

MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 15, 2022, 6:00 PM
Meeting to immediately go into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (k)
Thursday, December 15, 2022, 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 (remote), Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Carly Sanborn, and Student Jacob Twombly.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ACCEPT SAFE GRANT FUNDS

Christine explained what the Safe Grant Funds are and what they can be used for. They will be receiving a grant for \$75,000. She listed off some of the ideas that they have for this money. The funds will need to be expended by June 2023. Parent Robert Hodgman asked if these funds will be used on the safety project that will be happening at the preschool building. Superintendent Furbush said that the funds will have to be used on the ideas that they submitted when applying for the grant.

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve the Safe Grant Funds in the amount of \$75,000. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. Warrant articles

Heather read Article II for the public. If Article I is defeated, it allows the Board to meet to discuss the CBA.

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Article II as presented. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Heather read Article IV (Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve) and Article V (Special Education Capital Reserve) aloud. The current balance in the Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve is \$154,353.74, and there is \$353,717.49 in the Special Education Capital Reserve. The District proposed adding up to \$300,000 to the Buildings and Grounds Reserve and up to \$100,000 to the Special Education Reserve. The Board can discuss how to distribute these funds at the end of the year if there aren't enough available. They haven't touched the Special

Education Reserve yet. Robin would like to contribute more to the Special Education Reserve than recommended because she is concerned about the costs of incoming students. Any money that doesn't go into the Reserves will help lower the tax rate. Superintendent Furbush said that the \$100,000 is an increase from the original \$50,000.

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve adding up to \$250,000 into the Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund.

He proposed \$50,000 less than recommended due to the \$50,000 increase to the Special Education fund since this has been a tough year for a lot of families. Julie and Heather think that Ben's concerns are valid, but they would like the option to go up to \$300,000 if needed. There was a brief discussion of the option to increase the total percentage that the Board can set aside. They are currently setting aside around 1% when they could be doing 2.5%. They could save up to 5%, but they would need approval from the public. No one seconded this motion after the discussion.

Member Julie Knight made a motion to approve adding up to \$300,000 into the Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Member Julie Knight made a motion to approve adding up to \$100,000 into the Special Education Reserve Fund. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Superintendent Furbush asked a procedural question about Article III. There was a brief discussion about this. The Board decided to approve a draft version of Article III. Heather read Article III aloud. The operating budget listed in Article III will be \$22,596,832. If this is defeated, the default budget shall be \$22,422,683.

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve Article III. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Teachers CBA 23 - 25

They were not ready to discuss this tonight. Superintendent Furbush recommended setting up a meeting for next week. They set a tentative date of Thursday, 12/22 at six o'clock to discuss this.

POLICY

a. IHBG - Home Education Instruction - 1st Read

There was a question of whether the Board could see the test results and whether they count towards the District's scores. Ben asked a question about the proposed policy's wording compared to the law; Superintendent Furbush will ask Will Phillips tomorrow. Julie asked about the Portfolio Review; Superintendent Furbush explained this process. This policy was moved to a second/third read for the next meeting.

b. DFA - Investment - 1st Read

The auditors recommended that this policy is reviewed annually; nothing has changed in the policy. This policy was moved to a second/third read for the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

a. Resignation of EMHS Math Teacher Pamela McMahon

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to accept the resignation of Pamela McMahon, EMHS Math Teacher. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Carly and Jacob discussed what the different classes are working on. The Student Government had a meeting yesterday. The Girls Basketball team recently won a game, and one of their games was rescheduled. The Hockey team has a game coming up, and the Track team has a meet coming up. The Spanish Club met yesterday, and the Science Olympiads met today. Unified Basketball started on Tuesday. SST students didn't have classes Tuesday afternoon due to Exeter's half day. The Winter Concert was rescheduled. They said it has been challenging due to the number of absences related to people being sick lately. There were over a 100 kids out on Monday. Robin asked about the facilities. They have been able to clean with some of the supplies they bought during the peak of COVID. Superintendent Furbush thanked everyone for their flexibility since they had to reschedule certain events due to how many people were sick. There will be no more PJ days as part of Spirit Week since students abuse it. They won't be combining the new Middle School Student Government with the High School one this year. Jacob recommended a remote option for sick students; this would vary by teacher. Superintendents aren't able to implement remote days due to sickness.

b. Principal Reports

These were written this week. Ben said that the Parent Advisory meetings will now be recorded and available via Zoom. There will be a different topic at each meeting. They are also taking topic ideas from the parents. At minimum, these will be happening once every two months. The late start topic will have its own committee.

c. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Furbush thanked their Technology Director for his hard work rolling out new software. He urged parents who have not received texts from the new software to reach out.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Financial Report

None

b. Audit findings

The auditors are hoping to get Christine the final report by 1/1/23. They have given her some findings so far. They recommended updating three policies. They said there were purchase orders completed after invoice dates in 2021, but they reported that that didn't happen in 2022. There were several student account activity deposits that weren't made in a timely manner; this has happened in previous years as well. Christine talked to the people in charge of this. Non-student raised student spend activities are in student accounts, and this was a repeat finding. Funds received for scholarships that were not paid out was a finding in the past, but they didn't see it happen this year. Food service student deposits need to be completed in a timely manner as well. Ben iterated that these deposit issues are not the norm, and there were only one or two cases where this happened. The Board suggested creating a portal for all the main software tools that parents use, so they can be easily located. Heather suggested looking at the Newmarket website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes of December 1, 2022

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve the Public Minutes of the December 1, 2022 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll deposited on December 9, 2022

Member Julie Knight made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on December 9, 2022 in the amount of \$422,669.57. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable deposited on November 23, 2022

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on November 23, 2022 in the amount of \$16,155.59. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

Jen asked about the resignation in the Math department. The teachers are being compensated for this change. They are going to wait to repost this job until the normal hiring period.

Ben thanked the Negotiations Committee for their hard work and cooperation. He wished everyone a happy winter holiday!

Robin has been impressed with how negotiations are going. She feels proud to have such a great team! She wished everyone a wonderful holiday!

Heather said that the Elementary Christmas concerts were awesome and very well attended. She reiterated the basketball game dates and encouraged everyone to attend. She also wished everyone a happy holiday!

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. January 5, 2023 regular meeting

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II (k) Non-Public Meeting **is scheduled** for December 15, 2022 prior to the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to enter a Non-Public session and adjourn the meeting thereafter at 8:31 pm. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary