

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 16, 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 Robin O'Day, Member Julie Knight, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, and Student Carly Sanborn.

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. Spring Sports Review - Ben Bourgoin, Athletic Director

The High School had four teams participating in Spring Sports: Varsity Track & Field, Varsity Softball, Varsity Baseball, and a new Unified Volleyball club team. The number of athletes for Unified Volleyball weren't quite where they needed to be to compete, but Ben is hopeful the numbers will grow. 70 total students (30% of the student body) participated in Spring Sports at the High School level.

The Middle School had three teams: Track & Field, Softball, and Baseball. 70 total students (38% of the student body) participated in Spring Sports at the Middle School level, which was an increase compared to the numbers they have seen in the past.

Five of the Varsity student-athletes were recognized for their on-field performance. The Varsity Softball and Varsity Baseball teams advanced to the NHIAA Quarterfinals and the Girls Middle School Track team took first place in the D6 Championship Meet for Tri-County.

There were no concussions, one injury requiring hospital visit/stitches, and no long-term injuries affecting athletes' ability to compete in future seasons.

The team sportsmanship rankings have not been released as of yet, but there were no ejections for players, parents, or coaches this year.

For Fall Sports, Varsity teams have begun weight lifting and summer sessions. Sign-ups are open for Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Unified Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, and Spirit/Cheer. Currently, there are openings for the Middle School Boys Soccer Coach and Varsity Football Coach positions.

For Winter Sports, Varsity Basketball teams are participating in open gyms and summer leagues. Currently, there are openings for the Boys JV Basketball Coach and Middle School Boys Basketball Coach positions.

David thanked Ben for his energy and noted that Ben's passion for what he does shows through. David asked if there were any summer plans to upgrade any of the facilities where there have been issues in the past. Ben said there is a continuous schedule when it comes to field maintenance which has been improving the field conditions greatly. Aerating the fields has

helped greatly. They have also received quotes for the SAU locker room and have a motivated group of parents willing to help out with the painting of the area.

Superintendent Furbush stated that the SAU facilities are a concern. They have had it looked at multiple times and have also had to deal with contractors not showing up for their appointments. They will continue to try to address the deficiencies.

Robin stated the paint at the SAU facilities may be an issue and that there is a mold/asbestos concern and anyone who is going to be working in the area needs to be made aware. Ben said the plan is for a professional to come in and handle the initial work and handle any potentially hazardous materials then after that has been cleaned up the volunteers can come in and do some finishing touches. Ben is hoping to get the projects revamped this summer.

Heather gave Ben a shoutout for stepping up and taking on a coaching role on top of his normal duties. She also thanked him for all that he has done for the school and the athletes. She also asked if the summer session information was posted somewhere for people who may want to try a new team or who may be new to the school. Ben said he is working on getting a more defined and set schedule in place to post on the website.

Ben Leavitt congratulated everyone's success this past season.

b. Approval of Paraprofessional 22-23 Calendar

Julie asked why the student school days figure was down to 174 from 175 this past year. Superintendent Furbush said that they did change one additional student school day to a student conference day which would allow students to reflect on the goals that they had set for themselves and see what they have achieved.

Heather appreciated the idea of having more of the paraprofessional work days at the beginning of the year to allow them a chance to implement what they learn over the rest of the year.

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve the Epping School District Paraprofessional Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Wellness Presentation - Moss Crutchfield and Cathy Zylinski

Moss and Cathy provided an update on the Wellness Committee and Food Service. For the whole month of October, they served apples which were picked from Apple Annie Orchards, just a few minutes away. Currently working with UNH, seeds were received and EMHS teachers were able to grow herbs and plants on their windowsills. In April, a greenhouse arrived, and construction is set to begin this summer. They are very excited about the educational opportunities and also the potential to serve what is grown on-site. The committee has discussed introducing composting. Heather asked about giving the food waste to local farmers. Moss and Cathy said the initial connection was lost during COVID, but they have new connections to get this started again. Rain barrels will be attached to the greenhouse for use in watering the plants. Heather mentioned the UNH Cooperative Extension may offer rain barrels. SELT has provided

weekly enrichment opportunities for the 7th graders (discussions on land conservation and local wildlife, games, and outdoor recreation). SELT has agreed to continue this program for another two years.

At EES, in December, minutes of physical activity were tracked by classroom. Rewards were given in the form of extra recess. Wellness Bingo was also held at Christmas. Moss has been working to improve the breakfasts by reducing the high sugar items and adding more protein-rich and whole-grain breakfasts. The Penguin Plunge in March raised over \$2,000.

At EMHS, there was a presentation on dealing with stress and on SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder, acclimation in January. Tyler Nekton brought up a Fun Run/Color Run. Unfortunately, it was never held, but it is an idea for the future. An area of focus for the Committee is spreading awareness about the dangers of energy drinks since they are causing clinic visits for students. A vaccination drive for staff was held during the winter.

David asked if numbers were tracked on if the changes to the breakfast items caused an increase or decrease in the amount of students eating breakfast. Moss answered that they like to give the students a lot of options, so if the students didn't want the healthier option they could choose something else like cereal.

Robin asked if breakfast was being eaten in the cafeteria or if they were still serving bagged meals. Moss answered that they are still doing a lot of the bagged meals mainly because time is an issue with having to move the tables.

Julie mentioned that next year when students are more likely to be picking what days they will be eating the school meal, it may be beneficial for a physical menu to be sent out.

Ben asked if there was an increase in staff using the breakfast and lunch program. Moss said yes, there has definitely been an increase.

Lastly, the Committee had a review of the Wellness Policy. The Committee identified a need for alternatives to soda/pizza/ice cream at celebratory events. There was some general discussion about what foods can be served within the guidelines and the time at which they can be served.

David raised the issue of the cookies at senior night containing nuts. Moss explained the cookies were individually wrapped and clearly labeled.

d. ESSER Funds Discussion

Superintendent Furbush went through the changes that were made to the distribution of the ESSER funds. There was a significant increase to the summer school and tutoring category. Some of that money came from the Special Education and SEL lines. The staff appreciation and COVID 19 relief line went up to meet the \$800 commitment that the Board previously discussed. The facilities and cleaning line came down slightly. Superintendent Furbush feels really confident about these changes since they go directly towards helping the students. They are not sure what the summer tutoring will look like yet, but they are working through the details of it. There was \$50,000 set aside for summer school for two years. They are potentially looking to hire a tutor for the elementary school and a tutor for the middle high school for this next school

year. There have been discussions about potentially hiring students or teachers for the tutoring program. David wanted to clarify that he hopes these ESSER funds will allow the summer school program to help additional students than it would have if ESSER funds weren't involved. Next summer, they hope to offer courses for students who just need a little bit of extra help and not credit recovery. Heather asked about offering an optional SAT prep course during the summer. She would like them to explore it for this summer. Julie likes the idea of an afterschool tutor option and opening it up to student tutors. There are 183 full time staff members who will receive the \$800 stipend. These would be sent out next week.

Member Julie Knight made a motion to approve the \$800 stipend COVID relief for all full time Epping School District staff for this fiscal year. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 4-1. Motion carries.

David thanked Superintendent Furbush and Christine for their hard work in making the changes to the distribution of these funds.

POLICY

a. JFAA - Admission of Resident Students (New)

This is a new and required policy. It requires residents to register their students. Ben suggested including a link to the immunization policy within this policy since they are very similar. This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting.

b. JFAB - Admission of Non-Resident Students (and Tuition)

There are currently no recommended changes at this time. Heather pointed out a typo. Ben confirmed that this doesn't take away from the Board's ability to make exceptions for families who may need financial assistance. This policy was moved to a second/third read at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

David asked if they offer open positions to long term substitutes and internal candidates first. They do. There are only three open positions. Heather asked Superintendent Furbush to remind staff that they can also conduct an exit interview with the Board.

- a. Nomination of EMHS French Teacher, Ahlem Hassine
- b. Nomination of EMHS Computer/STEAM Teacher, Hannah Welsh
- c. Nomination of EMHS Science Teacher, Terilyn Bettencourt
- d. Nomination of EMHS Math Teacher, Cathy Schmidt
- e. Nomination of EMHS FCS and Health Teacher, April Carlino
- f. Nomination of EES Technology Teacher, Jessica Sydow
- g. Nomination of Band/Music Teacher Grade 4 - 8, Allison Edge
- h. Nomination of Gr 6 -12 Music Teacher and Choral Director, Emily Ciccarello

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept all the nominations for the EES and EMHS staff members as presented for the upcoming year. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

i. Resignation of EMHS Physical Education Teacher, Nick Derocher

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the resignation of Nick Derocher, EMHS Physical Education Teacher, with regret. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

j. Resignation of EES Special Education Teacher, Andrea McCusker

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the resignation of Andrea McCusker, EES Special Education Teacher, with regret. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

REPORTS

a. Student Reports

Carly discussed what the different classes were working on to wrap up the school year. The baseball and softball teams finished their seasons. Graduation was this past Friday, and she congratulated the Class of 2022. All the other end of year activities were successful. 8th Grade Recognition Night happened last night. Spring Sports Recognition Night was last Tuesday. A chicken was hatched in the school! Ms. McCann said that students in need of community service hours this fall can contact her. There will be a Community Service Fall Fair to make students aware of all the possible opportunities.

b. Principal Reports

These were written this week. The Epping Book Mobile will be returning this year from 7/5 to 8/3.

c. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Furbush congratulated the graduates. There was a Field Day for the middle school students and an assembly for the elementary school students. He asked about dates for the Board retreat. There was a discussion about this. They decided on 8/10 8:30 am to 3 pm tentatively.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Financial Report

She presented them with the Year-to-Date report. \$662,996 should be returned to the town. The Board could still retain a portion of that money which is traditionally done. Heather asked about out of state tax withholding for staff. Christine will look into this. Julie asked about the staff benefits portion of the budget. She explained why this number was lower than anticipated.

b. Approval of substitute pay recommended at current rate for 22-23

This current school year, they increased the substitute pay to \$110. They would like to continue this rate next year since finding substitutes during COVID is so challenging. They don't want to lose their current substitutes. The nurse substitute pay will stay the same as well at \$150.

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to approve the substitute pay at the recommended current rate of \$110 for the 2022-2023 school year. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. SAU Digital Sign discussion

Christine reminded families that the school photography survey is on the website. Ben reminded the Board about the teacher nomination for the award that was discussed at the last meeting. Superintendent Furbush will meet with the principals tomorrow to discuss this. They received two bids for the digital sign. They are recommending Sousa Signs. Superintendent Furbush spoke highly of their service. He and Christine explained the pros and cons of each company. They also explained the warranty and the replacement procedure. He explained the benefits of having a digital sign. This sign would go in front of the SAU office. They would be going with the 2'x4' sign. The town is okay with them putting in this sign. This would be funded by the end of year surplus, or it can be leased. The Board likes this idea. David doesn't like using the surplus funds for this. There was a discussion about how this would be funded. Ben suggested using some of the leftover rebate money.

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to use the Eversource refund money for the 2021-2022 school year to pay for a new digital sign for the SAU building as provided by Sousa Signs. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes of June 2, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the June 2, 2022 meeting as amended. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Non-Public Minutes of June 2, 2022

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to accept the Non-Public Minutes from the June 2, 2022 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Public Minutes of May 19, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Public Minutes Rev 1 from the May 19, 2022 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll Manifest deposited on June 10, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Payroll Manifest deposited on June 10, 2022 in the amount of \$1,384,611.36. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt.

VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable deposited on June 3, 2022

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable deposited on June 3, 2022 in the amount of \$124,054.10. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt.

VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

David said congratulations to the class of 2022. He wished everyone a happy safe summer. Ben also congratulated them and gave a shout out to the people who gave speeches at graduation. Ben listed off the elected representatives for the Elementary School PTO. There was a short discussion about end of year gifts. Parents would like more recess time at the elementary school and more recess/flexible time for middle schoolers. They are planning to have a memorial for Ms. Landis.

There was a discussion about adding additional recess time at the beginning of the day. The students go to the classrooms at 8:15 am.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. July 7, 2022 - Manifest Only

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

Non-Public Meeting is **scheduled** for June 16, 2022 following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to enter a Non-Public Meeting and adjourn the meeting thereafter at 9:50 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary