

## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 2, 2021**

**EPPING SCHOOL BOARD - Epping Town Hall/ Epping TV Channel 22/Zoom**

**7:00 pm**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair David Mylott called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

In attendance: Chair Deborah Brooks (remotely), Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Heather Clark, Member Ben Leavitt, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Emily Kelly, and Student Nathan McTague. Member Robin O'Day was absent.

### **SCHEDULED GUESTS**

#### **a. Fall Sports Update - Ben Bourgoin**

Ben discussed the teams that competed at the middle school and high level, and he showed the participation numbers per sport. There were thirteen student-athletes who were recognized for on-field performance. All high school and middle school teams qualified for postseason tournaments. There were four concussions this season, and there were also three long-term injuries that weren't concussions. There were no COVID cases this season. All teams scored very highly on Sportsmanship. He also shared some team pictures and discussed the season records for all the teams. He also recognized the specific student-athletes who had special recognitions. Ben mentioned the names of the new athletic personnel. They have a High School Cheer/Spirit Winter Team this year. There will be no indoor track meets this winter, but there will still be a "training season" for interested athletes. The Football Team will compete in DIII for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Fans will be allowed to attend home basketball games this season. The Board thanked Ben and the coaches for their hard work. They also commended the athletes for their awesome seasons.

b. 2022 - 2023 Calendars - Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush presented two different versions of the 2022-2023 school calendar with one calendar starting before Labor Day and the other afterwards. With a post-Labor Day start, the first day of school would be 9/6/22, and the last day of school would be 6/23/23. With a pre-Labor Day start, the first day of school would be 8/29/22, and the last day of school would be 6/14/23. The Associations and the District Leadership Team are in support of the pre-Labor Day start. 12/23/22 will be a half day, and the last day of school will also be a half day. There will be an additional student conference day as well. David would like the half days to be more easily identifiable on the calendar. Heather is in favor of a post-Labor Day start, and Ben prefers a pre-Labor Day start when Labor Day is later in the month. Heather noted that the school year is based on hours, and she mentioned that every year the school year is longer than it is required to be. Deborah is happy that Epping goes past the hour's requirement, and she is a pre-Labor Day vote. Parent Michelle Mylott asked some clarifying questions about PD days. The last grading day hasn't been determined yet. They typically don't decide until the calendar is set. Michelle doesn't want the reassessment period to be as long as it was last year. Student Nathan noted that students typically lose interest when they know the end of the school year is coming and that it is not dependent on the season. Parent Julie Knight said that starting school after Labor Day is stressful to parents who need childcare for their children. Parent Jordenne Sargent noted that teachers' contracts are in terms of days. A parent suggested that students who don't need reassessment should be able to stay home during the reassessment period. Heather is in support of the parent's suggestion. Student Emily agreed with what Nathan said and is in support of the pre-Labor Day start. Parent Colleen (last name not given, online question) asked about the days versus hours. This decision was most likely made over ten years ago. Parent Tracy Dyer asked about the end date of this current school year. Heather said that Epping has a lot of PD days which pushes out the end date. There is no standard number of PD days across districts. Parent Michelle also asked why teachers' contracts are in terms of days if the district's school year is based on hours. Superintendent Furbush explained that it is easier this way and less complex. Student Emily noted that AP and Honors students benefit from extra school days before the AP tests. Parent Julie also mentioned that PD days are more useful during the school year. The proposed calendar only has one PD day at the end of the year. Parent Robert Hodgman noted that all the teachers he has talked to across the States also have contracts in terms of days. Parent Jordenne said she doesn't like the idea of PD half days.

**Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the regular and Paraprofessional calendars starting pre-Labor Day for the 2022-2023 school year. Seconded by Chair Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 3-1. Motion carries.**

## **POLICY**

### a. IKFA - Early Graduation - 2nd Read

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Policy IKFA – Early Graduation. Seconded by Chair Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

### b. ILBAA - High School Graduation Competencies - 2nd Read

Superintendent Furbush noted that the requested changes from the last meeting were updated.

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Policy ILBAA – High School Graduation Competencies. Seconded by Chair Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

## **PERSONNEL**

### a. Interim Principal Position - Susan Gualtieri and John Adams

Superintendent Furbush said that after extensive searching externally for the past couple of weeks, they were unable to find anyone more qualified than Susan and John for this position. He presented them as the new Interim Co-Principals. They will hold this position until the end of this school year. The district still plans on searching for a new principal to take over for the next school year. This search will start around February. The Board congratulated them.

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Susan Gualtieri and John Adams as Interim Co-Principals for the remainder of this school year. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

### b. Family Consumer Science Resignation - Nate Dowst

**Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the resignation of Nate Dowst from the Family Consumer Science position. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

## **REPORTS**

### a. Student Reports

Students Emily and Nathan discussed what the different classes are working on. Cap and gown forms are due this Friday for all seniors. Scholastic Arts Competition submissions are due 12/15. Student Leadership is starting plans for Game Day for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. French National Honors Society students are teaching elementary school students some French basics. The high school students saw a presentation on mask safety and the importance of them.

### b. Principal Reports

Principal Gualtieri thanked the Board for the support with her and John's new position. She discussed their Pride Assembly. They recognized students who exemplified their Guiding Principles. Teachers nominate students. Student Emily said that in-person events are better. They also recognized students who made great choices earlier in the year at the assembly. John mentioned the Winter Holiday concerts' details. The high school band was invited to join the Exeter Holiday parade. Band students got to see Hadestown in Boston recently. They said it was a great trip. There were recent discussions about FLEX time. Susan mentioned Nature's Classroom and thanked Member Robin for her delicious cookies. She also thanked 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for their hard work. Susan also mentioned that the Epping Elves are back, and she said stay tuned for fun pictures.

Member Heather would like the end of the quarters indicated on the 2022-2023 calendar.

### c. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush mentioned their new Reach High Scholars program. He explained what this program is all about. There are currently 16 students who are participating. He also mentioned their collaboration with the Epping Theater. There will be a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade musical this Spring. They are creating a multi-year plan to address Culture and Climate. He gave an update about the senior trip. COVID restrictions in New York have gotten stricter, and they want to make sure that the trip is inclusive of everyone regardless of vaccination status. Emily pointed out that there are outdoor options in New York for people who are unvaccinated or who simply want to spend the time outdoors. She wants to make sure that that option is looked into fully.

## FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

### a. Financial Report

They have about \$2,000,000 in unspent money.

### b. Budget Discussion

Superintendent Furbush said that he thought the Budget Meeting went well. They have been replying to questions. Christine noted that some staff members were not in the building today, so some questions will need to be answered tomorrow. Superintendent Furbush doesn't think that any major changes will need to be made to the proposed budget. Ben noted that when it comes time for warrant articles, they may want to adjust how much money they put in the Special Education Trust Fund as a Budget Committee member had commented. David thanked the Budget Committee for their hard work.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### a. Public Minutes of November 18, 2021

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the Public Minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

### b. Non-Public Minutes of November 18, 2021

**Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting as amended. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

## 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: 4-0. Motion carries.**

b. Accounts Payable

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable dated November 19, 2021 in the amount of \$214,133.25. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER**

Heather mentioned that the Pep Band will be in the Exeter Holiday Parade for the first time. The elementary school concerts will be recorded and broadcasted this year since they're during the school day. TEMPO is selling cocoa and candy cane kits for \$5 for families to enjoy during the remote concerts. She also said that there was a great parent turn out at the middle school basketball games.

Ben likes the new system for Payroll and Accounts Payable. Ben mentioned that the upcoming Elementary School PTO meeting will be remote. He also mentioned the upcoming Budget Meeting on 12/8. He reminded everyone that if needed there will be an additional Budget Meeting on 12/15 as well.

Deborah likes being able to use DocuSign and is appreciative of it.

**NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED**

a. December 16, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting

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

Non-Public Meeting is **not scheduled** for December 2, 2021 following the public meeting.

NONMEETING SESSION for the purposes of negotiations is scheduled for December 2, 2021 following the public meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Heather Clark made a motion to enter a NONMEETING at 8:46 pm and adjourn the meeting thereafter. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary