

HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

MAY 13, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School Library.

Holly Deurloo Babcock, Chairman, presided:

Board Members Participating: Tom Solon, Vice Chairman
Kate Stoll, Secretary
Elizabeth Brown
Cindy VanCoughnett (participation began at 7:06 p.m.)
Krista Whalen
Beth Janine Williams

Members of the Board Absent:

Also Participating: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
Linda Sherwood, Assistant Business Administrator
Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School
Tim Girzone, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School
Brian Bumpus, District Athletic Coordinator
Mary Martin, Student Body President
James O'Shaughnessy, Esq., Drummond Woodsum
Drew Mason, Moderator

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.

Board members and members of the Administration were participating via Zoom. 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 Solon

Stated he was participating electronically from home, his 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.

Member Stoll

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

Member Whalen

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

Member Williams

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

Member Brown

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

Chairman Deurloo Babcock

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

It was acknowledged all members participating electronically could be heard. The Board was reminded all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Under the heading of discussion, the Board will request the District Moderator, Drew Mason, participate in a discussion of the Annual Meeting.

There being no objection, the agenda was adjusted as requested.

PUBLIC INPUT

Eric Pauer, 12 Westview Drive, Brookline

Commented on financial difficulties community members are experiencing as a result of the pandemic, and the hope there will be means of achieving savings that can be passed on to taxpayers.

He spoke of the job opening for Bass fishing commenting he was unaware that had been added to the District.

Brian Bumpus, District Athletic Coordinator, stated the District has officially had a Bass fishing team for about 3 years now; started off as a club team. The NHIAA started off as a pilot program that the District jumped on board with. This past fall was the 3rd official season as a program.

Member VanCoughnett

Stated she was participating electronically from home, her 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.

NOMINATIONS/RESIGNATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Corey informed the Board the Organizational Meeting of the SAU41 Governing Board has been postponed until the June timeframe. The Governing Board meeting, typically held this time of year, also addresses issues such as salaries of SAU personnel. As the COOP Annual Meeting has not yet been able to be conducted, there is no official budget for the SAU. Once the date of the COOP Annual Meeting is set, a date for the next Governing Board meeting will be identified.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Spec. District Mtg.** [January 29, 2020](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER WHALEN TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Krista Whalen
6
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Jt. With Budget Committee.** [February 5, 2020](#)

The following amendment was offered;

Page 2, Line 6; delete the line in its entirety.

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Cindy VanCoughnett, Krista Whalen
5
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Members Brown and Stoll Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [February 12, 2020](#)

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 4, Line 21; delete “one” before “CavBlock”
- Page 5, Line 19; correct the spelling of “first”
- Page 8, Line 20; replace “voting” with “voted”
- Page 15, Line 15; replace “it” with “is” following “understand what”
- Page 15, Line 21; replace “Associating” with ‘Association”

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Krista Whalen

6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Non-Public** [February 12, 2020](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Krista Whalen

6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Public Hearing** [February 17, 2020](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Beth Janine Williams, Cindy VanCoughnett

3

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Members Solon, Brown, Whalen, and Stoll Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Public Hearing** [February 18, 2020](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Krista Whalen 2
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Members Solon, Williams, Brown, VanCoughnett and Stoll Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [March 17, 2020](#)

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Non-Public** [March 17, 2020](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AND THOSE OF THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION CONDUCTED ON MARCH 17, 2020, AS
PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SOLON**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Kate Stoll,
Cindy VanCoughnett, Krista Whalen 7
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [April 1, 2020](#)

The following amendments were offered:

Page 5, Line 10; replace “N68” with “End 68”

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [April 29, 2020](#)

The following amendments were offered:

Page 5, Line 1; replace “continued” with “continue”
Page 5, Line 20; end the sentence following “environment”

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF APRIL
1, 2020 AND APRIL 29, 2020, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Kate Stoll,
Cindy VanCoughnett, Krista Whalen

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS), commented on the offerings that continue to be put out for students, e.g., Senior Zoom Celebration for college acceptances and future plans. He spoke of the delivery of over 150 lawn signs to families of graduates. The Student Council put together a video for Teacher Appreciation Week, which was a huge home run for staff.

Mary Martin, Student Body President, commented on the week being AP Exam week, and expressed gratitude to the teachers for their support.

Tim Girzone, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School (HBMS), commented on Teacher Appreciation Week, which was very well received.

The PTSA purchased gift cards for staff, which will be mailed. The end of year celebrations continue for academic and non-academic awards. The PTSA is purchasing HB24 t-shirts for 8th grade students to move on to the high school with.

Brian Bumpus, District Athletic Coordinator, commented the HP Open fitness competition is going well with a great deal of participation by staff and students from both the high school and middle school as well as staff members from the elementary schools. Principal Girzone put in one of the top times this past week.

With regard to the turf field, the scoreboard has been ordered as part of the funds approved through the bond. The gate at the bottom of the driveway has been installed. Quirk Construction has been out doing touch-up work.

Bids were solicited for elevated, ADA compliant bleachers that will seat approx. 1,000, and have a built in press box. Two proposals were received for new bleachers (installed). The lower of the two bids came in at approx. \$360,000 and the other \$460,000. The 3rd quote, from Bleacher Builders, was for a used set of bleachers. Bleacher Builders tears down bleachers others no longer need and recycles the usable pieces to custom build bleachers. The quote was for \$105,000. The District is confident those funds can be achieved through donations.

Asked about public use of fields during the shutdown, Mr. Bumpus stated fields can be used; no groups larger than 10.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if specifications were provided on load rating for the different proposals noting the different materials cited. Mr. Bumpus stated there were not.

At this time, the desire is to address the cost of the bleachers. The quoted price of \$105,000 does not include a press box (quoted separately; \$17,000). That does not include foundation work (pouring concrete pad for bleachers to sit on) that needs to be done, and there is not yet a definitive price. Superintendent Corey stated the request, at this time, is for Board approval to move forward with the purchase of the bleachers, which would be

funded through a donation from HB Elevates. The Booster Club has earmarked approx. \$40,000 to put towards the turf project. Those funds would be utilized to cover the cost of the press box. Funds remaining would be utilized for other aspects of the field, and could address unanticipated costs.

If moving forward with the lights, as a means of cost savings, the District would utilize Quirk Construction to do the concrete pad work while onsite pouring concrete for the lighting. Funding would be through donations. There would be no expense to taxpayers for the bleachers or the press box.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock clarified the Board would be approving the potential of having bleachers on property. HB Elevates would have to decide to donate the funding to the project. Superintendent Corey stated HB Elevates has discussed and supported the bleachers and lights. They have not formally voted for the expense as the first group the expense is shared with is the School Board. Once a final choice is made by the Board, a meeting will be arranged so that the HB Elevates board can take a position and authorize their Treasurer to release a check to the School District. Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned if the School Board would then have to accept the donation. Superintendent Corey recommended the Board, within its motion this evening, accept the donation.

COOP Annual Meeting

Chairman Deurloo Babcock commented on discussions that have taken place relative to a postponement of the COOP District meeting currently scheduled for May 26th and 27th. One of the ideas brought forward is postponing the meeting until after May 31st, and holding the meeting on a Saturday in an outdoor setting that meets social distancing guidelines.

One idea is a parking lot meeting, which would require everyone to be in their cars. That is challenging as we do not have a parking lot large enough. Another potential is a drive-thru vote, which is also logistically complicated.

With the loosening of the stay at home order, it is believed the outdoor meeting may be a viable option. The Superintendent has had discussions with the DHHS and discussed social distancing guidelines. There are recommendations from the State on that.

The decision to postpone is that of the Moderator. However, the desire was for the Board to weigh in and provide guidance.

Drew Mason, Moderator, spoke of having looked at a lot of options. An outdoor traditional annual meeting is the leading contender. Other options considered were an indoor traditional meeting, a parking lot meeting, and a Zoom meeting. Every one of those options has enormous logistical issues from the prospect of running the meeting. Having talked to a number of those who would be involved in the running of the meeting, there is quite strong feeling that (outside of a Zoom meeting) none of these would be safe.

There could be a Zoom meeting that resembled an SB2 deliberative session and a parking lot drive-thru vote. The question of whether that would be legal was asked, and counsel has indicated it is. There are questions around safety, which is arguable, and whether people will feel safe. Mr. Mason stated the majority of those he has spoken with who would have to interact with voters and ballots do not feel that either form of traditional meeting would make them feel safe, and, therefore, they would choose not to participate. Asked what the options are, he suggested the District could consider a Zoom meeting. He stated his belief the Governor has given school districts some form of option with a default budget. That does not require a meeting at all; could postpone everything until next March.

James O'Shaughnessy, Esq., Drummond Woodsum, asked what specifically is being referenced in terms of a default budget. He spoke of being familiar with [Emergency Order #38](#), which provided some stopgap measures in the event a budget was not adopted by the close of the Fiscal Year, but he is not aware of any provision allowing the District to function with a default budget mechanism; certainly not indefinitely.

The primary legal concern with a Zoom meeting format is the inability to effectively confirm that the people participating, voting, speaking, and proposing amendments are registered voters. It is not clear how the supervisors of the checklist would do that. His office has concluded that could not happen, in any way they have been able to figure out, electronically. That is why, for the most part, no town has said they will hold their meeting as a Zoom meeting. The Zoom meetings that have happened in Bow and are happening right now in Hopkinton are being called meetings but are truly just public hearings during which members of the public are making comment and then following those meetings the board has put warrants on ballots to be voted on. The biggest legal concern is how to ensure those participating are registered voters.

The Selectboard has postponed its meeting until June 20th. Asked how they plan to proceed, Mr. Mason stated an uncertainty, and his suspicion they are waiting to see how the School District responds. What he heard at the meeting was their desire for an indoor, traditional meeting, which strikes him as more challenging from a safety point of view.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned if there is any insight as to any changes that might take place after May 31st. Member Brown remarked what she is hearing Mr. Mason state is the safety concerns expressed by volunteers regardless of what is being permitted. Member Williams questioned what aspects make them feel unsafe, and what can be done to make them feel safer. She is supportive of an outdoor meeting with social distancing. She has concerns with a Zoom meeting format.

Mr. Mason reiterated none of the alternatives are logistically simple. He could appoint as many assistant moderators as are needed. But he needs the A team to do this. The supervisors of the checklist have to check in every voter and hand out ballots. We can simplify that to some extent. In a number of districts, they have done a drive-thru check-in where a voter pulls up, shows a license in the window, and somehow they are given the items needed.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock commented on the situation we have where you can only enter the space by driving up the driveway. We could position people in a way where once you have driven up to the parking lot you have been checked in. Mr. Mason spoke of the amount of time it will take just to get people checked in.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock remarked, at this point, there is the need to postpone, and to pick a date and time certain. One of the dates discussed was Saturday, June 6th. If we were to come up with a plan for an outdoor meeting we would have to identify rain dates. Saturdays in June are few with the desire to set a date aside for graduation and the Town's meeting date. Rain dates could be for the middle of the following week, and would have to start around 4:00 p.m. to get them in before dark. It is not ideal.

Member Williams questioned a way for those who would not feel safe participating to have their voices heard.

Mr. Mason noted the meeting would be streamed through all available channels. The State is very clear, there is no absentee voting option for a meeting. He noted two of the articles (SB2/Tax Cap) require ballots to be open for an hour. There are 8 other articles on the agenda.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy stated he has had conversations with the attorney who did a similar process for Winnisquam where the turnout was similar to an average district turnout. They did a drive-in model. His firm has worked with the Bow School District, which did their meeting as a Zoom meeting followed by voting. He has not heard from checklist supervisors and other helpers at the meeting that there were issues; people felt generally safe. If we talk about logistics, people that drive up will be in their cars with the windows up and the checklist supervisors will have masks. Perhaps there could be a designated person that would feel comfortable being the one to hand off the packet through the window. It does not have to be the supervisors as long as the individuals have been deputized by the Moderator to be helpers, that is fine.

What was talked about was two versions of how the meeting will work. An earlier discussion was essentially a two-day version where day 1 would be the day where everybody meets outside and decides on the articles; that is the day to present amendments and finalize the warrant, and the second day would be the day of drive-up voting. That would maximize the ability of people who could not attend the day meeting to be able to participate at least in the voting process.

There is the need to strike a balance between the desire to maximize the opportunities for participation and the need to have a budget in place.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted a chat message received from Jim Belanger, Hollis Town Moderator, indicating June 6th is too early.

Jim Belanger, Moderator, Hollis, NH / Assistant Moderator, COOP School District

Commented on a time when the COOP School District utilized the Hampshire Dome in Milford for a meeting. He suggested that could be a venue to accommodate an indoor traditional meeting.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock remarked with June 13th being considered for graduation and the 20th the Town meeting, unless looking to do something during the week, the only Saturday available in June unless going to end of the month (fiscal year), is the 6th. She stated the desire to get the meeting conducted before the end of June and her willingness to assist in the endeavor. She suggested postponing until June 6th and considering the Hampshire Dome or another location.

Mr. Mason questioned the opinion of the Board regarding Zoom versus indoor or outdoor. Member Whalen stated a preference for an outdoor meeting versus a Zoom meeting. She questioned if there is a means of taking the articles as they are at this time, placing them on a ballot and allowing for an up or down vote.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy stated the legal concern with that model is it completely cuts out the public's ability to weigh in on the articles. Although the right to comment and the right to propose amendments as a member of the legislative body is not an absolute right, it is a pretty powerful right in New Hampshire. What Bow tried to do is pay some respect to that by allowing people to suggest amendments and then the Board made amendments and put that on the ballot. That was a somewhat risky process, but in Bow they felt that community was less likely to have a problem with it. Hopkinton is doing the same type of meeting and then they are putting amendments on the actual ballot. There will be a series of contingent amendments, e.g., do you vote for amendment 1, if no do you vote for amendment 2, if no do you vote for amendment 3, if no do you vote for the article as originally presented. That is what their current ballot looks like. That is really confusing and tricky.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy added what makes Hollis Brookline different from everybody else is that you have picked this year to have SB2 and the tax cap on the ballot. That changes the game entirely because people feel passionate about those issues and will want to talk about them. Depriving them of that opportunity is a very risky thing, from his perspective.

He spoke of a small district that intends to put a question on the ballot saying here are the rules, do you agree with them. If the voters do not agree with the process, then the meeting is automatically recessed. Then it will be article 2, article 3 or article 4, and if the operating budget does not pass, the Moderator will recess the meeting to develop a process for how they will get an operating budget passed. It is possible. The answer is yes, but it is risky from a legal standpoint.

Member Brown questioned the consequences if there is no budget come July 1st. Mr. Mason noted Emergency Order 38 appears to allow the school district to expend funds that are commensurate with the previous year's budget up until the time that you have a budget approved. There does not seem to be any end date on that. But that certainly seems to extend well into your next fiscal year.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy stated there to be a few provisions in Emergency Order 38. We have to start with the premise that there is a fundamental issue whether the Governor has the right, as the Executive Branch, to say I am basically suspending the law. It is the Legislature that gets to decide. The Governor has done some of those things with some of these orders, which we all understand may be necessary, but as your lawyer, I have to tell you that if you follow some of those things you are doing it at your own risk. If challenged, a Judge could ask, on what authority did you rely when the Governor did that, and as your lawyer I have to answer that question. There is no case law in New Hampshire that would support the Governor having authority to suspend law. He can suspend rules because rules are adopted by the Executive Branch, but he does not have the authority to suspend statutory law. That is a legal issue.

RSA 32:13, II, which is really a gap expenditure provision, applies to towns that operate on a calendar year fiscal year (budget year ends December 31st and they do not have an annual meeting until March). The law allows those towns to expend funds during that period until their annual meeting. The Governor's order says school districts can also do that for the period of the emergency order as extended by, and listed two specific orders. If the Governor does not continue to extend that permission then you might not necessarily have that gap expenditure authority even if you have it to begin with.

You already have authority to make fund balance expenditures to the extent you have fund balance. You need DOE approval and you need to have the funds to expend after the close of the fiscal year.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock reiterated the need for a meeting. She stated her position to look to postpone until June 6th with alternate days and that further discussions take place regarding logistics and planning; potentially using a two-part approach.

Vice Chairman VanCoughnett stated agreement noting logistically it will be difficult, but we have to address this. There is nothing to say that we will be able to have it on that Saturday. It could rain and we will be looking at another day. It is a good date to strive for. She agrees there are many who would be willing to help out. Those who do not feel safe doing so would not have to put themselves in that position. She is supportive of an outdoor meeting. She is also supportive of a location such as the Hampshire Dome.

Member Brown was uncertain access to the Hampshire Dome is an option. She stated her preference for an outdoor venue. She is not optimistic about community members being willing to check-in voters they do not know as it is something she would not personally be comfortable doing.

Member Stoll stated her support of an outdoor meeting believing there are ways to do so safely. If considering the dome, she would want to know more about the facility given it is an indoor venue and a structure that is held aloft by air circulating in and out. She would be concerned with the health piece of air circulating.

DISCUSSION

- Transportation

Superintendent Corey remarked approx. 3-4 weeks ago negotiations began with Student Transportation of America (STA). STA was looking at a 70/30 cost split, which the Administration did not feel was appropriate. He was in discussion with other superintendents who were encountering the same issue. A legal opinion was sought. The recommendation is a negotiated split whereby the District would pay an amount up to 55% of the fixed costs.

With STA coming on board this year, they were able to significantly upgrade our bus fleet, which comes at a cost of leasing those buses. That is one of the fixed costs. Another is the costs associated with the leasing of the vans utilized for special education, the lease for the cost of the bus barn, and two salaries; mechanic who remains on full-time to address maintenance, inspections, regular start-up/runs, and that of the dispatcher who will be developing the bus routes for next year.

The District would not be paying driver salaries. It is more beneficial for them to utilize unemployment. We need buses and drivers in the fall and our relationship with STA to continue to move forward.

Were the Board to approve the recommended percentage, the Business Administrator would determine the calculations to arrive at the actual dollar amount (for months of May and June).

Member Whalen questioned if the bus company received the SBA loan forgiveness, and was informed it is too large a company to qualify for that. One of the reasons the District is looking to fund only the fixed costs is the belief the District will not gain much funding from the CARES Act; not practical for the District to carry this cost and not fair to the taxpayers.

- Graduation

Principal Barnes spoke of the desire of students and families to hold an in-person ceremony. The most recent guidance from the NHDOE and Board approval would allow the District to hold an in-person graduation on the lacrosse field.

The idea revolves around what they are referring to as a pod (one graduate and two parents). They have determined they can get 215 pods on the lacrosse field with 6' of social distancing on all sides. Pods would be set up in advance (squares painted on field with 3 chairs inside) with isles all around.

Participants would be asked to arrive in their vehicle and park in the back lot. In order to get a ticket to graduation, they would be asked to submit a form the morning of the ceremony indicating they are not currently symptomatic.

Individuals would arrive to the school, and be asked to stay in their vehicles. A procession would be created to march the pods to the field; adhering to social distancing. They would arrive to a pre-designated spot on the field. Their diploma would already be on the chair. The ceremony would be about half as long as is typical; 4 student speakers who traditionally speak during graduation would be permitted to. Adults would not give live speeches. Once the speeches have completed, graduate names would be announced. When the student's name is called they would stand, and the parents would hand the diploma to their child.

Funding that would normally be expended on tents, etc. would be put towards additional photographers that would be spread out across the field to capture students receiving their diplomas. Once the ceremony completed, participants would be dismissed by pods back to their vehicles. Once lined up, they would begin a pre-determined parade route through both towns.

Principal Barnes spoke of his comfort level with the proposal. Superintendent Corey stated the plan has been approved by the Fire Chief/Health Inspector and the Police Department. He and others have had conversations with the NHDOE. They will not bless it or not bless it, but he does believe they think very highly of the plan. He believes it can be done this way, and would like to do everything that can be done to give this group of students something to remember this year other than the virus.

Principal Barnes stated the desire, if this proposal is supported, to move graduation to Friday evening to allow for three opportunities to ensure graduation is conducted that weekend (given no indoor option). If Friday did not work, graduation would move to Saturday at 10:00 a.m., and if Saturday's weather were not favorable, it could be moved to Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Noted was that all participants would be required to wear masks.

Member Whalen stated appreciation for the effort and work that has gone into this. Member Williams stated her appreciation for the thought and effort that has gone into the planning. Member Stoll spoke of her excitement for the graduation and of her appreciation.

Miss Martin thanked the Administration for coming up with the proposal, and spoke of her appreciation for the commitment to hold an in-person graduation as it has been the number #1 priority for students. She commented parents handing the diplomas to students is a nice and very personal touch. She also likes the community component with the parade.

- Donation of Lights

Superintendent Corey commented on having received a call from Michelle and Carleton Dufoe the morning following the last Board meeting, and of their excitement with moving forward with the donation for the lights. The Administration is working with Quirk Construction and Musco Lighting, and should have a concrete cost in the coming weeks. At that point, he will reach out to Mr. and Mrs. Dufoe who will donate to HB Elevates. From there, the Administration will proceed with ordering the poles (12 week lead time).

The Board and Superintendent expressed their gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Dufoe for their generosity to the students and communities of Hollis and Brookline.

- FY20 Budget Update

Kelley Seeley, Business Administrator, remarked were the fiscal year to close and all adjustments made, we would be giving back to the taxpayers over a million dollars. That number will change; could be lower or higher. There will be additional expenses and savings. There are a great many unknowns that will cross fiscal years. Work continues with closing of Purchase Orders; expenses for remote learning differ from those associated with in school learning.

With the last day of school as June 12th, and there being a dictated number of days that we cannot go without services for our special education students, we will have at least one additional week of the Extended School Year (ESY) program in the month of June (current fiscal year (FY)), which is a significant cost. We will most definitely have compensatory education costs related to special education students. We do not know what those costs will be or what costs will fall in FY20 and FY21. There is the potential of a special education student

moving into the District, which would be a cost that was not budgeted for and would likely be in FY20 and FY21.

The food service program has done a fabulous job of distributing food to our families, and is utilizing all inventory. They are doing everything they can to ensure costs for that program do not exceed what we have for fund balance. However, there is the potential that could experience an overrun. The only revenue being generated is what the State is providing for reimbursement. If the program goes into an overrun situation, it will have to be addressed through the General Fund. We will likely also have additional costs for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disinfection. Some of that cost will be in FY20. We will have re-opening costs, some of which may fall in FY20.

It is understood there will be device replacement costs. Across all three districts, devices have been sent out to help students with remote learning needs. Some will come back in less than perfect condition and some may not come back at all.

There are savings that have been identified. Transportation is one area of savings. With the closing of Purchase Orders, there is the possibility of savings in that regard. There are savings associated with athletic stipends, officials, and athletic transportation; however, that is offset by a loss of revenue from athletic fees that would have been received.

The District is eligible for funding from the CARES Act (\$20,000). The District is also eligible for a small special education grant and reimbursement from FEMA (75% at this time) for some expenses, e.g., PPE.

Ms. Seeley stated her belief most of the costs will be in FY21. She recommended the Board consider increasing the amount of retained fund balance from the traditional \$142,000 to an amount up to the allowable \$470,000 (2.5%).

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the graduation date

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO SET THE DATE OF GRADUATION AS JUNE 12, 2020 WITH RAIN DATES OF JUNE 13, 2020 AND JUNE 14, 2020

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Krista Whalen, Beth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Elizabeth Brown, Tom Solon

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Superintendent's recommendation for transportation

MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO PAY AN AMOUNT UP TO FIFTY FIVE PERCENT (55%) OF THE TRANSPORTATION COST

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Krista Whalen, Beth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Elizabeth Brown, Tom Solon

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the light donation

MOTION BY MEMBER WHALEN TO APPROVE, WITH GRATITUDE, THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF A DONATION FROM MICHELLE AND CARLETON DUFOE FOR THE PURCHASE OF LIGHTS FOR THE TURF FIELD AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Krista Whalen, Beth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Elizabeth Brown, Tom Solon

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the recommendation by Mr. Bumpus regarding the purchase of bleachers via a donation from HB Elevates

MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO APPROVE, WITH GRATITUDE, THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF A DONATION FROM HB ELEVATES IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$105,000) FOR THE PURCHASE OF BLEACHERS FOR THE TURF FIELD AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL, AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO BLEACHER BUILDERS

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the Board would also be addressing the press box or additional site work. Superintendent Corey stated the desire to bring before the Board firm numbers for the costs associated with those items. Asked if there would be sufficient time, he stated his belief there would. It is due to the significantly longer lead time for the bleachers that that item is before the Board at this time.

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Krista Whalen, Beth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Elizabeth Brown, Tom Solon

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ADJOURN
SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

Yea: Holly Deurloo Babcock, Krista Whalen, Beth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Elizabeth Brown, Tom Solon

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The May 13, 2020 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____