

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD
OCTOBER 24, 2018
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 6:01 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Matthew Maguire, Chairman, presided:

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

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator
Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School
Shannon Sinclair, Music, Richard Maghakian Memorial School

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - None

CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS

The Board was provided with NESDEC enrollment projections. Projections will be discussed at a future meeting as part of the budget process.

Superintendent Corey spoke of potential language for a resolution regarding weapons on school property. Proposals for resolutions are submitted to the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) for consideration at their annual Delegate Assembly. The NHSBA provided a copy of language proposed, on the same topic, by the Oyster River Cooperative School District (Oyster River). Multiple submissions are combined during the assembly.

The NHSBA provides member boards with copies of submissions in advance of the assembly to allow the opportunity for boards to take positions intended to be relayed by their respective representative.

PUBLIC INPUT - None

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

- Kaleidoscope Presentation

Shannon Sinclair, Music Teacher, Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS), stated at RMMS they are trying a new way of showcasing what students are doing, which is in response to the fact that we are asking students to use more of their own voice and choice; learn more about how to answer a question that isn't just necessarily a test answer; different ways of showing what they have learned and what they know. That is going on in the school in conjunction with the concerts that are very

overcrowded and a little bit like putting our students up on stage admiring, for us, what they look like and what they do rather than truly showing what they are learning, what they can create, and what they know.

Kaleidoscope is the answer to that. It is basically a multi-disciplinary event that happens periodically throughout the year and one which will encapsulate all of the other events they have always done at RMMS such as the Writer's Festival, Reading Nights, Art Show, etc. All of those things will be represented in an organic as they are currently happening in our schools at every event. In addition to that, because of this format, they can also include the different projects students are doing in their STEM groups, or skills time. Teachers, when doing thematic units, can have the students respond in a project-based learning way and those projects have a place to be displayed and showcased.

The community can be included with the family folk dances, family drumming, skits they might do in Reader's Theatres, and teacher's choice, which could include something they randomly did on the playgrounds that was just great learning; very organic.

Any teacher in the building can submit the work of a student or an entire class at any time. They will invite families two weeks ahead of time and ensure everyone receives a personalized invitation so that they know what their student is presenting. They will practice the assembly during the day, and then have the Kaleidoscope event.

Last year they started with Kindergarten instead of including them in the big spring concert; performance based, e.g., speaking as the music teacher. Ms. Sinclair remarked we should be having these students do some sort of practice in communication and performance throughout their elementary school in an effort to make them excellent communicators in their future. In Kindergarten last year they started something called an informance where they had families come to the kindergarten music class time. They ran what was essentially a class where the teacher would show what was being done and then explain to the parents why. Grades 1 and 2 were featured in Kaleidoscope; smaller venue, class size, audience, etc. They have already found success in that students who were afraid to speak last year were very happy to get up to the microphone this time with a less intimidating format.

That graduated into grade 3 where the old concert format will be kept. One full grade level is doing it the way it was. The high school will be used to accommodate space needs and capitalize on the sound system and wonderful venue there. They will have had years of experience in doing the smaller performance and will be ready for that developmentally.

Ms. Sinclair provided a chart that depicted what a Kaleidoscope could look like (hard copy provided with [agenda](#) packet). Having gained experience from last year, they will spread the event out further; most projects will be placed in the hallway or library. The intent is to make it more like an exhibit. Parents would understand their child's exhibit is being displayed at this location and can make it on their own schedule.

Principal Molinari commented on the vision of the format. An agenda will be sent out to families ahead of the event so that they have a better idea of the format. It will be communicated in the newsletter as well.

Ms. Sarris spoke of the value in this for everyone involved and of her appreciation of the effort.

Principal Molinari spoke of the partnership that began this year with the Brookline Food Pantry noting a lot of the events this year will make mention of the food pantry and items sought.

Chairman Maguire spoke of the benefits of reaching students earlier and creating that comfort level and presentation skills.

- Kindergarten Steering Committee Update

The committee met in October and will meet again this month. The goal is to present to the Board the presentation the committee wishes to share at the Deliberative Session regarding the proposal for full-day kindergarten. An RMMS full-day kindergarten survey has been distributed through multiple online media. Two hundred and thirty two online submissions have been received to date. The survey asks the following questions:

What is your opinion of implementing full-day kindergarten, five days/week for all students

In your opinion will a full day kindergarten better prepare students academically for 1st grade

In your opinion will a full day kindergarten help children to develop socially and emotionally

Please choose a summary statement:

- I strongly support a full-day kindergarten program for all students
- I may support a full-day kindergarten program, but would like more information
- I may support a full day kindergarten program with an option of a half day program still available
- I am opposed to a full day kindergarten program for any student
- Neither for or against full day kindergarten

How should full day kindergarten be funded:

- Parent paid tuition
- Taxpayer funded

Charging tuition for full day kindergarten would present a hardship for my family:

- Yes
- No

Those are the questions that were asked of community members and parents. There is another survey that was done for teachers in the school to gain their feedback from an education perspective.

Mr. Haag noted he has not personally seen the survey. Principal Molinari stated the survey is on the RMMS website and Facebook. Copies are being passed out at the Halloween Parade, and have been distributed to different locations around town, e.g., Town Hall. Ms. Sarris suggested there be a link placed on the SAU home page.

The question was asked of whether the survey accounts for the demographic being looked for in terms of who is answering the survey, e.g., there are kindergarten age students in the household, the household no longer has students in the school system, etc. Principal Molinari stated those types of questions were not added as the desire was to keep the survey brief and gain a pulse of the community.

When the presentation is made to the Board, it is likely there will be questions that come about that will provide direction with regard to revising the presentation.

- SAU 41 Job-Embedded Elementary Professional Development - Writing

Principal Dobe spoke of Meaningful Mondays, a program put together last year to create an opportunity for teachers to meet and talk about academic programs in different subject areas. Teachers were able to meet as a grade level not only in the Brookline elementary schools, but with their colleagues from the elementary schools in Hollis. This year they are taking a little different approach and pulling together subject area experts. Those teachers that are committed to working on the writing improvement initiative are meeting. Meetings have taken place with the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy (CSDA) and the Hollis Primary School (HPS) and RMMS and the Hollis Upper Elementary School (HUES).

On Monday, teacher representatives from CSDA and HPS will meet with a consultant from the Teaching & Learning Alliance. Teacher representatives from RMMS and HUES will meet with that consultant in early November. There will likely be other subject areas that will be the topic for Meaningful Monday meetings with different groupings of teachers.

While schools will be closed on November 6th for voting, teachers will meet at the High School to participate in all day professional development (PD) activities. Teachers had opportunities to offer PD; innovative practices they are doing and can share with colleagues.

- School Safety & Fire Prevention Presentations

At the start of the year, in addition to evacuation drills/fire drills, the Administration talked with staff and students about school safety and everything it entails. They have been talking to grade level teams or teams of two teachers in classrooms highlighting safety; primarily Emergency Preparedness Program and bullying. J.P. Royea, Fire Inspector, will visit the school to provide presentations on fire prevention and safety.

- Emergency Response Parent Brochure

A bulletin was sent to parents, via email, providing information they should know about the emergency preparedness systems, e.g., in the event of certain kinds of emergencies how parents can be supportive of the process of keeping students safe.

Principal Molinari remarked RMMS recently conducted its evacuation drill. In the past, they have evacuated to the Safety Complex. This year they went to the Fire Department, which went extremely well. The key aspect of any evacuation is the reunification piece. In the event of an evacuation, there are procedures that have to be taken when it comes to releasing students. All parents are required to follow the procedures.

DISCUSSION

- Fiscal Year 2018 Revenue and Expense Report

Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator, stated FY18 ended with 0.76% of the budget

remaining (\$70,717), which will be returned to the taxpayers. Expenses were greater than anticipated in the areas of special education and benefits (more family plans than anticipated).

Revenue was greater than anticipated in the area of tuition as an increase was seen in full-day kindergarten students and non-resident; move-ins that have not completed the purchase of their home.

Chairman Maguire questioned if the Town sets the local impact fee and how often there are adjustments. Superintendent Corey indicated the Town does set the fee, and that he would reach out to the Town Administrator for additional information.

Chairman Maguire commented when funds are returned to the taxpayers/tax base, they are utilized to offset taxes for the following year, e.g., less funds have to be raised in taxes for the following year's school budget. Superintendent Corey noted the amount is listed in the MS25. Those documents are sent to the Town Manager who works with the Department of Revenue to set the tax rate for the coming year understanding what the offsets will be.

- Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue and Expense Report

Ms. Maher remarked, although early in the fiscal year, current indications are for a year end fund balance of \$85,828.71. She noted there are unfilled positions in the District.

- Brookline School District Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Budget

Superintendent Corey stated the Administration is in the midst of Round 3 of the budget process, which begins in the summer months. Principals are asked to bring forward anything they believe the District may need for the next fiscal year. From there, extensive discussions take place during which items may be added/removed. Round three of those discussions will be brought to the Board at the November meeting.

The Board will see every request that was made. The idea being those that are listed that are not supported will remain on the list for consideration the following year.

The first priority of the Administration is Kindergarten. It is believed, educationally, this would give the District a defined starting point where everyone comes to the District at the same age/time, for a full day program. It would be a curriculum based program.

The Board will be provided with a presentation for a full-day program at its November meeting. Should the Board approve moving forward, it will become a Warrant Article at the Annual District Meeting. It would be a taxpayer funded program, which would allow the District to qualify for \$1,100/student additional funding from the State.

Superintendent Corey commented the largest piece of any budget is personnel. The Board was provided with enrollment projections, which he characterized as status quo. A trend is shown for future years (10 years out) suggesting a 25% increase. He suggested the Board not look more than five years out. With changes in economy, there are changes in home sales/enrollment.

The District has accepted three retirements. It is unclear if an enrollment bubble will be seen or where the Administration wishes to position teachers to reduce classroom ratio. The District previously had a

part-time administrator in charge of curriculum. A few years back that was changed into a teaching position to reduce classroom size without increasing the budget. Those are all areas the Administration is looking into. Superintendent Corey remarked from a budgetary standpoint, he believes it would be more of a swap. If swaps are made, they will be clearly defined.

The Administration wishes to review reading numbers to see where we are; what the services are that we are providing and look at moving to more integration of technology (pushed into classroom). There is a retirement of a classroom teacher, which is intended for replacement.

Each year the District is eligible for and receives the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Grant. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug manages that working with Rich Raymond, I.T. Director, and Principals Dobe and Molinari. In terms of technology, taxpayers will not see much of the cost in the budget. The budget will include items such as teacher laptops as REAP is intended to be utilized for products intended to be utilized by students.

The District will also be looking at new servers; one would be shared between the two buildings (data storage). The current server has reached its end of useful life. The District has been working all summer on HB1612, which is a new law around data security. Mr. Raymond is of the belief these servers are needed. The second server would be at a shared cost across the SAU as it would be utilized for food service (expedite checkout and because of the quantity of information that goes into the data around food service).

In terms of maintenance, the Administration is currently evaluating a couple of boilers at RMMS, roofing, bathrooms, window repairs, and playgrounds at RMMS and CSDA. The District began phasing in playground repairs last year (RMMS). The most significant item is peastone. Principal Dobe stated the school currently has peastone under the swings, which has been identified for replacement. Wood chips or rubber particles are two options being considered if the peastone is not acceptable to the auditors.

Superintendent Corey commented on the District's insurance carrier having recommended the replacement. It is being considered but may be something that needs to be phased in as it is a significant expense to go from the peastone to a different product.

With regard to academics, this year the area of writing has been chosen as a focus K-12. Each week teachers participate in Meaningful Mondays discussing strategies and different approaches to writing. There will potentially be funds included in next year's budget for additional professional development around the areas identified where improvement is looked for.

There will also be funds allocated at the upper grades for Project Lead the Way to infuse a few more lessons in the robotics areas as well as provide teacher training around those topics. Most elementary teachers come out of school with limited science training. Staff become experts over time. One of the areas that traditionally is not allocated as many class hours is science. Superintendent Corey commented when we can take advantage of science experts coming in and working in small groups with our staff we get a great bang for our buck.

Superintendent Corey stated his belief the District will be able to bring in a very responsible budget that allows forward movement.

Chairman Maguire spoke of the tax rate being set and the revaluation resulting in an increase in taxes, and commented on the level of sensitivity to the overall tax. He indicated he would like to have information provided on the CSDA bond, which expires this year. Superintendent Corey remarked during his time with the SAU there have been a few bonds that have expired in other districts, and some have viewed the bond payment amount as an amount that the budget will be reduced by. He cautioned, the District has already approved a teacher contract, and a piece of that savings will offset the cost of the teacher's contract next year.

Chairman Maguire noted with the tax rates the way they are, many residents move once their children are out of school. If people remained in their homes there would be less new students moving into the District, which would be beneficial in terms of the cost of the schools.

Superintendent Corey stated agreement with the concerns around the tax rate. With such an educational community that supports the District, the COOP District, and the Town, there is sometimes sticker shock when the tax bills come out. For the SAU it is a balancing act as there is the need to move three separate legal entities forward. He would not want to end up in a competition where the result is funding one and not the other. He commented the reason homeowners are able to move out is because of the desire for housing within the school system. He touched on the desire to avoid large spikes in the budget from year to year.

Superintendent Corey marked there is the potential for the COOP School District to be looking at the STEM lab again this year. The turf field, which was approved, will hit next year's taxes as well.

- SAU 41 Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Budget

Superintendent Corey stated the SAU Budget is comprised largely of salaries and benefits. It represents the cost of the 13 employees that work at the SAU Office and the different costs of providing operational support for the three districts.

The SAU building is a converted farm house. The Hollis School Board, owners of the property, is considering a proposal for a rehab project to provide for additional space.

At the SAU 41 Governing Board meeting, a motion was passed to add funds (approx. \$54,000) as a result of a transitioning process that will occur as we move into the next year. It is believed imperative to have someone with historical knowledge there as we move through this significant transition.

Another meeting of the SAU 41 Budget Sub-committee is scheduled during which the draft budget will be reviewed again. The committee had not expected the transition at the time of its last meeting and felt very comfortable with the proposed increase. The sub-committee will look to see what might be adjusted to offset the additional cost associated with the transition.

The SAU budget is allocated to each of the three district budgets. The allocation is done through the formula that has been in place for many years. Each district will pay a portion of the approximately \$1.7 million in operating costs for the SAU. The Public Hearing on the SAU 41 FY20 proposed budget will be conducted on December 13th.

- New Hampshire School Board Association - Potential Topics for Delegate Assembly

Superintendent Corey spoke of the document that was submitted to the NHSBA by Oyster River. The Brookline School Board has discussed the topic of the gun free school zone and questioned if clarification should be requested. Currently, as a school board, we sit with a Federal law that could be enforced by a federal agent if one were in the building, and a state law that contradicts that. Working with Board member Sarris, he was provided with input to be discussed. That information was sent to the NHSBA. Barrett Christina, Executive Director, NHSBA, provided a copy of the submission by Oyster River.

Superintendent Corey believes it to be a difficult topic to address through policy as it would be intended to address two different scenarios. The desire is to make clear the legal responsibility of the Board. He questioned the will of the Board relative to the sample policy provided.

Ms. Sarris stated she is comfortable going into the Delegate Assembly as a supporter of the draft language used in the template as the essence is the same as the draft language she proposed.

Ms. Marsano stated appreciation for the effort put forth by Ms. Sarris and agreed with the general statement in the template. It has been a priority of the Board, since the law changed, to rectify this. She believes this to be a good step moving forward.

Chairman Maguire read the proposed resolution into the record:

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

Superintendent Corey stated Attorney Graham has indicated the resolution would bring the State law in line with the Federal law and give clear authority for districts to maintain gun free schools. It would give the five members of the elected board in Brookline the power to decide what that is. The Board may not agree with all of the elements of the resolution proposed, but he believes all agree that it should be up to the five people elected by the residents of Brookline to decide what the Brookline policy is for K-6 in this town. That is the piece he is looking at supporting; putting the authority back where it should be; local control. This Board can hammer out the details through policy and residents of this community can provide input on that policy. That is where he struggles; feel we lost control over this. Having policy in place would benefit the District.

Vice Chairman Haag stated agreement. He remarked the Policy Committee struggled, read the law, and were at an impasse. He stated his full support of such a resolution.

Ms. Sarris stated her belief Oyster River is one of the school districts that attempted to create policy, which was determined to be unlawful by the District Attorney because it went against state law. The weight of a school district that has gone through the process is beneficial.

Superintendent Corey reminded the Board the next step in the process would have the Board receiving copies of all of the resolutions submitted. They would be discussed at a future meeting and the Board

would take a position on each. The Board's representative would attend the Delegate Assembly and vote in accordance with the majority opinion of the Board.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy IGBG – Homebound Instruction
Given its first reading;

Principal Molinari stated the policy to be one the District does not currently have. The majority of the language was taken from the COOP School District policy. The policy looks to provide guidelines to the Director of Student Services to assist in determining how to provide education for students suffering from a medical condition that prohibits them from safely being present in the school.

Vice Chairman Haag spoke of the desire for the policy to be uniform across all of the districts within the SAU.

Ms. Marsano asked for clarification the policy states teachers will provide the needed services., e.g., not a parent-designed program. It was noted who will implement the instruction will be up to the team; does not need to be a certified regular education teacher/certified special education teacher.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY IGBG –
HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy EFD - Wellness; proposed code change to Policy JLCF
Given its first reading;

Principal Dobe stated the current policy, EFD, is in the category of Support Services (section e). The desire is to rename the policy so that it appears within the category of policies specifically related to students (section J).

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug questioned the will of the Board with regard to waiving additional readings and adopting the policy given the only change to be that of coding.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING, WAIVE THE SECOND
AND THIRD READINGS, AND ADOPT POLICY JLCF – SAU 41 WELLNESS POLICY, AS
AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy JLJ - Life-Threatening Allergies
Given its first reading;

Principal Dobe noted the District has in place a procedure related to life-threatening allergies. The

desire is to put a policy in place and that it references the student-parent handbook for the associated procedures.

He indicated a copy of the procedures would be provided for the next meeting for review by the Board. Ms. Sarris questioned if the procedures/policy apply to the school day or extend beyond that. Principal Molinari stated his belief it is the school day e.g., not onsite to police activities that occur on weekends, etc. Ms. Sarris commented there have been mixed messages about that, and suggested it be clarified.

Principal Dobe stated the way he has interpreted it is that it is related to the school facility regardless of the day of the week/hour of the day. That is why there are concerns when individuals wish to conduct bake sales during voting day, bring Dunkin Donuts coffee in for a weekend basketball game, etc. It is believed important to have a policy in place.

Principal Molinari remarked the Facility Use form that is completed by outside groups that come into the schools, includes an addendum to Policy KF, which states the District is a nut free school district. The disconnect is with that message getting out to all visitors.

Principal Dobe commented on the anticipation there is the possibility of reviewing/adjusting procedures, but until fairly recently they have been regarded as policy and not adjusted. Ms. Sarris suggested it would be helpful to have clear/detailed information available for the public. Principal Dobe stated the procedure is posted to the District's website and appears periodically in the handbook, etc.

Chairman Maguire questioned if there is access to medication for those who are trained/on staff during off-hours or if the only access is during the school day. Principal Dobe responded the custodian could potentially have access; however, in the event of an emergency, an ambulance and/or fire department would be called.

Principal Molinari stated items such as defibrillators are accessible, but the Nurse's Office is locked. They are the ones that hold the keys to the medicine cabinets, etc.

Ms. Marsano commented medications such as Epinephrine are medications belonging to specific individuals/students. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the District is legally able to have non-prescribed Epinephrine, which is what the policy references. Every other year there is a brand new allergy discovered during the school day. It is in everyone's best interest to be able to respond accordingly. The Nurse has a very limited supply.

When asked if there is liability on the part of the District should someone introduce nut product(s) during non-school hours that results in a reaction by a student arriving to school, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked to say we are a nut free school is not accurate. We cannot provide that level of security. We are a nut safe school. We have procedures that are followed, but we cannot prevent any possible exposure.

Ms. Marsano stated concern that it be made abundantly clear that it is "nut safe" and not nut free. Principal Molinari indicated that is within the procedures. He noted the policy is around the school day. The District reviews the student population on a regular basis. As part of that review, they consider allergies. The population changes the course of the procedure piece.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY JLJ – LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy JICI - Weapons on School Property
 - 1st Reading 5-22-18
 - 2nd Reading 6-26-18

Given its third reading:

Vice Chairman Haag noted the proposed policy references State Statutes the District will abide by.

Ms. Sarris questioned reference to RSA 193-D, Safe School Zones noting 193-D:2 states in part: “The state board of education shall adopt rules relative to safe school zones, under RSA 541-A, for public school pupils and public school employees...” She questioned if the District policy is intended to apply to students and employees. Principal Molinari responded the District policy applies to students.

Ms. Sarris questioned if the District is permitted, under the law, to adopt a policy. Principal Molinari stated it to be the interpretation; policy could be established for students.

Superintendent Corey added, in terms of employees, that is the piece that remains uncertain. The Statute is referenced as it encompasses students. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted policies that begin with the letter “J” apply to students.

Chairman Maguire suggested amending the policy further, in the first sentence of the third paragraph by replacing the word “firearm” with “weapon”. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the paragraph addresses expulsion. RSA 193:13, Suspension and Expulsion of Students, specifically addresses firearm. There is a separate path if a firearm versus a weapon.

Ms. Sarris stated the policy would not need to be changed if the law changes. It would simply be a matter of creating new policy. This section will always be specific to students.

Ms. Marsano suggested paragraph 4 would not be needed given the policy is intended to address students.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO AMEND POLICY JICI, IN ITS ENTIRETY, BY REPLACING IT WITH THE COPY PROVIDED WITH THE AGENDA, FURTHER AMEND BY REMOVING THE 4TH PARAGRAPH, ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following amendments were offered:

Page 4, Line 47; insert “and” following “community survey”

Page 5, Line 38; replace “are” with “area”

Page 6, Line 47; insert “Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated” before “she”

Page 9, Line 4; delete “as the only matter”

Page 10, Line 29; replace “structing” with “structuring”

MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-1

Member Haag Abstained

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER HOWIE TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The October 24, 2018 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

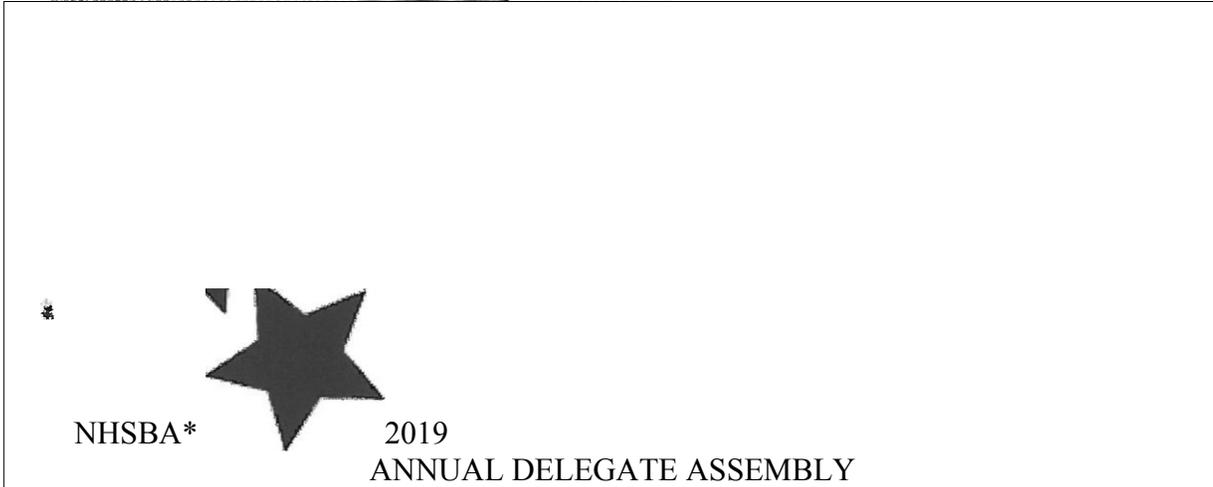
Date _____

Signed _____

Proposed Resolution for Consideration

Please note the deadline for submission is Friday November 2, 2018.

Email address *



Submitted By (School Board Name): *
Oyster River Cooperative School District (5)

Proposed Resolution: *

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

Rationale: *

While the federal Gun Free School Zone Act (GFSZA) would seem to coincide with this resolution, recent actions of the legislature, and an opinion by the attorney general, substantially undercut this law. In an August 26, 2016 ruling, the Attorney General stated that the NH Open Carry law allows guns to be brought into polling places (including schools) The state of New Hampshire, in his opinion, has no authority to enforce the GFSZA.

In fact, another New Hampshire statute, RSA:26, I and II, denies any political subdivision the power to regulate "the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, permitting, taxation, or any other matters pertaining to firearms...." According to school attorney Gordon Graham, this law "has completely pre-empted the authority of school districts to formally adopt a policy or regulation regarding the possession of firearms on school property."

(communication to SB 5 Board). This law would seem to make any restriction (e.g. parents bringing in guns to teacher conferences) beyond the capacity of districts to regulate. On the other hand, school boards and administration have the responsibility of maintaining an environment "free of hazardous conditions" (NH Department of Education Rule 302.02(m)—a rule that presumably would allow prohibiting the possession of guns on school property.

Attorney Graham concludes that "the jumble of federal and state laws is a mess." Action on this resolution will bring state law in line with the federal law, and give clear authority for districts to maintain gun-free schools.

By clicking this box and entering your name below, you agree that you are effectively providing your signature. You are certifying that your local school board has provided consent and acknowledges all the information provided on this form is true and accurate, to the best of your knowledge.