

**HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
FEBRUARY 13, 2019
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:42 p.m. at the Hollis/Brookline Middle School Library.

Chairman Tom Solon presided:

Members of the Board present: Cindy VanCoughnett, Vice Chairman
 Holly Deurloo Babcock
 Elizabeth Brown
 Melanie Levesque
 Krista Whalen

Members of the Board Absent: John Cross, Secretary

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
 Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
 Linda Sherwood, Assistant Business Administrator
 Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School
 Bob Thompson, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School
 Mary Martin, Student Council Representative

APPOINTMENT OF PROCESS OBSERVER

Chairman Solon appointed Holly Deurloo Babcock as Process Observer.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Superintendent Corey requested the first item under Deliberation be moved to follow agenda adjustments.

There being no objection, the Board went out of the regular order of business to take up the first item under Deliberation.

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Superintendent's recommendation for the middle school Principal position

Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent, stated, after an extensive process, the search for the next Principal of the Hollis Brookline Middle School (HBMS) has completed. She thanked the search committee for the many hours that were dedicated to the process and staff, students, and community members who offered invaluable feedback.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug announced Mr. Timothy Girzone as the candidate selected for the next Principal of the HBMS, effective July 1, 2019.

Mr. Girzone is currently in his 3rd year as Assistant Principal of Bow High School. Prior to that, he served as Assistant Principal for 3 years and a teacher at the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS) for 11 years. He served both districts as a coach and club advisor.

Mr. Girzone received his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and his Master of Education in Secondary Education from the University of New Hampshire. He received a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Administration from Rivier.

Superintendent Corey thanked all who were involved in the search process. He stated his nomination of Timothy Girzone for the position of Principal of the HBMS beginning July 1, 2019 at a salary of \$104,300 and a 2+ 1 contract.

MOTION BY MEMBER WHALEN TO ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT’S NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY GIRZONE FOR THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL OF THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019, AT A SALARY OF ONE HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$104,300) AND A TWO (2) PLUS ONE (1) CONTRACT MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER LEVESQUE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Solon questioned the current budgeted salary for the position, and was informed it is just over \$102,000.

**MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0**

The Board returned to the regular order of business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board January 16, 2019

The following amendments were offered:

Page 1, Line 35; replace “Caitlin: with “Kaitlyn”

Page 5, Lines 16 & 17; amend the sentence to read: “He noted that there were some items in that percentage which he personally believes should have been included in the relief, and if they had been, the percentage over guidance would be even lower.”

Page 9, Line 21; delete “that” following “dental”

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN
MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0**

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Non-Public**. January 16, 2019

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN
MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0**

NOMINATIONS/RESIGNATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of the need for signatures relative to the warrant for those running on the official ballot.

During tonight’s meeting, the Board will discuss the articles. The Business Administrator is seeking signatures so that the official warrant can be posted.

There is also the need for signatures on the paperwork for the security and safety work that was completed so that the Administration can file for reimbursement with the State.

Superintendent Corey made the Board aware he would be attending the February 19th meeting of the Planning Board to participate in the first discussion regarding the turf field. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Public Hearings for the warrant articles that will be discussed later in the meeting, will be conducted on Wednesday, February 20th and Thursday, February 21st.

A meeting with the Hollis Conservation Commission, regarding the turf field, will take place on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room.

PUBLIC INPUT

Maryanne Shanley, 7 Buttonwood Drive, Hollis

Remarked she is pleased with the Administration's recommendation and Board's approval of Mr. Girzone as the next Principal of the HBMS.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Student Council Representative

Mary Martin, Student Council Representative, stated the Student Council is focusing its efforts on Spirit Week (next week) and Penny War (this week). Funds from the Penny War will be donated to Niko Martin and his cancer treatment.

Other fundraisers being worked on include Dancing with the Staff, which is something new. They have been looking for a fundraiser to replace Mr. HB. The idea was brought to the Council by the Sophomores.

Also being worked on is a semi-formal dance for March.

The Policy Committee is searching for a new idea, and gender-neutral bathrooms keeps coming up.

Ms. Levesque questioned the status of the gender-neutral bathrooms. Superintendent Corey stated the Student Council has been working on that and reporting to Principal Barnes who has been reviewing the facilities to determine if some bathrooms could be identified to assist with this process. He is confident once the Student Council completes their work and meets with Principal Barnes, he will come forth with recommendations (coming months). Principal Barnes stated they have identified some areas in the building they believe could accommodate this. It is just a matter of finalizing the effort.

Hollis Brookline Middle School

Bob Thompson, Principal, HBMS, spoke of the SeaPerch Program. This is the third year of the program, which is a partnership with Engineers from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) and research scientists from the University of New Hampshire. The Engineers from the PNS come to HBMS over two days and help the students build underwater robots. Next week, the students will travel to UNH Durham where they will test their SeaPerches in the UNH pool, tour both the Engineering and Ocean Engineering Labs and participate in an additional STEM activity.

The Engineers were present at the kick-off assembly and were speaking with the students about the desperate need for Engineers. They know that students in the Hollis Brookline schools are really committed to engineering. The ability for them to get into our school and work with students on an engineering project and get them excited about engineering hopefully helps their cause (recruiting) in the long-run.

Hollis Brookline High School

Rick Barnes, Principal, HBHS, spoke of the action item relative to the proposed choir trip to Portugal in April of 2020.

The school is in the midst of course selection, and are excited to be utilizing the new structure; moving it back to where it was in the past, and have it completed much earlier than in recent years.

Chairman Solon questioned when in the course selection process class size limitations become a focus. Principal Barnes responded once all requests are in, they divide the sections up, and depending on the availability of teachers is where the size becomes an issue.

Chairman Solon commented there have been multiple suggestions that the Board look at that policy. He questioned how much time is available to conduct a review of that policy without adversely impacting the course selection process. Principal Barnes stated they would be looking at putting together class sizes as early as February break or the first week of March.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock responded during the conversation over the summer she specifically asked if the policy needs to be reviewed. The Board generally said no, we like the policy. If we want to bring it back to the Policy Committee, she has no issue with that, she simply wished to be clear it was not requested. Chairman Solon stated the requests to have been recent. He believes they have been triggered by the budgeting process, some of the forums regarding the STEM center, and other recent discussions. Ms. Brown stated she does not see it as something the Board will be able to make a change to. The budget was based upon this current policy. She believes a review would take a year's time. Chairman Solon commented they are going to get into a position where they may have to make some decisions, and it may have to do with staffing. If, when the Administration comes back to the Board, the Board had had the opportunity to give it some thought, it might help the process.

Chairman Solon stated he does not believe it is something the Policy Committee has to look at in advance of bringing it forward. It is going to need to be a general topic of class sizes that will then potentially translate into policy work.

Principal Barnes stated there is also the issue of credits. All those things are intertwined. Ms. Brown remarked it would be multi-faceted, and suggested a separate committee work on it. She does not believe there is a strong sense of the Board that we are going to change the class size policy sometime between now and the time Principal Barnes needs to be starting to assign students.

Ms. Levesque commented the first payment for the choir trip is to be made March 15th. She questioned if the Board would meet prior to that. Chairman Solon remarked he is uncertain if the Board reorganization will occur following the Annual Meeting. He noted the Board's practice is not to vote on an issue the first time it comes before the Board.

DISCUSSION

- Draft School Calendar 2019-2020

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug spoke of the draft calendar provided with the Board's [agenda](#) packet. The calendar has professional days for teachers on November 5th and March 10th, graduation day on June 13th and

the last day (including snow days) as June 18th. The calendar has the traditional start with 7th & 9th grade orientation the Wednesday prior to Labor Day and all students starting the Thursday before Labor Day.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked the December break is, as it was this school year, a little longer because the 23rd is a Monday. She questioned the direction the Board wished to proceed with, e.g., do you have a two-day school week (for the 2020-2021 calendar). Chairman Solon commented on the start dates occurring before Labor Day where it is so early this year. He questioned what the productivity of two days is and then a three-day weekend. Several members of the Board remarked, it has always been done that way. Chairman Solon commented often Labor Day is later. Ms. Deurloo Babcock commented we have always had two days of school and then three days off.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated this to be the way it has been since her time as a teacher. She has been in many different districts, and believes this to be a good structure to have; particularly with the Wednesday as an orientation day. It is a way to ease the students back into school. Asked about attendance, Principal Barnes stated it to be very good. Ms. Brown commented on the number of students involved in fall sports.

Miss Martin commented, from a student perspective, she believes it nice to have those two days even though it may not be the most productive. Students receive the list of materials needed, can meet their teachers and other students. Particularly for new students, either transfer or freshmen, it is a really nice way for them to ease into not only school, but the building and a new environment.

Principal Thompson stated agreement noting, particularly for the 7th grade students transitioning in, having that half-day orientation just for 7th graders and then two days before the long weekend he thinks is great. Were it up to him, he would not change it. Principal Barnes stated complete agreement. It is a way to iron things out and go through all the motions to ensure everything is in working order, and be able to make any corrections, if needed.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock remarked, as a parent, she is not a fan, but as a Board member, she believes it to be necessary to start before Labor Day. Looking at the entirety of the calendar she believes if there was a start date after Labor Day, it may be necessary to look at removing February or April vacation in order to end the school year by June 18th. There are many constituents who have approached her indicating they do not wish the start date to be before Labor Day, don't want the school year to end after June 15th, don't want to give up February or April break. She stated she would vote for the calendar as presented, but as a parent, she would like to start after Labor Day.

Chairman Solon commented there is the option of trading two days of the December break. Ms. Deurloo Babcock remarked she believes you go to school if it is Monday or Tuesday, but not if there is only Monday. She likes to be consistent with the elementary schools, and believes they will have a really hard time maintaining students for that one day.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted December 23rd is a Monday. Her question was relative to the next calendar.

Ms. Brown remarked, speaking as a parent whose family all lives in the Midwest, none of her children have ever attended school on the Thursday or Friday before Christmas break partly because they go to school so close to the holiday. She believes the buffer to be completely appropriate. She had believed the discussion was around having the 2nd and 3rd off to provide two full weeks like they do in the Midwest. She would support a motion to do that. She feels it makes no difference whether the last day of school is the 18th or 19th. Chairman Solon remarked there is the option of dropping down to a total of 177 school days. Ms. Whalen commented the difference between the Midwest is they don't have February and April breaks.

Ms. Brown commented at the elementary level parents will just take their kids out of school. It becomes a bigger deal when they miss an AP Biology test on the Thursday before Christmas. The Friday before is usually a party atmosphere.

Miss Martin questioned what week mid-terms would take place. This year it was the week before Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She feels it ties into the conversation; without the long weekend it is harder for students to plan and be able to study over break. Having that built-in time would be very good.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded it appears as though the four-day week beginning January 21st is immediately after the 18th week. That would make sense to keep it there. Principal Barnes commented, based on feedback received from students and families, there will not be sweeping changes to the mid-term week, but some pretty good tweaks that people will be in favor of, e.g., how it is approached instructionally leading up to.

Chairman Solon questioned the will of the Board. Ms. Brown commented in order to adjust the second week of the holiday break, we would have to reduce one day of the calendar.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked there is always the option of indicating June 22nd as the last day of school. Ms. Brown commented a calendar that identifies a Monday as the last day doesn't typically work.

Chairman Solon commented the last day is typically an extra day in terms of what gets done for students, e.g., make-up day. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated that to be the case for the HBHS. Superintendent Corey noted the same calendar will have to go to the Brookline and Hollis School Districts. It will be back before the Board at its March meeting. Chairman Solon requested the discussion be prompted at the elementary districts.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock asked if Tuesday, November 5th is based on election activity, and commented on having had a Monday or Friday professional development day in the past to tie in with college visits. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked it is not an election year, and that day could be moved. She noted in the last school year it was on a Thursday before Friday, Veterans Day. Superintendent Corey stated that could be looked at and discussed with the other boards as well. Ms. Deurloo Babcock commented the elementary schools may wish for the professional development day to be November 1st (day after Halloween).

- PSIF Security Grant Update

Superintendent Corey spoke of information provided with the agenda packet. At the HBMS, security cameras were installed. Total cost was \$37,450. The District's portion is \$7,490 (20%). At the HBHS, window security film was installed at a cost of \$11,877. The District's portion is \$2,375 (20%). Total added value to the District is \$49,327, and the total cost to the District is \$9,865.

Superintendent Corey noted security film was done across the SAU, which resulted in a lower overall cost. Security film was installed on all 1st floor windows. Does not allow for seeing into the classroom and makes the window much more difficult to break.

There being no objection, the Board went out of the regular order of business to take up discussion on Petition Warrant Articles.

- Petition Warrant Articles

Superintendent Corey stated his recommendation that the four citizen petitions be added to the Warrant. Public Hearings are scheduled.

Article 11

Because there is a possibility that Article 1 will be defeated, or that other considerations will result in the space created by Article 1 not being adequate or available for the HBHS Robotics Team, to see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$550,000 for the purpose of funding a facility for the Hollis Brookline High School and Middle School Robotics Teams. Funds to be transferred to the Hollis Brookline Robotics Boosters for this purpose. (Majority vote required).

Article 12

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

Article 13

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13(known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District on the second Tuesday of March?" (submitted by petition)

Article 14

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5 V-b, requiring that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the school board, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article? The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body. (submitted by petition)

Chairman Solon stated confusion by the last sentence in Article 14. Superintendent Corey stated the "Governing Body" to be the Budget Committee. He remarked during Public Hearings, those estimates are provided. This is something the SAU has done by practice, and the article is asking that the information be included in the article language. Chairman Solon commented the way it is worded, the School Board would have the responsibility for placing the information on the Warrant; therefore, would have to obtain the information from the Budget Committee, take ownership, and approve the number. Superintendent Corey stated that to be correct. He commented during the evening of the Public Hearing, the Chairman of the Budget Committee presents the article, then gives the estimated tax impact. He believes it would be a process of when the article is approved and the recommendation made, the Board would also be supporting what the estimated tax impact would be.

The Board returned to the regular order of business.

- District Meeting Planning

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of a meeting scheduled with the Moderator for the following day where they will go over all details of the District Meeting. The start time was changed to 6:30 p.m. The intent is to be addressing the articles by 7:00 p.m. and that no new articles would be taken up after 10:00 p.m. There are a few petitions that will require ballots. Ballot box would be open for a minimum of an hour. The ballots have been revised and printed.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock commented the only other feedback received last year was regarding the visibility of the presentation (slides). She questioned if there might be printed versions and a test run the day before to determine if the presentation can be seen from the back of the gym. Superintendent Corey stated that issue would be discussed with the Moderator as well as Rich Raymond, Network Administrator. They are also doing

the voters guide. Copies will be available that evening, and will contain the articles and brief descriptions of each.

The Board discussed who would present each of the articles. Article 1 will be presented by Holly Deurloo Babcock, Article 2 by Krista Whalen, Chairman Solon will introduce Article 3, and turn over to Budget Committee Chair, Chairman Solon will speak to articles 4, 5, 6, and 7. Members of the Administration will be available to address specific questions around Article 7. Chairman Solon will present Article 8 (has not been used by the current Board), Article 9 and the last article.

Chairman Solon questioned who would speak to the petition warrant articles if they become Board articles. Superintendent Corey stated his belief the Moderator would address them. Petitioners could be notified.

Ms. Brown questioned why the Board would give up the opportunity to speak first regarding petitions, and stated a desire to speak to them.

- Field Committee Update

Superintendent Corey stated the committee continues to meet and works closely with Tighe & Bond. They will be before the Planning Board on February 19th and a meeting with the Conservation Commission on March 6th. He noted he would arrive at the Annual Meeting late. Given the desire for him to make opening remarks, the question was asked of whether another member of the Field Committee could attend the Conservation Commission meeting. Superintendent Corey stated there to be the potential for that.

- Update Regarding Citizens Petitions

Superintendent Corey spoke of receipt of four citizen petitions. Tonight he is recommending all four go on the official ballot. Article 11 regarding the robotics piece was filed on the deadline by the calendar under the RSA. Articles 12, 13, and 14 came in prior to the posted date of February 11th. When the calendars were reviewed, it came to light that the February 11th deadline date was in error. The recommendation of legal counsel is to place the articles on the Board warrant article.

Citizens who worked hard to file the petitions should not have to be concerned a mistake on the part of the SAU would impact them. The tax cap petition is an item that is done at the annual meeting and would be voted on by secret ballot. The SB2 petition goes to the School Clerk who puts it on the actual Town voting ballot, and the tax cap estimate is also covered at the annual meeting.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the proposed choir trip in April 2020

Chairman Solon questioned if the Board had any objection to acting on the request at this time. No objections were stated.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEVESQUE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE CHOIR STUDENTS' TRIP TO LISBON, SINTRA, PORTO AND ALGARVE, PORTUGAL BEGINNING THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE APRIL 2020 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK THROUGH THE SATURDAY AT THE END OF THE APRIL 2020 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

ON THE QUESTION

Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated she supports the trips offered to students. A lot of the trips supported by the Board are functions of clubs or done as an enrichment opportunity. Choir is a little different because the students are in the course typically for a year and sometimes for four years. She questioned if the curriculum of the day-to-day is about preparing for this trip.

Principal Barnes stated his certainty they would be rehearsing for the trip because they are performing.

Miss Martin stated she is in band and it is usually the same process; they look at different music all the time and before the trip they typically pick either the best pieces they have been working on throughout the year or introduce new pieces. She does not believe it would change the curriculum.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock questioned what would happen with the students who could not go. Students are in class and everyone is preparing for the trip and preparing pieces for the trip. Performance is a big part of performing arts. She is not saying do not go on these trips, she simply wants to caution when offering so many every year. This trip is at a cost of \$4,000, which is one of the most expensive she has seen. Students are going to Orlando this year for almost \$1,000 and went to New Orleans last year for \$700. She stated she would support the motion, but wished for the Administration to consider the comments.

Principal Barnes noted it is not a required part of their grade. One of the things playing out in the music department is students are in high demand. Choir was recently invited, by professors, to travel to Europe, specifically invited privately to go. He is not in favor of that because one of the trips is at the end of June and into July where you have a significant amount of seniors who have already graduated, and he does not like that for many reasons. He does not want to establish that precedent. They turned those opportunities down. This trip to Portugal is in a way trying to find something during the time that they can travel. He spoke of the students having gone to Italy previously and Montreal. He stated his belief it is an attempt to get our students out performing in another venue where they certainly will do very well and gain additional recognition.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated concern there could be students who don't participate in choir because their family cannot afford this trip. She is also concerned there are families who can afford it, but don't want to spend the money on it. She reiterated her concern with the curriculum. If every day is about getting ready to go to Portugal and there are students who are not going on the trip; what is their choir experience.

Miss Martin commented last year when band went to New Orleans, she did not attend the trip. She does not believe there were any performances. It is not as much about the trip as it is about preparing the music and learning what you can from that. Usually rehearsals, specifically for the trip, are after school or during CAVBlock. When you are preparing the music, if music selecting to play on the trip, it is rehearsed as an entire group. Principal Barnes spoke of the three concerts put on throughout the year, which all students participate in.

Chairman Solon questioned if it is reasonable to request any trip specific preparation be done outside of the regular class period. Principal Barnes stated he would have to ask that of the teachers. Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated she was not asking that as a special request, she was bringing it up as a concern. Chairman Solon responded it is valid; if there is 3 months of preparation, and particularly in an art where there are very specific roles perhaps without the opportunity for duplication, then you must write it and rehearse it for who is going to be able to perform it.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated the desire for clarity. She stated it to have been relayed to her when she started on the Board that there was the intent to have a curriculum committee. Were that in place it would be the forum for asking these kind of questions and gain clarity on what the curriculum of the music program is, how the trips fit in, etc. She feels as though the Board has approved a lot of music trips and were her children in music, she would feel compelled to want them to go on these trips; at this point that would be at a cost of over \$6,000. She

has heard there is the potential for a fundraiser, which is another aspect she believes needs to be discussed outside of this request. There are mixed messages about fundraising in terms of procedures, etc.

Ms. Brown commented there isn't information on the request relative to how the trip works into the curriculum, what students will gain from the experience, etc. Principal Barnes commented the last page of the submittal included the rationale; however that page did not make it into the packet; the enrichment piece of allowing the students to perform in other locations and being exposed to other musicians as well as broadening their cultural experiences.

Chairman Solon questioned the will of the Board relative to acting at this time. Ms. Brown commented the ball is rolling, the deadlines are there, she believes what this is really doing is saying there are several policy questions/philosophical questions about our fundraising, what our field trips are supposed to be aimed at, how many a department gives in a particular year, etc. There are a lot of questions that ought to be taken up at a Policy Committee meeting. She does not believe that keeps the Board from deciding today. Principal Barnes noted the flexibility regarding the payment schedule. He stated the request could be brought back in March. Chairman Solon noted the uncertainty of a March meeting.

Superintendent Corey remarked, based on what he has heard, there is the need to have an internal global discussion; how often, where, why, price. He, Principal Barnes, and Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug will gather others and form a committee to review the process as well as the forms used so that they clearly identify the curriculum piece.

Miss Martin stated her opinion the purpose of the trips is about exposure to music and opportunities to play in front of different people and see what is out there in the music world. The trips aren't what students prepare for in class but a showcase of that. She believes, for the past two trips, participation did not exceed half the class. It is never a focus on the trip itself or it is just brought up for logistics. It's never about who is and is not going on the trips because the numbers usually aren't there as they are usually combined with other groups.

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-0

Chairman Solon requested Principal Barnes communicate the concerns, e.g., potential impact it could have in the classroom. Fundraising will have to be addressed independently. Ms. Brown requested he urge staff to submit the requests in a timeframe that aligns with the Board being able to review the request and vote on it at a subsequent meeting.

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy IJOC volunteers; First Reading

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO AMEND POLICY IJOC - VOLUNTEERS, IN ITS ENTIRETY, BY REPLACING IT WITH THE COPY PROVIDED WITH THE AGENDA, TO FURTHER AMEND BY REPLACING "SEVERE" WITH "SEVER" ON PAGE TWO (#4 UNDER I), AND TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK**

ON THE QUESTION

Ms. Deurloo Babcock remarked the policy was brought before the committee as a result of a discussion that occurred last spring around volunteers; specifically as it relates to athletics. The policy has been studied by Principal Thompson and the Human Resource Department at the SAU looking at current procedures and how we implement our volunteer procedures. It has also been guided by conversations around the ability to release volunteers when necessary.

Chairman Solon relayed information received from Mr. Cross. The recommended change under “1. Comes in direct contact with pupils on a ~~daily~~ regular basis;”. His concern is that “regular” is too ambiguous a term. Chairman Solon questioned the correct intent. Ms. Deurloo Babcock remarked Mr. Cross’ comment is probably more accurate, which is for the sentence to read: “Comes in direct contact with pupils during school sanctioned activities.” That would be more specific and cover more. Regular is a bit of a vague term.

Chairman Solon questioned if the intent is to cover school sanctioned activities or if there is another circumstance or an attempt in the policy to overlap outside of school sanctioned activities.

The question was asked of the definition of sanctioned. Superintendent Corey suggested rather than “sanctioned” it could read “recognized by the SAU”. The key is all the individuals are going through the background check. Chairman Solon questioned the instance of an individual who is active in a school sanctioned sport but also has private activity in the off season. Do actions in that impact what goes on; “regular” is still overly ambiguous”, but “sanctioned” might be too restrictive.

Ms. Levesque noted #2 states in part “or activities as defined by the Superintendent;”

Superintendent Corey remarked as this is the first reading, the feedback received will be used during continued review of the policy.

MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0

- To see if the Board will take any action on the petition warrant articles submitted

The Board stated the desire for the articles to read “submitted by citizen petition”.

Article 14

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5 V-b, requiring that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the school board, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article? The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body. (submitted by citizens petition)

MOTION BY MEMBER LEVESQUE TO PLACE THE PETITION ON THE WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

MOTION CARRIED

5-1-0

Member Brown voted in opposition

MOTION BY MEMBER LEVESQUE TO RECOMMEND THE ARTICLE REGARDING THE TAX IMPACT

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Solon commented this is information that is placed in many locations. There was a time when it was included in the warrant. In past years, the objection noted was the tax impact is not fully known at the time the warrant is posted. He believes it would be beneficial and reduce some of the misinformation that is distributed.

Ms. Whalen stated she rarely disagrees with providing additional information; however, she wishes to proceed cautiously understanding the budgets are not built based on the tax rate. She wants people to look at the

budgets based on the content and not strictly on the tax rate. She is concerned if it is placed on the warrant prior to presenting the budget, all that will be seen is the tax rate. The District does not have complete control over the tax rate. There are a lot of other factors that come into play.

Ms. Brown noted the language refers to “tax impact”. The governing body could pass it and be faced with complaints that what residents were looking for was not just the amount of impact per \$1,000, but to compare it to the \$450,000 house in Hollis, etc. This language is subject to argument. Tax impact doesn’t have one meaning. We all know the tax rate becomes a multiplier, and if it was a year where we were going through reassessment, we wouldn’t even know what it was in March.

Chairman Solon stated it is always put up at the hearing and at the meeting. Ms. Brown stated it is an estimate that is shown. It is an estimate based upon the best facts that we have. She was simply indicating the words “tax impact” are subject to construction and she doubts if there will be consistency in how people in our community construe those loosey goosey terms.

Chairman Solon questioned if it read estimated tax impact of X dollars and cents per thousand in Brookline and X dollars and cents per \$1,000 in Hollis that would be misconstrued. Ms. Brown responded the impact of that is different. Chairman Solon stated that is what the estimated tax impact is. Ms. Brown stated she does not believe adding it to the warrant will make it any clearer. Ms. Levesque stated her opinion it would be helpful to include the information.

MOTION FAILED

2-4-0

Members Brown, Deurloo Babcock, VanCoughnett, and Whalen voted in opposition

Article 12

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

**MOTION BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK TO PLACE THE ARTICLE ON THE WARRANT
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER LEVESQUE**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated his recommendation to put it on the warrant noting the date discrepancy.

MOTION CARRIED

5-1-0

Member Brown voted in opposition

**MOTION BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK TO RECOMMEND THE TAX CAP ARTICLE
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT
MOTION FAILED**

0-6-0

Members Brown, Deurloo Babcock, Levesque, Solon, VanCoughnett, and Whalen voted in opposition

Article 13

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13(known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District on the second Tuesday of March?" (submitted by citizens petition)

MOTION BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK TO PLACE THE SB2 ARTICLE ON THE WARRANT

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BROWN

MOTION CARRIED

5-1-0

Member Brown voted in opposition

MOTION BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK TO RECOMMEND THE SB2 ARTICLE

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BROWN

ON THE QUESTION

Ms. Brown stated her belief it was untimely, and she would not have put it on the ballot for that reason. However, for the reasons she articulated at the last meeting, she is in favor of it being on the ballot.

Ms. Levesque stated her belief there is the need for more time to be able to educate the voters and ensure they understand they need to come out and vote. It will take some work on the part of the Board to make this happen.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated she would not support the motion. She is uncertain if what is best for the students is the COOP District meeting.

Chairman Solon commented the last time he saw data, there was indication on a superficial basis, the probability of capital bonds passing under SB2, despite the lower percentage needed to do so, was significantly lower. The main proponents of SB2 generally are advocating for tighter budget control.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated appreciation for the remarks; however, indicated her comments were about the negativity and negative energy. She is not a data person, she is a feelings person, and she is not certain this would be great for our community. She believes SB2 is a way of trying to keep a town meeting form of government but still have a representational form of government. She thinks the answer is more have your representatives that you elect, put together a warrant, put it in front of the voters, and let the voters vote on it. That is what it is trying to do, but that deliberative session throws it off.

Chairman Solon stated his opinion, what is being seen in Brookline is that there is significant frustration that you come out and have a lot of back and forth, some of it not particularly friendly in nature, and at the end you can't do anything. He encouraged people who are interested in the possibility of it to attend a deliberative session and see whether it provides the desired functionality.

Ms. Whalen stated she believes the annual meeting to be the purest form of democracy. She understands the deliberative session, but agrees that the number of people that attend the deliberative session does not compare to the number of people who show up to vote. She believes it best for the students to have voters hear the information and understand what the District is attempting to do.

Vice Chairman VanCoughnett stated her agreement with Ms. Levesque's comments. A lot falls on the shoulders of the Board to try and educate people. There are a lot of new people in town. Sometimes the newer generation thinks that because they can vote all day that they have options, but they don't understand the

deliberative session takes place prior, and once it is on the ballot that is the only thing they can vote on. She stated her belief it would be very frustrating to attend a deliberative session and not have any outcome. With the annual meetings, as difficult as they can be, everyone in the room comes away feeling they either won or lost, but at least they had a say.

MOTION FAILED

1-5-0

Members Deurloo Babcock, Levesque, Solon, VanCoughnett, and Whalen voted in opposition

Article 11

Because there is a possibility that Article 1 will be defeated, or that other considerations will result in the space created by Article 1 not being adequate or available for the HBHS Robotics Team, to see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$550,000 for the purpose of funding a facility for the Hollis Brookline High School and Middle School Robotics Teams. Funds to be transferred to the Hollis Brookline Robotics Boosters for this purpose. (Majority vote required) (by citizens petition).

Superintendent Corey stated the action to be taken by the Board is simply to vote on whether to recommend the article, as it was filed on February 4th. Legal counsel has advised the way it is written, it is not legal. Because it can be amended on the floor, it is the responsibility of the Board to put it on the warrant.

**MOTION BY MEMBER DEURLOO BABCOCK TO RECOMMEND THE ARTICLE
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BROWN**

ON THE QUESTION

Asked which language is illegal, Superintendent Corey stated the funds could not be transferred to a private entity. If amended on the floor and approved, the funds would be added to the budget and would be under the purview of the School Board. It would not require the Board to spend the money or to spend it for that purpose.

The Moderator and legal counsel will instruct voters the language is illegal.

Chairman Solon questioned the possibility of expending funds on something that is not in the budget. Superintendent Corey noted it is a bottom-line budget. He commented the funds could be included in the budget, not spent, and returned to the taxpayers at year end.

Chairman Solon reiterated he is uncertain, were the funds added to the budget, that they could be expended on something that is not included in the budget. Because the language indicates appropriate, does it permit that? Superintendent Corey stated that to be the case.

The question was raised of what would occur if Article 1 were to pass. Chairman Solon stated this article would still come into play because the wording indicates “will be defeated, or that other considerations will result in the space created by Article 1 not being adequate...”

Superintendent Corey noted, during the public hearing, an attempt was made to withdraw the article. That was not the appropriate venue for that. However, that motion could be made at the Annual Meeting, and the legislative body would decide that.

Ms. Deurloo Babcock commented on the amount of time she has spent over the past two years working on a STEM center. She supports robotics. However, this is not the way for robotics to get what they need. There is no way she could support this.

Ms. Levesque questioned if the Chairman would inform the voters of the attempt to withdraw the article. Chairman Solon stated the Board would not speak on this. The Petitioner(s) will address it.

Ms. Brown stated she is saddened and disappointed that this came forward. There has been a two-year committee process that included folks from robotics, and this feels like it is an undermining of the hard work and diligence of those committee members who brought forth a project that was much broader than robotics alone and really met curriculum needs of 850-900 students at the HBHS, and a project that is desperately needed. She would hate to have this misconstrued as the Board asking for a multiplier of what we really need.

She spoke of higher than anticipated enrollment numbers and the need for additional classroom space.

MOTION FAILED

0-6-0

Members Deurloo Babcock, Brown, Levesque, Solon, VanCoughnett, and Whalen voted in opposition

Vice Chairman VanCoughnett requested a paper copy of the information that would be presented at the Annual Meeting. Superintendent Corey will reach out to the Budget Committee Chairman.

REPORT OUT BY PROCESS OBSERVER

Ms. Deurloo Babcock stated the meeting ran on time most of the evening. Discussion went a little long in the non-meeting and more time was spent on the calendar than anticipated.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER LEVESQUE TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-0

The February 13, 2019 meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Date: _____

Signed: _____