

MEETING MINUTES
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
December 7, 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 Nicole Carleton, Member Dan Haugh, Superintendent Valerie McKenney, Business Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Student Member Katie Pelletier, Student Member Rachel Martin

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. School Resource Officer Update/Officer Russ Hero

Officer Hero is in his fourth year as the SRO. He said that everyone is working well and explained it is his goal to get more involved with the students and build a bond with them. He attended Nature's Classroom for the entire week this fall. He teaches the DARE program and is visible in the schools. He also will help the students with their work, if needed.

Member Deborah Brooks commended him on spending the week with the students at Nature's Classroom.

Member Heather Clark asked if there is anything he needs to do his job. Officer Hero said that everything is great. He said that he can call other School Resource Officers to ask questions if necessary and says he talks to quite a few of them.

Chairperson David Mylott questioned how he divides his time between the schools. Officer Hero said he tends to be more in the high school and middle school, however, he tries to equal it out. He said the communication is great between all three schools.

Chairperson David Mylott asked if he feels there has been improvement since he started. Officer Hero explained how it has definitely gotten better and indicated that our schools are very safe.

b. EHS Update/Principal Brian Ernest and EHS students

Principal Ernest presented an update on activities and events at Epping High School. The seniors held a Christmas Tree fundraiser for Project Graduation which raised over \$2,100.00. Recently, students had the opportunity to apply to in-state colleges and universities free of charge.

Ms. Closs presented the Challenge Day program along with freshman students who described their experience. They each spoke on how beneficial it was to them. Challenge Day is an

international organization based out of California that travels all over the world teaching students to look past the cliques and the stereotypes, and to see each other for who they really are.

Member Nicole Carleton asked if this is something they would like to bring back each year. Ms. Closs said it is something they would like to bring back each year because it is a worthwhile investment.

Katie Pelletier said the day was amazing and definitely feels it would be great to have a day like that for the other classes.

Rachel Martin thought it would be good to have it for the whole school. Ms. Closs explained the program is limited to 100 people. They choose the freshman class for this because it serves as a good reset for them coming into a new building.

Member Heather Clark asked about how this has helped bring awareness to mental health. The students said it has made them more aware of it.

Three teachers from the high school talked about the Special Olympics New Hampshire Youth Summit. It is their goal to become a Banner School.

Ms. Thompson did a presentation on Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing offered at the high school. Students spoke about this class and described items and products they designed and sold for profit. Proceeds can be reinvested in the class. Community members can participate in a series of "Make and Take" workshops held on Saturdays in the high school.

A robotics grant was received in the amount of \$6,500 from the Department of Education to support the first robotics program. Students spoke about the valuable skills they will learn with this. Epping High School has partnered with Bishop Guertin who will be providing support for the first year team.

Principal Ernest provided a list of upcoming events at the high school.

c. George Kimball/HVAC discussions and roof recommendations

Superintendent McKenney described the work accomplished by the Roof Committee. A decision was made for the short term solution and the work will be done over Christmas vacation.

Mr. Kimball reviewed the report prepared by Turner Building Science & Design. They discussed the options and estimated costs for the proposed systems at the elementary school. Option 1 is air conditioning with heating. Option 2 is air conditioning with conventional direct expansion cooling equipment.

Superintendent McKenney explained the numbers will be refined as time goes on. The cost for a Variable Refrigerant Flow System is \$1,284,650. The cost for a Conventional Air Conditioning System is \$1,417,656.

Mr. Kimball recommends Option 1 which is the variable refrigerant flow system.

Member Heather Clark asked what the cost is to bring in the crane. Mr. Kimball said it costs \$40,000 each time they bring in the crane.

Chairperson David Mylott explained they will need to know what the fuel savings will be to us. Mr. Kimball said he could have them figure that out.

Superintendent McKenney is looking for a consensus on whether they want to go with a warrant article for the roof or for the HVAC.

Member Heather Clark said there are additional numbers they need in order to bring this forward to the community. She said the HVAC system needs to be resolved; she just wants more information for the community.

Chairperson David Mylott asked what the bond percentage would be on a \$1,000,000 bond.

Superintendent McKenney suggested earmarking \$200,000, if possible, for the roof in the spring of 2018 as a new roof is needed at EES.

Superintendent McKenney asked what band aid things will we need to be done to the HVAC system if we don't do something this year. Mr. Kimball explained it is hard to say. The system could last longer.

Member Deborah Brooks would like Bonnie Sandstrom to research the percent on bonds and for Mr. Kimball to find out what we might be saving in electricity and oil if we go with this system. Mr. Kimball will try to get this information in time for the next meeting.

Member Nicole Carleton asked Mr. Kimball to explain why the HVAC is needed. Mr. Kimball explained and described the benefits. He said it would solve all our temperature control issues.

Chairperson David Mylott wants to know what the percentage on the bond would be and what the estimated annual cost for a bond would be.

Mr. Kimball said he will look into asking the engineering company to compare savings with a new system.

Member Deborah Brooks asked why the annual maintenance fee is \$15,000 more than for the conventional system. Mr. Kimball explained because it involves more equipment.

Chairperson David Mylott asked the board members to give this some thought over the next couple of days and to email any additional questions to Bonnie Sandstrom.

Chairperson David Mylott said we don't have consensus of what to do with the roof. He isn't ready to put it in a warrant. He stated that perhaps we can agree on making the warrant article for the capital reserve to be \$200,000 with the intention to have it reserved for the roof. We

could then have this discussion throughout the year and decide which plan to go with for next year.

Chairperson Mylott said it is the consensus of the Board that \$200,000 is a reasonable number for the Capital Reserve Fund for the warrant article. He said the roof and HVAC system will go past this election cycle.

d. Student Report

Rachel Martin described some fundraising events at the high school. They will be selling water bottles, the junior class will be doing a Taco Bell Tuesday, and they are having an aluminum fundraiser. She said this was Game Night at the middle and high school. They had Challenge Day at the high school. Mr. Broderick came in to speak to the 8th Graders.

Katie Pelletier said winter sports are starting up and provided an update on the games. (Rachel and Katie left the meeting at 9:15 pm)

POLICY

Member Deborah Brooks presented the following policies with recommended changes from the NHSBA. The Board reviewed the policies.

- a. Policy BEDB – Agenda Preparation and Dissemination/First Read
- b. Policy BEDG – Minutes/First Read
- c. BEDG-R – Access to Minutes and Public Records/First Read

Policy BEDG, BEDG, and BEDG-R will go to a second/third read.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

a. Superintendent Report

Superintendent McKenney informed the Board that starting with the first meeting in January, she will spend five minutes each meeting to present an aspect of Competency Based Education (CBE) to the School Board and to the Epping community. They are working hard to involve the students with whatever changes are made within our schools.

b. Robotics Grant of \$6,500

Thelma Thompson was thanked for her continued efforts in bringing technology to the Epping School District through state grants. This grant of \$6,500 will allow Epping High School to begin the process of developing a robotics program.

Member Heather Clark made a motion to accept the grant for \$6,500 for the first robotics group. Seconded by Member David Haugh. VOTE: 5-0 motion passes

FINANCIAL REPORT

a. Grant Charitable Trust

A \$1,000 donation to the Epping Elementary School was made by H.A. & I.B. Charitable Trust. Superintendent McKenney sent them a letter thanking them on behalf of the students and staff at Epping Elementary School.

PERSONNEL

a. Nomination

Superintendent McKenney nominates Alyssa Gagnon for the District Speech and Language position.

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve the nomination of Alyssa Gagnon as our District Speech and Language. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0 motion passes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Non-Public Budget Review Session minutes for November 16, 2017
- b. Public Minutes for November 16, 2017
- c. Public Roof Minutes for December 1, 2017
- d. Budget Review Session Minutes for December 6, 2017

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the non-public budget review session minutes for November 16, 2017. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 4-0-1 (Mylott abstained) Motion passes

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the public minutes for November 16, 2017 with two corrections. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 4-0-1 (Mylott abstained) Motion passes

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve the public roof minutes for December 1, 2017. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 3-0-2 (Clark, Haugh abstained) Motion passes

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve the budget review session minutes for December 6, 2017. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0 motion passes

MANIFEST

a. Payroll

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve payroll manifest #11 in the amount of \$345,649.87. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #11 in the amount of \$119,653.94. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve accounts payable manifest #12 in the amount of \$430,258.83. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

COMMENTS

a. School Board

Member Deborah Brooks stated the Epping Lions Club held vision testing for the elementary school and for Grades 6, 7, 8, and 10. She commented on how polite the students were. She met with SST and said there was a lot of discussion about the YMCA putting in a swimming facility so close to them. The YMCA has taken that off the docket. Their enrollment is down a little bit which affects Epping's tuition rate. We send 54 students from Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Member Nicole Carleton commented on how students can leave SST with 12 to 16 college credits. She commented how exciting it is to see all the stuff going on in our schools.

Member Heather Clark said that she attended Family Craft Night at the elementary school along with some other board members. She thanked Superintendent McKenney for having former Chief Justice John Broderick come back to speak to the 8th graders.

Chairperson David Mylott thanked all the guests who attended the meeting tonight. There are lots of things going on in the schools this time of year. He thanked Bonnie Sandstrom and Superintendent McKenney for their work on the budget. He said the Budget Committee was receptive and thought they did a good job preparing it.

b. Administration

Superintendent McKenney thanked the School Board for their work on the budget.

c. Public

Ben Leavitt commended the Lions Club for the eye exams. He didn't know they were doing that and wondered how people were notified. Member Deborah Brooks said the school nurse sends out the notice. He complimented the board members for their conversation and consideration on the roof and HVAC.

Member Deborah Brooks indicated there are two very important people coming in for the next meeting on December 21, 2017 and asked if one of them can be postponed to a January date. Superintendent McKenney said that won't be a problem.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. December 21, 2017 – Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Member Heather Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Linda Mahoney