

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 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 (Remote), Member Julie Knight, Member Jen Jacoby, Superintendent Furbush, and Business Administrator Christine Vayda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULED TOPICS

a. Back Bay Networks - Superintendent Bill Furbush

Superintendent Furbush explained the circumstances surrounding the Technology Director position. He said that the interview process did not produce a candidate that they felt would be successful in the position. The lack of candidates led them to explore remote access options. He said Back Bay Networks will act as a supplement to the in-person team that is already in place. He explained that Back Bay is less expensive and a better fit for the District. He said the plan is to utilize Back Bay's service while also having the day-to-day operations be handled by the in-person team. The contract with Back Bay Networks is on a monthly basis. Heather asked if the Back Bay staff who may need to enter the school have had background checks. Christine said that they have.

POLICY

a. EF - Food and Nutrition Service Management - 2nd/3rd Read

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Policy EF - Food and Nutrition Service Management as presented. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.

b. EFE - Vending Machines - 2nd/3rd Read

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Policy EFE - Vending Machines as presented. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.

c. JFABE - Education of Children in Foster Care - 2nd/3rd Read

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Policy JFABE - Education of Children in Foster Care as presented. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

a. Nomination of K-8 School Assistant Coordinator Emily Lemoine

Superintendent Furbush explained the responsibilities of the position. This position will work directly with staff, students, and parents. Julie asked about the number of days worked for this position. Superintendent Furbush said it is a 220 day contract. Ben said he is excited to hear how this position meets the needs of everyone.

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept the nomination of K-8 School Assistant Coordinator Emily Lemoine. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Approval for Leave of Absence 23-24 SY EES Kindergarten Teacher Kathy Gillis

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the request for a leave of absence from Kindergarten Teacher Kathy Gillis. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

REPORTS

a. Principal Reports

EMHS

Principal Mazzone said he has heard that this year seemed to be the smoothest and most upbeat opening in a long time. He mentioned that the year started off with an assembly to help get students excited for the school year. He said Freshmen Orientation was fairly well attended and gave parents the opportunity to come in and ask questions. He gave an outline of the goals for this year. He said there will be a focus on the curriculum, instruction, and assessment goal. He noted the importance of measuring success based on results instead of based on intentions. He said that elections will be held shortly to determine who will be the Student Representative for the junior class. The senior class' Student Representative is Jacob Twombly. He said that they have been having discussions with each class to go over the changes to the Handbook. Julie asked if students had comments regarding the new summative/formative weighting. Mr. Mazzone said that the kids reacted positively to the change. There was a discussion about how the new weighting takes some of the pressure off of the summatives, helps students be more prepared, and increases rigor. Julie asked Mr. Mazzone to include the change in grading in the first communication that is sent out to parents. He noted that the document is already drafted, and all of the major changes, including grading, will be listed. Heather asked if the process for reassessing was discussed with each class. Mr. Mazzone said that it was part of the discussion, but the students didn't have any questions or comments about it. There was a discussion about the expectations regarding the time it takes teachers to report grades and still allowing time for reassessment. There was also a discussion about end-of-semester summatives that test students on the whole semester's content. Jen said she would like to hear feedback from not only students and parents but also from staff members. Jen offered some suggestions for getting teachers more

involved. Heather said that teachers and staff members are always welcome to come to the meetings with a topic. There was further discussion about how to incorporate teacher feedback.

EES

Principal Sousa thanked the staff for keeping students safe and cool through the heat wave. He noted that there is an open house coming up soon. He said the drop-in open house that was held recently went well and received positive feedback. He gave a shout out to the Food Service staff for the selection and quality of the school lunches. He also gave staff shout outs for their commitment to the students and willingness to work together. He said the opening of the school has been very smooth, and he thanked everyone involved for their hard work. Julie asked if teachers were given a full day to set their classrooms up. Principal Sousa said one of the four PD days prior to the start of the year was for classroom setup. Julie said she would like to hear from the teachers on how they feel the PD days went. Heather asked if there is a survey/reflection piece to collect teacher feedback when there are PD days. Superintendent Furbush said that they do collect feedback on PD days often. There was further discussion about collecting feedback on PD days. Superintendent Furbush said they will continue to ask for feedback and look to implement more ways to collect it. There was also a discussion about school start dates.

b. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Furbush gave an overview of the schools' opening days. He said there is a need for more bus drivers. He thanked the administrators for their efforts in helping to make opening day successful.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. 2024-2025 Budget Calendar

Christine noted that the location of the deliberative session will be changed to the EMHS gymnasium. She said there were no other changes to the calendar. Ben noted that budget sessions are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

b. Additional Aid

Christine said this year there is additional adequacy aid from the DOE. She explained the options available for the funds. There was a discussion about how to use the funds.

Member Robin O'Day made a motion to accept the \$80,847 as revenue to be transferred back to the Town at the end of the fiscal cycle. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Audit

Christine said the audit has been completed. She gave an overview of the year-end numbers. \$371,231.52 is to be given back to taxpayers.

d. Plowing Contract

Heather explained that due to Town staffing shortages they are exploring other options for plowing the school parking lots. The hope is to avoid having to go out to bid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Meeting Minutes August 17, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Public Minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Non-Public Meeting Minutes August 17, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting as written. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Accounts Payable deposited on June 29th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on June 29th, 2023 in the amount of \$7,934.65. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable deposited on June 30th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on June 30th, 2023 in the amount of \$198,101.12. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Accounts Payable deposited on July 18th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on July 18th, 2023 in the amount of \$641.00. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Accounts Payable Deposited on August 29th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on August 29th, 2023 in the amount of \$1,955.39. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Payroll Deposited on August 18th, 2023

Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on August 18th, 2023 in the amount of \$223,861.68. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER

a. 2023 Delegate Assembly

Delegate Assembly is on October 14th. Member Robin O'Day will be attending. The resolutions will be emailed to the Board and will be discussed at the October 5th meeting. Ben expressed interest in being an alternate.

b. Comments

Jen said she is sorry she had to miss the previous meeting, but she did watch the recording. She congratulated everyone on a successful school opening. She said she attended the opening breakfast and enjoyed the presentation by Superintendent Furbush. She asked if there was an update regarding Fremont. Superintendent Furbush said they will be doing a site visit to EMHS on September 27th.

Ben said from what he's heard, the opening activities were well received and well attended. He said this seems to be a really smooth start to the year and congratulated everyone involved.

Julie said she was pleased that opening day went so well. She asked what the plan is regarding the School Board meeting format. She requested to try a few different options and to discuss this in an upcoming meeting. She would like to see the format be less intimidating. Heather stressed the importance of maintaining accessibility for the public to view the meetings.

Robin also agreed that the format of the meetings could be made more inviting. She also said she is hearing a lot of positive feedback from people in Town. She said there seems to be a renewed sense of trust.

Heather thanked everyone for making the opening so successful. She also mentioned the upcoming open houses and picture days at EES and EMHS.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. September 21, 2023

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II Non-Public Meeting **is not scheduled** for August 17, 2023 after the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:27 pm. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary