

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 7:00 PM
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
Epping Town Hall/Epping TV Channel 22/Zoom

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Principal Mazzone and the Board discussed the changes in the proposed EMHS budget. Principal Sousa, Principal Murphy, and the Board discussed the changes in the proposed budget for EES.

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, and Business Administrator Christine Vayda

Absent: Superintendent Furbush

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. National Merit Scholars - EMHS Students and Chris Mazzone

Isabella Greubel and Ryan Zheng were NMSF, Casey Morin was commended.

Mr. Mazzone explained that three EMHS students achieved either “commended” or “semi-finalist” status for the National Merit Scholars program based on their performance on the PSAT. He said that there have not been any EMHS students who have achieved this status in the past five years. Heather said she is proud of all of the students for this accomplishment and is glad to have them representing Epping at this level. Ben said the students’ accomplishments should serve as an inspiration for their classmates and are an example of what can happen if you are dedicated to your studies.

b. District Goals 2023-2024 Update - School Board Chair Heather Clark

Heather said that the goals were originally set in 2021 with this year as the target date for meeting them. The first goal is to improve communication. This goal will be completed by utilizing ParentSquare, newsletters, school websites, social media, and by keeping school calendars up to date. The next goal is to have students be “life-ready”. This goal will be completed by incorporating the portrait of a graduate into the classroom, defining work-study practices, and implementing a digital learning portfolio for students to showcase their work. The next goal is to raise student achievement. This goal will be completed by continuing professional development in specific areas to help meet students’ needs, expanding the use of student reflection, and using data from standardized testing to identify student needs. The next goal is to

improve curriculum and instruction. This goal will be achieved by training educators, selecting curriculum materials that are proven to be effective, and strengthening Tier 1 intervention. The final goal is to improve culture and climate. This goal will be completed by continuing to incorporate feedback from students and staff and expanding student restorative justice practices.

Julie said she felt it was odd to have Heather present the District goals. Going forward, she would prefer to have another representative from the District present the goals. Jen agreed with Julie.

Robin asked how they may be able to increase teacher participation in surveys that are sent out. Mr. Mazzone said he thinks people are hesitant to respond because of past experiences. He stressed the importance of making sure surveys are completely anonymous. He believes continuing to build trust will lead to more responses. Ben agreed with Mr. Mazzone and said that there are companies out there that are able to offer truly anonymous surveys. There was a discussion about different ways they can get more feedback.

c. EES & EMHS Building Goals - Chris Sousa, Mandy Murphy, and Chris Mazzone

EES

Principal Murphy and Principal Sousa spoke about the EES goals. The EES goals align with the District goals discussed earlier. They are working to implement community standards vocabulary in the classrooms as they have been doing with the work-study practices, to implement small-group instruction, and to increase opportunities for self-reflection.

Heather asked if the level of rigor at the Elementary School was enough to prepare students for the work at the next grade level. Principal Sousa said he believes that the level of rigor is there. He explained that there has been a shift to teach students more comprehension rather than memorization, so the work required looks different than it has in the past.

EMHS

Principal Mazzone spoke about the EMHS goals. The EMHS goals align with the District goals discussed earlier. They are continuing to implement work-study practice language into student documents and into the curriculum, find opportunities to increase student motivation and accountability, and use data to identify student needs.

Ben asked if the tasks that were supposed to be completed already would continue to be monitored throughout the school year. Mr. Mazzone explained that those tasks produced deliverables that will be used throughout the year. Julie asked if there has been a switch from the Positive Action curriculum for all grades. Mr. Mazzone explained that the program has not been as effective in grades 6-12 as initially expected, but they are continuing to use some pieces of the program that have been working well.

POLICY

a. EBCC - False Alarms, Active Shooter, and Other Such Threats - 1st Read

This policy was moved to a 2nd/3rd read at the next meeting.

b. FA - Facilities Development - 1st Read

This policy was moved to a 2nd/3rd read at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

None

REPORTS

a. Principal Reports

EES

Principal Murphy and Principal Sousa highlighted some recent events. The events included a book fair, a Title One parent meeting, the first Eagle Day assembly, an open house, a staff in-service day, and the first Parent Advisory Council meeting. They mentioned new legislation regarding Dyslexia screening. They also talked about the upcoming fundraiser. They also spoke to the success of the fresh fruits and vegetables program. They gave some staff shout-outs for supporting and encouraging their students.

Ben asked for an overview of the White Pine program. Principal Murphy said that the program teaches students different wilderness and nature skills during recess. Heather asked how many students participate in the program. Principal Murphy said roughly five to 10 students attend each lesson. Jen requested that someone make sure the literacy program was properly vetted, so they can avoid another situation like the Positive Action program.

EMHS

Principal Mazzone said the school year has been going great. He said the current sports and clubs are well underway. He reminded everyone that nominations for student representatives for the School Board are still being collected, and the goal is to have the students at the October 19th meeting. He also noted the upcoming Parent Advisory Council meeting that will include feedback on grading and reporting. Mr. Mazzone said that Homecoming was amazing and was full of events that were well attended.

Julie said that she feels having a PD day the Friday before Homecoming may not be the best timing. She said SST students were expected to still go to SST, or they would not be able to go to the Homecoming events. Mr. Mazzone said that they can explore options for adjusting the schedule, but the determining factor for timing Homecoming is the sports schedule. There was a discussion regarding schedules and school calendars.

b. Superintendent Reports

None

c. Student Reports

None

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Meeting Minutes September 21, 2023

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve the Public Minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Accounts Payable deposited on September 25th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on September 25th, 2023 in the amount of \$7,363.92. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Payroll deposited on September 29th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on September 29th, 2023 in the amount of \$634.77. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

Heather noted that the Board needs to have an alternate for the Budget Committee in the event that Robin can't make a meeting. Julie volunteered to be the alternate.

a. Board Comments

Ben congratulated the National Merit Scholar students and mentioned the EES PTO is gearing up for the Monster Mash and Trunk or Treat.

Jen also congratulated the National Merit Scholar students.

Julie said the Homecoming activities were a ton of fun, and the students seemed to enjoy them.

Robin asked the Board for guidance on her upcoming Budget Committee meeting.

Heather thanked everyone who participated in the Homecoming activities and congratulated the National Merit Scholar students.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. October 19, 2023

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II Non-Public Meeting is **not scheduled** for October 5, 2023 after the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 10:00pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary