

**MEETING MINUTES
EPPING SCHOOL BOARD
February 15, 2018 – 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 Rebecca Milbury, Student Member Katie Pelletier, Student Member Rachel Martin

SCHEDULED GUESTS

a. Epping Elementary School Principal Justin Benna, School Update

Principal Benna provided an update on the events and activities at the elementary school and upcoming special events. Elementary students performed a rain cloud experiment with the members of the School Board.

b. Karen McCallion/Galapagos Islands Trip

Ms. McCallion, 9th grade Science Teacher, provided a detailed overview of this trip that is planned for 2019. This is a nine day trip and is being organized through the Education First Company. There are 20 interested students from Grade 9 through Grade 12. They have four chaperones and four volunteer adult travelers. There will be fundraising planned. This trip is all inclusive. The highest number of students she would want would be 24 students.

Chairperson David Mylott asked about a cap and if she is concerned about turning students away. She stated she has a cutoff date to sign up and if more students sign up, it would become a chaperone issue. Chairperson David Mylott asked about insurance and was told the company has a \$10 million insurance policy.

Member Deborah Brooks spoke in favor of this experience that is being offered for the students.

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve the Galapagos Trip under the leadership of Ms. McCallion. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

c. Auditors to review 2016-2017 Audit Report

The School Board reviewed the Plodzik & Sanderson Audit Report.

Chairperson David Mylott asked if he had any recommendations on things we should do better or do differently. The only thing they would suggest is to stay on top of policies because sometime they fall out of relevance.

d. Student Report

Katie Pelletier said the girls' basketball team is going to the playoffs. The senior boys' basketball has a home game next week. Rebecca Martel stated the open campus is going well. Rachel Martin said tomorrow is the first Valentine's Day dance. The junior class is putting on a Movie Night. They will have a Taco Bell Tuesday.

POLICY

a. EBCA – Crisis Management/Second/Third Read

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve policy EBCA – Crisis Management. Seconded by Member Nicole Carleton. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

b. EH – Data Management/Second/Third Read

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve Policy EH – Data Management. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0 Motion passes

c. IHAM – Health Education and Exemption from Instruction/First Read

Member Deborah Brooks presented this policy and described some recommended changes. The School Board had some discussion on this policy. This policy will go to a second/third read

d. IHAM-R – Health and Sex Education Exemption/Objectionable Course Material: Opt Out Form /First Read

Member Deborah Brooks said we made a form so it complies with NHSBA and gives the parents a form to sign and return to school. This gives them consistency in the forms they use. The board members discussed this. They agreed to change the verbiage "6-12" and amend it to read "K-12". This policy will go to a second/third read.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

a. 2018-2019 School Year Calendar

Superintendent McKenney presented two proposed changes to the school year calendar. The first proposed change is to start school prior to Labor Day and she provided her rationale for this. Member Deborah Brooks spoke in favor of this, stating it would get students and staff out earlier in June and it would be advantageous educationally for all kids.

Member Heather Clark said she doesn't see the need to make this change. She explained students attend school longer than what is required by the State.

Superintendent McKenney explained the union is not in support of starting before Labor Day. There could be a contractual issue.

Member Dan Haugh said it doesn't matter when you tell the kids when the last day will be, they will 'check out' 15 days prior to that. They need to consider vacation planning for this year. There has to be a higher majority in support of this to change it.

Member Nicole Carleton said it doesn't matter to her either way. However, she has heard from staff and community members this isn't something they want.

Chairperson David Mylott said the SST calendar and ours has always been different. This year Labor Day is on the third and that doesn't make a lot of sense to do it this year. He doesn't see strong parental support to make this change.

A middle school teacher spoke in opposition of this. She said it is almost March and to make a decision for this fall is difficult. She did an informal poll of staff and only 9% of staff wanted to start prior to Labor Day.

A parent in the audience spoke in favor of it. He cited it is difficult to find daycare at the end of August when college students are going back to school. He would rather start school before Labor Day.

Ben Leavitt shared similar thoughts.

A parent addressed the Board and is in favor of starting after Labor Day. She said a lot of parents and students would rather start after Labor Day. She spoke in favor of Blizzard Bags.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board not to make any changes for this year but would like to discuss this again in the fall for the following year.

Superintendent McKenney explained the second proposed change is adding five early release (ER) days to the 18-19 school calendar. The union is in favor of it. She provided her rationale for this. The School Board discussed this issue with members of the public.

Member Heather Clark believes Early Release days are challenging for the parents. She would prefer to see full professional development (PD) days.

Chairperson David Mylott supports more PD days.

Member Dan Haugh believes the Early Release days are too sporadic on the calendar. It makes it difficult for parents. He would rather see them scheduled on the same day of a week.

Member Deborah Brooks believes a full day of PD is a lot for teachers. She doesn't want to work against parents, but she supports half days of PD for teachers.

Superintendent McKenney said they plan very good PD days.

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to add five ER days for the purpose of staff professional days in next year's calendar. Seconded by Nicole Carleton.

Member Dan Haugh suggests scheduling ER days on a Wednesday in order to be consistent and easier for parents to plan. Superintendent McKenney said she could do that.

Member David Mylott doesn't believe the additional ER days are good. He recommends going with what we currently have agreed to. He would rather discuss and work this out during negotiations next year.

VOTE: 4-1-0 (Mylott opposed)

b. Superintendent Report

Superintendent McKenney reviewed the Two-Year Progress Report of Epping Middle and High School from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). They continued the schools' accreditation.

Superintendent McKenney provided a competency update. She is working with ETV to create a folder of competency information. A short video was played. She distributed assessments to each Board member so they can see how different the case assessments are from what they would have had when they were in school.

Superintendent McKenney announced some upcoming school events.

c. Committee updates and reports

Member Heather Clark said th Paraprofessional contract is on the warrant Article. There are a number of articles and asked everyone to get out to vote in March. The next Life of a Blue Devil meeting is scheduled for early April.

Bonnie Sandstrom said there was some good conversation about safety issues that are being worked on with the Safety Committee.

Superintendent McKenney will meet with the Fire Chief and Police Chief regarding putting together a town safety night after vacation.

Member Deborah Brooks attended the Delegate Assembly and commented on how there were some great sessions and presentations. She was not able to attend the last SST meeting but has the minutes from that meeting.

Member Heather Clark updated the Board with events planned by the PTO. The Elementary School is planning a Growth Mindset workshop for parents. The Middle School PTO is trying to grow and develop and said they are meeting next Tuesday.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS & DISTRICT SERVICES

a. February Financial Report

Bonnie Sandstrom reviewed her financial report. She provided her responses to the auditor's findings. The auditors are indicating that School Board members should be approving the payroll manifest before checks are released. It would be possible to email the payroll manifest to two School Board members and have them look at it electronically and respond that it is okay to release the checks. The Board was in support of this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Public Minutes for January 18, 2018
- b. Non-Public Minutes for January 18, 2018

Member Deborah Brooks made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes for January 18, 2018 as written. Seconded by Nicole Carleton VOTE: 5-0

- c. February 8, 2018 Deliberative Session Minutes – tabled to next meeting

MANIFESTS

- a. Payroll

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Payroll Manifest #15 in the amount of \$479,678.33. Seconded by Member Dan Haugh. VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passes

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Payroll Manifest #16 in the amount of \$360,087.41. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passes

- b. Accounts Payable

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Accounts Payable #16 in the amount of \$585,604.02. Seconded by Member Deborah Brooks. VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passes

Member Heather Clark made a motion to approve Accounts Payable #17 in the amount of \$183,009.07. Seconded by Member Dan Haugh. VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passes

COMMENTS/OTHER

Member Dan Haugh said it has come to his attention over the last few weeks there is a disconnect with regard to our athletic and recreation programs. It is difficult for the Epping Youth Association and Rec Dept. to utilize our facilities at any of the schools. It is causing our kids to go to other communities who offer camps and sports. He urges the School Board to get these people together and find some common ground.

Superintendent McKenney said this is the first she has heard of this.

She stated it would be helpful whoever those people are who are not having their needs met to email or call her. She asked him to email her the names of those people and key players.

She would like to get them together to discuss the problems and come up with a plan to solve them.

Member Heather Clark announced Candidates Night on February 21, 2018.

Member David Mylott said Deliberative Session was good. He urged the community to come out and vote in March.

Ben Leavitt asked where the school board warrants are located. Bonnie Sandstrom said they are on the website. He asked where the Capital Improvement Plan is located. Bonnie Sandstrom said it is located under Facilities. He was told the Auditors Report will be available on the website.

NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

a. March 1, 2018 – Regular School Board meeting

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Linda Mahoney
Recording Secretary