

**MEETING MINUTES
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
November 2, 2017 – Town Hall
7:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

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

In attendance were: Chairperson David Mylott, Member Deborah Brooks, Member Heather Clark, Member Dan Haugh, Superintendent Valerie McKenney, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Student Member Rachel Martin

Absent: Member Nicole Carleton

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. EES update/Principal Justin Benna

Mr. Benna provided an update on the professional conversations, professional development, Third Grade Buddy Bench project, and the Assistant Principal search. He explained the problem with identifying students for Honor Roll at the end of the First Quarter. They will be holding off identifying students for Honor Roll until the end of the Second Quarter which will provide them with a holistic picture of the students. Mr. Benna spoke on Work Study practices, Powerschool, Assessment Literacy, Assessment Map Alignment, and MTSS. He gave a preview of some of the initial designs of the Buddy Bench and explained this item will be on the playground to help support kids who are struggling and need a friend. Mr. Benna gave an overview of the Assistant Principal search. They will have two candidates come in for their finalist visits. There were a total of 25 applicants for the position. He thanked Mrs. Milbury for her service and wished her the best of luck.

Chairperson David Mylott said this was an awesome presentation. He asked Mr. Benna how it went getting kids to school due to the disruption with the storm. Mr. Benna explained the transition back to school went as well as it could.

Member Heather Clark asked if there will be a celebration for Mrs. Milbury. Mr. Benna suggests that families check the "Cool News". There is an event scheduled next Thursday and the public is welcomed.

Member Heather Clark asked about the glitches to the "Cool News". Mr. Benna discussed the problems they had with it and there will be a bounce back message to let them know if the problem hasn't been fixed.

POLICY

a. JBAA – Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy/First Read

Member Deborah Brooks stated this was a policy that NHSBA had flagged. Everything they had recommended has been added to our policy. Chairperson David Mylott stated, in most cases, the changes were more of clarifications. Superintendent McKenney said NHSBA will continue to refine and design this policy. This is to ensure we are in alignment with their recommendations. Policy JBAA will go to a Second and Third Read.

- b. GBEF-R – Acceptable Internet Use Procedures – STAFF/Second & Third Read
- c. EF – Food Service Management/Second & Third Read
- d. JLCF – Wellness Policy/Second & Third Read

Chairperson David Mylott stated these policies all had minor changes to them which were talked about at the last meeting.

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to accept all three policies as presented. Seconded by Member Heather Clark.

Member Heather Clark referred to the Wellness Policy. She asked about specifying in the policy what acceptable snacks are that the school sells. Superintendent McKenney said Ronnie has to follow Federal guidelines on what she can and can't sell.

VOTE: 4-0 Motion passes

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- a. Superintendent Report

Superintendent McKenney provided information on how the storm affected school attendance. On October 31, 2017, they had 88 percent attendance. On November 1, 2017, they had 95 percent attendance.

Superintendent McKenney congratulated two School Board student members, Becky Milbury and Katie Pelletier, who are playing in the State semi-final soccer team game in Laconia today.

Superintendent McKenney said they have two outstanding candidates for the EES Assistant Principal position.

The School Board discussed the idea of Blizzard Bags. Superintendent McKenney does not recommend they pursue this option at this time. She stated if the School Board wants to pursue this, it needs to become a District goal. Chairperson David Mylott said he recalls the discussion they had two years ago and the pros and cons of it. If they wish to move forward with this, they should hold a public hearing.

Superintendent McKenney described what the Blizzard Bags are. She explained that in order for a Blizzard Bag day to qualify as a school day, 80% of the students need to participate. She also stated the work done by the students is at a different level of quality than the work they would do in the classroom.

Member Heather Clark doesn't think it will add to what the students are learning, generally speaking.

Chairperson David Mylott is concerned about the fact that it isn't the same quality of learning that they receive in the classroom, however, when they run out of school days they waive the requirement and at least with Blizzard Bag days, they are learning something.

Member Heather Clark stated we are requiring significantly more school days than what the State minimum requirement is. If we went with what the State requires, our students could get out of school in early June.

Chairperson David Mylott said we don't want to give our students a minimum education.

Member Deborah Brooks said what is being offered in our schools is better for a lot of students than what is happening at home.

Chairperson David Mylott stated he is not hearing a consensus from the School Board to pursue this at this time. They will look to bring this back next year to see if it is something they want to look into and, if so, he would like to bring the public in.

Member Dan Haugh asked what the faculty thinks about Blizzard Bag days. Superintendent McKenney explained a lot of prep work and correcting papers is required. If they want to bring this up again, it should be brought up in July because it would require a full day of prep.

Superintendent McKenney highlighted upcoming events.

b. Student Report

Rachel Martin gave an update. The High School play, "A Midsummer Nights' Dream", will be performed in the Middle School on November 3rd at 7:30 pm and November 4th at 3:00 pm. John Broderick gave his "Change Direction Campaign" presentation. It went very well and all the kids were wearing the bracelets that were handed out. The girl's semi-final soccer game is tonight. The football game will be held on Saturday. (Rachel Martin left the meeting at 7:40 pm)

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Ms. Sandstrom distributed the Budgetary Fund Balance Retention form and the DOE-25 form. She explained the amount to be retained would roll back into the fund balance if it did not get used. The unassigned fund balance from the MS-25 form is \$655,487.

Member Deborah Brooks questioned what the amount indicated in red was on the DOE-25 form. Ms. Sandstrom said she would look into it and get back to her.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept this as presented with \$150,000 voted from surplus, \$305,487 to reduce taxes, and \$200,000 to be retained. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 4-0 Motion passes

b. Police Department Memorandum of Understanding

Chairperson David Mylott explained this Memorandum of Understanding clarifies the roles of the School Resource Officer and School Administrators, the scope of their authority, and the responsibilities of the Epping School District and Epping Police Department in this collaboration. Chairperson David Mylott asked to do this update sooner in the year and again toward the end of the year for them to come in. Superintendent McKenney indicated they will have an SRO update on December 7, 2017.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Seconded by Member Dan Haugh. VOTE: 4-0 Motion passes

Bonnie Sandstrom referred to the DOE-25 form that has a figure highlighted in red. Member Deborah Brooks had questioned earlier what that figure was for and why was it highlighted. Bonnie Sandstrom said it is a credit for the prepaid lunches. This money is what is owed back to the parents.

PERSONNEL

Superintendent McKenney brought forward a retirement by Karen Page who has been with the District for 13 years.

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to accept the resignation with regret. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0 Motion passes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Public Minutes for October 19, 2017
- b. Non-Public Minutes for October 19, 2017
- c. Budget Work Session Minutes for October 24, 2017
- d. Budget Work Session Minutes for October 26, 2017

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Seconded by Member Heather Clark.

Member Heather Clark said since she arrived late to the October 19th meeting and didn't think she should be voting on the minutes. Chairperson David Mylott stated since there isn't a quorum tonight to vote on the public minutes for October 19, 2017 or the Budget Work Session minutes, approval of these minutes will be tabled to the next meeting. Member Deborah Brooks withdrew her motion.

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to accept the Non-Public minutes for October 19, 2017 as printed. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 4-0 motion passes

MANIFEST

a. Payroll

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve Payroll Manifest #9 in the amount of \$410,395.99. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE 4-0 motion passes

b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Manifest #9 in the amount of \$100,857.26. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 4-0 motion passes

COMMENTS/OTHER

a. School Board

Member Deborah Brooks said it was a shame they already had a no school day.

Member Heather Clark gave a shout out and thank you to the community for joining the Monster Mash and for their support of the elementary school and PTO. They did their first major fundraiser. The Move-A-Thon raised close to \$20,000 for the elementary school. She said the middle school PTO is hosting a Dodge Ball Tournament. She is excited about seeing the high school play "A Midsummer Nights' Dream" and commented this is a very student driven production.

Chairperson David Mylott referred to a letter they received from Sgt. Richard McFadden with the Epping Police Department regarding the D.A.R.E. program. They had brought in five newly trained D.A.R.E. officers to the Epping Elementary School. He recognized the entire fifth grade team of teachers. He appreciated everyone involved on behalf of the Northern New England D.A.R.E. training team.

Chairperson David Mylott said there were mixed feelings about the decision to return to school after only one day lost due to the storm. He said he personally feels the decision was well thought out and the schools were a safe environment for the students to return to. He recognized that some still are without power and mentioned the Town Safety Complex is available to the community. Chairperson David Mylott said the Third Grade field trip was a success.

b. Administration

Superintendent McKenney stated how hard this School Board is working on the budget and finding a balance between the needs of the students, District, and the community.

c. Public – no public input

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. November 16, 2017 – Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Heather Clark.

A tentative budget session is scheduled for November 7, 2017. The meeting will be posted.

VOTE: 4-0 Motion passes

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Linda Mahoney