

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, December 1, 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 Ben Leavitt, Member Robin O'Day, Member Julie Knight, Member Jen Jacoby, Superintendent Furbush, Business Administrator Christine Vayda, Student Carly Sanborn, and Student Jacob Twombly.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**SCHEDULED TOPICS**

a. EMHS Field Trip to Peru April 2024 - EMHS Teachers Sarah Swible and Karen McCallion

Sarah and Karen gave a presentation on the proposed EMHS trip for Spring Break 2024. The trip would include 10 days in Peru, and students would visit Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, and Cusco. Both Sarah and Karen would be chaperones on the trip, in total there will be one chaperone for every six students. Currently, there are about 35 students interested in going on the trip. The travel partner for this trip would be EF Educational Tours. This trip would offer students the opportunity to earn high school or college credits through personal learning assignments. In order to be eligible for the trip, students will need to be in good academic and behavioral standing. EF Educational Tours is currently offering an early enrollment discount for trips booked before January 1st, and there is the opportunity for students to create a personal donation page. The total trip cost for students is \$4,219 which includes the mandatory travel protection plan. This cost includes round-trip airfare, hotels, breakfasts and dinners, activities and tours.

There was some discussion about the details and logistics of the trip. The minimum number of students needed for the trip is 12 students, and there is no maximum. If there are less than 25 students on the trip, the trip will lose "private" status. This would mean tours would contain EMHS students as well as other students from other schools. There is no deadline to commit to the trip, but there are discounts that have deadlines. There was also some concern about Peru being named a Level 3: Reconsider Travel by the State Department in October. There is a point where EF Educational Tours will cancel the trip due to safety concerns. The Board asked for the contract's "all-inclusive" price to include everything and not have to ask the students/parents for extra money for things like tips/COVID testing requirements.

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to approve the Peru trip in 2024 with the expectation that the Board's concerns are addressed as soon as possible, and the status of the trip will be re-evaluated in November 2023. Seconded by Member Julie Knight. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. Fall Review/Winter Sports Update - Athletic Director Ben Bourgoin

Ben spoke about the various Fall sports teams that were offered this year. At the high school level, 89 students participated, and at the middle school level, 53 students participated in Fall sports. Nine varsity student-athletes were recognized for their on-field performance, and three student-athletes broke season records and/or career records. Many of the teams had successful seasons and were able to make it to the playoffs. Over the course of the season, there were a total of seven concussions reported and treated. Team sportsmanship rankings have not been released at this point. Ben also went over the Winter sports teams that will be offered this year. He was happy to report that NHIAA has announced the return of indoor track meets for the first time since 2020. He also reminded everyone that games will be streamed on the Epping Athletic Facebook page, and dates/times of the games can be found on the Epping Athletics website.

There was some discussion about the amount of concussions during Fall sports. They are looking into more ways to reduce the number, but many of the instances have been due to impact with the ground.

Superintendent Furbush thanked all of the student-athletes, coaches, and everyone involved in making this past season a successful one.

Member Julie Knight thanked Ben for stepping up to coach this past Spring when a coach was needed.

Parent Jordenne Sargent thanked Ben Bourgoin for all that he does for the students.

c. Calendar 23 - 24

Superintendent Furbush presented two options for the 2023-2024 calendar. The main difference between the two versions is a start date for students of Monday, August 28th or a start date of Tuesday, August 29th.

Member Julie Knight stated that she appreciates the effort put in to creating two draft calendars. There was some discussion over inclement weather days and how they would impact the calendar.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of both versions of the calendar. The Board would like to see a report to see how the PD days are being utilized and to get teacher feedback on the schedule.

**Chair Heather Clark made a motion to approve Calendar Draft 1 as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-1. Motion carries.**

Member Julie Knight stated she is not opposed to Calendar Draft 1, but she does prefer Calendar Draft 2.

### **POLICY**

a. JJJ - Access to Public School Programs By Nonpublic, Charter School, and Home Educated Pupils - 2nd/3rd Read

This will be replacing Policy IHBG-A.

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Policy JJJ - Access to Public School Programs By Nonpublic, Charter School, and Home Educated Pupils as presented. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

b. JJA - Student Co-Curricular & Extra-Curricular Activities - 2nd/3rd Read

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Policy JJA - Student Co-Curricular & Extra-Curricular Activities as presented. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### **PERSONNEL**

None

### **REPORTS**

a. Student Reports

Jacob and Carly discussed what the different classes are working on. The Girls Varsity Basketball team has had a couple games. The Student Government met to discuss Winter Spirit Week. NHS went to Barnes & Noble and bought books to donate to a mental health institution in Nashua. They will also be buying clothes to donate to the same institution. The Freshmen class are selling gift card calendars. The Sophomore class are still selling their chicken calendars. Auditions for the Addams Family play are happening soon. High school advisories are participating in a World Cup challenge and are eligible to win a Pizza Party. The Prom Committee for the Class of 2024 met last week. The Yearbook Committee has been meeting frequently. The French Club will be meeting soon.

Heather asked about Spirit Week. Jacob listed what the different days will be, and Carly said that it will be a competition between classes.

b. Principal Reports

Principal Mazzone discussed a student's request to have other trip options considered: Greece or Costa Rica. He asked the student to find an adult chaperone and go through the same steps that were required for the Peru trip. This trip would happen in February versus the Peru trip which will happen in April. These big trips happen every other year, and during the other years, they do a smaller trip. He said that the World Cup challenge has been going well, and the

students are really enjoying it. They are also promoting the different holidays that happen around the world. They are working on creating one building wide schedule. They are starting this process with a smaller group to discuss the non-negotiables before increasing the group size. He gave Julie Morin a shoutout for managing the schedule for years before this. They will also be working on their Program of Studies. Ben asked if he'll be asking surrounding districts with a similar schedule for feedback. They will be. Julie said that communication around new schedules is really important. Principal Mazzone said that he would like student input ahead of time before implementing big changes. Heather asked if the new schedule will be available by Step Up Day. He is hoping to have the new schedule finalized by the end of the school year. Heather is really excited about that. She also asked about school start times. If any changes are implemented related to start times, they wouldn't take place until the 2024-2025 school year. Superintendent Furbush said that this will not impact the EMHS schedule change. Principal Mazzone discussed the Community Service requirement. This is now the responsibility of the principal's office. Students' community service will now appear on their transcript. The Search Committee has been established to find a new Library Media Specialist. They have had some fantastic applicants so far. They will most likely interview three to five applicants. Ben said he is really looking forward to seeing the schedule proposal.

Principal Murphy said that they had their whole school meeting before Thanksgiving and that it went well. She said that they also had a Veteran's Day assembly. They have been working on different greetings. They showed the kids the silent wave since the kids are still learning when to clap. Teachers can make nominations to recognize students for their exceptional Work Study Practices. The students really like this initiative. EES raised \$2,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project which was \$1,000 over their goal! She said she feels lucky to be a part of a great community. She said that the Student Conferences went really well and had a lot of student participation. She also highlighted several recent staff shoutouts.

### c. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Furbush thanked Ben for his help with the negotiation team, and he feels that negotiations are going well. They are currently on track to have everything ready for the Board to review on December 15th. He also thanked everyone involved for their efforts in the process. He also mentioned the ongoing budget review process with the Budget Committee and is looking forward to the upcoming meetings. Superintendent Furbush also shared that they did receive a safety grant in the amount of \$75,000. This money could help with the vestibule project discussed in the past. The other projects that would be priorities would be key cards for the SAU office and expanding the memory of the security cameras. Lastly, he reminded everyone to attend the upcoming Holiday concerts.

## **FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES**

### **a. Financial Report**

Christine spoke about two upcoming grants that were just released regarding energy efficiency. She expects applications to be opening up in December or January and will be applying for both. The operating budget has approximately \$1 million left currently.

### **b. Draft Warrant Article Discussion**

Items presented on the warrant include two Board Member position seats, Article 1 - Collective Bargaining, Article 2 - Special Meeting for Defeated and Amended Collective Bargaining Agreements, Article 3 - Operating Budget, Article 4 - Add to Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund, Article 5 - Add to Special Ed Capital Reserve Fund.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **a. Public Minutes of November 17, 2022**

**Member Robin O'Day made a motion to accept the Public Minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

## **MANIFEST**

### **a. Payroll deposited on November 25, 2022**

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Payroll deposited on November 25, 2022 in the amount of \$434,950.36. Seconded by Member Jen Jacoby. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

### **b. Accounts Payable deposited on November 18, 2022**

**Vice Chair Ben Leavitt made a motion to accept Accounts Payable deposited on November 18, 2022 in the amount of \$1,703.74. Seconded by Member Robin O'Day. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

## **BOARD COMMENTS/OTHER**

Ben is looking forward to seeing the outcome of the EMHS scheduling decision. He hopes that things continue to go well for the Peru trip. He thanked Superintendent Furbush for his compliment from earlier in the meeting and also noted that negotiations wouldn't be going as well if it weren't for Superintendent Furbush, Christine, and Robin. He thanked that team.

Jen also hopes that things go well for the Peru trip! She pointed out that lots of exciting things are happening recently for senior students.

Julie asked if they are doing one color for cap and gowns. They will be doing two colors, and it is up to the students. She said that she likes the new sign. Superintendent Furbush said that the other signs will be coming in soon.

Heather said that the EES concerts are Monday and Tuesday. The EHS concerts are on 12/12. EHS students just signed up for the Penguin Plunge. Project Grad has two big fundraisers going on. Trees and wreaths can be purchased with cash or check. They are also doing a Savers collection on 12/3.

#### **NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED**

a. December 15, 2022 regular meeting

**NONMEETING** is **scheduled** for December 1, 2022 following the public meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Robin O'Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm. Seconded by Vice Chair Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary