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**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD
DECEMBER 19, 2018
MEETING MINUTES**

10 A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, December 19, 2018
11 at 6:03 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

12 Matthew Maguire, Chairman, presided:

13 Members of the Board Present: Kenneth Haag, Vice Chairman
14 Alison Marsano, Secretary
15 Rebecca Howie
16 Erin Sarris

17 Members of the Board Absent:

18 Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
19 Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
20 Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator
21 Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
22 Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School
23 Brian Rater, Hollis Finance Committee

24 **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

25 Superintendent Corey requested the agenda be adjusted, under Deliberations, by removing
26 consideration of Policy JLJ – Life Threatening Allergies. Beth Williams, a resident of Brookline and a
27 substitute Nurse for the SAU, has been reviewing policies, and has volunteered to attend the next
28 Policy Committee meeting to provide feedback for consideration.

29 **MOTION BY MEMBER HOWIE THAT THE AGENDA BE ADJUSTED AS REQUESTED**
30 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**
31 **MOTION CARRIED**
32 **5-0-0**

33 **CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS** - None

34 **PUBLIC INPUT**

35 Beth Williams, 3 Nissitissit Road

36 Ms. Williams is and has been a Pediatric Nurse for 15 years. Prior to that she was a combat medic in
37 the Army. She is a substitute Nurse in Hollis for both the Hollis and COOP Districts. She commented
38 on having noted how the policies vary; in some ways understandably and appropriate. There is a great
39 deal of research that goes into policy. However, the current Brookline Policy JLJ is not research
40 based, which raises concerns for her. She spoke of having a good deal of information to share with the
41 Policy Committee and of her appreciation for the opportunity. She commented on having been
42 approached by parents of students with allergies that would be interested in providing feedback as
43 well, and the desire for additional time to ensure the information is shared with the Policy Committee
44 and ultimately the Board.

45 The Board thanked Ms. Williams for her willingness to share her knowledge and insight.

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1 **PRINCIPALS' REPORT**
2

3 Principal Molinari noted the staffing report included with the agenda.
4

5 Highlighted were recent and upcoming events.
6

7 Principal Dobe spoke of PTO sponsored activities and the value they add to the school.
8

9 ***There being no objection, the Board went out of the regular order of business to take up discussion***
10 ***and deliberation of the resolutions coming before the New Hampshire School Board Association***
11 ***(NHSBA) Delegate Assembly.***
12

- 13 • New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) Delegate Assembly
14

15 *Information pertaining to the proposed resolutions and the recommendations of the NHSBA was*
16 *included as part of the [agenda](#) packet.*
17

18 The NHSBA Delegate Assembly is scheduled for January 26, 2019. Representatives from member
19 school boards will vote on Resolutions and Statements of Belief, which will guide the NHSBA's
20 legislative advocacy efforts with the New Hampshire Legislature.
21

22 Any NHSBA member school board may submit resolutions for consideration. Copies of resolutions
23 submitted for this year's assembly were distributed. Member boards are asked to take a formal
24 position on each of the Resolutions, which could then be relayed via the Board's chosen representative.
25

26 **Proposed Resolution #10**
27

28 *"The New Hampshire School Boards Association supports legislation that makes clear the authority of*
29 *local school districts to restrict all but authorized police and security officers from bringing firearms*
30 *onto school property. This restriction applies to all students, school visitors, employees, volunteers,*
31 *those attending school functions, and those voting when the polling place is in a school."*
32

33 Ms. Sarris commented on the note provided that the NHSBA Executive Committee is opposed to the
34 resolution.
35

36 She spoke of the desire for the resolution to convey the importance of local control. She questioned if
37 the way the proposed resolution is worded resulted in the NHSBA not supporting it. The alternative
38 they propose is for Congress, the NH Legislature, and local public safety agencies to prioritize
39 collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with schools. That is not the point of the resolution.
40

41 Superintendent Corey stated his interpretation of why it was opposed to be that the Executive
42 Committee strives for local control, and the resolution submitted is a blanket resolution that does not
43 give the local board that authority.

1 The alternative proposed by the NHSBA reads:
2

3 *“NHSBA calls upon the United States Congress, the New Hampshire Legislature and local safety*
4 *agencies to prioritize collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with school districts; and*
5 *further supports legislation at the federal, state and local levels that protect students and school*
6 *district employees from on-campus violence.”*
7

8 The NHSBA is looking at this as an issue to be addressed through the NH Legislature as opposed to
9 any school district or a school boards association making a blanket statement.
10

11 Ms. Sarris remarked the purpose of the resolution is to say local school districts should be allowed to
12 restrict. It is not that they need to restrict, it is just providing that local control. There is one RSA that
13 states only the State can regulate firearms, which takes away local control. She would like to see the
14 NHSBA oppose that RSA noting the objection to only the State being able to regulate firearms.
15

16 Ms. Sarris questioned if the NHSBA is required to accept a resolution that the majority of member
17 boards support even if the Executive Committee does not, and was informed they must support the
18 decision of the body, and they would start to look at legislation that comes before them through that
19 lens. Superintendent Corey commented, in a number of cases, they want to stay in a grey area. That is
20 typical of a school board association as they are representing all of the various opinions of all of the
21 member boards.
22

23 Ms. Marsano commented she can see the rationale for wanting the State to maintain overall control of
24 gun rights; if different city-by-city, town-by-town, you could have major conflicts. On the other hand,
25 it appears that we don't want to lose control over that within our own school district.
26

27 Superintendent Corey commented being a smaller school district and two towns, we have regular
28 access to our State Representatives and Senators. In some ways, there is potentially more value in
29 inviting them to attend a meeting and engaging in a discussion with them. He commented, as three
30 different districts, there could conceivably be three different policies, and as a parent you may make
31 the mistake by not realizing what district you are in on that given day. That is perhaps another aspect
32 the NHSBA is considering by saying this is really a function of our State, but we need clarity on this
33 issue because it is vague and hard to enforce. It is the reason the decision was reached not to have
34 classes in session on polling days.
35

36 Chairman Maguire stated his support of local control; however, noted concern with the language of the
37 proposed resolution.
38

39 Ms. Sarris stated the desire for a resolution with a bit of a softer approach to the issue of local control.
40 She spoke of Federal law that is not allowed to be enforced because of State law. Chairman Maguire
41 stated his belief the State cannot enforce it, but a Federal agent can. There is clear conflict.
42

43 Chairman Maguire commented, if the wording of the resolution was supported, it would give local
44 school districts the authority to allow/disallow. Vice Chairman Haag stated his support of the
45 proposed resolution commenting the message it sends and the local control aspect is something he
46 believed the Board was in favor of supporting.

1 Ms. Marsano stated her agreement commenting her point to have been she can see where the
2 opposition would come in.

3
4 Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug called the Board's attention to proposed resolution #19, which
5 reads: "*The NHSBA supports legislation allowing local districts to determine whether guns are*
6 *allowed in their schools.*"

7
8 Chairman Maguire stated his preference to support Resolution #19. Ms. Sarris suggested it would be
9 contradictive if not supporting both.

10
11 Superintendent Corey suggested the Board consider each on its own merits and vote on each
12 individually. From there the Board could make it understood, if a choice has to be made on the floor
13 of the assembly, which it prefers.

14
15 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO SUPPORT PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10 AS**
16 **WRITTEN**

17 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**

18 **MOTION CARRIED**

19 **5-0-0**

20
21 Proposed Resolution #11

22
23 "*Eliminate/remove the two existing NHSBA Resolutions relative to the New Hampshire Retirement*
24 *System:*

25
26 (1) *NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The*
27 *NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA*
28 *supports legislation that will strengthen NHRS's solvency while also lessening the fiscal impact on*
29 *local school districts. NHSBA supports legislative changes to NHRS that ensure NHRS is fully*
30 *funded. NHSBA supports legislative changes to NHRS that return state contributions to NHRS.*
31 *NHSBA supports requiring that all NHRS rate increases are shared equally between employees,*
32 *employers and the state. (2017)*

33
34 (2) *Resolution X:A - NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement*
35 *System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally sustainable. To achieve*
36 *this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will strengthen NHRS's solvency, including legislation*
37 *to change how an employee's average final compensation is determined. NHSBA supports a*
38 *calculation using an average of the highest five years for all employees retiring after July 1, 2016.*
39 *NHSBA further supports legislation requiring that all NHRS rate increases, above those*
40 *attributable to the \$2.4 billion unfunded liability agreed to by public employees in 2007, be shared*
41 *equally between employees and employers. (2011)"*

42
43 Ms. Sarris noted the NHSBA proposed alternative:

44
45 "*NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The*
46 *NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA*
47 *supports legislation that will return state contributions to the NHRS.*"

1 Superintendent Corey stated his belief the intent is for it to return to prior practice, e.g., State paid
2 25%. That was downshifted, over time, to local taxpayers. Currently one of the largest increases is
3 that of state retirement costs. The desire is to return some of the funding obligation to the State level.
4

5 Asked if it would be a lesser percentage of tax burden on local taxpayers if paid through the State
6 budget. Superintendent Corey commented, at the State level, the burden is spread out across the State.
7 If the responsibility of the State, the State would have to identify which tax would be used, e.g., there
8 was discussion last year of using business taxes for school choice. If there are tax dollars available that
9 could be used to offset the retirement system that would give some relief to local communities.
10

11 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO SUPPORT THE NHSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS’**
12 **PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION #11**

13 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**

14 **MOTION CARRIED**

15 **5-0-0**

16
17 Proposed Resolution #12

18
19 *“NHSBA advocates for the proper funding of high quality public education and opposes any*
20 *provisions of the law or rule that funds private school student reassignment using publicly raised tax*
21 *dollars.”*
22

23 Ms. Sarris stated there to be a lot of concern over the issue. The NHSBA is indicating it would be
24 repetitive as the intent is already covered in NHSBA Resolution I:A and I:B.
25

26 *The Board stated agreement with the opinion relayed in the proposed resolution.*
27

28 **MOTION BY MEMBER HOWIE TO SUPPORT PROPOSED RESOLUTION #12 AS**
29 **WRITTEN**

30 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**

31 **MOTION CARRIED**

32 **5-0-0**

33
34 Proposed Resolution #15

35
36 *“That if a parent chooses to exempt their student from a statewide assessment, school district does not*
37 *need parental approval for the alternative activity that will be provided to the student while the*
38 *assessment is being administered.”*
39

40 Ms. Marsano stated support for the proposed resolution. She noted parents are not asked for approval
41 of every lesson plan that is created. There has to be some inherent faith in the District and teachers.
42

43 Asked if parental approval is currently required, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded
44 currently, if a parent opts out an alternate assignment is provided, but with the new requirement to
45 mandate that we accept opt outs, included in the legislation is the requirement that the parent then
46 approves the optional assignment. She believes it to be an organizational nightmare. One option is
47 that the opt-out form identifies what the assignment would be so that approval is provided for both at
48 the same time.
49

1 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO SUPPORT PROPOSED RESOLUTION #15 AS**
2 **WRITTEN**
3 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

4
5 ON THE QUESTION

6
7 Ms. Sarris commented the concern for the NHSBA is the appearance parental input is not respected.

8 **MOTION CARRIED**
9 **5-0-0**

10
11 Proposed Resolution #16

12
13 *“The public funding not be used to support religious or private education.”*

14
15 Ms. Sarris questioned the will of the Board relative to taking no action on this proposed resolution.
16 The NHSBA Board of Directors’ recommendation indicates the proposal is already covered in
17 NHSBA Resolution I:A and I:B.

18
19 *The Board took no formal action.*

20
21 Proposed Resolution #17

22
23 *“That the decision as to what date to start the school year remain a local decision and not be*
24 *mandated by the State Government.”*

25
26 The recommendation of the NHSBA Board of Directors states in part: “the subject matter and intent
27 of this proposal is already covered in NHSBA Resolution V:I.”

28
29 Asked what the benefit would be of having school start following the Labor Day holiday across the
30 State, Superintendent Corey responded the Governor has indicated a belief tourism would be increased
31 resulting in additional revenue to the State and for those districts that start before, a labor force that is
32 not available.

33
34 Superintendent Corey commented for a seacoast district, many have the Friday off before a long
35 weekend or start after because they do realize that is their income. What he appreciates is the overall
36 message of local control. It’s about the Collective Bargaining Agreements, coordination of bus
37 schedules for three districts, etc. He added, if all of a sudden the COOP School District was starting
38 before and the Brookline District after, further bus costs would be incurred.

39
40 Vice Chairman Haag stated the desire to take a position on one of the two resolutions.

41
42 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO SUPPORT PROPOSED RESOLUTION #17 AS**
43 **WRITTEN**
44 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**
45 **MOTION CARRIED**
46 **5-0-0**

1 Proposed Resolution #18

2
3 *“The NHSBA supports continuing to allow school districts to determine the best opening school date*
4 *for their own districts.”*

5
6 ***The Board took no formal action.***

7
8 Proposed Resolution #19

9
10 *“The NHSBA supports legislation allowing local districts to determine whether guns are allowed in*
11 *their schools.”*

12
13 **MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO SUPPORT PROPOSED RESOLUTION #19 AS**

14 **WRITTEN**

15 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**

16 **MOTION CARRIED**

17 **5-0-0**

18
19 Proposed Resolution #20

20
21 *“The NHSBA supports the modifying RSA 193:3, I, to require the New Hampshire State Board of*
22 *Education to restore support for local decision in Change of School Assignments and Manifest*
23 *Educational Hardship requests.”*

24
25 Superintendent Corey explained the Board of Education has taken over doing a Manifest Educational
26 Hardship. That used to come into place if a district could not deliver a service. As a result of not
27 being able to deliver a service, the district would enter into an agreement with another school district,
28 and the district’s dollars would be sent there. This is being looked at through a different lens; may be
29 something the district simply does not offer, e.g., if AP courses were not offered at the high school, a
30 parent could now go to the State Board of Education and say they don’t offer them, it is an educational
31 hardship, the district should have to pay for my child to go to X district. It is becoming a State Board
32 decision.

33
34 The proposed resolution states it to be a local school board decision. Typically such a request would
35 go through a procedure with the Superintendent who would then provide a recommendation to the
36 School Board and a decision would be reached.

37
38 Superintendent Corey stated his support of the proposed resolution, being in favor of local control.

39
40 Chairman Maguire noted the NHSBA did not take a position on the proposed resolution as it was
41 submitted for consideration after the deadline.

42
43 **MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION SHOULD IT BE**

44 **INTRODUCED AT THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

45 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG**

46 **MOTION CARRIED**

47 **5-0-0**

1 *The Board returned to the regular order of business.*

2
3 **DISCUSSION**

- 4
5 • Brookline School District Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Budget

6
7 The current draft of the FY20 budget totals \$9,632,190.97, which represents an increase of
8 \$511,161.97 (5.63%) over the FY 19 budget. The only number not currently in the total is that of the
9 cost associated with transportation.

10
11 The second year of the BTA contract is at a cost of \$143,563.00. The BESSA contract was
12 sanbornized, and, therefore, already included in the budget.

13
14 Full-day kindergarten would be in the amount of \$174,717.00. The SAU assessment totals
15 \$302,679.00. The contingency and Maintenance Trust Fund Warrant Articles request allocations of
16 \$50,000. The Special Education Trust, replenishment only, would be \$50,000.

17
18 With regard to the reductions made between Rounds 3 and 4 of budget discussions, Round 4 shows a
19 decrease of approx. \$35,000 in special education costs; based on new information becoming available.
20 After review of the reading numbers, it is believed the reading services will continue to be able to be
21 provided and the position reduced to half time. An additional evaluation was conducted of the roof at
22 RMMS. It is believed the work can be delayed. As a result of moving that item out of the
23 maintenance trust, other maintenance-related items that were previously listed in the budget will be
24 identified under the maintenance trust, e.g., cameras.

25
26 Superintendent Corey commented although it does not look as though there is a great deal remaining, it
27 is important to understand technology is being funded through the Rural Education Achievement
28 Program (REAP) Grant, maintenance related items were moved into the maintenance trust and will be
29 funded in that manner, and what remains is the hosted software (being finalized) and the drinking
30 water testing.

31
32 Beginning balance of the Maintenance Trust Fund is \$91,912 (proposed allocation of \$50,000).
33 Proposed expenditures include \$20,000 for wireless replacement (District's share; portion funded
34 through eRate funds), \$5,000 for playground study at CSDA (ground cover), \$5,000 for exterior doors
35 at CSDA, \$10,000 for Phase II of the playground at RMMS, \$9,000 for the gym bathroom flooring at
36 RMMS, \$8,500 for boiler replacement at RMMS, \$9,236 and \$8,553 as the District's 20% cost sharing
37 for cameras, and \$7,500 each for servers at the two schools. Total proposed expenditures of \$51,623.

38
39 The Warrant Article around full-day kindergarten includes the cost of a 0.5 teacher position (\$42,835)
40 and two full-time instructional paraprofessionals (paras) (\$34,632). The District would receive State
41 funding at \$1,100/student (65 students / \$71,500 assumed). Revenue gained from the parent paid
42 second half of the day (45 students @ 375/mo./10 months; \$168,750) would be lost. The difference
43 between revenue generated and revenue lost is a reduction of \$97,250. The net effect to the tax payers
44 of a full-day kindergarten program is \$174,717.

45
46 Superintendent Corey stated, as a school district, they are comfortable if the Board would prefer to
47 eliminate or phase in the instructional paras over time. If that cost were to be removed the cost would
48 instead be \$140,085.

49 It is not yet known what the hiring cycle will be. There may be a differential between salaries of
50 individuals leaving a position and those new coming into the District. That is one scenario that could

1 result in the availability of funding for a para position.

2
3 The Administration believes the value from kindergarten to be tremendous and that an all-day program
4 is the right thing to do. At the same time, it is also believed the instructional paras can be phased in
5 over time if the best mechanism for the community.

6
7 He spoke of the unanticipated significant increase in special education cost of nearly \$300,000.

8 Although a lean budget, he assured the Board the proposed budget would move the District forward.

9 The Administration believes it will move the District forward educationally even as we change with
10 the technology position; it is believed technology should be at the point of service (in the classroom).

11 A K-6 technology person is believed to be the right way to go because it provides the training for the
12 teacher. The goal is for the teacher to become independent. It is the same model used with K-6
13 science, etc. The needs of going to a separate room for technology are not the same. That doesn't
14 mean the room will be taken away; it will be open as more of a sign out lab for teachers who want to
15 do a project, etc. They would not only sign out the lab, they would book time with the K-6 technology
16 person.

17
18 Addressing the question of full-day kindergarten, Chairman Maguire reiterated, the \$168,750 in
19 revenue currently received from parent paid (2nd half of day; 45 students) would no longer exist were a
20 full-day program to be implemented. The District would receive \$1,100/year from the State for each
21 kindergarten student (anticipated to be 65).

22
23 He questioned the impact on the District if enrollment numbers reached 65-80 or if they were reduced
24 to 45, e.g., monetary, infrastructure restrictions, staffing.

25
26 Principal Molinari stated the District would be able to address the issue of space. Asked about class
27 size were enrollment to reach 65, Principal Molinari stated if at 65 there would be 16/class.

28
29 Vice Chairman Haag commented currently the budget identifies 4 teachers and 2 paras. He questioned
30 if the intent is to remove the paras, and was told that is the case. Superintendent Corey stated the paras
31 would have been dedicated to kindergarten, but when you look at a school model you are going to have
32 some paras in there because of student needs. There will be times when there will be services brought
33 into the room, when specialists will be working with students, etc. When you look at the number, 16 is
34 your top number unless there are move-ins.

35
36 When asked, Superintendent Corey stated he is comfortable with the reading cut because of the
37 reduced class sizes. With kindergarten students, any time you have an extra set of hands or eyes it is
38 greatly appreciated. It was being looked at in the lens of getting it off the ground and knowing the
39 history of the Board and the belief if a need was identified for a para to split between the two rooms,
40 the funding source identified, and a request made to the Board, it would be supported. It is just trying
41 to get to the tipping point of a number so that the community can support not only the potential of
42 kindergarten, but the entire budget.

43
44 Vice Chairman Haag sought confirmation the entering class would not see a step back in offerings
45 because of trying to pass a budget; whereas under the revenue model individuals advocated for a full-
46 day with the understanding they would get a better product. Principal Molinari stated the goal of
47 getting the full-day program going, but not at the expense of what is being offered. He noted the
48 District is currently functioning without the instructional paras. With regard to space, there are four
49 kindergarten classes. Were enrollment to increase there are a few labs in the building that could be
50 moved out to a cart, etc. to make space.

1
2 Noted was the State class size of 20, which is identified as a “strive to achieve” and the 25 or fewer per
3 educator threshold for kindergarten. District policy identifies a class size of 17 for kindergarten.

4
5 Chairman Maguire commented on the current class size of 16 and the possibility of exceeding policy
6 class size of 17 with move-ins. Although he would not advocate for a 5th classroom, it would take
7 quite a few move-ins to reach the State desired class size of 20.

8
9 Superintendent Corey stated if the District were to exceed class size specifications, he would make a
10 request of the Board to fund a para as that would reduce the ratio.

11
12 Ms. Sarris stated her appreciation of the suggestion to hold off on the para positions. She is uncertain
13 how large of an impact the reduction in the cost of the paras would have on whether or not an
14 individual supports the article.

15
16 Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked were enrollment numbers to increase to 80, the
17 difference in State revenue for the additional 15 students covers roughly the cost of a para.

18
19 Ms. Marsano spoke of having learned of a kindergarten program that went to full-day without
20 changing the para dynamic, and have had nothing but success with the students heading into 1st grade.
21 She stated her support of not including the paras at this time and leaving the option open in order to try
22 to get this passed so that our students can have the best opportunity to succeed.

23
24 Vice Chairman Haag stated his support of the proposal.

25
26 Vice Chairman Haag stated his recollection, when the maintenance trust fund was started, there was a
27 five-year plan for large items planned for the near future. He stated concern with reducing the balance
28 rather than increasing the amount of savings for those future projects. Superintendent Corey stated the
29 large projects to be the roofing project discussion, which he is very comfortable delaying and the
30 retaining wall work, which was put in as a placeholder prior to his time in the District. Principal Dobe
31 stated uncertainty the project is even necessary. There was an artificial wall constructed in the midst of
32 some riprap. There are large crushed boulders that make a slope. Things have drifted downhill
33 causing a bulge in the artificial wall. He is uncertain if the issue is beyond cosmetic. He is of the
34 belief removing that part of the structure and just leaving it a sloped boulder wall would be all that is
35 necessary. However, he believes it important to have an engineer take a look at it.

36
37 Vice Chairman Haag suggested an evaluation be conducted by an engineer to determine a more
38 accurate cost of addressing. Superintendent Corey stated that could be added this coming spring. He
39 commented drainage pattern changes. Principal Dobe stated there to be a need for more, which he is
40 not certain is accurately reflected in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at this time.

41
42 Superintendent Corey reiterated the item was added to the CIP prior to his arrival, and he is uncertain
43 if it was ever truly evaluated. Commonly placeholders are used in the initial planning and followed up
44 (within a few years) with an estimate. That has never occurred with that item as the Administration
45 has not received the same feedback as their predecessors.

46
47 Asked about the servers, Superintendent Corey stated there is a single server for the District the cost of
48 which is split between the two schools. There is a SAU shared server for food service. However,
49 Brookline’s portion of the cost of that is coming out of the food service budget. Not every district
50 generates a level of revenue to support that. The server will also assist with compliance with HB1612,

1 relative to data security in schools.

2
3 When asked if new regulations would impact the Bring Your Own Device program, Assistant
4 Superintendent Bergskaug stated the District has a restricted Bring Your Own Device access point.
5 What is not allowed and is addressed the moment it occurs, is a direct plugin to a wall jack. Part of
6 HB1612 will require the District to have a full and complete audit. Once completed, the report will be
7 reviewed, and will drive future work and the data governance plan.

8
9 Ms. Sarris questioned, and was informed the 1.0 third grade teacher position identified is intended to
10 fill a vacancy. She suggested the need to review class size for 3rd grade next year. Assistant
11 Superintendent Bergskaug stated it was initially intended to bring grade 3 from 3 to 4 teachers in
12 addition to replacing the retiring 3rd grade teacher, but after analyzing his numbers, Principal Molinari
13 has identified a means of bringing 4 teachers to 3rd grade without actually adding a classroom teacher.

14
15 Principal Molinari stated if keeping 3 teachers, with the projected enrollment, there would be 26
16 students in a class. Four teachers would bring class size to 19.5. The thought is to move 1 of the 5 first
17 grade teachers to another grade level and put it out there for teachers to see if there is any movement.
18 The intent would be to have four teachers in kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. First grade class
19 size, if there are five teachers, would be 13.6/class, if four teachers 17/class.

20
21 Chairman Maguire commented there are three items that account for a good portion of the increase in
22 the budget. Once transportation costs are added in, we are likely talking an increase of 7.5%+. That is
23 concerning, and the largest increase he can remember. It is likely similar at the COOP level. There
24 will be a huge tax impact to the community. There will be a breaking point where things will start
25 being voted down.

26
27 Superintendent Corey spoke of people moving into the districts because they want the level of service
28 for their students, and the tax burden created. He spoke of the warrant articles that would be put to the
29 voters to decide and the decision that had been reached not to sanbornize the contract so that the voters
30 would have the right to vote on it each year of the contract. He spoke of the level of support the
31 community has provided and the appreciation for that.

32
33 Chairman Maguire spoke of the proposal for full-day kindergarten noting although there is an
34 associated cost, there is savings to be gained by getting students in district early, identifying needs
35 early, etc. That aspect needs to be relayed to the voters. Superintendent Corey spoke of research that
36 identifies benefits of getting a student into a structured environment at a younger age.

37
38 Superintendent Corey remarked, if the Board believes there is the need for further cuts, that would be
39 the job of the Administration. At this point, this is where he feels comfortable. Of the increase,
40 \$300,000 is related to special education, \$70,000 is the NHRS, and approx. \$70,000 is related to
41 increases in health insurance rates. There is \$440,000 that cannot be controlled. If a significant
42 reduction, where the Administration would have to look to is personnel.

43 Asked what the default budget would be, Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator, stated she
44 and the Business Administrator continue working on identifying that amount. There have been
45 changes to the language of the law. Superintendent Corey stated his belief there would not be much of
46 a differential.

47
48 Ms. Sarris questioned the rationale for the order in which the warrant articles are presented.
49 Superintendent Corey stated the Board will select the order. After the Public Hearing and input has
50 been provided, the Board will vote on moving the articles forward and can determine the order. The

1 only items that take priority are bonds and contracts. Warrant Articles are funded in the order listed.

2
3 Ms. Sarris commented on the public’s interest in the special education warrant article and its
4 positioning. Superintendent Corey remarked there is no guarantee enough funding will be provided to
5 support all of the warrant articles. The order in which they appear will be significant in terms of which
6 items are ultimately funded.

7
8 Brian Rater, Hollis Finance Committee, stated his appreciation for the enormous amount of work the
9 Administration has put into the proposed budget and warrant articles. The budget itself is bare bones
10 given there are some very large items that are outside of the District’s control. Because of that, he has
11 reservations around choosing this particular year to implement the full-day kindergarten program. He
12 spoke of supporting such a program and the benefits that could be derived; however, for fiscal reasons
13 only, he would prefer the District wait another year or two.

14
15 Superintendent Corey stated his hope residents will participate in the Public Hearing process to assist
16 the Board in its decision making process.

17
18 *The Board discussed conducting its regular meeting for the month of January to coincide with the*
19 *Public Hearing on the FY20 budget scheduled for January 10th. The meeting will include a non-public*
20 *session to discuss the Board’s submission to the Superintendent’s evaluation process.*

21
22 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

23
24 Brookline School Board November 28, 2018

25
26 *The following amendments were offered:*

27
28 Page 2, Line 33; replace “were” with “was”

29 Page 4, Lines 17-18; place commas around “in the way intended”

30 Page 13, Lines 22 and 23; amend the sentence to read: “Principal Dobe noted discussions with the
31 leaders of the various groups occur multiple times a year reminding them to make visitors aware of the
32 policy.”

33
34 **MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED**

35 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG**

36 **MOTION CARRIED**

37 **5-0-0**

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0

The December 19, 2018 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Date _____

Signed _____

DRAFT