

## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 21, 2021**

**EPPING SCHOOL BOARD - Epping Town Hall/ Epping TV Channel 22/Zoom**

**7:00 pm**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

In attendance: Chair Deborah Brooks, Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Heather Clark, Member Ben Leavitt, Member Robin O'Day, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Emily Kelly, and Student Nathan McTague.

### **SCHEDULED GUESTS**

a. SEL Presentation - Cathy Zylinski, Krista Gulick, Sarah Wager and Julie Kratimenos

They explained what Social and Emotional Learning is. They also explained the importance of it. There are also a handful of long-term benefits for students who have SEL skills. They discussed their SEL committee process. The committee is made up of staff and parents. The staff compiled a list of all the areas of needs for the students. The committee vetted several SEL curricula and chose Positive Action. She explained why they chose Positive Action. It is very comprehensive and has proven outcomes. The philosophy of Positive Action resonated with the teachers. She went through the philosophy and units. They also discussed the Positive Action outcomes. There is a lot of research and results that support this approach. Teachers will be piloting lessons next semester. There will be a parent night to inform families. They will develop an implementation plan to have a full roll out for the 2022-2023 school year. heir nex

Heather asked if there is a specific timeline for the different units. They said that will be something they discuss when they create the implementation plan. The timelines will vary by grade level. All teachers besides 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be expected to touch upon all units within a school year. Robin asked if there is anything about self-advocacy in the curriculum; there is. She also asked how the data for the outcomes section is collected. All the data is coming from schools who have used Positive Action; they will send Robin the link to the surveys and data. Positive Action has been around for about 20 years. Student Emily asked if there will be a student oversight committee for reviewing verbiage in lesson plans and giving

input. They've talked about having students be a part of the pilot program. Robin would like to hear feedback after the pilot program and make sure Epping is seeing positive outcomes. They will be collecting data and getting feedback. Heather said it's important to reach out and try to support the students the best they can. There is a family part to this program that they will eventually implement and use. David is also worried about the outcomes and whether the program is as successful as it claims. They're hoping to have solid data to look at within three to five years. They are still figuring out which data they'll want to collect in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The ESSER Grant will cover the cost for the next three years. Ben was wondering how this will work with the academic curriculum. This is something they will be figuring out this year; they plan on implementing it during FLEX blocks at the middle and high schools. At the elementary school, it will happen during their morning meetings. There will be around two or three 20-minute meetings per week to cover SEL. The Board would like updates on how the program is going.

#### b. MOU and MOA - Health Entry and Safety Guidelines

Superintendent Furbush summarized this topic. David is concerned that he wasn't given a document that highlighted the changes between the old version and updated version because without searching, it could be assumed it's the same document. David doesn't support the updated version because it takes away authority from the Board according to the 18<sup>th</sup> bullet. Robin thinks they're overstepping their authority. She listed off examples. Heather said that they got rid of some stuff such as items related to remote learning. Parent Nicole Bizzaro asked what the point of the Task Force is. It is to help the Board make informed decisions. She is concerned that the community hasn't had enough time to look at the MOU and MOA in order to have a discussion with the Board. She doesn't like that the Task Force could potentially be cut out of the decision-making process. She voiced her concerns. Superintendent Furbush said that negotiations are done privately, and there typically isn't public input. They have to enter into negotiations in good faith. Mr. Hodgman said that the Covid Task Force should be dismantled and have it split 50/50 ideologically. These MOU's and MOA's are very common with other districts as well right now. Emily asked how long the MOU's and MOA's last for. It varies, but they typically last for a school year. Emily argued for the Task Force instead of the CDC or national guidance. Heather would like the Board members to type up their concerns, so she can bring them to the Association. Robin won't support anything from the Association about Covid 19. They would like the feedback by next Wednesday, the latest.

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the MOU and MOA as presented. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 2-3. Motion does not pass.**

Student Nathan said that the students haven't been directly asked if they want to be wearing masks, and he thinks that's a very important question. There is only one student who regularly attends Task Force meetings. Another one just joined, and they are looking for another student to join.

## POLICY

### a. EEAEA - Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing School Bus Drivers - 1st Read

Superintendent Furbush said that this policy now applies to contracted carriers as well. Ben asked what the difference is between vendors and contracted employees; there's not a big difference. He made a suggestion. All the drug testing is done by the bus company, and the district gets confirmation of this. This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting.

## PERSONNEL

### a. Carol Colgan - Intent to Retire

The Board has already accepted her retirement, so it doesn't need to be approved again. She updated the year she is retiring. This affects the district's budgeting.

### b. Joe Foley - Motion to Approve as Deputy Treasurer

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Joe Foley as the Deputy Treasurer. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

## REPORTS

### a. Student Reports

Emily and Nathan went through what the different classes are working on. Project Search students went to a seminar this week. French Club students made crepes. SLC students are working on Halloween activities for next week. Student Government will be hosting a student Halloween costume dress up day. Unified soccer tied their game yesterday. The senior night games are coming up for certain teams and have recently happened for others. Nathan said that the art students are still hoping to have an AC installed. Those conversations have happened. Nathan said that the bathroom renovations look awesome. Heather gave a shout out to Ben Bourgoin for his work with the Senior Nights.

### b. Superintendent's Report

The SELT Program is beginning, and they're very excited about that. The elementary school has had some recent field trips. Their clubs have started as well. The Halloween event hosted by the Elementary PTO is on Friday, 10/29.

### c. Committee Reports

Robin discussed the SST meeting. They are working on their budget right now. They are still working on dual credit options. Someone brought up school starting later in the day so that will be something SST discusses. They'll also be adjusting their meeting schedule. Robin attended a delegate assembly. She summarized this meeting. There was a discussion about who the delegate and backup are. They didn't receive emails letting them know about the prior two meetings.

David said that the Tech Committee meeting got postponed.

Heather said that they've been working on the teacher negotiations. Project Grad is doing a Savers Drive. The 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders have their first activity coming up soon.

Ben announced the winner of the Patriots tickets. Ben discussed the PTO Halloween activities. Robin offered up her kids' old Halloween costumes. He also discussed the Budget Committee meeting. They talked about the free and reduced lunches. They would like enrollment numbers. There was a discussion on what would happen with the extra Food Service money. The Budget Committee doesn't want them to do projects that weren't included in the budget. Their work sessions will be recorded. They discussed the review dates.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES**

### a. Financial Report

They reviewed the DRA. She gave an update on their expenses.

### b. Budget Update

They had their first budget review, and it went well. They'll be meeting again soon.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### a. Public Minutes of October 7, 2021

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the Public Minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Non-Public Minutes of October 7, 2021

**Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

## **MANIFEST**

a. Payroll Deposit dated October 15, 2021

**Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Payroll Manifest dated October 15, 2021 in the amount of \$369,028.29. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Accounts Payables dated October 06, 2021

**Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Accounts Payables dated October 6, 2021 in the amount of \$224,902.48. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hodgman thinks it's time to have a fresh start to the Task Force. He is also in favor of later start times. He talked about masks and Covid 19.

This link from the CDC website outlines mask use and the science behind it.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fmore%2Fmasking-science-sars-cov2.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fmore%2Fmasking-science-sars-cov2.html)

## **BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER**

Robin mentioned that on 10/30 at Checkers, there will be a Halloween event.

Heather said that the volleyball team won tonight. The middle school boys soccer team is undefeated.

Ben would like the documents to be uploaded in a timelier fashion.

Deborah noted that community members should check the website for accurate, up-to-date information. She received a nice note from a preschool parent about the program.

**NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED**

a. November 4, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting.

**NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (j)**

Non-Public Meeting **is scheduled** for October 21, 2021 following the public meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made to enter a Non-Public Meeting and to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary