

1 **HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD**
2 **PUBLIC HEARING**
3 **FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

4
5 **MEETING MINUTES**
6

7 A Public Hearing was conducted by the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board on Monday, February
8 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy Library.

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10 Chairman, Holly Deurloo Babcock, presided:

11
12 Members of the Board present: Beth Janine Williams, Secretary
13 Cindy VanCoughnett
14

15 Members of the Board Absent: Tom Solon, Vice Chairman
16 Elizabeth Brown
17 Melanie Levesque
18 Krista Whalen
19

20 Also in Attendance: Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
21

22
23 **PUBLIC HEARING**
24

25 **PETITION WARRANT ARTICLES**
26

27 Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, explained the purpose of the Public Hearing
28 was to review and gather public input on petition warrant articles that will appear on this year's ballot.
29

30 **Petition Warrant Article 1**
31

32 "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues
33 before the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District on the second Tuesday of March?"
34

35 ***Chairman Deurloo Babcock opened the public comment period at 6:32 p.m.***
36

37 Webb Scales, 49 Dupaw Gould Road, Brookline
38

39 Asked if the Annual Meeting will include a presentation by the individual(s) who submitted the Petition
40 Warrant Articles.
41

42 Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated she is unaware of whether or not a presentation will be made.
43

44 Denise Bechis, 39 Pepperell Road, Brookline
45

46 Spoke of the need for more residents to participate in these events.
47

48 ***The public comment period was closed at 6:34 p.m.***

1 **Petition Warrant Article 2**

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3 “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or
4 budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local
5 taxes, based on the prior fiscal year’s actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 2%?”
6

7 ***Chairman Deurloo Babcock opened the public comment period at 6:35 p.m.***

8
9 Denise Bechis, 39 Pepperell Road, Brookline

10
11 Questioned what happens if a budget is submitted that is higher than the tax cap.

12
13 Webb Scales, 49 Dupaw Gould Road, Brookline

14
15 Statutorily, the Board or Budget Committee would be required to submit a budget that is within the cap.

16
17 While the Board and Budget Committee would be required to adhere to the tax cap, the legislative body
18 would not. The legislative body (voters) could change it up or down by 10%. This essentially would result
19 in the Budget Committee developing 2 budgets; one would meet the requirements of the cap, and the other
20 would be the one considered by the legislative body.

21
22 Denise Bechis, 39 Pepperell Road, Brookline

23
24 Questioned the increase when comparing the proposed FY21 budget to the FY20 budget.

25
26 Chairman Deurloo Babcock responded the increase is 1.9%. A tax cap could handcuff the Board when
27 certain fixed costs increase.

28
29 ***The public comment period was closed at 6:41 p.m.***

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31 The Public Hearing was declared closed at 6:41 p.m.

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35 Date: _____

Signed: _____

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