

**HOLLIS SCHOOL BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2021
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Hollis School Board was conducted on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:45 p.m.

Robert Mann, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present: Tammy Fareed, Vice Chairman
 Brooke Arthur, Secretary
 Amy Kellner
 Carryl Roy

Members of the Board Absent:

Also Participating: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
 Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
 Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
 Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
 Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator
 Drew Mason, Moderator, Hollis School District

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with Governor Sununu's [Emergency Order #12](#) pursuant to [Executive Order 2020-04](#), this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

As stated on the agenda, the meeting was aired live via Zoom. Telephone access was available for members of the public wishing to provide comment; 1-929-205-6099 (Meeting ID: 912 3603 0694 /Passcode 534612).

Each member of the Board was asked to state, for the record, where they were, why their attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the proceedings.

Vice Chairman Fareed

Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Member Kellner

Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Member Roy

Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Member Arthur

Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Chairman Mann

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and he could hear the proceedings.

The Board was reminded all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - None

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding taking a position on the Warrant Articles

Article 1

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hollis School Board and the Hollis Education Support Staff Association for the 2021-22 school year, which calls for the following increases in support staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Estimated Increase</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2021-22 | \$55,034 |

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,034 for the fiscal year, such sum representing the negotiated increase over the 2020-21 salaries and fringe benefits.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 1, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Article 2

Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$594,122** as the Hollis School District's portion of the SAU budget of **\$1,953,257** for the forthcoming fiscal year? This year's adjusted budget of **\$1,922,864** with **\$584,877** assigned to the school budget of this school district will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 2, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann
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Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Article 3

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$23,970** to be added to the previously established MAINTENANCE FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES at 4 Lund Lane in Hollis, Map 56, Lot 2. This amount to come from the unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year. This amount represents rental proceeds and unexpended maintenance funds to be received from SAU 41.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 3, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann
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Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Article 4

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$120,000** to be added to the previously established SCHOOL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE FUND from the Hollis School District's June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 4, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann
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Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Article 5

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$25,000** to be added to the previously established Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. The sum to come from the Hollis School District's June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 5, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Fareed stated concern with the small size of the requested allocation, and asked if it would be sufficient. Superintendent Corey remarked as it continues to grow, it is sufficient. The Hollis School District is fortunate to have a Contingency Fund as well as an Unassigned Fund Balance, which could be looked to, if needed. The high cost that can be associated with an out-of-district placement is understood, however, he believes this small methodical method has gotten the district into a very good place in both the COOP and Brookline districts, and the Hollis district is quickly getting there as well.

Asked about the current balance, Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator, stated it to be \$50,000. Asked to clarify the process for accessing those funds, Ms. Seeley stated the need for a public hearing to be conducted followed by a vote of the Board. There is also the need for discretion around the purpose given the nature of the fund.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Article 6

To see if the School District will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$95,000** to go into the fund. This sum to be raised by taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 6, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Article 7

Shall the school district accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 7, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated Article 7 is new language approved by legal counsel to give the Board more flexibility.

Ms. Seeley noted legal counsel has advised Article 8 is not necessary. She anticipates there will be a suggestion to remove the article.

Vice Chairman Fareed questioned if Article 8 would not be needed should Article 7 fail to pass. Ms. Seeley responded that is what legal counsel has indicated, based on the existence of State statute, which permits the district to apply for, accept, and expend future year state and federal special education aid funds.

Member Arthur questioned if there is existing policy around the types of private sources funds can be accepted from. Superintendent Corey noted, based on existing policy, donations offered must be brought to the Board for acceptance. Asked specifically if there is a policy identifying the types of organizations the district would accept funds from, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the policy identifies that, at a certain dollar value, a donation must be brought before the Board for acceptance.

Drew Mason, Moderator, noted the order of the articles can be amended after the public hearing, any time up until the time the warrant is posted.

Vice Chairman Fareed stated policy [KCD](#) – Public Donations to Schools, has language concerning gifts and contributions. It addresses part of the question raised by Member Arthur. It does not appear to have language around restrictions.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

Article 8 - (Contingent Article)

If Article 7 passes, this article is unnecessary: to see if the School District voters will authorize the Hollis School District to access future year state and federal special education aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 8, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Mann asked if the public hearing would be the appropriate forum to remove the article, should such a request be made.

Moderator Mason stated an article could be removed from the warrant (other than petition warrant articles) any time, up until when it is posted.

Chairman Mann questioned if there are any concerns from the Board or Administration should the article be removed. Member Roy questioned if there is any harm in it remaining, and was told there is not.

Because it is addressed in State RSA, regardless of the outcome of a vote on this article, the district has the authority to accept such funds.

Vice Chairman Fareed questioned if the other districts continue to put forth the language of this article. Ms. Seeley stated they do, but only because the legal opinion was received after their public hearings had taken place. However, their warrants have not yet been posted, and could be amended if the boards so desired.

Vice Chairman Fareed suggested, as it appears on the draft, it may be valuable to illustrate to the public that there are RSAs that govern even this kind of minutia, and we are subject to them. The article could remain on the warrant and an explanation provided that this is the last year this article will appear.

Superintendent Corey recommended the Board take a position on the article, have a discussion with the Budget Committee, and decide whether or not the article should remain on the warrant, prior to posting.

Member Roy requested clarification on the language “future year state and federal special education aid funds” commenting that differs from accessing something that is available currently under State RSA (Article 7).

Superintendent Corey noted Article 7 would authorize the Board to “apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year.” Whereas Article 8 is the language previously required for the authority to access future year state and federal special education aid funds only.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

Article 9

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$13,826,368** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 9, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Mann spoke of the work that goes into the budget preparation, e.g., the various rounds of discussion and public input. He commented on the collaboration between the staff, Board, and Budget Committee to get to a point of achieving a budget to put before the voters.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

Article 10

To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 10, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Mann stated the previous Moderator brought forward the suggestion of changing the term of the Moderator from 1 to 3 years. He believes any kind of business in that area would be appropriate under this article.

Superintendent Corey stated that could be reviewed when reaching that point in the Annual Meeting.

Asked for his opinion of the pros and cons of extending the length of the term, Moderator Mason stated he and the former Moderator have different views on this. He has concerns. At this point, as far as he knows, no one filed for office for the coming year. Brookline doesn't have a District Moderator either. He views the one-year term as a way to entice someone to try it. If you had a stable individual in the position, 3 years would make sense. It is not a position that has a lot of competition, therefore, running every year is not a big deal.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO RECESS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC
HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FY22 BUDGET
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER KELLNER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

The Board recessed at 6:23 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER ROY TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER FAREED

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Amy Kellner, Carryl Roy, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

The February 9, 2021 meeting of the Hollis School Board was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Date _____

Signed _____