

HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

APRIL 29, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School Library.

Holly Deurloo Babcock, Chairman, presided:

Board Members Participating: Tom Solon, Vice Chairman
Kate Stoll, Secretary
Elizabeth Brown
Cindy VanCoughnett
Krista Whalen
Beth Janine Williams

Members of the Board Absent:

Also Participating: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Linda Sherwood, Assistant Business Administrator
Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School
Tim Girzone, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School
Brian Bumpus, District Athletic Coordinator
Mary Martin, Student Body President

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Board members and members of the Administration were participating via ZOOM. Each member of the Board was asked to state, for the record, where they were, why their attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the proceedings.

Vice Chairman Solon

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Member Stoll

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

Member Brown

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

Member VanCoughnett

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Member Whalen

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Member Williams

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Chairman Deurloo Babcock

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

It was acknowledged all members participating electronically could be heard. The Board was reminded all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Superintendent Corey requested an update from the Athletic Director be included as part of the Principals' Report.

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

PUBLIC INPUT - None

NOMINATIONS/RESIGNATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Corey commented on the many developments around the [CARES Act](#). The Business Office is working with legal counsel and the transportation company, Student Transportation of America (STA). STA has provided information on what they have identified as essential components of their business. That information was forwarded to legal counsel, and a conference call is scheduled for Monday. It is hoped a compensation breakdown will be able to be provided in the coming weeks.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Tim Girzone, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School (HBMS) highlighted items from the report provided with the [agenda](#). He spoke of the work teachers have done since the onset of remote learning, and commented on the use of the team dynamic in the middle school. The work the teachers are doing collaboratively not only to identify struggling learners and provide interventions necessary to help them be more successful, incorporating school counseling and specialists into the meetings, but also in identifying steps that can be taken to help all students be successful in this new environment, has been tremendous. With the extension of remote learning to the end of the school year, we have identified the missing social emotional connection that school provides. In the past few weeks teachers have begun reconnecting with their respective ROCK groups in an effort to offer this platform of virtual socialization.

He spoke of the variety of projects the custodial staff has been hard at work on since the outset of remote learning, e.g., installation of the rolling door between the Robotics and Tech Ed shared space, installation of a drain pump and water line plumbing for the ice machine relocation, repair of multiple roof leaks, etc.

Member Williams expressed her gratitude for the work that has been done and for the staff having made the adjustments along the way for the betterment of the students. The efforts have been well received. She stated the desire to also express her gratitude to the custodial staff for all of their efforts.

Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS), thanked the Board and the central office for allowing for the flexibility that has been provided. He spoke of being in touch with colleagues throughout the State, and the fact that they have been entrusted with the ability to make decisions on the fly and react quickly has been an immense advantage for the students. He expressed his gratitude to the teachers, staff, support staff, and custodians. He congratulated the students for their effort.

One of the big questions we have been working with is what is direct instruction. That comes in a variety of forms. He is pleased with the staff having adopted a variety of technologies. They are looking at things like Flipgrid, Padlet, etc.

Principal Barnes thanked the support staff, those working with students' IEPs, and the custodians for being willing to come into the building. Not everyone is willing to come into the building. The format they have set up allows students and staff to feel safe. People are showing up every day, doing the job that is expected of them, and doing it really well. He spoke of having sat in on a Zoom session with a student and a paraeducator going through an IEP and business as usual. For students that struggle with change, seeing them have to adapt to the new format has been beyond impressive. He also spoke of the amount of painting that has been able to take place at the high school.

Athletics has been leading the charge with winter sports awards. Brian Bumpus, District Athletic Coordinator, has produced the NHIA Scholar Athlete Awards, the HB Open, the contest that is now district-wide; finding ways to connect as staff and with students in any way possible.

Discussions are ongoing around options for prom and graduation. We are on target with the Master Schedule for next year. Class size numbers, thus far, look to be meeting expectations set as a school board and administration.

Brian Bumpus, District Athletic Coordinator, stated one of the things the Athletic Department has been working on is the proposal for bleachers. Three proposals have been compiled; two are for a new set of bleachers with a built in press box and the other for a used set of stands through a company called Bleacher Builders out of Florida. The options will be presented in detail at the May meeting.

Sought is a set of ADA accessible, elevated bleachers to accommodate approximately 1,000 spectators, with a built in press box.

Superintendent Corey noted the bleachers are being donated. They are not funded through taxpayer dollars. Mr. Bumpus has been working towards identifying the best possible way of utilizing the donation provided the District.

Member Williams thanked Mr. Bumpus for putting together the award ceremonies and all of the efforts that have been put into the creativity required to maintain traditional events.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned, and was informed the donation for the bleachers is an existing donation within HB Elevates. Once the best approach for moving forward has been identified, the donation will be brought before the Board for acceptance and approval to expend. Vice Chairman Solon questioned if it is a correct interpretation to say there is a sum of money that has been donated and economizing the bleacher purchase would result in funds remaining for other expenditures. Superintendent Core stated that to be accurate.

DISCUSSION

- Transportation

STA has provided the SAU with a spreadsheet outlining costs they believe to be associated with the contract. The document was forwarded to legal counsel. A conference call is scheduled for Monday. The hope is to come back before the Board mid-May to engage in a clearly defined discussion around transportation and transportation costs. The proposal STA submitted broke down costs on a day-to-day basis. The Business Administrator has reviewed the information and believes the figures to be accurate.

One of the reasons for legal counsel involvement is because of the CARES Act, which is a recently passed and complex law. Some requirements of the law may force us to do something in one area to retain funding with regard to say IDEA Grant funds, funding that will be coming out to offset potential overages in special education because of the shutdown, etc. Because of their size, STA does not qualify for the paycheck protection program. He reiterated the hope to be able to come before the Board at the next meeting to engage in a discussion of the direction the Board wishes to take with regard to transportation costs and, what, if anything, the Board is willing to incur.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if any information has been relayed relative to whether STA has experienced the loss of drivers to date. Superintendent Corey stated they have had some drivers go to unemployment. They are a little concerned with what they will have in the fall with the potential for a scenario such as a driver who may be close to retirement age having now experienced being out of work for some period of time; it could be he/she may decide to make the decision to retire. At the same time, they received a call recently from an individual wishing to start training. They are open. Their mechanic and dispatcher are full-time and working every day. All of our buses just went through their annual spring inspections. The buses are taken out periodically and run for a few miles around town just to maintain good working order.

- Special Education Update

Assistant Superintendent Thompson thanked the staff for their hard work noting the result to be a continuity of service for the students, and that the majority of students are receiving the same level of services they were when we were in the physical school environment in accordance with what is in their IEPs. This is important for a few different reasons. The obvious reason is we want to keep students making progress towards their goals and continue to learn. In addition, it reduces our liability. One thing

that has been made clear is that we are still responsible for the services in a student's IEP, and if we are unable to deliver those services now, we potentially need to provide them at a later date. The more we are able to continue to do business as usual the better. We are seeing a lot of success with speech therapy or occupational therapy, counseling, reading services and formats like Zoom working well. He credited the paraeducators who are working tirelessly supporting students through Zoom, email, and conference calls both individually and in groups. Remote learning is challenging for students. It can be even more challenging for students who have disabilities. The support network that has emerged as a result of remote learning is very impressive.

The planning process for the Extended School Year (ESY) program is underway. The ESY program is for students with disabilities if it has been determined that the summer would cause a level of regression on their IEP goals. In an effort to reduce regression, we are adding two weeks to ESY (week at front and back end). The addition of the week at the end is really because of the late start of the next school year. Adding the additional time is another way of ensuring we are meeting the needs of students and not exposing the District to any potential compensatory education we might be exposed to when returning to the regular school environment.

Currently the plan is to hold the majority of ESY remotely. There are contingency plans in place. If the situation changes, and we are able to go back into the physical school environment. If we have a small number of students accessing ESY onsite, we would utilize the high school as it has developed some excellent health and safety protocols with individuals coming in and out of the building.

Member Williams questioned if the high school would be the location for all students that might participate in the ESY in a physical environment, and was informed that would be the case. There are health and safety protocols that have been developed in addition to the size of the building being favorable. Being discussed is 1% of the entire special education population. Each student would have their own classroom assigned to them and be able to practice social distancing and other health and safety protocols.

- Remote Learning Update

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug spoke of the survey that was sent out on the morning of April 2nd and closed on the evening of April 6th (49% participation).

All comments received were read. The surveys/comments were reviewed with each building Principal and sometimes with the entire administrative team in the building. They developed implementation plans for how to address some of the concerns/suggestions presented in the surveys. The plans demonstrated the willingness on the part of the teachers and Administrators to receive feedback, grow, learn, and implement changes.

Now that we are roughly half-way through remote learning, and starting to talk about the end of the school year, work will begin, in the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), to review courses and curriculum to identify what, if any, pieces of the curriculum haven't been covered or if there have been pieces that were covered but maybe to a lesser depth given the environment we are in. This is a task that is undertaken every year. The expectation is the results will look a little different this year due to remote learning. There will be deliberate conversations about how we now take this information and utilize it to make changes to implement when the students return to us.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented some folks are concerned with math because it is very sequential; how do you start the next course without the prior. The one beautiful thing about it is the curriculum spirals. The topics sort of come back again, and they come back again with the intention of building upon prior knowledge and then going into a greater depth. Knowing what level of depth they had experienced in prior years will allow us to address the topic at an appropriate time within the curriculum and then go into the depth that is needed for that next year. Time will be given to teachers to figure this out and to plan appropriately.

Planning has started for the potential scenarios for the return to school; will we return and everything will be fine or will we return in the remote environment or some sort of hybrid environment. There are a lot of different factors that have to be considered and planned for. It is quite different to open a school year in a remote environment than it is to close off the year.

We do start the school year later than many districts across the country. Other states such as California, start in the 2nd week of August, and are developing those procedures and protocols. We will have the opportunity to see what is and is not working for those districts.

Vice Chairman Solon spoke of the survey results and questioned if the expectations of parents and students were aligned with her expectations for delivery. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded based on the preliminary feedback received they were aware there were some who felt they were asking for too much and others who felt they were not asking for enough. All students learn at a different pace. Students put in a different amount of energy. The survey did not ask for course specific information, but she was able to tell where students were at with regard to grade level, e.g. if they were overwhelmed or doing okay in terms of expectations. What was really helpful were the specific comments that lead them to the Week-at-a-Glance because while students who are anywhere from 12-17 should be able to manage their schedule, it presents a new challenge when you have a family with 4 children and 2 parents who are all trying to battle for time on Zoom. Being able to have that Week-at-a-Glance and, as a family, plan out what that week will look like was really important for our families, and that was spelled out for us in the survey.

Vice Chairman Solon commented on having read that a lot of communities around the country are fearing they will have to implement some sort of a summer program to make up for what is being lost. That is in nice contrast to the reports the Board heard from the Principals. He questioned if she shares the opinion there is not expected to be a gap that needs to be filled in order to be ready for next year. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded she does not. She added one thing we are fortunate to have in our community is a really high percentage of participation in our programs. When you have roughly the same percent participation in remote learning as you do in daily attendance and our teachers who are doing a phenomenal job teaching the content in a variety of ways and adapting on a day-to-day basis to best meet the needs of the students, it is a different issue than districts that are experiencing lower participation.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the Administration is able to gather any information from this experience that we will be able to leverage when we return to conventional teaching that essentially now we have a whole new set of tools available to some of our students. He also asked if there has been any consideration given to looping teachers to bridge that gap with starting off the next year.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded looping teachers presents a challenge when not an elementary classroom teacher because each student selects their own courses. You will not have a group of students that are necessarily moving on together. The only exception will be the 7th grade students moving on to 8th grade.

We have learned a ton. There are tools and skills we have identified that can and will be very effective for credit recovery for some of our students. Some of our students are thriving in this environment and may have been less interested in our traditional environment. There are a lot of opportunities depending on what our student needs are. We will figure that out as time passes.

- Master Schedule MS/HS

Principal Girzone stated development of the Master Schedule is underway. Teachers are able to submit their recommendations for the following year. Sixth grade teachers have made recommendations for the incoming 7th grade students, 8th grade teachers have made recommendations for students moving on to 9th grade, etc. Just this week the parent portal closed for the 6th and 7th grade parents. The course selection process is finishing up. The Administrative Team and school counseling are gathering information from teacher and parent input into the development of teams. They are working with Carol Tyler into making the newly adopted and approved schedule come to fruition. The next step is the development of the teams in both 7th and 8th grades. It is a multi-step process that will take us then to the next step in the development of the actual bell schedule and putting in our sections.

Asked if this is pretty much on schedule in terms of students learning who their team is and what their schedule looks like, Principal Girzone stated the team and schedule process will be unrolled together. For incoming transition students (6th into 7th), staff is in the process of putting together a virtual tour of the building, courses, and programming available for parents and students to view. The goal will be to have that done before the end of the school year. Following that will be the release of the teams and schedules (early summer).

Principal Barnes stated the schedule at the high school is on target with little disruption. Projected class sizes and teaching assignments, for the most part, are ready to go for next year. Class sizes can always change; as soon as you assign a period to them it will fluctuate, and we will start losing sections and/or students (depending on whether period 1 or 7 in particular). He is pleased to see AP French making a comeback. About 3 years ago the District hired an individual for computers and engineering who also happened to be fluent in French. That is now paying dividends as he was able to deploy him to teach a section of French, which now allows us to offer the AP section. It may be small, but at least we are offering AP again. He is also pleased to see the computer science and engineering courses very healthy as well.

They are looking for ways to transition the 8th grade up in this environment. The bigger question is how to reconnect with students when they come back. As much as it was a trauma for all of us to suddenly not be in school anymore, he believes we will have a similar shock when we have school back. The focus is going to have to be letting social emotional learning lead the way and trying to really think slowly and concretely about how to connect with students and re-engage them to just being back together in the building.

It is hoped additional information on class sizes can be provided for the second meeting in May or start of June understanding things can change.

- Graduation and Prom Class of 2020

Mary Martin, Student Body President, stated prom will be held at the Double Tree in Nashua on July 23rd. It will be exactly the same. However, if social distancing is not lifted by June 1st, it will have to be cancelled with the Double Tree. In that instance, there will be time to plan something, likely outdoors, at

the high school (barbecue style). Should that become necessary, a good many parents have already reached out indicating a willingness to donate time, finances, etc. to support the event.

With regard to graduation, the discussion has been to push it out to July 25th should social distancing not be lifted by June. Some alternatives were considered; however, negative student feedback was received resulting in the desire for further consideration at a meeting scheduled for next week. One idea is if able to meet in larger groups, but not quite the full size, there could be a few different graduations occurring simultaneously on the different fields (groups of 50). Students really desire an in-person graduation. If not able to conduct an in-person ceremony, there is the idea of being able to splice together a video of each individual student graduating and having the pre-recorded speakers woven in.

Principal Barnes commented on the different scenarios that are being considered. Another popular scenario is that of a parade. The focus has been in having plans A, B, and C, and then buying time. Based on the surveys received, the more virtual the event is, the less students are interested.

Member Stoll enjoyed the idea of a parade, and questioned if it would be in lieu of or in addition to graduation. Principal Barnes suggested it could be both.

Member Brown questioned if the signs the Booster Club is ordering could be incorporated with the parade. Principal Barnes stated there to be about 30 signs that were unclaimed, which he requested be saved for a later date (celebration). The question was asked of whether there would be the requirement of obtaining a permit from the Town for placement of signs whether by the school or individual residents (wishing to recognize their student(s)) along a parade route. Principal Barnes thanked the Booster Club for taking on that task noting what a huge help it was.

Member Williams thanked Miss Martin for the work she and her classmates have done, and for making their voices heard.

- EF Tours Update

Chairman Deurloo Babcock spoke of an email she received from a parent involved in this. There is disappointment and frustration around this issue.

Principal Barnes stated the process began when things started to change. The District began receiving notification that things were not going well in Europe. At that time, EF was presenting alternatives. Those alternatives seemed very reasonable given the information we had. No one knew where things would land. They were offering vouchers, which sounded somewhat reasonable at the time; in a variety of forms. In EF's opinion, they were going beyond what was offered in the contract with families by offering what they would call a full cash voucher, which is transferable to anyone else. They were also offering trips next year to make up for the lost trips of this year. They were offering out individual vouchers for families. What many of our families came to want, which is completely understandable, and he concurs with, is a full cash refund given that this is a completely unprecedented circumstance.

The best that EF was offering was everything back except \$1,000. They were going to keep 25% of your money, or more depending on your trip, in kind and return the rest to you. Otherwise you would have to take one of their other options.

Principal Barnes reached out and had direct contact with the Commissioner of Education who had a Liaison to the Attorney General. They proceeded very slowly as he wanted to give EF every opportunity to reconsider. At times it seemed like they might. The Commissioner of Education stepped up and put out an open letter to all travel companies asking for a full refund. He made EF aware of that. They were aware of it. That did not change their position. He was in contact with other schools throughout the State, who are in a similar position, wanting to apply a maximum leverage strategy of not doing business with them any longer. They earn a tremendous amount of money from our schools, our school in particular. He was hopeful the Attorney General might be able to take action. He was informed by his contact at the DOE that once EF decided the voucher was fully transferable, that was not going to be actionable on their part because there was no real crime being committed.

He had spoken with the Vice President of the company back in March explaining what would come and that this is what we wanted, and that it was a simple matter of business and being fair and ethical regardless of what was legal. They said it probably would not change, but keep in touch and we will try and work it out. At the end of the day, they were not willing to change their position. He had already said we were parting ways, and felt strongly that he needed to carry through on that on behalf of the families as that is the only real recourse he could see we would have at that point was to suspend any dealings with them, which will impact their business.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned how families would utilize the \$4,000 voucher if the District were not offering trips through them any longer. Principal Barnes stated the voucher would be transferable. Recipients could also send their child on an individual trip. What that does not consider is who would send their 16 or 17-year-old child to Europe next year. It is fine to offer that; it just does not mean anything in the real world context. It has put families in a bind.

When asked, Principal Barnes stated he was uncertain, but suspects most families are simply taking the refund less the 25%.

Asked if there is something the Board could do to facilitate a different outcome in the event of a Class Action suit, Superintendent Corey stated a legal opinion would be sought as to whether the Board should take a position on the matter. He spoke of the level of frustration, of the situation being a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, and of how EF should have done more. As a participant on a number of New England Associations that involve Superintendents, he is aware this is an issue that has been discussed during virtual meetings. An excess of 50 families are impacted.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock requested counsel also be asked to provide an opinion as to potential liability.

- Donation of Lights for the Turf Field

Working with the non-profit entity, HB Elevates, primarily Gerald Smith, the Administration was able to secure a donation for the lights for the turf field.

Superintendent Corey publicly thanked Michelle and Carleton Dufoe who have stepped forward, and will be working with him and the construction company over the coming months to be able to come back to the Board with a proposal to allow the lighting to be put in place.

Superintendent Corey remarked it has been a part of the original plan for the turf field; we always hoped someone would step forward. This wonderful supportive family, with three children in our school, has decided to do that. The District has reached out to Musco Lighting as well as Perk Construction and Tighe

& Bond, and is working to put a package together to bring back to the Board with a request to accept the donation (will range between \$280,000 and \$320,000).

The Board expressed its gratitude to the Dufoe family.

- COOP Annual Meeting Update

Chairman Deurloo Babcock informed the Board and viewing audience legal counsel and the District Moderator have been working on another method of holding a meeting. A two-day meeting is being considered with the potential of having the first day similar in nature to a deliberative session where any amendments would be worked on, a series of rules made and voted on, etc. Superintendent Corey spoke of the hope a proposal will be available for a meeting in May. Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated the intent to ensure every voter has an opportunity to weigh in on the Warrant and to vote.

- School Breakfast Prices FY21

Amy Cassidy, Food Service Director, has recommended an increase in the cost of breakfast due to the increased cost of fresh fruit.

Superintendent Corey recognized Amy Cassidy, Food Service Director, and the food service workers for the outstanding work they have been doing in providing families with meals. Amy, working with Assistant Superintendent Thompson and other members of the SAU, have put in place tremendous protocols for the health and safety around the delivery of these lunches. They have an outstanding relationship with End 68, a non-profit organization to end hunger over the weekend. One of our 6th grade teachers, who is a volunteer at End 68, has been running a virtual 5K fundraiser for the past few weeks, and has raised \$3,700 (to date) to be donated to End 68. That is just one more example of the tremendous outpouring of support that the two communities have put together since the start of this pandemic.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding authorizing the Superintendent to hire, accept resignations and terminate staff during the months until returning to in-person school

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted the action to be one the Board takes each year to provide the Superintendent the authority, over the summer months, to make necessary changes. Superintendent Corey commented this is becoming more important in the two districts that have already passed their budgets because we are running into a highly competitive market for teachers. There are a number of candidates that have been interviewed and have agreed, based on their desire to join the district, to wait until a budget is passed. This authority would provide an additional potential to obtain the candidate of choice.

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO HIRE, ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS, AND TERMINATE STAFF DURING THE MONTHS UNTIL RETURNING TO IN-PERSON SCHOOL, AND REQUIRE NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD OF SUCH ACTIONS

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SOLON

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the District is legally prohibited from hiring before a budget is approved. Superintendent Corey stated employment could be offered; however, there would be concern

over what could happen with the budget. Were the budget reduced, there would be the concern that we had offered and obligated the District to a cost we might not be able to afford.

Asked if that is any different than the situation that will be faced with returning staff, Superintendent Corey noted the District will not be able to offer returning staff a contract within 15 days of the budget being passed. Vice Chairman Solon remarked returning staff is at the same risk that a potential new hire would be, if hired before a budget is passed. Superintendent Corey remarked he is bound to returning staff as long as they were re-nominated and if he had to have flexibility, what he would not fill first would be the open positions. He is not envisioning that happening, but just believes it prudent not to take that risk.

Asked how many candidates are waiting for position(s), Superintendent Corey stated they have identified the first choice for openings that exist. What they are working with legal counsel on is an offer letter. For the first time ever, an offer letter would contain language that the offer is contingent on the successful passage of the school budget.

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

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

7

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the last day of the school year for seniors

Principal Barnes recommended the last day of instruction for seniors be May 22nd. That coincides with the last day of AP exams. The following week is what would traditionally be senior activities. Discussions are underway on what activities could occur. The 25th is Memorial Day. That would be a holiday, and a nice time to end. Graduation is currently set for June 12th. It is not believed that will be the case, but is still entirely possible if something miraculous happened between now and then. If not, the other plans discussed would then be triggered. Senior Awards night would likely be virtual. When asked, he stated the previously approved calendar had the last day as June 5th. Asked if the date would require approval from the State, Principal Barnes stated the number of days to well exceed those required by the State.

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO SET THE LAST DAY OF THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR FOR SENIORS AS MAY 22, 2020

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the last day of the school year

Superintendent Corey recommended a phased approach to the closing of school. The last scheduled day of instruction would be Friday, June 5, 2020.

The week of June 8th through the 12th would be utilized for remediation, the continuation of delivering of special education services, work with students who may need to make up work. The last day for students would be June 12th.

Through continuing with remote learning during what would have been April vacation and the fact that the District is not doing State assessments this year, we are gaining a number of instructional hours. The proposed end date complies with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The last day for teachers would be June 17th.

Superintendent Corey stated the Administration believes this to be a long instructional year, but wishes to reduce the gaps as much as possible. As discussed, they are very cautious with ESY. Changing the date earlier would force us to incur further costs with regard to special education, ESY and potentially compensatory services. The date has been discussed with the union. The same phased in approach has been adopted by the other two districts.

Asked if professional development would occur with teachers in the last days, Superintendent Corey stated some professional development would be conducted; however, some issues will have to be looked at, e.g., there are materials that need to be collected and there are safety issues to be considered. For example, there are textbooks that should be collected and left to sit for a few days before being handled, etc. There may be a little less professional development and a bit more room/course closure.

Asked if any kind of a sidebar would be required, Superintendent Corey stated it would not as it strictly complies with the contract. Vice Chairman Solon stated concern with the belief there were a fixed number of professional development days required, which hinged on having those days at the end of the year. Superintendent Corey stated the days remain at the end of the year. He would not call them the traditional professional development. They will fulfill the contractual obligation.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned if final exams have been addressed. Principal Barnes requested the Board consider where it stands in that regard. Staff has had extensive discussions on what that should look like given all that has occurred. Given the Board will meet again in two weeks, he would like to provide the board the opportunity to provide input as to whether finals should be conducted at all this year.

Member Brown stated the desire to inform students of the decision sooner than later. Member Whalen questioned if it would impact the mid-term grade. Principal Barnes stated he would not be in favor of doing anything that made a test have a massive impact on grades. He would consider it would be taking that 10% that was a final grade and spreading it evenly across the other categories that we grade so that it would not make a huge impact.

Asked how many classes rely on a final exam to determine whether or not there is comprehension, he stated it is really a tool, especially for math and science that rely on it pretty heavily given the sequential nature at work. He believes it to be less so in the humanities. Fifty percent of the students will be taking an AP exam. For a lot of them that is their final, and that is how it is treated. If you take the AP exam you are exempt from any kind of final exam.

Asked if he would be comfortable letting teachers determine whether they need a final to come to a conclusion as to whether or not students are proficient, he indicated he would be very comfortable with deciding, as a staff, what they want to do and how to move forward, and depending on the subjects, making a decision. However, with classes such as Running Start, it is not optional.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted it to be a building level decision; however, feedback was being sought. She stated her opinion, given the current environment and challenges of remote learning, there is a lot of learning that would have to occur to have an authentic online final. She is not in favor of an online final. She commented on what the students are learning as a result of remote learning that is outside of what is comprehended from the topic. She does not see a final adding to that at this point, and does not see the need for that kind of pressure on our students.

Member Whalen stated agreement. At this point, it would be added pressure, and she is uncertain it would serve its purpose for the students or teachers.

Superintendent Corey commented there are some teachers that do not give finals now. It depends on the course. He suggested Principal Barnes gather the information and, after speaking with him and Assistant Superintendents Bergskaug and Thompson, notify the Board, via email, of his decision.

Member Brown requested clarification if exams are or are not given that it be a decision that is consistent. Principal Barnes stated it would have to be consistent especially by subject. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug reiterated programs such as Running Start would be a different experience, but everything within the District's control would be consistent.

Vice Chairman Solon stated his hope that at the end point, students and teachers understand whether or not the student has the ability to move on to the next level if it is a course that essentially acts as a prerequisite to the next step; to identify whether there are students that may need to get additional help either through the summer or VLACS or something of that nature so that they can continue on the path they choose.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated agreement with the Board receiving an update via email, and suggested the topic be included on the next agenda to update the public.

Asked how College Board (AP) decided to make their assessment, Principal Barnes stated he was informed they decided to do take home exams. Most are written. His understanding is they are about 45 minutes in length and are open-book/open-note although they have mechanisms to counteract cheating. They are doing an exam that will be drastically different than the traditionally long exam students have done before. Teachers have been instructed to start dialing back expectations and workload in those courses at the beginning of May so that students have time to prepare for those exams.

MOTION BY MEMBER WHALEN TO SET THE LAST DAY OF THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR AS JUNE 12, 2020
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

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

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

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

- To see what action the Board will take regarding school breakfast prices for the 2020-2021 school year

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL TO ONE DOLLAR AND SEVENTY FIVE CENTS (\$1.75), EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

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

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

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

The April 29, 2020 meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____