She also mentioned that April vacation is coming up. She said the week after break is Teacher Appreciation Week. There are Signup Geniuses on the various organizations' pages if people want to contribute.

Ben thanked everyone at the district office for their help with all the recent interviews. He gave a shoutout to Principal Cantagallo and Mr. Hinkle for setting up the Parent Advisory Night at the elementary school.

David attended a NHSBA meeting that covered the Right to Know Laws. He would like this topic to be added to a future agenda. He briefly summarized the topic. It will be added to the agenda for the May 6th meeting. He will send the meeting recording to the Board, so they can review it ahead of time.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. May 6, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting

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

A Non-Public Meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021 following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Heather Clark made a motion to go into a Non-Public session and adjourn the meeting thereafter at 9:47 pm. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary