

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 18, 2024, 7:00 PM
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
Epping Town Hall/Epping TV Channel 22/Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Heather Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

In attendance: Chair Heather Clark, Vice Chair Ben Leavitt, Member Julie Knight, Member Jen Jacoby, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, and Student Landon Toomire

Absent: Member Robin O'Day and Student Jacob Twombly

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. 7th Grade Nature's Classroom Field Trip - Assistant Principal Susan Gualtieri and EMHS Teacher Danielle Herman

Susan and Danielle outlined the proposal for the 7th Grade Nature's Classroom field trip at Camp Cody. The trip would take place from Tuesday, October 29th to Friday, November 1st of 2024. The cost of the trip is \$400 per student (a \$10 increase compared to last year) and includes fees and transportation. They have already begun fundraising discussions to help reduce that cost. Julie asked if they knew how much just the transportation would cost. They did not have an exact quote, but they did discuss options for using trailers/U-Hauls to transport gear and help reduce costs. Julie said she feels that the transportation costs should be covered by the District rather than having the students pay for it. There was a discussion about fundraising, donation, and sponsorship opportunities. Heather asked how many students typically go on the trip. They said post-COVID they have been seeing about 75% of students going on the trip. Heather also asked if the trip has to be paid for all at once. They said there is a payment plan which breaks the total cost into three smaller payments. Ben asked about the option to use some current systems/technology to offer a monthly payment plan. Christine said it is something they could look into setting up.

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the 7th Grade Nature's Classroom field trip for October 29th-November 1st, 2024 at Camp Cody. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. 2024-2025 School Calendar - Superintendent Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush provided the Board with a list of start dates for the other schools that send students to SST. He also noted that currently the proposed calendar has a total of three

discrepancies. Landon asked if SST students are still required to go to SST on the days of the student-led conferences. Superintendent Furbush said that SST students should check-in with their SST teachers to explain their absence. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the different potential start dates. Michelle Mylott said that for her family the Tuesday start date has worked much better. She also spoke about her personal experiences with the different start dates. She supports keeping the proposed calendar as it is and starting on Tuesday.

Chair Heather Clark made a motion to approve the Proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 3-1. Motion carries.

There was a discussion about setting a “hard stop” date for the 2024-2025 school year. The Board agreed to add this topic to a future meeting’s agenda.

POLICY

a. Policy BEDG - Meeting Minutes - 1st Read

Superintendent Furbush discussed the new requirements in the policy. Heather noted that she liked how easy this version is to read. There was a brief discussion about when sealed minutes must be reviewed by, and the criteria for sealed minutes. This policy was moved to a 2nd/3rd read at the next meeting.

b. Policy BEDG-R - Access to Minutes and Public Records - Withdrawn

This policy is being withdrawn and replaced by EH-R(1).

c. Policy EH-R(1) - Public Access to School District Records - Administrative Procedures for Public Access to District Records “Right to Know Requests” (New) - 1st Read

Superintendent Furbush discussed the new requirements in the policy. This policy was moved to a 2nd/3rd read at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

None

REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Landon gave an overview of what different classes are currently working on. He also gave an overview of the recent and upcoming extracurricular activities. Superintendent Furbush said he is pleased to hear that midterms are covering all of the material from the semester. Ben asked if the Business and Personal Finance class was being run this semester. Superintendent Furbush said he will need to check with Mr. Mazzone and provide an update at the next meeting.

Heather added that Isabella Greubel has been nominated for the US Presidential Scholars Program.

b. Principal Reports

None

c. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Furbush reminded everyone about the upcoming Board retreat. He also spoke about the citizen's petition warrant article. He explained what the citizen's petition warrant article can and can't do. He also explained some related laws. There was a discussion about the objective of the citizen's petition warrant article. Landon added that he met with the group who created the warrant article. He said they want to get an idea for what the administrative costs are versus the costs of items related to the students. Ben said he thinks that the budget is much more easily readable, but there is always more room to grow.

Superintendent Furbush also reminded everyone that there is no meeting on February 1st since there is the Deliberative Session on February 8th. He also said that he will be attending the National Conference for Superintendents on February 14th-15th. He asked the Board if they would like to move/cancel the February 15th meeting. Heather suggested canceling the February 15th meeting which would make the next meeting after the February 8th Deliberative Session the March 7th meeting. The Board agreed to cancel the February 15th meeting.

Superintendent Furbush reiterated that the Deliberative Session is on February 8th at 7:00pm in the Allen Gymnasium.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Meeting Minutes January 4, 2024

Member Julie Knight made a motion to approve the Public Meeting Minutes from January 4th, 2024 as amended. Seconded by Member Jen Jacoby. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Accounts Payable deposited January 12, 2024

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable deposited on January 12th, 2024 in the amount of \$88,179.44. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Payroll deposited December 22, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Payroll deposited on December 22nd, 2023 in the amount of \$386,202.25. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

c. Payroll deposited December 8, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Payroll deposited on December 8th, 2023 in the amount of \$429,154.57. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

a. Board Comments

Jen mentioned that she noticed the Allen Gym seats are looking pretty rough. She said approximately 15 of them have holes in them. Superintendent Furbush said there is a replacement plan in place, and they are aware of the issues. Jen also noted that Principal Mazzone included “Block Scheduling” as an agenda item for the Advisory Council meeting. She asked if there were any changes being made to the schedule. Superintendent Furbush said they are not making any changes, but they are looking for feedback on how to improve the current schedule.

Ben reminded everyone of the Elementary School PTO community night at the Community Oven on January 29th from 4-9pm. A portion of the proceeds from orders during this time will go to the Elementary School PTO to help fund field trips, events, etc.

Heather said starting with the second meeting in March that committee reports will be added back into the agenda. She also added that the Board will be discussing Superintendent Furbush’s mid-year review after the Board retreat. She also said it is nice to hear from parents that they are noticing an increase in rigor. She congratulated everyone involved in making this happen.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. March 7, 2024

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II Non-Public Meeting **is not scheduled** for January 18, 2024 after the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:47 pm. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary