

**HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2021
MEETING MINUTES**

The Organizational Meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:01 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School.

Andrew Corey, Superintendent, presided:

Members of the School Board Present: Holly Deurloo Babcock
Elizabeth Brown
Tom Solon
Kate Stoll
Cindy VanCoughnett
Krista Whalen (participated electronically)
Beth Janine Williams

Members of the School Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Gina Bergskaug, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline H.S.
Tim Girzone, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School
Linda Sherwood, Assistant Business Administrator
Annie Hazelton, Student Council Rep., Hollis Brookline High School
Jessica Hue, Student Council Rep., Hollis-Brookline High School
Samantha Shepard, Incoming Student Council Representative

As Krista Whalen was participating electronically, in accordance with the Right to Know Law, Superintendent Corey requested she state, for the record; where she was, why her attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with her and whether she was able to hear the proceedings.

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

Superintendent Corey stated, for the record, those present at the meeting were able to hear Member Whalen and reminded the Board all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Corey called for nominations for Chairman of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board for the 2021-2022 term.

**MEMBER WHALEN NOMINATED MEMBER DEURLOO-BABCOCK
SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS**

ON THE QUESTION

Member Whalen spoke of the outstanding job Member Duerloo-Babcock has done leading the district over the past year.

VOTE ON ELECTION OF HOLLY DEURLOO-BABCOCK TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2021-2022 TERM

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Corey declared Holly Deurloo-Babcock Chairman of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board for the 2021-2022 term.

Superintendent Corey stepped down and Chairman Deurloo-Babcock presided.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board for the 2021-2022 term.

**MEMBER DEURLOO-BABCOCK NOMINATED MEMBER SOLON
SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock spoke of Member Solon being a great partner in this for her, and of her belief together they have managed the district through this past year very well. She spoke of her appreciation for the support he has provided.

VOTE ON ELECTION OF TOM SOLON TO THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2021-2022 TERM

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock declared Tom Solon Vice-Chairman of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board for the 2021-2022 term.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock called for nominations for Secretary of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board for the 2021-2022 term.

**MEMBER DEURLOO-BABCOCK NOMINATED MEMBER WILLIAMS
SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

ON THE QUESTION

Member Williams stated a willingness to serve in this position.

**VOTE ON ELECTION OF BETH JANINE WILLIAMS TO THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF
THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2021-2022 TERM**

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock declared Beth Janine Williams Secretary of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board for the 2021-2022 term.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

A request was made to take up the Student Council Report prior to entering non-public session, and for the addition of a discussion item/review of the Annual District Meeting.

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

Student Council Report

Samantha Shepard, Incoming Student Council Representative, stated the Council is currently planning for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3rd). Each class council is working on their own unique way to give back to the teachers.

Also being worked on is the formation of a committee to assist in the editing of the HBHS Student Council Constitution. The desire is to review the document and address any areas where updates are necessary and/or desired.

At the last Board meeting the issue of Advisory was discussed. The Council discussed the implication of Advisory and cumulatively decided to follow the lead of the Administration. Everyone is open to it. Student input will be sought as soon as needed and deemed appropriate.

Principal Barnes commented on the discussion that occurred around Advisory. There is an open-door interest and desire on behalf of students to have input.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock expressed, on behalf of the Board, gratitude for the Student Council Representatives and their service to the school and community-at-large.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (a) THE DISMISSAL, PROMOTION OR COMPENSATION OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL**

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into non-public session at 6:13 p.m.

The Board came out of non-public session at 6:50 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF PROCESS OBSERVER

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock appointed Member Brown as Process Observer.

NOMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of a letter of resignation received from Mario Camillo. In her letter, she states being a teacher at the Hollis Brookline Middle School (HBMS) has been a great privilege as well as an invaluable learning experience.

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MARIEL CARMELO FROM THE POSITION OF SPANISH TEACHER AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 30, 2021
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL**

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of the letter of resignation received from David Gilbert with an effective date at the close of the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DAVID GILBERT AS A MATH TEACHER AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 30, 2021

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Corey spoke of a letter received from Alyssa Guilmet stating the intent to resign from her position as a School Counselor at the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS). In her letter she remarked she greatly appreciates the opportunity and value experiences at the early stage of her career.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ALYSSA GUILMET AS A SCHOOL COUNCILOR AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 30, 2021

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of the resignation of Ceara Hogan Yourell from the HBMS. In her letter, she expressed gratitude for the opportunities and support the school has given her.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CEARA HOGAN YOURELL FROM HER POSITION AS 8TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER A THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 30, 2021

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of receipt of a letter of Intent to Retire from Sheila Mandragouras.

Superintendent Corey expressed gratitude to Sheila for her dedicated service commenting this year of COVID has been difficult, and Sheila has been truly outstanding. He spoke of having enjoyed the time he has been able to work with her at the SAU.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF INTENT TO RETIRE RECEIVED FROM SHEILA MANDRAGOURAS, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2021
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock commented on the difficulties of the past year, and appreciation for the efforts of Ms. Mandragouras over her many years with the district.

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of correspondence received concerning face shields/masks and athletics. He understands the concerns that have been presented. The Athletic Department has done an outstanding job of implementing the guidelines issued by the NHIAA. Those guidelines address masks both indoors and outdoors. It is expected there will be the potential for some changes regarding masks. However, at this time, they are required for the State tournaments. He and the Athletic Department feel it is best to practice in those conditions as opposed to showing up for a tournament game and being required to play wearing them. If one team was wearing masks and the team they were play was not, the NHIAA requirement is that both teams wear masks. Superintendent Corey stated the conversation is ongoing with State Superintendents and the State Athletic Department.

A slight uptick in COVID cases is being seen in the district. Those cases relate to specific instances that occurred outside of school. Coming inside of school and with athletics, likely the biggest protection we have to limit spread is the mask.

It was predicted there would be an uptick after Easter. That is being seen, and the hope is that will go down over the coming days. However, an uptick is also anticipated upon return from April vacation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [March 17, 2021](#)

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 5, Line 16; replace “direction” with “direct”
- Page 7, Line 10; replace “questioned” with “questions”
- Page 13, Line 9; replace “different” with “difference”
- Page 14, Line 16; replace “languages” with “language”

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

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

Yea: Elizabeth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Tom Solon, Holly Deurloo-Babcock, Krista Whalen
5
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-2

Members Brown and VanCoughnett Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board **Non-Public** [March 17, 2021](#)

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

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

Yea: Elizabeth Janine Williams, Kate Stoll, Tom Solon, Holly Deurloo-Babcock, Cindy VanCoughnett,
Krista Whalen
6
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Brown Abstained

PUBLIC INPUT - None

PRINCIPAL AND ATHLETIC REPORTS

Tim Girzone, Principal, HBMS, remarked for the first time in over a year, the entire 8th grade band was able to come together. There are plans for the 7th grade class to do the same.

The 2021 HBMS Drama Club will be presenting the play “The Virtual Family” on Video on Demand starting Friday, May 7th (7:00 pm) and ending Friday, May 21st (11:00 pm).

After winning the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest, HBMS 8th Grader, Ava Imbrogno’s essay was entered into the NH State Competition where Ava’s essay won first place.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if all middle school sports are intramural. Principal Girzone stated his belief the plan is to remain intramural. Vice Chairman Solon clarified, in that context, do we maintain the same mask requirements for sports where it is all internal. Superintendent Corey stated the district has because the masks were not designed based on internal/external, but on safety and spread.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock congratulated Ava Imbrogno on her accomplishment.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock congratulated the entire performing arts team in both buildings. She spoke of the show “The Theory of Relativity”. She watched it, enjoyed it, and was impressed by it.

Rick Barnes, Principal, HBHS, highlighted items included in the update provided by the Athletic Director noting the district is coming off a successful winter season. Lacrosse has kicked off with the first game under the lights.

Baseball, softball, tennis, volleyball, and track all open their regular seasons during the week of April 12th.

Addressing his Principal Report, Principal Barnes stated the update to the Program of Studies was included with the [agenda](#). The change reflected is replacement of language around ranking and top 10 with language around Latin Honors. The rest of the language was taken directly from the old version of the class rank policy as that was the only place where we describe the limits in terms of credits, what was and was not transferable and how it would all be calculated in there. Asked if this is the only place where the information is housed, Principal Barnes stated the language is only included within the Program of Studies.

Vice Chairman Solon spoke of a bill working its way through the Legislature relative to requirements for accepting credits for transfers; basically saying you must give credit for any class that comes from a New Hampshire accredited school. He questioned if passage of the bill would necessitate changes to any policies. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated her understanding the district must accept the credit. The question is do the courses count for our specific requirements, and that is the part where there is some flexibility. In addition to that, another area where there is some flexibility is in what courses count toward a GPA. The Program of Studies is where you would find that information. The thought was that document gets reviewed every year by the Board.

Asked if the current wording of the bill would create a conflict, Superintendent Corey responded in its current state it would not, but the final language may.

Principal Barnes spoke of the overview provided of the administrative restructuring, which has been in existence for three years. Areas where it is believed significant stride has been made are college and career planning, mental health awareness, and increased outreach to students. He provided numerous examples of the work being done in each of the categories. Our relatively new guidance department (in terms of years with the district) produced a senior college step-by-step video that was posted to the website. Outreach is being done through the Portsmouth Shipyard; have offered to host a career showcase of offerings for students.

They have completely overhauled processes within the department under the direction of the Department Head; college letters of recommendation based on research done through the college admissions process. A mental health toolkit has been added to the website as well as a community resources page and a military section. They are also doing a new presentation involving early college planning.

Under the mental health heading, the Department Head is creating a program for “Wellness Ambassadors” where students can be points of contact for their peers. It will involve training to ensure we have the right students in there and students that really want to do this. This will be another step in the process for students to take an active role in taking care of their fellow student under careful adult supervision. In the fall, Officer Bergeron provided the anti-drinking and driving presentation in the form of the wrecked car outside.

The Social Emotional Learning Committee has done great work; focused groups with students around school culture. The bullying workshop is mostly a policy review with students to ensure awareness. The department has been building on the presentations by sending counselors into the rooms. They also highlight professional development days. The trainer program was brought into the district to train on suicide prevention and awareness.

Visibility has been increased through the reactivation of the Twitter account, NAVIENCE, outreach, etc. We have more counselors and revamped presentations. For individual students, a list of students in danger of not graduating is reviewed regularly. There has been a noticeable difference in outreach with students. The transfer mentor group has been a huge success. The yearly timeline meeting for students; councilors try to get to the seniors in September, Freshmen in November and January and Juniors in February and Aril. Last year there was a zero percent drop-out rate.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock commented on the goals around when councilors will see their students, noting she did not hear sophomores mentioned. Principal Barnes responded the actual date for that was not listed. There is a timeline for that. Chairman Duerloo-Babcock commented the fact that there is a goal for every councilor to meet with every student was one of her biggest points of interest. There has been more outreach of counselors going into the classroom. Principal Girzone commented the high school councilors physically visited the middle school again this year to visit with the 8th grade students.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock spoke of the magnitude of this administrative restructuring noting there has been a 100% turnover in staff in the past three years. It sounds as though there is a lot of energy for new programming.

Asked how the guidance department chair position maps into the contract requirements for department chair, e.g., other than the stipend, is there a different workload, Principal Barnes responded there is a different workload that is quite high. Asked if it is being handled similarly to one of the academic department chairs in terms of receiving a stipend, added responsibility, etc., he remarked if looking at it from that lens it would be equitable there. Vice Chairman Solon commented on it being a point of contention with the bargaining unit when we previously had the position. He questioned if there has been any friction or if they have taken any position on how the guidance chair position is structured. Principal Barnes stated it has not with the HEA.

Vice Chairman Solon commented when that situation was re-arranged, we brought in an administrative role with official guidance authority in part to allow for appropriate support during certain types of meetings where an administrator is required to be present. How is that working out, and going forward do we need to continue to have someone with a Principal's title in that role within the guidance department? Principal Barnes stated he would highly recommend that continue believing the need to have someone capable of Principal level decisions in that role. The amount of flexibility that has given the whole building has been tremendous. There is the ability to respond to a variety of situations (with 4 positions).

Vice Chairman Solon asked if reinstating the guidance chair eliminates the need for the Principal level administrator and was told it does not. Principal Barnes stated they need it because that school counseling guidance chair needs that person they can have quick access to to make real time decisions that would have previously had to have been made by one of the other three.

DISCUSSION

- FY21 Revenue and Expense Report

Superintendent Corey stated the total expense balance (as of 4-6-21) is \$1,142,700. Projected is a shortage in revenue of \$45,958. The resulting Unreserved Fund Balance is \$1,096,742. On Saturday, the voters approved allocating \$50,000 to the Athletic Trust, \$115,000 to the Maintenance Trust and \$180,760 to the Retained Fund Balance. The resulting projected fund balance is \$750,982.

Projected is that expenses will continue to come in lower than budgeted due to savings in transportation costs and open positions. It is estimated the fund balance could be \$800,000 - \$900,000. Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator, will provide input for use of some of that balance for Board consideration at the May meeting.

Enrollment is on the increase. The Brookline district is engaged in a study this year, and the Administration may recommend the same type of study around enrollment, building size, energy, etc. for the COOP district (anticipated cost \$20,000 - \$30,000).

Another area for consideration is acceleration of maintenance items that are known to be needed near term. Examples were provided of sections of paving at the HBHS, two roofing sections, the FY23 technology plan, section of roof at the HBMS, Phase II of window replacement (\$80,000). There is the potential to consider some of the maintenance items while still returning potentially the \$650,000 that was discussed at Saturday's meeting. The Board may choose to return the entirety of the surplus. Currently, the district is in the midst of a very solid fiscal year.

Vice Chairman Solon stated he would prefer to have the larger amount returned to the tax base to minimize the impact of what must be raised through taxes to offset the amount of aid received last year should the State be unsuccessful in reinstating that aid. He remains a strong advocate for proposing a maintenance bond for facilities items such as those discussed.

He advised against buying technology at this time. There is a real shortage and prices are being bid up very high due to the international chip shortage as well as the amount that was pulled out for COVID.

Member Brown suggested the Board discuss the matter at its May meeting. She would never suggest a bond for anything that we know is a depreciating and deteriorating item, e.g., paving, roofs. That is partly because of the apportionment formula; bonds that deal with capital improvements have a different formula than the general operating budget. That is something we need to discuss and be certain we are being fair to both communities. She would like to see the cost items to inform the discussion.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock commented on the ongoing debate and stated the desire to have the information before the Board and for the discussion to take place. If the direction of the Board is to go with a bond, then we need to go in that direction and work towards gathering and getting the information out to the voters. If not going in that direction, we need to have a plan for addressing the items.

Member VanCoughnett remarked there is the need to keep in mind what the Board was reminded of during Saturday's meeting; that it takes 2-3 attempts to get a bond through.

Superintendent Corey stated he would have a more concrete number on the facilities building evaluations for the May meeting. They will separate out what is believed should be looked at for facilities projects. He agreed, if the decision is to go in the direction of a bond, that determination should be made in May so that it is part of the discussions with the Budget Committee from the start. That falls in line with the goals of the SAU Governing Board with work on strategic planning.

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds– COVID-19

Superintendent Corey spoke of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund, which covers expenses incurred during the second half of the year (approx. \$60,000). With the recent passage of what is referred to as ESSER III, the belief is the district will receive 2.1 to 2.3 times the amount received through ESSER II. Those funds can be used up until December of 2023. There is a lot of latitude in how the funds can be utilized. With the timeframe for use, there is the opportunity to address items not budgeted for that may become known further down the road. As the data is received/reviewed, identified will be any areas of learning gaps/concern. The district is targeting use of those funds for learning loss, e.g., short courses and other offerings.

- Review of Annual District Meeting

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock opened the floor for members to discuss their takeaways from the nine-hour district meeting.

Member VanCoughnett spoke of the structure; we cannot be there for 1½ - 2 hours before the first warrant is presented. We must determine a way, working with the Moderator, to address that. There were 450-500 people who sat with us for 9 hours, which shows that our community is passionate about the school system. It may be frustrating sometimes but is interesting to hear our neighbors and all the aspects of what they expect with contracts and other aspects of the budget. She is pleased the result was not to table or put away any of the petition warrant articles as she believes this was not the year to do it. They are presented every year and should be expected. It is right for the people that bring them forward to be able to discuss them. Addressing the structure of the presentations during the meeting, she spoke of the multiple opportunities provided for presentations of petition warrant articles during the public hearings.

Member Brown spoke of her surprise that the meeting was able to conclude in a single day. The discussion toward article 15 was polite and mostly civil, which she was appreciative of.

She spoke of the individuals who came to the microphone to discuss situations involving their children commenting they would have to be pretty upset over an issue to use that forum. There is the need for a process/procedure to provide a comfort level so that individuals can bring issues forward to the Administration or during a regularly scheduled Board meeting without a concern that they would be met with pushback or retribution. There is benefit in being able to address situations in real time.

Member Williams agreed residents have access to the presentations in advance of the annual meeting; however, they are not generally accessing them. She would not be in favor of minimizing the presentations on the day of the Annual Meeting unless able to increase the amount of access in advance of the meeting.

There were suggestions of changing rules, which was voted down. She believes it important to keep things consistent. She agrees, there needs to be a mechanism for ensuring the personal concerns are addressed and to be mindful of comments that can identify a particular student or staff member.

Member Whalen stated appreciation for the support of the community. It was very emotional and somewhat political, which is a bit unusual for our meetings. In the past we have had more local political issues discussed as opposed to national politics. It was good to hear all the discussion. Just because things are said on social media does not mean it is true, and she felt there were many who unfortunately made comments that were clearly something that was said on social media and not even remotely true. Communication with the community is something she would like the Board to continue to work on. She would like to identify a way of reaching the community in addition to the website.

We have an amazing staff that is having to deal with difficult current events, and she would like to continue to encourage them to act as moderators and try to keep their political ideologies separate from the classroom. Most do, and it can be difficult to do when the issue is emotional. It is important to help our kids understand what they are learning; knowledge is power.

It is known there is a State movement to work towards taking some public funds away from public schools with the voucher system. She believes there is a good minority of people in our two towns that are working towards that as well. She would like the Board to work towards communicating with the public. She spoke of being bias on this, but able to see our Board, Administrators, and staff who are hard-working people with different perspectives and ideas. She appreciates that and would like to be able to display all our strengths to the community.

Vice Chairman Solon stated the lasting impression was what a long meeting it was. We need to continue to look at how the meeting is structured; provide the Moderator clear direction and support so that he feels empowered to perhaps add some additional structure to the meeting. He questioned what the impact was of having the meeting on a Saturday. He would like to collect feedback from the community.

He thanked the Superintendent for stepping up at various times to address some emotional topics and rather harsh statements. He handled it well and it was a positive thing for the district to have his input.

He was a bit surprised at the fact that there were other vocal supporters for the idea of considering a K-12 COOP. That would have to come out of the elementary districts. He stated the desire to encourage those conversations to take place within the communities to see whether there is any level of interest or support. At the same time, he believes the Board and Administration can understand what the efficiencies are and the things that would happen functionally perhaps more easily. He could imagine how it could streamline things at the SAU office, but if one wanted to achieve a cost savings beyond just efficiencies, it would also mean staffing reductions, which theoretically might be possible, but he would really want to get input from the Administration at the SAU as to whether they share that view. Walking out of the meeting he felt he would like to have a conversation directly with the school boards in the elementary districts to ask them whether they are supportive of even investigating it.

He believes there to be a lack of understanding of many of the topics on the warrant. He was pleased to hear some comment that they had heard statements that had resulted in their changing their mind on issue(s). Although pleased information was gained, he wished it had been known prior to the meeting. There is a need to improve upon our push communications. There is information readily available on the public domain for anyone seeking it out, but there is the need to deliver information they might not know to seek out.

He found it interesting that the longest and most involved discussions took place around a topic that really had no impact, but we created this forum for people to have this discussion that clearly was an important one. There were people talking about existing concerns and experiences dealing with discrimination, problematic behaviors, and practices. The fact that the concerns were brought forward in that forum and not to the Administration or the Board is a real concern. He questioned if the Board should consider a forum outside of the district meeting to allow these community conversations to occur.

Member Brown remarked part of the problem is that we think we do, through the public input portion of the meeting, however, by policy that is limited to items included on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Solon commented he does not believe people like coming to a School Board meeting. That is something we can consider as well as part of the overall communication strategy.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock thanked the Moderator and his entire team for their work on an incredibly long and difficult meeting. Her first takeaway is that the two communities support the work of the School Board and Budget Committee; everything that both committees recommended received at least a 65% majority. We need to listen to the minority and pay attention, but still need to think about governing with that significant majority in mind.

She stated her belief the length of the meeting is directly related to the number of warrant articles and the legislative body making decisions. She completely supports that practice but wishes to remind voters that all petition warrant articles have two public hearings where there is public input and a sponsor presentation. Those sponsors are given time to present at the district meeting as well.

To say that tabling is shutting down debate is true, just as moving the question is, but it is really okay for voters to say I have made up my mind and I do not want to vote on this, want to move the question, or to just vote no. If the concern of the legislative body, as is being seen on Facebook, is the length of the meeting, they have tools to address that; tabling, postponing indefinitely, moving the question earlier, changing the rules to limit speakers to one time per article or changing the rule to have the question moved and debate at that moment and not have speakers in line speak. All those options are in the control of the legislative body.

The Board and the Budget Committee have tools to try and manage the time of these meetings too. This year we did put some of those into place. We asked the legislative body to vote on two articles that usually come up every year, but because of RSA and an affirmative vote, we no longer have to put them on the warrant; athletic trust being dissolved and being turned into an athletic revolving fund and the acceptance of federal money. Also when we sanbornize a contract, it will not appear on the warrant until the next time it is negotiated. We also have an outstanding issue with the Articles of Agreement that have been worked on. The decision was made to take that up in a special meeting so as not to overload the annual meeting.

Another important takeaway was that we need to continue the discussion around discrimination. We heard from parents and folks who had heard from others that their kids with conservative leaning ideas feel silenced, and we heard from former students who spoke of first-hand experiences of racism, bullying, and discrimination of all sorts. We need to continue to work on this. What format that work should continue in is a broader discussion. The Board needs to consider the definitions brought forth by the DEI Advisory Committee as we look toward strategic planning, curriculum, and policy work. She believes the Board needs to do the work the way it typically does its work, in a district-level committee format with action items, voices from the community, parents, staff, building level leadership, SAU leadership, Board input, and of course in the COOP we always need to include students in those conversations.

The Boards need to do some long-term planning surrounding the district. It is the first time she has heard more than one person mention the idea of being a PreK-12 COOP. However, we are still dealing with COVID, which complicates everything, and needs to be kept in mind before putting too much on the Administration's plate. All of this takes time. Nothing happens quickly and it is not supposed to; in education incremental change is the best change. We need to give ourselves time to digest that meeting, process it, reflect, and move forward.

Superintendent Corey remarked although long, Saturday was much easier for the Administration than a weeknight meeting.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock commented on a member of the public telling her that he really liked the Saturday meeting. She thought to herself it was working out in terms of the voters and the message, but she was concerned it was taking a Saturday away from staff. Superintendent Corey reiterated evenings are very tough. When meetings go late into the evening and sometimes multiple evenings, it is difficult for staff to recover.

Member Williams commented on having been approached by many stating their appreciation for the Saturday meeting.

Member Brown questioned if there is a way to survey residents. It was the very first time that only one member of the Board was able to attend the meeting. There were a lot of families that she knows usually have both parents in attendance, who only had one. It is next to impossible, being in the spring, to get both parents there for an 8-hour day.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented she was a little concerned going into the meeting with what it would look like based on conversations that were taking place prior to. She was really pleased that voices were heard, and people were offered the opportunity to vote when they wanted to vote. For the most part, the conversations were respectful. It was a long day. The weather was great. Overall it was a good meeting, and clearly, we had to have that long meeting to be able to have the conversation we had.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if it is believed the dynamics would have been dramatically different had it been a Saturday indoor meeting of the same length. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated her belief that would have been the case. She does believe the QR codes were helpful and should be continued. She questioned if it would be helpful if links to the public hearing videos were contained within the slides.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock agreed the Board needs to consider how we want to communicate, e.g., social media. Vice Chairman Solon commented the Rotary newsletter has reached out to him multiple times asking for any information the Board would like to publish. They are trying to fill the void resulting from the lack of a newspaper.

Member Stoll questioned if the Board has considered a format like Remind that people could opt into where they would receive texts. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock suggested a workshop around communication options be planned. She noted a few comments around elderly participants being subjected to the sun.

Principal Barnes remarked he never would have thought he would have given up a Saturday before, but it was nice knowing the meeting would be concluded in a day and that was the commitment. Having the following day to recover was much better.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if Principal Barnes was surprised by any of the public comments about problems, personal experiences, etc. Principal Barnes responded that is a tough question to answer. There are some things that he can say as an Administration they were never aware of. In terms of student experiences, he has been hearing some similar things from students he has met with concerning issues around racism, etc. He was not surprised at the content necessarily.

Asked, Chairman Deurloo-Babcock stated she would like to consider how to address the issues/concerns raised; possibly include some as agenda items, committee formation, etc. There are three things she sees coming out of the discussion; the structure of the annual meeting, what will be done with the information that came out with the discussion of Petition Warrant Article 15, and future planning.

Asked if discussion around PreK or K-12 falls outside of the boundary of what is appropriate to discuss at the Governing Board meetings, Superintendent Corey suggested it could be broached from the topic of what came up at the annual meeting and both the Hollis and Brookline boards asked to discuss it at their meetings and bring feedback to the September Governing Board meeting.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Administrations recommendations for teacher nominations

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHER NOMINATIONS, AS PRESENTED MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the HBHS Graduation; June 12, 2021

Superintendent Corey stated a rain date would be provided the public. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock stated there to be no indoor option. The backup will be a rain date.

Vice Chairman Solon spoke of there being no finals, and his belief, with no finals, there was a desire to be teaching longer. If there is a class having juniors and seniors in it and there are no finals, will juniors continue in classes after seniors have graduated? Principal Barnes stated that to be the intent. That has been done in the past.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock stated the decision of no finals this year is COVID related. Principal Barnes stated the intent to teach through to the end. Whoever is in the room is to continue teaching the students. We have a number of students coming back who have not been in school for a full year. It makes sense to give them as much time in the classroom with the teacher, and even better if the number is lower for those juniors given the year we have had.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if he could infer from that that if the seniors do not get it, it is not as big a deal. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated this is how it is done every year. Vice Chairman Solon stated it is not to the same extent because a portion of that gap is finals. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated a portion of the seniors was also finals. There is an extension for both. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock added seniors take their finals before June 12th. Content is being taught to juniors all the way through to June 12th while the seniors are taking their finals on June 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. Asked, she stated if a combined class, the seniors take their finals ahead of the juniors. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug added “or they took them at the same time and then the juniors kept on with an additional unit.” Either way, every year, whoever is in the class, that is not a senior, learned an additional unit, additional project, etc.

Principal Barnes noted SEL opportunities are provided during those remaining days as well. When saying they are teaching straight through, it is not necessarily going to be geometry or algebra. We are planning for a few days of actual SEL related activities, team building, and those type of things. An outside company is being brought in to do that.

The intent is for the last day of school to be June 18th.

Member Stoll commented one of the nice things about last year's graduation, knowing there was not an indoor option, was having a range of dates. She suggested that be the way it is handled this year as well. Superintendent Corey stated the newsletter would identify the rain date.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO SET THE DATE OF GRADUATION FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

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

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

7

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Administration's Recommendation for the Middle School Principal position

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S NOMINATION OF PATRICK WEST FOR THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL OF THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, AT A SALARY OF ONE HUNDRED AND THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$103,000)

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

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

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

7

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the salary amount is a change to the current budgeted amount and was informed it represents a slight decrease. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock expressed gratitude to the hiring committee for the work performed.

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy KF - Community Use of School facilities

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE FOURTH READING AND ADOPT POLICY KF - COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock spoke of an email sent to the Board. The policy that was provided with the agenda was marked up to show the changes that have occurred over time. Since the time of the last reading, no changes have been proposed. There had been questions regarding the statement concerning a public forum. Legal counsel indicated he specifically used the words public forum because indeed we do have limited public forums that we put on/host in our meetings, but the policy is allowing other people to use our facilities and we are not intending for them to create a public forum. Public forum is a legal term. The Policy Committee went with the recommendation of legal counsel.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the explanation from legal counsel is consistent with Member Brown’s interpretation of public forum in this context. Member Brown stated it is. This allows us to restrict certain speech because a school is not a public forum. You have limited first amendment rights in a school because it is a limited public forum. If it is a public forum like a government building, you do not have the same ability to limit first amendment rights. Because it is a school, and we want to keep it as a school, we do not want to create a situation where anybody could come and do anything within our building. We want to have some limitations.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned when the Board advertises a public forum to discuss a new middle school does it in any way suspend this by saying that. Member Brown stated she does not believe so at all. It is the Supreme Court language and a couple of opinions dealing with first amendment rights.

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock spoke of the Community Use of School Facilities Form and Fee Schedule included as part of the Principal Report.

It is a separate document, and the desire is for the Board to take a formal position on it. The document was amended to include the sentence “The building principal or their designee reserves the right to cancel or reschedule events at any time.” to mirror the language in Policy KF. Fees that had not been listed previously have been added. The language that follows the statement “Additional fees include but are not limited to:” is intended to keep the information in a single location. Added to those statements was “Additional fees may be applied at the discretion of the building principal or their designee.”. To accommodate the concern of municipalities using the buildings with absolutely no charge on a school day, but then needing a multitude of things provided, the language was changed to Category A & B; anybody who falls in Category A or B will still incur fees as deemed applicable by the building principal. It does not matter whether it is a school day or non-school day, it just depends on what is going on.

Number 8 under “Regulations Governing Use of Facilities” has been amended to include “vaping”.

Groups that fall into Category E are those who are coming in to put on a for-profit concert, etc. The decision was made that locker rooms and the gymnasium would have separate fees. The statement that a higher rate “may be negotiated at the discretion of the building administrator” was removed.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned how the rates for the turf field compare to neighboring towns. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock stated neighboring towns often charge for playoffs, and we are not necessarily saying that. Vice Chairman Solon stated surprise that the turf field is the same rate as all the other fields as he believed there would be a differential. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock remarked that was discussed. However, if someone uses the baseball field they are causing wear and tear to that more than they would be to the turf field. It is commercially more viable, but it does not cost us more to maintain.

Principal Girzone commented part of the discussion was with the Athletic Director having oversight over the whole district and all facilities and moving things around that it would make sense to have it equal across as people might be getting moved here and there for different activities. If the user requires a rectangular field, there will be different locations they could be placed. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted additional fees might also apply in that we might need to add a supervision piece if up on the turf field.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if there is anything in the language that would prevent the district from writing a contract to specifically state we can relocate people. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock stated there to be wording included that allows us to cancel, move, and change as we want to. Member Brown noted the language provides for rescheduling. Chairman Deurloo-Babcock noted the language that states “The building principal, athletic director, in conjunction with the building and grounds supervisor, may withhold use of any facility, grounds, or field for purposes of conducting maintenance, repair, or refurbishing activity at any time.”

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the language should be more generic e.g., rectangular field price, so that people do not have a perception of which field would be provided.

Member Brown stated her belief those who will rent the turf field will want the turf field, will not necessarily want to rent any available rectangular field that Hollis Brookline has, and do not want to feel like when they contract for it that they could be moved to another field. She suggested letting it go into practice for a year and revisiting it if believed needed.

Member Williams questioned why the high school track is not applicable to Group C.

The consensus was to amend the document to identify a charge of \$300 for the HS Track under Category C.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED, THE COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES FORM AND FEE SCHEDULE
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT

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

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

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy JLCJ: Concussions and Head Injuries
1st Reading: 3-17-21 (as amended)

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AMEND POLICY JLCJ – CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES , IN PARAGRAPH IB – DUTY TO REPORT, BY REPLACING “SHOULD” WITH “WILL” AND ACCEPT THE SECOND READING, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL**

ON THE QUESTION

Member Williams noted the prior recommendation to amend in paragraph IB – Duty to Report, by replacing “should” with “will”. That change was discussed by the policy Committee; however, the change was not reflected in the copy provided with the agenda.

Also discussed was access to concussion testing, e.g., if having impact testing for a student who has suffered a concussion, how we share that information to the care provider. That was discussed by the Policy Committee. The feeling is that should remain in the procedure as opposed to policy.

Chairman Deurloo-Babcock spoke of discussion around bringing the procedure before the Board so that members could view the procedure.

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

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

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Brown remarked the change makes the action mandatory. There are two levels of subjective determination there. She would not necessarily want to make that mandatory on a teacher. The language will be brought back to the Policy Committee for further consideration. Vice Chairman Solon stated agreement about the two conditions and would like the Policy Committee to consider both options, e.g., whether both actions should be mandatory or subjective.

HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Superintendent Corey thanked the volunteers who made the vaccination clinic possible, the teachers who assisted in coverage, and the volunteers who showed up at the buildings to cover. The district could not have vaccinated 1,000 people without the community effort we had.

Member Williams echoed the sentiments expressed. She spoke of the high school musical and how she enjoyed it and commented on looking forward to the middle school production. The egg car project was very engaging. This week has been exciting with the start of spring sports.

Member VanCoughnett spoke of having had the opportunity to see softball and boy’s lacrosse the prior evening under the lights for the first time and baseball earlier in the day. It is exciting to see the students back out on the field.

REPORT OUT BY PROCESS OBSERVER

Member Brown commented the meeting ran long. More time than ever before was spent on discussing the high school graduation. We were running ahead of schedule until reaching the discussion of the annual district meeting. Deliberations took a little longer than anticipated.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The April 14, 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____