

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, January 4, 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 Robin O’Day, Member Julie Knight, Member Jen Jacoby, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Jacob Twombly, and Student Landon Toomire

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**SCHEDULED TOPICS**

a. 2024-2025 School Calendar - Superintendent Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush reminded everyone of the recent legislation regarding school calendars. He discussed the process for developing a schedule that meets the requirements of the legislation. Heather mentioned that the tentative first day of school is Tuesday August 27th. She listed the tentative days off and other important dates. The tentative schedule includes 175 school days for students. The calendar is available in the public folder. Julie said she feels there is an exorbitant amount of PD days. She disagrees with having four PD days before the start of the school year. Superintendent Furbush noted that they are not strictly PD days, and they include other items to help make the start of the school year as smooth as possible. Julie said her concern is that PD or inservice days take away from instructional time for students. She is also concerned that they are not starting on Monday, August 26th. There was a discussion regarding how to handle days where the schedules for EMHS and SST do not match. Chris Mazzone said he is aware of the higher expectations placed on SST students. He said he views it as an advantage to prepare them for careers in an industry. Julie also asked why they can’t start school on that Monday. Chris Sousa spoke about the advantages he saw in having a different start date than SST. He said as a parent with an SST student he felt it allowed students to focus solely on SST for the day which makes it less intimidating. There was further discussion about the calendar, the tentative start date, and inservice days. Jen said she feels quality is more important than quantity when it comes to PD days. She also said that instructional time is only as good as the preparation, so PD days are necessary. Jen also cautioned everyone from thinking that school is childcare. Robin also spoke about the importance of giving teachers the time to learn the new requirements from the Dept. of Education. Ben said it is a challenge on both sides, but he thinks it makes sense to have the start days line up. There was further discussion about the current discrepancies between the calendars.

## **POLICY**

None

## **PERSONNEL**

None

## **REPORTS**

### a. Student Reports

Jacob and Landon gave an overview of what different classes are currently working on. They also gave an overview of the recent and upcoming extracurricular activities. They also spoke about the Senior's Little Ceasar's Fundraiser and upcoming Talent Show. Heather added that there is an upcoming Unified Basketball game and an upcoming Track meet.

### b. Principal Reports

Sara Cantrell provided an update on her transition to the Director of Curriculum, Data & Assessment position. She was able to work closely with Krista to develop an understanding of the role and learn the systems in place. She discussed the work that was taking place prior to her stepping into this role and also how that work will continue going forward. Heather asked if there was a mentor in place for Sara. Sara said she has some unofficial mentors but does not have an official mentor. Robin said she liked how Sara discussed the students as a whole district rather than as separate groups. Ben asked where they were at with getting tools to help with reading district-wide. Sara said they definitely have room for growth and a big part of the missing piece is not having the staff to be able to implement the tools.

## *EMHS*

Principal Mazzone spoke about the excellent work done by the facilities crew during break. He also spoke about the recent assembly and fundraisers. He commended Jacob and Landon for doing a great job capturing the whole school with their reports. He highlighted some acceptances to colleges, trade programs, etc. There was a discussion about how to best celebrate all students. Mr. Mazzone gave updates on his goals for the year. He spoke about how students are able to reflect on how they have grown and that they are utilizing the work-study practices. Julie asked if Student Led Conferences are reported out at the end of the semester. Mr. Mazzone said at the middle school level, they are on the Student Achievement Report. He also spoke about the ongoing work on updating/improving the process for lesson design. For culture and climate, he discussed the improved attendance rates and decrease in the number of write-ups. Heather asked if there were rubrics posted on the website. Mr. Mazzone said there are specific class/assignment rubrics made available via Google Classroom, and the building-wide rubrics are linked in the Handbook. Heather also asked about the curriculum vertical alignment. This can be found on the SAU 14 website under the About section under Competency Based Education. Landon commented that the culture has been incredible this year, and he is proud to be an

Epping student. He also commented that the Facilities team has been doing a great job to keep the buildings clean and fix any issues that are brought to their attention.

### *EES*

Principal Murphy and Principal Sousa spoke about the upcoming inservice day, NWEA testing, and other upcoming activities. They reminded everyone of the EES PTO fundraiser taking place at The Oven on January 29th from 4pm-9pm. They spoke about a recent visit from WMUR Meteorologist Kevin Skarupa. They reminded everyone that storyteller Shawn Middleton has been rescheduled to February 1st and 2nd. They also gave an update on the work being done for the literacy curriculum. Ben asked if parents are notified if their child has been identified as needing additional help with reading/literacy. Principal Murphy said that last year they did give parents resources at the literacy night. Principal Sousa added that they do have resources available for families to utilize at home as well. Sara mentioned they are working on a document to be able to easily share with parents. They spoke about the start of the after school math intervention program which will utilize grant funding to provide additional support to students struggling with math concepts. They also showed some pictures of students from the Holiday Concert and Spirit Week. They gave shoutouts to staff members for their professionalism, leadership, and dedication. There was a discussion about the many great changes occurring in Epping. Everyone agreed that there is a lot to be proud of, and everyone is glad to see the progress.

### c. Superintendent Reports

None

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES**

### a. Fremont Warrant Article Discussion

Superintendent Furbush made the recommendation to not create a warrant article for the Fremont tuitioning. He said that the Board is elected by the community and is therefore trusted to make decisions that benefit the District. The Board agreed that there have been ample opportunities for the public to come and speak on any issues they may have. Jen suggested making it an agenda item once negotiations have been completed as a way to inform the public.

### b. Warrant Article Vote

Heather read the updated version of Warrant Article 3 - Operating Budget for the Board to vote on.

**The Board voted 5-0 in support of Warrant Article 3 - Operating Budget.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Public Meeting Minutes December 21, 2023

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Public Meeting Minutes from December 21st, 2023 as written. Seconded by Member Robin O’Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

**MANIFEST**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER**

a. Board Comments

Julie brought up the recent cancellation of extracurricular activities, except varsity basketball, due to weather. She wants to ensure that communications are clear and consistent.

**NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED**

a. January 18, 2024

**NONPUBLIC SESSION:** RSA 91-A:3, II Non-Public Meeting **is not scheduled** for January 4, 2024 after the public meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made to adjourn at 9:59 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Parent

School Board Secretary