

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, December 7, 2023, 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, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Jacob Twombly, and Student Landon Toomire

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**SCHEDULED TOPICS**

a. Senior Class Trip Approval, EMHS Teacher and Senior Class Advisor Melanie Friese

The group spoke about the proposed trip to the Indian Head Resort in Lincoln, NH. They gave an overview of the draft itinerary. Activities will include a trip to the Lost River Gorge, ziplining, mini-golf, shopping, and group dinners. The trip will be Sunday, June 2nd to Tuesday, June 4th due to a wedding at the resort. The cost of the trip will be \$525 for students who choose to go ziplining and \$450 for students who choose mini-golfing. The cost includes transportation, two nights at the resort in a quad room, activities, two breakfasts and two dinners. Fundraisers have been planned to help reduce the cost of the trip. Ben asked if the ziplining and the ropes course were the same cost. Melanie said that the ropes course is about \$50 less.

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the Senior Class Trip for June 2nd-4th, 2024 at Indian Head Resort. Seconded by Member Robin O’Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Donation Recognition - Jersey Mike’s Sub shop in Epping, donated 4 catering boxes to raffle off at the craft fair and play.

Melanie recognized and thanked them for their generous donations and continued support.

c. Boys Soccer Team - Championship gift discussion

Superintendent Furbush spoke about past gifts that have been given to Epping athletic teams that have won the state championship. He said most recently the gift has been \$500. The Board discussed what the donations have been used for in the past. Chris Mazzone asked where the gifted funds would be coming from. Superintendent Furbush said they typically come from leftover funds that were budgeted for athletics. Chris proposed the idea of a “student activities fund” to be used for these items. He feels it is not appropriate for the taxpayers to have to pick up

the bill for something impacting such a small number of students. There was further discussion regarding past gifts and what the Board felt was appropriate.

## **POLICY**

a. ACN - Nursing Mothers Accommodations (New), 2nd/3rd Read

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve Policy ACN - Nursing Mothers Accommodations. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. IMGA - Service Animals, 1st/2nd Read

Superintendent Furbush said there have been changes to what qualifies as a service animal. He also said there are very clear guidelines for what is a service animal versus a therapy animal. This policy was moved to a 2nd/3rd read at the next meeting.

c. DFGA - Crowdfunding (New), 1st/2nd Read

Superintendent Furbush said that this policy clearly outlines circumstances where crowdfunding may be allowed and the process for doing so. This policy was moved to a 2nd/3rd read at the next meeting.

d. DFGA-R & Form (New) - The Epping School District Crowdfunding Request Procedures & Form, 1st/2nd Read

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

## **PERSONNEL**

a. Resignation of EMHS Special Education Teacher Keely Gott

**Member Robin O'Day made a motion to accept the resignation of Keely Gott, EMHS Special Education Teacher. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

## **REPORTS**

a. Student Reports

Jacob and Landon gave an overview of what different classes are currently working on. They also gave an overview of the recent and upcoming extracurricular activities.

b. Principal Reports

*EES*

Principal Sousa gave an overview of the submitted EES Principal's Report. He discussed the recent whole school meeting. He noted there is an upcoming school concert. He said the student-led conferences were well attended. He also spoke about the ongoing work with Tier 1 instruction. Principal Sousa highlighted the work behind the reading curriculum pilot. He

thanked Alltown Car Wash for their donation which will be used to assist students in need. He also talked about the growing list of clubs that students have been participating in after school.

Ben asked if this group of students was the largest group that has been recognized for demonstrating the work-study practices. Principal Sousa said he thinks it was the largest for the self-direction skill but not the largest overall.

### *EMHS*

Principal Mazzone gave an overview of the submitted EMHS Principal's Report. He spoke about the success of the recent student concert and recognized the team behind it. He mentioned that parents and students were already notified of the protocol should they need to cancel school due to inclement weather. He also talked about the 2023-24 midterm and finals schedule. There was a discussion about how this schedule would impact SST students. There was also a discussion about the timing of the midterm/finals and the use of adaptive scheduler to assign students to reassessment periods. Julie voiced concerns with taking away the 10 instructional days and using them for assessment. Principal Mazzone said that the quality of the instruction received is more important than the length of time of the instruction. There was further discussion about midterms and finals. Principal Mazzone highlighted some ways in which they are gathering feedback from students and incorporating student feedback.

### c. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Furbush discussed the date of the Board Retreat with the Board. The Board agreed to January 25th for the date of the retreat. He gave an update on the aligning of the school calendar with the SST calendar. He also thanked Jake and the Town for their efforts to make it possible to hold voting for the primary in the O'Day Gymnasium.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES**

### a. Appoint an acting School Board Clerk (until March town vote)

**Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve Joyce Blanchard as the acting School Board Clerk until the vote in March. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### b. Year-To-Date Report

Christine gave an update on the current status of the budget. She said there is \$670,000 currently left in the operating budget.

### c. Review of Warrant Articles

Christine gave a brief overview of the Warrant Articles. There was a discussion regarding the operating budget. The Board gave the direction to leave the budget as it currently stands. The Board voted on the Warrant Articles as follows:

Warrant Article 1

**Member Robin O'Day made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 1. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Warrant Article 2

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 2. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Warrant Article 3

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 3. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Warrant Article 4

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 4. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Warrant Article 5

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Non-Public Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023

**Member Julie Knight made a motion to approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes from November 16th, 2023 as written. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.**

b. Public Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023

**Member Julie Knight made a motion to approve the Public Meeting Minutes from November 16th, 2023 as written. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.**

**MANIFEST**

a. Payroll deposited on October 13th, 2023

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on October 13th, 2023 in the amount of \$664,053.14. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Accounts Payable deposited on November 17th, 2023

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on November 17th, 2023 in the amount of \$183,711.66. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day.**

**VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### **BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER**

a. Board Comments

Jen commended Landon for his respectful response on social media. She also asked about the status of the new meeting location/time. Superintendent Furbush said he will be able to provide more of an update at the next meeting.

Ben said the District Safety Committee meeting went really well, and they were able to make some good progress. He also asked to have a discussion regarding route planning for student buses.

Julie asked if the Late Start Committee will be started again following the decision made by Fremont. Superintendent Furbush said he would like to provide an update on some of the work that was done by the committee and have the Board decide if it should continue.

Robin talked about the need for some difficult conversations regarding the budget in order to make it sustainable.

Superintendent Furbush said that although the Fremont bid was disappointing, it was a privilege to be considered.

Heather thanked everyone who helped with the proposal to Fremont. She also gave a shout out to the Music department for the recent concert which was wonderful.

### **NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED**

a. December 21, 2023

**NONPUBLIC SESSION:** RSA 91-A:3, II Non-Public Meeting **is not scheduled** for December 7, 2023 after the public meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made to adjourn at 10:17 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary