

MEETING MINUTES
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
November 1, 2018 – Town Hall
7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Deborah Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Vice Chair Deborah Brooks, Members Ben Leavitt, Heather Clark and Nicole Carleton. Superintendent Valerie McKenney, and Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom. Chairman Dave Mylott was absent.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. Justin Benna introduced two elementary students, second grader Lucas Mazzone and fifth grader Rachel Mazzone. Dr. Benna said that the siblings approached him with research and information they had done on the environmental harms of using plastic straws and eating utensils. Principal Benna was so impressed with their presentation that he asked them to present to the other building Principals and Food Service Director, Ronnie Bush

The students presented their research and voiced their concerns on the effects of using plastic utensils and straws. Items highlighted were: litter on school grounds, recycling bins and plastic straws. The students wondered if perhaps groups like the Blue Eagles and Student Council would be willing to help with clean up as a community service.

Lucas and Rachel acknowledged that there are still people who require using a straw and found through their research that some eating establishments give patrons a discount for bringing their own straw. The students reported that there are local schools who have stopped using plastic straws. Rachel suggested that perhaps the Epping School District stop ordering straws and switch to metal or composite straws. She said that selling metal straws as a fundraising event could be an option.

Mrs. Bush suggested to them to eliminate straws all together. They also spoke about switching plastic utensils to metal and learned at their meeting with Mrs. Bush that this would be timely and costly.

Deborah Brooks agreed that it is expensive to clean the silverware and that the reason they had switched to plastic was that it was more economical. Heather Clark said how impressed and proud she was with their great ideas and solutions. Heather asked Dr. Benna if the presentation could be put on the website. Dr. Benna stated that the high school Student Council expressed interest in hearing the presentation for the purpose of raising awareness. Member Nicole Carleton thanked them for bringing this forward to the school community and that she hopes the Board can move quickly to figure out other ways, including metal straws. Mrs. Carleton invited the students back to see how much progress has been made.

Dr. Benna said that things are going well at the elementary school and that there was a good turnout for the PTO Monster Mash and the competency-based education informational night.

For the CBE information night, there were a team of educators on hand to share the competency journey that they have been on as a school and district. He reminded everyone about the upcoming parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 and that there is no school for students on that date.

EES is inviting Veterans to join them for lunch and details are on the website. Ben Leavitt asked Dr. Benna about Tuesday's competency parent meeting and if there were any stand-out questions that he had not anticipated. Dr. Benna said what he had not anticipated was the forward thinking of parents and that the district is doing a good job of communicating to the parents regarding these changes.

Deborah reminded the Board that there is a copy of a letter that the Superintendent sent out from a family complementing the meeting held at EES.

Val McKenney said if she could do the parent meetings over, she would have chosen to start with the elementary level. This is due to updates to the content of competency based learning that has been added to the website. The first, second and third graders will only know about competency based education whereas the older grades are going through the transition. Val noted that next week she would be meeting with Assistant Superintendent Mike Trumell from Sanborn. Sanborn is four years ahead of Epping in competency based education. Val said she will be working with Krista Gulick to plan for the competency implementation team day on December 27, 2018.

Val asked parent Chris Mazzone if he had insight about CBE. Mr. Mazzone said that he has been following this initiative due to his role as a school administrator in another district. He has learned that class rank is no longer the focal point for students, but rather authentic learning experiences that students can take with them to another setting. Mr. Mazzone said that the district has been doing a fantastic job with the depth and frequency of communication to families. He said that for parents this is a departure from the way they have been taught and that learning, teaching, and grading is evolving. Mr. Mazzone feels it is important that our kids become players in the global market.

Deb Brooks told Mr. Mazzone that the Board appreciated his comments. She had a final comment about Dr. Benna and Mr. Hinkle dressing up in costume during the Monster Mash event gave students an opportunity to see a different side of their Administrators.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

POLICY:

None.

PERSONNEL

None.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report - Val McKenney said that she is working to develop a Parent Safety Group and that they will be meeting on November 15, 2018 and that she is working on brochures for parents. She stated that in November, Homeland Security will be doing an analysis on where the district is with regards to security and safety. Due to this evaluation being done on regular basis, the district is eligible for grant monies. She reminded everyone about parent-teacher conferences on November 6, 2018 and Veterans' Day on November 12, 2018.

b. Student Reports: None.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Bonnie Sandstrom – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for October 18, 2018.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Non-Public Minutes for October 22, 2018.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the October 22, 2018 non-public minutes with the addition of member Nicole Carleton in attendance. Seconded by Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

c. Non-Public Minutes for October 24, 2018.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the October 24, 2018 non-public minutes with the addition of member Nicole Carleton in attendance. Seconded by Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

MANIFEST

a. Payroll

Member Heather Clark made motion to approve payroll #9 in the amount of \$375,553.11. Seconded by member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #9 in the amount of \$374,964.48. Seconded by member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

Nicole Carleton asked about a previous meeting that Don Nichols had attended where he spoke about the availability of a non-gender specific bathroom. Nicole wanted to know where the school stood with changing nameplates on specific bathrooms. Val McKenney stated that is an easy issue to solve.

Deb Brooks commented about Heather Clark's son asking about the possibility of hosting a haunted hallway in the middle school. Deb said that she told him that the building administrator would be the person he would need to speak with and that it would be a good way to raise money. Deb said she was in awe of the hallway that the students set up and that the middle school students made \$330.00 dollars.

Heather said that the middle school PTO was hosting a night at Haunted Acres in Candia on Saturday at 5:30 pm till 11:30 pm. Volunteer space is still available. On November 15, 2018 the middle school PTO is doing a fundraiser at Applebees and 15 percent of the proceeds will be going towards the eighth grade class trip to Washington DC. She gave a shout out to the high school sports teams for a great season. She said the volleyball team made it to the semifinals; and the boys made it to the championship. Heather reminded the public that EYA are holding their basketball sign ups now.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

- a. November 13, 2018 Budget Work Session #4 – 6:00 pm – Town Hall
- b. November 15, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:43 pm the meeting recessed for five minutes prior to the start of the budget work session.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to recess the meeting for five minutes in order to move it to another room. Seconded by Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

Minutes submitted by,

Christine Cue
Acting School Board Secretary