

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 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. None

POLICY

a. IKFA - Early Graduation -1st Read

This is a required policy that is recommended by the state. They currently practice what the policy states, but they don't have a policy for it which is why they are adding one. This policy was moved to a second/third read for the next meeting.

b. ILBAA - High School Graduation Competencies - 1st Read

This policy isn't new; they revised it. Heather suggested allowing sixth graders to be a part of this policy. There was a conversation about this and the wording of the policy. Student Emily asked if high school credits earned during middle school would count towards GPA or just be pass/fail. They are currently working on a policy related to this. These suggested changes will be updated for the next meeting. Policy ILBAA was moved to a second/third read for the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

a. Retirement - [Pat Weisberg](#), EMHS Language Arts Teacher

Pat Weisberg is pushing back her retirement until June 2023. This is the second time she has pushed back her retirement. There was a brief conversation about how this affects the budget. The Board would like to continue this conversation about their practices regarding this topic.

REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Nathan and Emily discussed what the different classes are working on. The Drama Club will be performing a play this April. They haven't performed in over two years. The Student Government collected data on students' opinions on C-Day. They are putting together a proposal and looking into alternatives since the majority of students dislike C-Day. There were about 125 students from the high school and 117 students from the middle school who completed the survey. The survey was also sent to the staff.

b. Principal Reports

The principal reports were written this week and not discussed.

c. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush said that the Epping School District did a great job recognizing local veterans for Veterans Day. There was a lunch and an assembly in honor of them. The Middle High School sent postcards to local veterans with thank you notes. The veterans were very grateful. He also mentioned that the Holiday Concerts are coming up. The concerts will be held during the school day and a virtual link will be sent to families. TEMPO is putting together an order form for hot cocoa and goodies, so people can enjoy treats while watching the concert remotely. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

d. Committee Reports

Robin said that SST discussed their budget. Their budget will most likely see a 1.5% increase. Robin wants to make sure SST is accessible to all Epping students.

David said the Tech Committee is working on their five-year plan. There was a Safety Committee meeting, and they discussed the need for a camera overlooking the front of the elementary school. They also need to put in stair treads at the high school. They want some stuff moved off the stage at the high school. They've only had two staff injuries and five student injuries this year – all minor. Bus 1 has been arriving at school 10 minutes early which is an issue because no staff is there until a certain time.

Heather said the Middle High School PTO is sponsoring the Turkey Raffle. Tickets will be drawn soon. She also said she'll update the Board on Negotiations during the Non-Meeting following the Public Meeting tonight.

Ben said the Budget Committee has started looking at the Town Budget. He updated the Board on some schedule changes.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Financial Report

As of the first quarter, there is \$2,225,731 remaining for expense money. They are still waiting on \$11,269,000 in revenue. They received their tax rate settings. The new tax rate setting for this year is \$22.42 which is down \$1.22 from last year.

b. Budget Discussion 2022 - 2023

The tuition and transportation rates are up for this coming year. Christine also included the student enrollment and home school numbers. Heather wants them to note that the tuition increase is related to Special Ed. They are now proposing a budget increase of 2.51% which includes the new Music Teacher position. Christine went through the changes they made. The amount of money allocated to the following categories in the budget were reduced: supplies, furniture, tuition, athletic trainer, Star Program, Media Center software, Tech software, TVs and classroom projectors, and HVAC Systems. They are not getting rid of their athletic trainer. It is being paid for by Exeter Hospital through a program. The TVs and classroom projectors will be covered by the ESSER Grant. There was an increase in the budget for the Benefits Program and Timekeeping Program. The music teacher and SAU software were the only increases made to the

budget. There was a total decrease of \$97,773 to the budget that they had previously presented. The proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year is \$20,776,428. The new tax rate would be \$14.80 for the school portion; it was \$14.36 this year. Ben asked about the warrant articles. There are currently no warrants included in it. Ben asked a clarifying question about the Media Center software. The cost of the software was in the budget twice, so it was removed once. Software costs were up \$15,000 this year. David asked about the different rounds of proposed budgets. There was a conversation about the decreases and whether the numbers are correct. There was one reduction that was missed. The Budget Committee will see this year's final proposed budget compared to last years. Heather made some formatting suggestions to the proposed budget that they'll present to the Budget Committee such as increasing the font size, freezing the top row, and adding page numbers. Christine will grey out the Special Ed category. She'll print out copies for the Budget Committee members and send them the digital copy as well. The budget increase is actually 2.5516%. The Town Budget for this coming year came in flat. Ben thinks the School District has a strong case for their budget increase. David said that he loves the trifold that Christine created.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 proposed school budget with changes as presented in the amount of \$20,776,428. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

There was a discussion about including notes when there is a big increase or decrease in lines of the budget. David suggested that they inform the Budget Committee about which materials they'll be provided with ahead of time. The "pretty" budget just doesn't include the account notes and is better formatted. The Board would like the Budget Committee to ask them questions ahead of time if possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes of November 4, 2021

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Public Minutes from the November 4, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

b. Non-Public Minutes of November 4, 2021

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes from the November 4, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Robin O'Day abstained.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Deposit

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Payroll Deposit dated November 12, 2021 in the amount of \$397,131.96. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

Robin thanked the students for sending her thank you notes regarding the cookies she made for them.

David would like the editing capabilities turned off for documents in the shared Drive folder. He also wished everyone a happy holiday.

Heather thanked everyone for supporting the students and buying tickets for the Turkey Raffle. TEMPO will be sending out order forms soon for the hot cocoa and goodies, so keep an eye out! She also wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Ben thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget. He also wished everyone a happy holiday and break.

Deborah also thanked everyone for their hard work regarding the budget. She thanked Christine for creating the trifold and for all her hard work. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. December 2, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting.

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

Non-Public Meeting **is scheduled** for November 18, 2021 following the public meeting.

Non-Meeting for the purposes of negotiation is scheduled for November 18, 2021 following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to enter a Non-Public Meeting at 9:00 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary