

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:00 PM
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
Epping Town Hall/Epping TV Channel 22/Zoom

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board discussed the changes in the proposed Facilities, Curriculum, Special Education, and District budgets.

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 Jennifer Jacoby, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Jacob Twombly, and Student Landon Toomire

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. Ratification of Epping Paraprofessional Contract 2024-2027 - Superintendent Furbush and Business Administrator Christine Vayda

They gave some highlights of the new contract including increased wages and offering more affordable health insurance. They also talked about how the contract is aimed to help attract and retain staff members. They gave an overview on the other changes and updates made to the contract. The proposed wage increase is 14% in year one, 10% in year two, and 5% in year three. The first year total budget increase would be \$145,292; the second year increase would be \$132,000, and the third year increase would be \$140,463. This would be a 0.67% increase in the overall budget. Heather thanked everyone for their efforts in creating a contract that is beneficial for everyone. Ben commented that the contract seems to be much more functional than it has in the past, and he thanked everyone for their efforts. Robin said she appreciated how respectful everyone was during negotiations. Jen said she thinks the contract will help to attract more candidates and allow them to keep putting the right people in front of students. Julie said she is pleased with the pay raises and health insurance changes.

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the Epping Paraprofessional Association proposed CBA for 2024-2027. Seconded by Member Robin O’Day.
VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Superintendent Goals - Superintendent Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush outlined the goals he has for this year. His first goal is to review and analyze the Special Education model to ensure it meets the needs of the students. The second

goal is to further the emergency response training, planning, and updating. He plans to have some tabletop exercises and update current plans, procedures and practices. His third goal is to improve District communication. He plans to look at current communication outlets to see if they meet the needs of students and parents.

Robin mentioned that New Hampshire has a problem with bullying; she would like to make sure this is taken into consideration. Superintendent Furbush said that they do have programs in place currently, and he will add that to the emergency response goal. Ben requested an update on the goals at the mid-year retreat. Jen asked for further explanation on what a tabletop exercise is. Superintendent Furbush said the exercises are emergency scenarios given by governmental agencies to test the emergency response systems currently in place.

c. Update on School Board Meeting Location Options/Layout - Superintendent Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush gave an update on potential locations to host the School Board meetings. He spoke about some of the locations they would like to use as a meeting space. He said there should be no issues with broadcasting meetings to the public. He also noted that they are also discussing starting meetings earlier. He said when a location is picked, there will be a transition period to ensure the switch goes smoothly.

Julie said she appreciates the time and energy being put into this.

POLICY

a. FA - Facilities Development Goals and Preparation of Capital Improvement Plan - 4th/5th Read

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Policy FA - Facilities Development Goals and Preparation of Capital Improvement Plan as amended. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

a. Resignation of Krista Stalzer, District Curriculum Coordinator

Superintendent Furbush mentioned they have been working on a transition plan, and he is confident they will be able to fill the position internally.

Member Julie Knight made a motion to accept the resignation of Krista Stalzer with the expectation that she will remain in her contract for a timeframe decided by the Board. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

REPORTS

a. Principal Reports

EMHS

Principal Mazzone gave updates on the Halloween events from around the school. He also gave updates on some extracurricular activities as well. Mr. Mazzone also said they are getting ready for the upcoming Student-Led Conferences. He noted that they are fully staffed,

and teacher evaluations are under way. Ben asked if the process of evaluations has become smoother year over year. Mr. Mazzone said it is a much better process now, and they are continuing to learn and grow. There was a discussion about the purpose and intent of Student-Led Conferences. Heather appreciated the fact that a bus was organized to bring students to the Boys Varsity Soccer Game.

EES

Principal Sousa and Principal Murphy gave updates on some of the Halloween events that took place. They also talked about upcoming field trips. Ben asked if students and parents are able to come in at any time during the conferences to do the passport activities. Principal Murphy said that they are able to come in at any time. They also discussed the upcoming Veterans Luncheon and fundraiser. They also talked about the ongoing work with the curriculum. They also gave an update on some extracurricular activities. They recognized and gave shout-outs to several staff members for their helpfulness and dedication to the students. Ben mentioned that the Board needs to form a committee to explore staff evaluations. Superintendent Furbush said it is on his radar, and he is planning on forming this committee once the work on the budget is complete.

b. Student Reports

Jacob and Landon gave an overview on what some of the classes are currently working on. They also gave an update on recent and upcoming extracurricular activities. They also mentioned the upcoming State Championship game for Boys Varsity Soccer.

c. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Furbush said it is great to hear from the students about the new classes. He also mentioned the Veterans Luncheon and encouraged people to attend. He announced that Moss Crutchfield has been awarded the 2024 Fame Rising Star Award.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

Christine mentioned that the plowing bid came in at \$109,120 for the school portion. She noted that the town is confident that they will be able to handle the plowing.

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to reject the bid from Farrell Contracting Services for \$109,120 for snow removal for the School District. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Meeting Minutes October 5, 2023

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 5th, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Public Meeting Minutes October 19, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 19th, 2023 as written. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Accounts Payable deposited on October 24th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on October 24th, 2023 in the amount of \$18,426.23. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Payroll deposited on October 27th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on October 27th, 2023 in the amount of \$388,987.64. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Payroll deposited on October 20th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on October 20th, 2023 in the amount of \$258,577.18. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Payroll deposited on July 7th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on July 7th, 2023 in the amount of -\$1,848.18. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

a. Board Comments

Ben said it was great to hear how well things were going, and he enjoyed hearing about the level of prep work leading into the conferences. He thanked the staff and PTO leadership for putting on the Monster Mash. He also thanked everyone who donated their time and candy.

Robin thanked Pam Tibbets for putting on the Town Halloween party. She said it was a ton of fun and was well attended.

Jen wished the Boys Varsity Soccer team good luck in the State Championship game. She thanked everyone for their efforts on the budget. She also said she is very happy with the paraprofessional contract.

Superintendent Furbush thanked the administrators and teachers for their effort and participation in the Halloween parade.

Christine thanked the Board for trusting the budget process. She also wished Joe a speedy recovery and thanked the Facilities staff for stepping up in his absence.

Heather said she is looking forward to the boys soccer game and wishes them the best of luck.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. November 16, 2023

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II Non-Public Meeting **is scheduled** for November 2, 2023 after the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to enter a non-public meeting and to adjourn thereafter at 9:37 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary