

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD

October 3, 2019 - Town Hall

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deborah Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Chair Deborah Brooks, Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Nicole Carleton, Member Ben Leavitt, Member Heather Clark, Superintendent Valerie McKenney, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Student Faith Williamson, and Student Taya Morgado.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. Mike Davey - Energy Efficient Investments, Inc.

There was a general discussion about the success stories of Energy Efficient Investments, Inc. He discussed how to fund projects: in budget, warrant article, and board lease approval (budget neutral). He discussed each option in further detail. He talked about the energy performance contract goals. Some of the issues at the Epping schools were lack of control, lack of ventilation A/C control, and old boilers at the high school. The elementary school boilers could also be updated. The transformers are also inefficient. He also suggests getting LED lights in the gyms. Mike discussed different projects that their company has done in the past and the cost savings associated with them. Some of the time, energy savings can pay for most of the improvements. In reference to the Plymouth example, Mike discussed the state refunded competitive grant and thermal recs available. Plymouth invited the School Board to see their new facilities. Deborah asked about the guaranteed annual energy savings. EEI will pay if they don't reach the guaranteed savings. Mike talked about potential options for the Epping School District and associated costs. If the School Board decided on a project similar to Plymouth, the plant would be behind the Epping Middle School. The maintenance for this system is about an hour per week. Mike needs to know whether the School Board wants to apply for the competitive grant and if they want to add ventilation and A/C. The minimum grant that can be applied for is \$125,000. Nicole asked if there were any numbers for just the high school. The TriFuel system would be out of the question, but he's going to run more numbers for just the high school. The Facilities Committee is going to do some more research on different prices. Heather wants to look into using solar power. Don said the elementary school would make the most sense for solar since they need a new roof anyways. For middle and high school, they'd have to evaluate the two roofs' condition to see if it makes sense. Deborah thinks it's important to really evaluate all options thoroughly since these projects are so expensive. Don is going to investigate what the

district is spending now and what they'd be spending with newer systems. Mike recommends removing the A/C from their plan to save money. Vice Chair David doesn't think they should rule out something they want.

b. Brian Ernest - EHS 2019 Goals

Brian discussed the 2019-2020 school goals. He talked about what's new in the high school. He welcomed the new staff. He discussed the new Flexblock, the freshmen core electives, and sophomore SCORE. The freshmen core electives were selected from a survey of interest and available teacher expertise. An example from SCORE is an online journal run by students. Member Heather wants to put a link to BluePrint on the website. Ms. Jessica, sophomore teacher, discussed a couple more examples of SCORE classes. Brian met with Dr. Pribel regarding the adult design team and culture and climate committee. He talked about how EHS is a champion school, and it just goes to show the kind culture at the school. Laura Dube talked about how they applied to be a champion school and all the hard work that went into it. Nicole and Heather congratulated Laura. Deborah said that Laura has a very bright future and great leadership skills.

c. Ben Bourgoin - Fall Sports Update

Ben discussed which type of teams are competing at the middle and high school. He also talked about the participation levels within each sport. They've gone two straight years without spirit because there hasn't been enough interest. He's hoping to have a winter cheer team. There's not enough students for a cross country team at the middle school, and it's not possible to pull the interested students up to the high school. They are allowed to practice with the high school team though. They have a new athletic trainer, head football coach, assistant boys and girls soccer coaches, assistant football coaches, and girls middle school soccer coach. He will be linking the BigTeams website to the school district website. He talked about the mid-season highlights: homecoming, unified soccer, youth camps, boys soccer alumni game, food drive, and the SLC. Ben discussed the upcoming matters: winter sports sign ups, fall sports banquet, future meetings, and end-of-season report. Valerie congratulated Ben on his marriage. Nicole asked about middle school spirit, and they have a winter spirit team. Heather asked how many sports have student managers. The football team has game day managers. The volleyball team has one. The unified soccer team also has some. Ben wants more of them. Heather asked if he thought students know that it's an option. For winter sports sign-up, he's going to add a spot for student managers. The volleyball student manager is very helpful and committed; Ben is going to see if the student is willing to share about his experiences student managing in an attempt to recruit more student managers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent Chris Sousa asked about the enrollment report and for relevant information to be posted earlier. It is posted as soon as they can. He discussed his concern about students leaving the district.

There was a general discussion about grading and the discussion allowed about it.

Parent Jordanne Sargent wants to know what data is being collected.

POLICY

a. DFA Investment - First Read

Member Heather Clark made a motion to move policy DFA Investment to a second read at the next meeting. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

b. EHAA- Computer Security, Email and Internet Communications - Second/Third Read

Member Nicole Carleton made a motion to accept policy EHAA- Computer Security, Email and Internet Communications as written. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

PERSONNEL

a. Retirement

Member Heather Clark made a motion with extreme regret to accept the retirement of Valerie Bliss-Mitchell. Member Ben Leavitt seconded. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report

220 students from the elementary school are still not registered with PowerSchool. The next step is going to be to send out a letter to parents. Ben said he would pass the message along. There was a general discussion about the potential schedule for the upcoming school year, and the board members voiced their opinions. A lot of other schools in the area are starting before Labor Day.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept Option B (after Labor Day start) regarding the proposed school schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. Seconded by Vice Chair David Mylott. VOTE: 3-2. Motion Carries.

No bullying reports came into Valerie's office during the month of September. Students can report incidents to any staff member. State law requires staff members to do something about it. The school district encourages students to find their voice. A technology and bullying presentation was created for students and parents. David said he thought that every occurrence of bullying should be passed along to the superintendent even if it's not found to be actual bullying. The state doesn't require them to be reported. Heather asked if the various principals keep reports of bullying versus the misunderstandings, and they do. Heather wants access to all reports during a nonpublic meeting semesterly. In the behavioral part of PowerSchool, it keeps track of habitual versus one-time bullies. Valerie reminded the public that help is still wanted for the different committees.

b. Student Reports

The PSAT/NMSQT are coming up for juniors soon. They had a successful homecoming week. The dance was in the cafeteria this year. It was very hot but well attended. Since it was in a smaller area it made it seem more popular. There were a lot of seniors and freshmen at the dance compared to usual. The juniors won the banner competition. The high school has a lot of fundraising going on (Pies - Music Program, Yankee Candle - '21 '22 '23, Candy Bars - '22). A couple of Taya's friends (about 10-15 students) voted for school starting after Labor Day next year. The mid-session SST students couldn't attend the assembly during Flexblock because they come back after 2nd block. The homecoming assembly was during 1st block, so everyone could go. Student Taya hasn't seen as many rubrics this year, but student Faith has. They said that teacher understanding is getting better with the new grading system. They haven't heard any complaints from their peers. Grades haven't come out yet. Teachers are still adjusting to 10 minute shorter classes (90 versus 80 minutes). Student Faith thinks that kids are paying more attention in class. Chair Deborah asked if they felt challenged in school, and they said yes. Student Faith explained a situation that happened to her that was a perfect example of student voice and choice. Member Heather asked about Flexblock and if there was useful enrichment opportunities during it, and they said yes. Student Faith said it's been a really great year so far.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Approve Employee Safety Program

ADD was eliminated. Heather asked about the workplace violence policy. This program is reviewed every two to three years.

Was tabled for the next meeting.

b. Plodzik & Sanderson - Board Members Questionnaire

Member Heather Clark made a motion for School Board Chair Deborah Brooks to fill out the board member questionnaire for the rest of the School Board*. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

***Vice Chair David Mylott wants to receive a copy of the questionnaire.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for September 19, 2019

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the public minutes from September 19, 2019. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Vice Chair David Mylott abstained.

b. Nonpublic minutes for September 19, 2019

Member Nicole Carleton made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes from September 19, 2019. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries. Member Ben Leavitt abstained

c. Nonpublic minutes for October 1, 2019

Was tabled for the next meeting.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve payroll manifest #7 dated 10/4/2019 in the amount of \$518,510.01. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Vice Chair David Mylott made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #7 dated 9/26/2019 in the amount of \$212,307.17. Seconded by Member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

Ben congratulated EHS on being a champion school. He was impressed with Blueprint. He reminded the public of the upcoming PTO and Technology Committee meetings.

Heather and David both had no comments.

Nicole is proud of this community, and all the work the faculty and staff are doing.

Deb talked about the search committee meeting. The community has access to Zoom to view the meetings.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. October 17, 2019 - Regular School Board Meeting

NONPUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II*

(*a. personnel, b. hiring, c. adverse reputation, d. property, e. legal, g. security functions, i. emergency functions)

ADJOURNMENT

Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary