

MEETING MINUTES

EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
September 20, 2018 – Town Hall
7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dave Mylott called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. Tyler Nexton, Technology Integrator updated the board on the launch of the new website. He showed the board the navigation and features of the site and explained that it is now a “one stop shop” for information about the schools and district and that the domain SAU14.org remains the same. Tyler highlighted the individual schools’ unique features like maps and directions to the different sport fields. He also explained the multi-calendars and how parents can customize these calendars to suit their needs. Tyler pointed out that the site scales the pages to size on cell phones. Now the public and parents have 24 hours access. The website is now user friendly and easy to update. Tyler anticipates that the notification links will be working in the next few weeks as well as a dedicated competency-based education page. Heather Clark asked who parents can contact if they have a problem with the site. Tyler stated that parents can contact him and that there are still a few things that need to be fixed.

Member Deb Brooks asked about the process of the public scheduling an event on the calendar. Tyler stated that the process has not changed and that they would still need to use School Dude by accessing the community login feature. The consensus from the board is that the new website was surely overdue and well received. Dave Mylott asked if there is a way or standard in which to monitor content and pictures that are being posted. Tyler said that this is one of his roles and that certain areas of the site are restricted and that he is constantly looking at the content, making sure that links and pictures are appropriate. The board thanked Tyler and staff members involved for their work and time.

b. Middle School Update – Principal Troidl stated that the middle school had an amazing first day opening. The board viewed a slideshow with pictures of students in all grade levels. She said that there are 215 students enrolled and that 151 parents attended Open House on September 11th. Since Open House fell on the anniversary of 9/11, students reflected on the events with various activities that included the Boys and

Girls Scouts. She stated that the time to reflect is beneficial and that these students weren't even born when this tragedy took place.

EMS Goals – Principal Troidl started her presentation of the middle school 2018-2019 goals with an emphasis on focusing on all student's learning to develop and refine units of instruction aligned with curricula progression including performance assessments, rubrics and differentiated instructional practices. Next goal was to focus on continuous improvement by developing and refining MTSS to improve students' achievements in reading and math; second goal is Climate and Culture and to build fluency in all school safety protocols. An example of climate was how new staff can change the dynamics of a classroom Last goal was the Integration of Technology and how do we decide what is best positive impact for our students and to have it align with the district goals.

Youth to Youth – Principal Troidl introduced the team of middle school students: Kelly, Isabella and Dave who have been creating amazing work in the effort to send positive messages about the effects of bullying, alcohol abuse and social acceptance through various media avenues. The team of students played a short film that they had created and afterwards had spoken about the learning process of producing the movie themselves. They collaborated with each other and had a lot of fun. Each student had a specific area in the creation of the film. The film was based on looking past someone's persona of what they look like on the outside and to go beneath the surface. The film was also viewed by parents, students and community at the Ioka Theater in Exeter. Chairman Dave Mylott told the students that their work was outstanding, and that all participants did a great job. Member Deb Brooks stated how impressed she was and asked the sixth-grade student Isabella how she felt working with upper classmen. Isabella said that she felt welcomed and that she had a lot of fun.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

a. Mrs. Robin O'Day gave an update of basketball tournament that she organized in honor of her late son Ryan. She commented on feedback from parents and players on how impressed they were with the gymnasium and concession stand that was run by volunteers of whom some put in 40 hours each. Five different states attended and there were zero incidents. Players and attendees were very respectful of each other and the school was left very clean. Mrs. O'Day was happy to announce that they had sold out of Ryan's t-shirts and that although it was a lot of work, she would be interested in organizing it again.

Deb Brooks asked how the event did financially. Mrs. O'Day said that they were able to make a profit and that the monies are used as a foundation for scholarships. She said that the goal is to raise over 10 thousand dollars and that it would be used as scholarships for programs such as Nature's Classroom, summer recreation programs, etc. These scholarships would range from high school to elementary so that it would be able to service all grade levels in Epping. The Board expressed their support and were happy with the success.

STUDENT REPORTS

a. Student representatives Faith Williamson and Rachel Martin updated the Board on the upcoming events for students which include: STAR testing and that each class as well as different organizations will be able to decorate their own bulletin board. They discussed the different events of spirit week leading up to the bonfire on Thursday, football game on Friday and the homecoming dance on Saturday. There is also going to be a banner contest per class. These events are listed on the school's website calendar. Faith spoke about the various clubs that are starting to meet and that Project Search attended a ropes course field trip at UNH. Member Deb Brooks asked who will be judging the banner contest and Rachel replied that the teachers will be doing the judging.

POLICY:

a. Policy KEE – Website Accessibility and Grievance Policy/First Read

New policy for Epping and a request from the website development company to ensure Americans with Disability Act compliance. Member Deb Brooks said that Epping is ahead of the game with this policy and that the NHSBA does not have their policy in place and that Epping is one of the first schools in the state to do this.

b. Policy KEE-R – Website Accessibility Complaint/Request Form/First Read

Dave Mylott stated that the available of accessibility can be broad and questions what can or cannot be supported. Member Deb Brooks asked how a visually impaired person access the website. Superintendent McKenney said it this question brings to you to policy KEE-R the form. The NHSBA said that we need to have the form with a complaint to do the best that we could within reasonableness to make accommodations. Dave asked if there are methods to accommodate students with disabilities and the Superintendent said that the Special Education 504 process addresses students through the assisted technology program.

Heather Clark asked other than in the policy section, would this need to be posted anywhere else on the website. The board agreed that it would just need to be part of the district policies section. Ben Leavitt stated that we just need to compliant with Section 504 and with Campus Suite we get an annual review for ADA compliance.

Dave Mylott said that policies KEE and KEE-R will move to a second/third read.

c. Policy IKF – High School Graduation Policy/First Read

Deb Brooks said that this policy is very similar to what it was in the past but that it needs to provide for alternative diplomas. Students who may have ordinarily earned

certificates of attendance with the option to earn a diploma, so that they wouldn't just receive a certificate of attendance.

Heather Clark questioned a paragraph that spoke about math requirements and the required subjects in the districts standard diploma section. Deb Brooks clarified that state standards require three years of math and one non-math, but in the content of that course mathematics is imbedded (example: accounting). Heather said that this needs to be verified. Val said this policy has not been looked at in three years and agreed that guidance will be looking at these requirements. Nicole asked if there is an economics credit that is now required. Val said not that she was aware of. Nicole said that at one point there was. Dave said that if there are no issues that the can move it on for a third read and if there are then we can look at it again.

Chairman Mylott asked member Deb Brooks if the district had a storage policy as suggested in the Elementary Space Study. Deb Brooks said that she was unable to find any Epping policy related to storage and she would ask the State.

PERSONNEL

None

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McKenney wanted to let folks know it has been a nice start to the school year. She has been sending out competency-based education information and is pleased that students have been asking questions about CBE. There will be four different student workshops and three parent nights in early in October. Val thanked ETV for posting this information out to the community and is encouraging them to view the videos.

As the Emergency Management Director Val stated that she sent four people to ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and there is no order to the ALICE acronym and the Lockdown Annex has been updated with the revised "Enhanced Lockdown". Eighty walkie talkies have been purchased and have been given the staff in all areas of the district.

Three out of four off-site Evacuation MOU's (Memorandum of Understandings) were signed. The Fire and Police departments have been notified that the off-site evacuation location for Epping Middle School has changed to the Epping Crossfit Gym. The October EOP (Emergency Operations Meeting) team meeting has been scheduled and the three-year Physical Security Assessment will be scheduled. The reverse beacons have been installed and these beacons flash blue lights that alert staff and students that they are to come indoors immediately. Val highlighted a few key events such as the vaping forum in October as well as Oct 17th at the High School they will be holding an informational night on competency-based learning and that college admissions have been invited to attend for parents to speak to about the grading systems that colleges

look at. Val said that she and Don Nichols have reviewed the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) this week.

Heather wanted to clarify that the Middle School competency forum is on October 16th and the High School competency forum is on October 17th.

Nicole Carleton asked the Superintendent how the early release professional development day went. Val said that it went well and that the staff went over emergency procedures and that they had PowerSchool and Teach Point training. Nicole then asked about the questionnaire that was sent out to the community about needing help with child care issues on early release days. Val stated that she did receive some feedback but that the recreation department did not have the staff available to help. There were no concerns or complaints from parents. The concern from the Superintendent was that they could not accommodate the different needs of students if there were to be a substantial number of children.

Dave said that we should be reaching out to different organizations to see if there are people who can volunteer their time to help with childcare. The board encourages the public to reach out to them if there is a need for childcare and he is also asking that volunteers to also contact them. Perhaps church groups, YMCA and other organizations would have an interest to volunteer. Val stated that she is open to any suggestions.

b. Committee Reports –

Deb – Policy meetings are scheduled regularly and the SST Committee will be meeting Monday evening in which Deb will report back to the board.

Nicole – The Wellness Committee will be meeting soon and so will the Farm to School Committee which is run by Keely Gott, a teacher in the district. Dave asked Nicole a question about the Fields Committee and has there been any meetings yet. Nicole said not at of yet. Dave said that he has been asked particularly about the soccer fields and how often are they used and who can use them. Dave said that he will reach out to Larry Averill for these answers.

Val said that one of the reasons she met about the CIP this week was they are looking for direction as to what is next and to discuss what we are going to do with the elementary school.

Heather – Meetings of teacher negotiations are taking place. Budget Committee had a meeting to set dates for budget meetings and this information has been forwarded to Bonnie as well as how the reports should look and their questions about the HVAC. Bonnie had the date of November 26th to have the budget to the Budget Committee but they need it on the 19th which is one week prior. The plan is to have the school present

to the Budget Committee on November 28th with follow ups or warrant articles on December 12th. If there are further warrant articles, they will be discussed on the 19th or on January 2nd, 2019. These are tentative dates. Dave Mylott wanted to remind the board that if there's a meeting where a member cannot attend, to please let him or the Superintendent know so that they will have a quorum.

Communication Website Committee – Site has gone live and the Blue Devils have not met yet, PTO has met and doing a Savers Drive to collect clothing and soft goods. They will also be having an online clothing sale and will be volunteering at the Haunted Acres.

Ben – No new technology meetings yet. The Elementary PTO was well attended. The Move-A-Thon is coming up soon and info will be sent home with students. The Monster Mash is scheduled for October. 26th.

Dave - Emergency Management Committee meeting is coming up the second week of October.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. Affiliated Agreements – Special Olympics.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the agreement as proposed. Seconded by Deb Brooks. VOTE: 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Minutes for September 6th, 2018.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 4-0-1. Nicole Carleton abstained from the vote.

b. Non-Public Minutes for September 6th, 2018.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the non-public minutes. Seconded by Deb Brooks. VOTE: 4-0-1. Nicole Carleton abstained from the vote.

MANIFEST

b. Payroll

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve payroll #6 in the amount of \$509,469.63. Seconded by member Deb Brooks. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

a. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #6 in the amount of \$670,124.14. Seconded by member Ben Leavitt. VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries.

COMMENTS/OTHER

Deb – Curious about Farm to Table flyer and if it was legitimate.

Nicole – Nothing.

Heather - Wanted to remind the public of the homecoming; football game on Friday night and Saturday morning the girls and boys soccer games against Raymond.

Ben – Talked with Bonnie about moving forward with the Bank of Montreal new P cards.

Dave – Public Hearing at the next meeting to accept a ten-thousand-dollar scholarship donation.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. October 4th, 2018 – 7:00 PM Public Hearing prior to the Regular School Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 pm the meeting adjourned.

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

Minutes submitted by,

Christine Cue
Acting School Board Secretary