

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD  
OCTOBER 27, 2021  
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Kenneth Haag, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present: Erin Sarris, Vice Chairman  
Karen Jew, Secretary  
Rebecca Howie  
Alison Marsano (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent  
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator  
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School  
Patricia Bouley, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy

---

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Superintendent Corey requested the agenda be amended to add, under deliberations, Board discussion/action on the hourly rate of the Recording Secretary.

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

Policy BEDH - Public Participation at Board Meetings, is currently under review. Chairman Haag stated the desire to adhere to the version of the policy currently under consideration, which would align it with the policies of the other districts within the SAU. Language within the proposed policy states: "Individual speakers will be allotted three minutes per person."

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ADHERE TO THE AMENDED LANGUAGE PUT FORTH FOR  
POLICY BEDH  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS  
MOTION CARRIED  
4-0-0**

**CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS**

Superintendent Corey noted the NESDEC enrollment numbers provided the Board, which will be reviewed in November as part of the budget process.

A draft job description for the proposed position of Communications & Compliance Specialist was provided. Feedback is sought for the November Board meeting in preparation for the December SAU 41 Governing Board meeting.

The Planning Board requested clarification on the activities of the Facilities Committee. A response was provided in a communication dated October 21<sup>st</sup> (copy attached). When submitting the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in August (yearly event), the district was in the midst of facility discussions. Alan Rosenberg, Chair, Capital Improvements Committee, Town of Brookline, requested clarification so that the information could be added to the CIP for the Planning Board.

- Superintendent’s Memorandum Regarding COVID Numbers

Superintendent Corey spoke of having tracked different samples of COVID data. Around the middle of the month, he and the principals began discussions of the potential to move to longer/more frequent mask breaks. By the 19<sup>th</sup>, a spike was seen (18-28). This week, for the first time, the numbers reached the 30s (between the two towns). At the start of this week the numbers were 34 with 18 confirmed cases in Brookline and 16 in the Hollis community. Based on what has been the trend, it is believed the numbers will begin to decrease.

A cluster is 3 individuals having a common piece; could be 3 individuals who were all together and all contracting COVID. When that data is filed with NH DHHS it will come back as a cluster because they name each other as close contacts. Superintendent Corey remarked in the instances we had we were very familiar with the individuals involved. It was not a surprise. If you get two clusters at the same time, it is considered an outbreak. The NH DHHS has recommended a mask mandate for a two-week period, if reaching outbreak status. We did not have to do that at the high school. The numbers came down. Currently the numbers, from a school point of view, are starting to dwindle again.

Superintendent Corey spoke of having been asked about the possibility of conducting a vaccine clinic. The health professionals he has talked to have recommended that children of that age go to their own pediatrician. If for some reason there became a huge backlog and the district were to be asked to consider something like that, we would most definitely do that for any family who wanted it. The Administration will continue to monitor numbers. When starting to see vaccines implemented, we can start to make some decisions regarding the direction we are going in.

Superintendent Corey spoke of a spike in behavior instances, e.g., a bit more pushing, shoving than is typical. For some of our students coming back to school is a major adjustment. It is not something we feel will continue to be a problem, and it is being addressed. The Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) started this week, which is a position we were waiting to come on board because of commitments with other districts. There will be a data driven decision person behind what we do.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Brookline School Board . . . . . [September 22, 2021](#)

*The following amendments were offered:*

- Page 4, Line 22; replace “they” with “it”
- Page 6, Line 43; correct the spelling of “but”
- Page 7, Line 24; replace “is” with “are”
- Page 7, Line 46; replace “He” with “Principal Molinari”
- Page 8 Line 45; replace “works” with “work”

Page 9, Line 11; remove the random “s” before “not”  
Page 19, Line 13; replace “to” with “of” before “fund”

**MOTION BY MEMBER JEW TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-0**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mike Baier, 2 Kemp Drive

Thanked Superintendent Corey for his candor and the invitation to meet extended following last month’s meeting. With a total combined population of over 12,000 people (two communities), 25 active cases on any given week represents less than 1/5 of 1% of the population. He is uncertain how that correlates to pandemic level response. The way we are responding to it does not seem to correlate with the severity of the issue.

In looking at the federal grant funding, the documentation included with the agenda seemed to be in draft form. In looking through some of the documents and the requirements in the policies, there are concerns related to contracting and procurement processes he wished to bring up that could have detrimental impacts to compliance to Federal government policies. There do not seem to be any requirements for cyber security related concerns when it comes to risk management.

He did note specific, very limited, documentation on breach remediation in terms of the cost of breach remediation that a vendor would be liable to reimburse the district for. However, he did not see anything specifically calling out the limits of liability and indemnification requirements. He did not see anything related to cyber security related insurance policies, how the School Board will comply with monitoring the compliance of the vendors when reporting back to the Federal Government.

He suggested the Board reach out for assistance, and offered to provide input at no cost, or that the district expend the cost for a cyber security consultant to build this as it is needed.

Regarding the proposed position, there is a specific job responsibility that discusses creating policies for data handling guidelines. Typically people with this background and job description are not qualified to make those policy related decisions in the traditional business world. He requested reconsideration of this position being responsible for mandating policy on data collection and classification.

Drew Kellner, 7 Yankee Way

Thanked members of the Board and Administration for all they have done over the past year and a half, and spoke of his appreciation for the effort undertaken in listening to the guidance from the CDC, NH DHHS, etc. It is a difficult choice that not everyone will agree with. He commented on the Board and Administration doing an admirable job in terms of weighing the evidence and trying to plot the best course.

He reminded those watching and in attendance that these are their neighbors. They stepped forward to do this service. It is not an easy job particularly when dealing with something like this.

Peter D'Agostino, 9 Louis Drive

Echoed the remarks of Mr. Kellner. Having had an opportunity to review some of the meetings for other purposes, he wished to state that others in Town support what the Board and Administration are doing. It is a tough decision. Keep following the science and doing the best you can. Thank you for keeping our kids in school and doing that to be the best of your ability.

Melinda Al Banna, 76 Averill Road

Questioned how long after the vaccines are available the masking mandate would end and what substantial spread is based on; Town, County, State. The fact that parents cannot get a clear answer to very basic questions is another example of the lack of leadership or ability to clearly create a policy and evaluate its risk. An entire group of parents was left with no representation and nowhere to go except get a lawyer or pull their kids from school. You have addressed none of their concerns or even mentioned the packets of data and research they have provided. You have done nothing to mitigate the harm these policies are causing. This Board mandated a policy and then did nothing to ensure it was being followed safely, consistently, humanely or even hygienically. When you were told these policies were hurting children, the Board did nothing.

The policy lacks any logic or reasoning; sitting in the cafeteria talking and eating is safe but sitting in the classroom quietly working is not. Depending on the teacher for the day, that lunch break is all the break kids get. Any separation at recess is already rendered ineffective by the fact that these pods mix every day on the bus, at sporting events, parties, etc. Your policy has done nothing to prevent the spread of the less contagious common cold.

Explain why when children are sneezing and coughing into their masks teachers are not having them change them right away? How is that good for their health?

The policy has made school less healthy and less safe turning school into a place of constant fear and uncertainty. The Board says it cares. Your lack of literally any action shows otherwise. The Board said it would listen to facts and reason and had not made up their minds already. The lack of discourse, honesty and transparency shows otherwise. The theory that your logic defying policies have anything to do with the number of cases in the schools does not hold water when looking at real world data. Out of the 9 current outbreaks in the State 5 were masked and 4 optional.

Mary LeBaron, 8 Parker Road

Last month she shared how her children did poorly last year. This year they decided to place them into a private school where they will honor doctor notes for exemptions for masking. She is excited to hear that masking could possibly be changing soon. She asked if the school nurses were being trained to deal with any adverse effects from children being vaccinated.

Caleb LeBaron

He hates masks. He cannot breathe in them. They are annoying and fall down when you talk. He cannot see his friends faces or recognize people in masks. Masks make him nervous. Kids should not have to wear masks. It is a punishment.

Buddy Dougherty, 11 Ruonala Road

Has been a resident for 60 years. Does not have children in the district. Everyone who has a child in the school might pay for their child's tuition to school and the rest of us in town are paying for the other 1.3. He watched the last meeting from home and could not believe the disrespect the Board was being given because of a difference of opinion. He has always voted because he either knew the person, had learned of good things about a person or understood that a particular person was not a good fit for the School Board. He does not want the members of the Board to be bullied and cannot believe how many bullies have come to Town who think that is how they are going to get their way. He is dismayed at how many people think that is how it is going to work.

He spoke of his support of the Board. Board members did not sign up for this and he would not have blamed them if they just folded up their tent and marched away. People who do not like the way things are going have choices; keep their children home and educate them, send them to a private school, see if they can get 25 friends to put their name on the ballot to be on the School Board. He supports the Board and wants members to keep up the fight.

**PRINCIPALS' REPORT**

Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS), highlighted items from the report included as part of the [agenda](#) packet. He thanked the PTO and volunteers who supported the book fair, which was a huge success. The traditional Halloween parade will be back this year; October 29<sup>th</sup>. November 12<sup>th</sup> is the Professional Development Day; no school for students. November 23<sup>rd</sup> is a half-day for students.

Patricia Bouley, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy (CSDA), spoke of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities occurring; Choose Love Program. The School Counselor, Ms. Visinski-Bumpus, has been going into classrooms for social skills; specifically focusing on personal space, self-awareness, being responsible for decision making and doing that appropriately in coordination with friends, relationship skills and friendship building. Next month the focus will be on anti-bullying and tying in with the PTO on a virtual program.

Principal Molinari spoke of the Brookline Food Pantry Project; currently have a cereal box donation ongoing. They will be doing a cereal box domino fall.

At RMMS, Ms. Deborah Bowry, School Counselor, has been speaking with the students about self-regulation, self-awareness, activities such as mindful walks, observation, and movement and dance to improve SEL. They continue to do as much as they can to recognize as many students as possible on a daily basis with the Blue Jay Awards.

**DISCUSSION**

- Fiscal Year 2021 Final Numbers

Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator, informed the Board the auditors have completed their field work. FY21 ended with a savings of \$586,132. The explanation page provides a detailed listing of areas where savings resulted, e.g., personnel changes related to COVID-19, bus transportation costs reduced as a result of revamping bus routes, and savings in the area of benefits due to health insurance choices, and lower salary related taxes and benefits.

On the revenue side, the year ended with \$175,951 above the budgeted amount. Funds received in excess of budgeted amounts were in the areas of grants and Federal Food Service. Lunch and breakfast were free all year

long and more meals were consumed. With a total Unreserved Fund Balance (UFB) of \$762,082 less the allocations to trusts and expenses, \$517,582 will be returned to the tax base to offset the amount that has to be raised through taxes to support the current budget.

- Fiscal Year 2022 – Revenue & Expense First Quarter Report

As of 9-30-21, the year to date expenses (\$1,524,464) and encumbrances (\$9,001,364) result in a projected UFB of \$1,184.

Noted was an unforeseen special education cost that will likely result in use of the Special Education Trust Fund.

Chairman Haag noted the negative amount of \$59,170 as the balance for the Special Education line item and asked if the \$59,170 negative balance is a projected amount that may increase as the year progresses. Ms. Smith stated that to be the case.

Superintendent Corey stated there are costs encumbered for positions that remain unfilled at this time. There will be savings there. Also encumbered are funds allocated to the Contingency Fund, Special Education Trust Fund, and the Board approved Reserve Fund Balance. He spoke of the difficulties associated with preparing a budget 18 months in advance.

- Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Corey noted inclusion of the Annual Calendar in the agenda packet. The calendar outlines the 2022 Annual Meeting dates and deadlines. He spoke of the Town Report submission deadline, which has become an issue over the past few years as the Town continues to operate on an Annual Meeting structure where the Brookline School District is SB2 (two different calendars). What is done to address that is publishing of the information brochure that comes out of the office of the Assistant Superintendent so that residents have information on each of the warrant articles to make an informed decision when heading to the poles.

Also in the packet was information on the proposed budget for the SAU 41 Governing Board. Provided the Board was an updated job description for the position of Communications Specialist. Having heard some feedback this evening, it is likely adjustments will be made.

With regard to the SAU 41 Governing Board budget, proposed is a budget of \$2,107,176, which represents an increase of \$149,579 or 7.6%. The proposed budget baseline is \$2,014,538 (2.9% increase). Were the voters not to support the addition of the position (\$76,638), the adjusted budget would be \$2,018,210 or 3.1% increase.

At the SAU 41 Governing Board meeting, concerns were voiced that the SAU was looking to add a layer to the steps to the Superintendent. Superintendent Corey stated he sees this as the opposite of that. He does not intend to utilize the position as something that gets in the way of his communication. This is more around addressing compliance issues coming from the State and Federal Government. The Board is aware of the 200 bills specific to education in this year's Legislative Session. Many of those end up coming down and result in costs associated with manpower and time that has to be spent on fulfilling requirements.

The Public Hearing on the SAU 41 Governing Board proposed budget will be conducted on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at CSDA.

- Facilities Committee – Renovations Plan

Superintendent Corey spoke of the desire for guidance from the Board that will allow the Administration to work towards acquiring the best estimates of the work to be done. During the November and December Board meetings discussions can be had around needs, costs, and what can be moved forward.

Renovations proposed included a look at the boilers and HVAC in both buildings. The district would study the conversion from oil to propane, which would allow the district to work with both towns providing purchasing power.

At RMMS, the installation of an elevator is a must for ADA compliance. We have 2 classrooms on the bottom floor and other available space that we could utilize more on a permanent basis, but we need to be compliant. That should be done in Phase I as the moment we open the two classrooms, if we were to continue to usurp other areas, we could manage the enrollment crunch for a period of time.

The move to LED lighting will reduce expenses. The payback is relatively quick.

RMMS would investigate the installation of a fire suppression system based on the recommended renovations of the building and would update kitchen facilities. There are space constraints in the kitchen, but also items purchased many years ago that have become obsolete in the industry. By reconfiguring the kitchen and updating the equipment it is believed a modern, efficient kitchen can be established in roughly the same space. There was discussion of having a separate cafeteria facility. It is not believed, at this time, to be cost effective. They would continue to base the academic schedule around lunches, which has worked well.

RMMS would construct four new classrooms or equivalent space to allow for increased enrollment and the continuation of required services to meet the needs of our student population. There has been discussion by the Facilities Committee of the current library at RMMS, which is the equivalent of two classrooms and is centrally located from an academic point of view. It may be more cost effective to convert the old library into 2 new classroom spaces so that we can group our classes, and then coming off the rear of the building, build a new multi-purpose space. It will be looked at from the point of view that at times building a larger structure with less walls from a heating, AC, etc. can be much more efficient.

The main office would be relocated down to Milford Street. Some of the existing space would be taken over. The main office would then be located next to the nurse and guidance counselor. The spaces that would be given up, current Principal Office, office reception area, etc. would all become service rooms for special education students. Work continues on the growth of the self-contained special education programming. The example was provided of students coming into the district for whom we do not currently have a program. The first thing we do is look in Hollis as each of the districts have a few programs. That would be the least constrictive educational environment.

Before moving to an out-of-district placement, we look to our neighbors in Nashua as sometimes the wealth in the size of their district allows them to have specific programming. The next alternative is an out-of-district placement whether a day placement or residential. With transportation, a day program would likely be between \$100,000 - \$120,000 for the one student depending on needs. A residential placement (close from transportation model) could run \$200,000. We have some students who are transported to Massachusetts. Those run between \$300,000 to \$400,000/placement.

The department has worked very hard. We do not have a wealth of placements because we believe we can offer the best programming here. That is why we have individuals like the BCBA, School Psychologist, etc. Many of

those positions are shared as they are costly. By sharing those across multiple districts we get the benefit of the consistency of service as well as when the child transitions into the COOP district it is not a transition for the parent; the same service provider is following the student.

At CSDA, the HVAC control and fire alarm system (panel) would be updated as they are approaching end of useful life. The inefficient florescent lighting will be replaced (with LED).

They would investigate the installation of a fire suppression system. That decision is up to the local Fire Chief in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal.

CSDA would construct 3 new classrooms to allow for increased enrollment and the continuation of required services to meet the needs of our student population. The 2 portables would be removed, and an addition would be constructed at the opposite end of the building. The portables were initially intended to serve as a short-term fix and have been in the district for 20<sup>±</sup> years.

When discussing infrastructure items such as boilers, controls, potential solar and LED lighting, there is the potential for a performance contract. From a tax point of view they become cost neutral. The company would come in and do the renovations and they will see the benefits through the reductions of those costs. That can be done through a lease contract or bond. With a lease you only pay interest on the money being used whereas once a bond is let you start paying interest on the bond (first year is typically a 6 month interest payment, and the following year the entire bond kicks in). In either case, the desire would be to ensure the cost is spread out over multiple years (10-20).

ADA, safety and fire protection upgrades are necessary. Additions to both schools to provide more educational space; 5 classrooms at each grade level, which would allow maintaining the Board class size specifications.

Renovations to the RMMS main office to improve access and service provider spaces also adds another safety level. It is one central location that also becomes a drop-off/pick-up point for the youngest students.

Initial estimates provided to the Brookline School Board range from \$11 million to \$16 million. The Facilities Committee will work to narrow the focus and gain more concrete estimates.

November and December will be used to flush out Board questions and community input to get to the point of having a proposal to move forward while being cognizant of the tax impact.

At the COOP School District, the only large expense item will be associated with air conditioning the third floor as the heat has become excessive and oppressive. The COOP School Board is also conducting a study preparing for an enrollment spike in 2-3 years. As this is a year where we do not have contract negotiations on the warrant, this may be a year where we are able to balance the needs.

Chairman Haag questioned if the intent is to separate the different aspects of the proposal believing some aspects will garner more support than others and he would not want to see the proposal either accepted or rejected as a whole. Superintendent Corey remarked it should also be noted he is uncertain if we should be doing them in terms of one proposal/one year because we only have a 10-week window during the summer to do projects. If we decided to move forward with infrastructure and energy that might be something we are looking to do next summer and then coming back to the voters again. As long as taxpayers know what the long-term plan is they will do their best to support what they can.



Chairman Haag remarked one of the big questions we need to provide clear understanding of is, with those classroom renovations and the updated NESDEC enrollment projections, how far out would the proposed changes/additions get us. Superintendent Corey responded the goal of the architectural firm and energy firm was looking at this to solve the space needs for a decade. One of the items that changes this type of plan for our communities, during his tenure, is the economy. In 2012-2013 we saw a lot of families being transferred out because industry was moving them to other places. There is the balancing act that our birth rate does not necessarily show enrollment, it is our move-in rate, and until the past two years, it had been typically that the elementary schools would gain a child or two from the family, but that they were really moving in for the high school. Now we seem to be seeing a lot of younger families who will be with us for the long haul.

Chairman Haag commented looking at the datapoint from today to 2031 (decade) and the addition of 65, the five classrooms would take care of the need. Superintendent Corey remarked it also allows us to continue to create capacity for our special education in-house programming.

Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of the idea of the multi-functional space. In addition to special education areas there are things like technology and what classrooms will look like in ten years. We may need a very versatile space that could be able to function as an overflow cafeteria but could also be a place where students work at their own pacing independently. She stated appreciation for the architects having an eye towards the future.

When asked, Superintendent Corey stated the elevator is likely going to be in the area of the present side stairwell; instead of two flights of stairs one side would have the elevator. There are rooms at the end of the building near the basketball court that are slightly undersized. It may or may not be advantageous to expand those rooms. If those rooms were not expanded because they could be used for service providers, we would look at the exit at that end of the building becoming the walkway to the new multi-purpose space. We would keep some green space for a second outdoor classroom.

Asked how the Hollis School District went about their solar installation, Superintendent Corey stated they included the cost of the solar within the bond. They were able to put a solar array on the HPS roof and the HUES roof. We generate more than enough electricity now to take care of those buildings. The decision was made at HPS to move to air source heat pumps, which are an electrical source (run off the solar). They are, at times, able to see the meter turn back because they were able to buy into selling the power back to the company. At HUES, the array differs. About 85-90% of their electricity is coming from there. At times it is 100%. Chairman Haag asked is the panels are purchased or leased. Superintendent Corey stated the Board could select either option. In Hollis they chose to own them. The impetus for purchasing in Hollis was the long-term savings. Payback was quick.

Chairman Haag asked if the lease rate is locked in. Superintendent Corey stated a lease could be purchased with a set rate. Typically leases have been at a slightly higher rate than bonds. The New Hampshire Bond Bank has had the best rates. The lease provides a bit more flexibility with the funding as you go through the process.

Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of her support of presenting a phased-in approach. It is important for the community to understand the infrastructure needs. They are costly items that are imminent.

Superintendent Corey spoke of the benefits associated with building control systems for a building such as RMMS. When we do not have school on a snow day, a custodian being able to remotely take the temperature down to vacation heat levels would be appropriate. When all lights are on timers, they are turned off. There are a lot of benefits there. From a standpoint of making the project manageable, phasing it is also appropriate. If deciding on infrastructure he would like to package all of the items for the two buildings believing that is doable over the course of a summer.

There is the desire to look at the insulation value at RMMS. When that was done in Hollis, the brick building had an insulation thermal resistance (R) factor of about 3. That is why we blew insulation in, changed the façade, and are now at an R factor of about 40. Not only did they go to a much more efficient heating system they made it much better and changed the windows. There is the payback. The most important payback in doing this is setting the buildings up by adding decades of useful life.

Member Jew commented on the flexible space use. In addition to classroom space and special education needs, there is the STEM lab, technology needs, maybe a science lab at CSDA, etc. Having that flexibility is important to plan for in the future.

The current library has a temporary wall to create a library space and reading services. Were we to do that permanently, we would utilize one of the retractable walls like is used in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. That wall is seldom closed, and the space is used as a collaboration environment between multiple teachers. He believes that to be where education is heading. If we were to build this flexible space that was large, we would be looking at how to take big spaces and make smaller ones, but at the same time making them large when needed.

Chairman Haag asked if any thought is given to a few outdoor learning environments with a structure. Principal Molinari responded if he were to suggest a location it would be an overhang of sorts on Milford Street. That could be used as an outdoor space and also could be used during drop-off and pick-up in times of inclement weather.

Superintendent Corey stated the Facilities Committee will meet again in advance of the next Board meeting. They will narrow the focus and bring back representatives from EEI and the architectural firm so that they can answer questions and identify what they might look to be included in a first phase.

The plan would be to potentially conduct a public forum evening to review the plans and gather community feedback.

The piece the Board will have to work on is that RMMS' enrollment has already arrived. We may need to move that forward with some of the energy pieces sooner than later. That is another reason he likes the concept of a flexible space near the basketball court because we do not necessarily need to tie that into the building until the end. When students return after the summer, we set up a separate environment where their working environment does not bring them in contact with the buildings.

- Public Comment Feedback

Chairman Haag noted the desire of the Board to address input provided during the public comment period.

Vice Chairman Sarris commented one of the questions was in regard to medical exemptions and how that works. It sounds like there could be some clarification for the public with regard to accommodations and the circumstances. Superintendent Corey stated the medical exemptions all go through the Student Services Department and all fall under the umbrella of a 504 accommodation. Were the district to receive a doctor's note from a family, we convene a 504 team that determines what are reasonable accommodations to make for that environment. In pretty much all of those meetings, one of the goals is to build mask tolerance because in some cases when the child has a medical condition, we are trying to balance the risk of being exposed to COVID with the potential problems they face by wearing a mask. We have families who have accessed those plans. Families can contact Lauren DiGennaro, Director of Student Services, the SAU, or the building principal and we can get that potential 504 plan started.

A question was raised about whether the school nurses will be trained to spot potential side effects of COVID vaccines. Superintendent Corey stated he does not have a concern with that as the school nurses are adept at managing all different types of situations. We will know once the window opens, and nurses would know to look to the area for redness or soreness. In many instances the adverse impacts keep you out of school the next day.

Vice Chairman Sarris remarked, from her perspective, she does not believe the Board can decide prematurely about what we will do once the vaccine comes out. She is uncertain it is even known how much time will have to go by between doses. She is hesitant to say here is what we will do when we do not have all of the information yet.

Member Jew remarked it is also not fully approved and there is the chance it may only be approved for immunocompromised children. She agrees it is early to set in stone what we will do.

Chairman Haag commented he believes there is a scientific off-ramp around the mask mandate. There was a question around what is substantial spread. NH DHHS is defining substantial spread by counties. Guidance from DHHS is mask mandates for counties of substantial spread and areas of population with no vaccines. We have heard the community. A compromise around a scientific off-ramp based on that guidance is what he believes the Board will continue to talk about and look forward to.

## **DELIBERATIONS**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the policy memo submitted by the Brookline Policy Committee

### **Policy JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response**

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading: 8-2-21 (as amended)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 9-22-21 (as amended)

*Given its 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading;*

Principal Molinari noted the proposed changes; Section IA where the draft policy identified items the plan must include (A-J), and the proposed language references the requirement to comply with State law rather than spelling out each of the items understanding they could change over time.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO AMEND POLICY JLDBB – SUICIDE PREVENTION, IN ITS ENTIRETY, BY REPLACING IT WITH THE COPY PROVIDED WITH THE AGENDA, ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT, AS AMENDED  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

### **Member Marsano**

Asked about the District Suicide Prevention Plan. Superintendent Corey stated that would be presented to the Board separately.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

**Policy BEDH - Public Participation at Board Meetings**

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading 9-22-21

*Given its 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading;*

No changes have been proposed since the time of the last reading. Chairman Haag spoke of the desire for the policy to go through three readings to ensure the public has the opportunity to review the information.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE SECOND READING OF POLICY BEDH - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

**Policy JLF - Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 9-22-21

*Given its 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading;*

Principal Molinari noted the only change from the time of the first reading is replacing the words “Section A” with “the first paragraph”.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO AMEND IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH BY REPLACING “SECTION A” WITH “THE FIRST PARAGRAPH” AND ACCEPT THE SECOND READING OF POLICY JLF – REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AS AMENDED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

**Policy KEB – Public Complaints About School Personnel**

*Given its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading;*

This is a new policy required by law.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY KEB – PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Sarris commented the language states any complaint would be referred back to the Superintendent. She questioned if that language should be broader.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

**Policy DAF – Administration of Federal Grant Funds**

*Given its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading;*

Principal Molinari noted a third reading was done in January. However, as the result of an audit this summer it was noted changes have occurred since. Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of the Board’s appreciation of people having

expertise in this area. Those having comments to provide are encouraged to provide their remarks to the Policy Committee. Policy Committee meetings are open to the public.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY DAF –  
ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE  
MOTION CARRIED  
5-0-0**

Policy **ADB/GBEC** - Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools  
*Given its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading;*

Principal Molinari noted the policy is currently not up to date. The intent is to rescind the current policy, ADB, and replace it with this policy. The need for numerous changes were noted as a result of the recent audit. The policy adopted in the Hollis district met the requirements of the audit. The intent is to mirror that policy.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY ADB/GBEC – DRUG-  
FREE WORKPLACE & DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE  
MOTION CARRIED  
5-0-0**

Policy **ADB** – Drug-Free Workplace

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RESCIND POLICY ADB – DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE  
MOTION CARRIED  
5-0-0**

Addressing the next scheduled meeting, Superintendent Corey stated what happens during a vacation month is that the Hollis School Board meets on the first Wednesday the COOP School Board's meeting moves up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and Brookline takes the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (November 17<sup>th</sup>).

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ADJOURN  
SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE  
MOTION CARRIED  
5-0-0**

*The October 27, 2021, meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_



# School Administrative Unit #41

Hollis, Brookline & Hollis-Brookline Cooperative School Districts

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

4 Lund Lane

Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

phone 603.324.5999 fax 603.465.3933

---

October 27, 2021

To: Brookline School Board

From: Andrew Corey, School Superintendent

Re: Potential expansion for the Brookline Schools

Cc: Alan Rosenberg, Capital Improvements Chair

Items related to building infrastructure and renovations proposed for the School District

## **RMMS:**

- RMMS would be looking to update their boilers from residential style to commercial boilers and would be considering moving to propane to increase the buying power of the SAU and our two towns. As part of this upgrade RMMS would install central building controls.
- RMMS would require the installation of an elevator to meet ADA compliance issues.
- RMMS would install LED lighting to reduce expenses.
- RMMS would be investigating the installation of a fire suppression system based on the recommended renovations of the building.
- RMMS would be updating its kitchen facilities to provide a modernized facility to meet the needs of the approximately 300 students it provides meals for.
- RMMS would construct four new classrooms or equivalent space to allow for increased enrollment and the continuation of required services to meet the needs of our student population.
- RMMS main office renovations

## **CSDA:**

- CSDA would be upgrading their HVAC control and fire alarm system as they are both approaching end of life.
- CSDA would replace its inefficient florescent lighting
- CSDA would be investigating the installation of a fire suppression system
- CSDA would construct three new classrooms to allow for increased enrollment and the continuation of required services to meet the needs of our student population.

**Potential solutions:**

- Performance contract: Low budget impact solution for controls, boilers, solar and lighting
- ADA, safety and fire protection upgrades
- Additions to both schools to provide more educational space
- Renovations to RMMS main office to improve access and service provider spaces

**Brookline Preliminary Costs:**

Initial estimates provided to the Brookline School Board range from 11 Million to 16 Million. The proposals will be further discussed at the Brookline School Board's upcoming meetings where priorities and adjustments will be reviewed which will most likely result in a change to the cost projections.

**Cooperative School District:**

The Cooperative School District has recently begun the process of evaluating their infrastructure and building capacity based on the projections for enrollment increases in the coming years. We expect to have an initial discussion with the Cooperative School Board in the coming months.