

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 5, 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 David Mylott, Member Ben Leavitt, Member Julie Knight, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Emily Kelly, and Student Nathan McTague. Member Robin O'Day was absent.

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. Updates on Restructuring of 6 - 12 Guidance - Nick DeGruttola, Julie Morin, Melorah Bisailon

This year was the first year of integrating the 6-12 guidance counseling. They have found success by working collaboratively but remaining mostly in their specialty areas (i.e. Nick working mainly with the middle school, Julie working mainly with the high school, and Melorah working with a mix of both). This new structure has been working quite well and allows them to easily fill in for one another when they are out of the office. To bridge the gap between middle and high school, they have started having individual discussions with 8th and 9th grade students to discuss college/career interests. In addition to these meetings, they have also started bringing in representatives from different industries to present to students about what their careers have been like.

Members of the Board thanked them for presenting and also for all of the hard work they do for the students.

Ben brought up the idea of recording the industry representatives' presentations and making them available for the students to view after the fact as well. He also asked about the frequency of the adventure counseling sessions. Nick responded that the sessions are run year-long and are usually held during the flex blocks. Ben asked if there have been any issues brought up by the high school students that could potentially be addressed earlier in middle

school, and additionally if any new concerning trends have been noticed. Melorah responded that with the new structure and increased collaboration, she is able to be pulled in earlier to provide additional support and services for at-risk students, but she feels the team has done a great job at handling issues as they come up. Nick spoke about recent trends and how anxiety levels have risen in recent years due to a lack of consistency/predictability caused by COVID.

Heather asked if they have seen more SEL issues post-COVID and if they think the new SEL program will make a difference. Nick responded that he is hopeful since it allows for more conversations to happen and is optimistic that it will help students who may be struggling with anxiety or a lack of confidence. Pilot programs are being run in both the middle and high schools, and they are continuing work on the implementation plan. She also asked if there were any ideas or plans for what they would like to implement next year. Julie responded that the SEL is going to be the big thing for next year. Nick and Melorah also mentioned they will be looking to expand the programs they rolled out this year.

POLICY

- a. None

PERSONNEL

- a. Resignation of Jennifer Jacoby, EMHS French Teacher

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the resignation of Jennifer Jacoby, EMHS French Teacher, with regret. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

- b. Resignation of Julia Ross, EMHS Choral Director

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the resignation of Julia Ross, EMHS Choral Director, with regret. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

- c. Resignation of Callie Ierardi, EMHS 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the resignation of Callie Ierardi, EMHS 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, with regret. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Emily said that the AP tests have started. The vast majority of students taking AP classes take the test, but they can opt out. She gave an update on what the different middle school and high school classes are working on. The middle school is currently setting up a community service club that will be available to join next year. They also discussed middle and high school sports. Some people from the Europe trip are currently stuck there due to COVID, but they should be able to leave soon. Emily discussed HAVEN which is an organization that educates people on violence prevention. The high school has an upcoming Game Day.

b. Principal Reports

Susan said that they held their annual EMHS spirit week before April break. She discussed some of the events that they had. They had a pep rally, dress up days, a lip sync competition, and a dodgeball tournament. Emily said that it was a fun week. They honored the teachers and staff this week for all their hard work. Susan gave a shout out to the PTO for their help with Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. She also gave Moss, Food Service Director, a shout out for his May the Fourth Day food. They will be honoring the school nurses on National Nurses Day. The SAS assessments are currently happening. They are sending out a weekly newsletter.

Emily discussed their Teacher Appreciation Week. The Elementary PTO did a great job. She thanked their staff for all their hard work. Each teacher will be receiving a rock tomorrow that was painted by the students. Liberty Serve did outdoor support in the outdoor classroom. They have been doing a lot of work surrounding literacy. She gave a shout out to Sarah Boudreau for illustrating children books and receiving an award for it. The Student Council is giving a going away gift to the 5th grade students. The Golden Lunch Box winning class will receive an ice cream party. White Pine Programming is going great. The kindergarten classroom is going on a field trip tomorrow. Kindergarten screening is coming up. She also gave a shout out to the food service staff and the nurses. They are doing SAS testing as well. Emily said that NHS students would love to help with the outdoor classroom service project.

c. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush gave an update on the Europe trip. The students and chaperones are doing well. They'll be taking more COVID tests soon, and hopefully they'll all be able to return soon. He gave an update on the ESSER funds. He also mentioned Educator Appreciation Week. He thanked both PTOs and the administrators for all their work in making it so successful. He reiterated that Epping was able to do four days in the building throughout the pandemic. He is proud to be the Superintendent of this district. He thanked the nurses for all their hard work.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Financial Report

Christine said that everyone is finishing up their purchase orders for the year. They should have some leftover money at the end of the year. They should be able to give about \$600,000 back to the town. The Fair Funding New Hampshire organization will be attending the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes of April 21, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Public Minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Non-Public Minutes of April 21, 2022

David is worried that they discussed some topics that should have been discussed during the public meeting, such as the ESSER funds. These were tabled until the next meeting.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Manifest deposited April 29, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Payroll Manifest deposited April 29, 2022 in the amount of \$367,324.53. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable Manifest deposited April 22, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable deposited April 22, 2022 in the amount of \$312,987.42. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

a. Discussion of next steps working with Budget Committee request

Mike Charkowski, Budget Committee Chair, said that the Budget Committee would like to collaborate with the School Board and form a committee to discuss the district's budget. The Budget Committee would like two members from each committee and SAU Administration to be a part of this committee. The Budget Committee has to create a five year plan for what they think the district's budget should look like, and they want the School Board and Administration's help with this process. They want their expertise and to hear their ideas. Julie said that a five year plan sounds like a challenging task. David said that a five year plan would be good to have in terms of having goals and a plan. It would need to be updated each year. David thinks having an outside perspective, such as the Budget Committee, is a good idea to help create a plan. Both Heather and David reiterated that creating the district's budget is the responsibility of the School Board. Heather thinks that the whole Budget Committee and School Board should be a part of this committee in order to come up with more ideas. The Budget Committee doesn't think that having everyone together makes sense. Mike said that with two members from each group they can still come up with ideas, and the Budget Committee members can bring the ideas back to the Budget Committee for discussion. They want more data to help them to determine the bottom line number of the district's budget. Ben said that the Budget Committee wants to hear where the School Board wants to be in five years. He also said that the Budget Committee wants a better idea of the different aspects of the budget. Heather summarized the main points that the Budget Committee wants to understand: impact of budget reductions, which districts to compare Epping to in terms of key metrics, and growth or reduction plans. Superintendent Furbush said that some of this information is available. Heather noted that the Budget Committee doesn't meet in July or August when this planning would be getting done. Ben suggested that the Budget Committee ask questions earlier on. David said that he is supportive of having a smaller committee. He is in support of creating this committee and trying it. Julie thinks that having more people in this committee is important in order to be representative. She is worried that the five year plan will limit them. Mike said that he looked at the data for the past 10 years and the increases in the district's budget lines up with inflation. If members of the Budget Committee have an issue with the budget, it is mostly likely with the bottom line number and not the increases. This committee will meet remotely as they deem it necessary. Additionally, some of the Budget Committee members would be willing to meet over the summer. The Board agreed to move forward with the idea of forming a smaller, joint working group. They won't be referring to it as a committee.

Chair Heather Clark made a motion to form a smaller, joint working group with the Budget Committee, two members from each group and administrators. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

Heather and Robin will be the primary members of this group. Ben and Julie will serve as alternates.

Ben thanked the educators for their work and said that he appreciates them.

Heather also thanked the educators and the PTOs and public for their support in making Teacher Appreciation Week a great one.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. May 19, 2022 - Regular School Board

This meeting will be starting at 7:30 pm due to the Fair Funding New Hampshire presentation prior to the meeting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Non-Public Meeting **is scheduled** for May 5, 2022 following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to enter a Non-Public Meeting and adjourn the meeting thereafter at 9:37 pm. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary