

Essex Westford School District Board Meeting

January 25, 2022, 6:30-9:30pm | Essex High School Library



MINUTES

Board Members: (Virtual) Jack Behlendorf, Erin Kenndy Knox, Diane Clemens, Robert Carpenter, Iris Hsiang (Student Representative), Maddie Ahmadi (Student Representative), Al Bombardier, Scott Cooledge, Scott Brown, Brendan Kinney, Andre Roy, Elizabeth Cady

Staff: Beth Cobb (Superintendent), Brian Donahue (COO), Santina Leporati (Board Minute Secretary), Don Van Nostrand (EHS Co-Principal), Peter Drescher (Director of Technology & Innovation), Heather Bushey (Director of Finance)

Public: (Virtual) Cole Picard, Darryl, Geoff Kahlo, Jeff Caulo, Laura Taylor, Lynn Smith, Marlon Verasamy, Sandra Chittenden,

Other: Media Factory

Item	Topic
I	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Board meetings are public meetings, but they are not a meeting of the public</p> <p><i>Erin Knox called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.</i></p> <p><i>Erin read VT House Resolution H.C.R. 86 the House concurrent resolution designating January 2022 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.</i></p> <p><i>Erin thanked fellow board members for their service and contribution of time to the district.</i></p> <p><i>Beth thanked the board for all of their help these past two years through COVID.</i></p>
II	<p>Comments from the public</p> <p><i>Lynn Smith: Commented about Student representative report made at January 18th Meeting. Said that Maddie made a statement that she would be selecting her replacement. Upset that a student representative would be able to appoint their replacement without an election. Suggested teaching students about running a campaign, giving the opportunity to all students. Stated that this is not an equitable system and asked to please make it part of the board agenda to draft guidelines for electing student representatives. Suggested that the guidelines should be the same guidelines as all board members.</i></p> <p><i>Beth Replied that there is an application process, which was sent to Mrs. Smith. Iris is the one leaving, she is a senior, not Maddie.</i></p>
III	<p>Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY23 Draft Budget Overview ● Line Item Detail Review ● Projected Tax Impact <p><i>Brian Donahue presented the Administration Recommended FY23 Budget- Link to Presentation</i></p> <p><i>Discussed the budget timeline and process since Oct. 2021. Each month pieces of the budget have been presented. Covered: Enrollment projections, expected teacher staffing, surplus revenue, equalized pupil count, the Tax Commissioner's letter, merger incentive, common level of appraisal (CLA), tax rate calculation, statewide forecasted comparison, tax rates over time, EWSD and CTE general fund.</i></p> <p>Board Discussion - There was discussion as the board asked clarifying questions.</p> <p><i>Erin thanked Brian and everyone for their work on this.</i></p> <p><i>Erin discussed the board engagement meetings, we have the agenda's set for those.</i></p>

All minutes are unapproved drafts until accepted at the following board meeting.

Watch EWSD School Board Meetings at <https://www.mediafactory.org/ewsd>

	<p><i>Here are the board members that will be in attendance for the Budget Committee on those days:</i></p> <p><i>Budget Committee for Jan 29th:</i></p> <p><i>Jack</i> <i>Robert</i> <i>Scott C</i> <i>Diane</i> <i>Scott B</i></p> <p><i>Budget committee for Feb 3rd:</i></p> <p><i>Liz</i> <i>Brendan</i> <i>Jack</i> <i>Robert</i> <i>Andre</i> <i>Al</i> <i>Iris</i> <i>Maddie</i></p>
<p>IV</p>	<p>Adjourn <i>Adjourned meeting at 8:21pm.</i></p>

Next Regular School Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 1, 2022, EHS Library, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.