

# HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

JULY 31, 2020

## MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Friday, July 31, 2020 at 6:03 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School.

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  
Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School  
Tim Girzone, Principal, Hollis Brookline Middle School

---

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.

### **Member Stoll**

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

### **Member Brown**

Stated she was participating electronically from home, electronic participation is the result of the inability to schedule an in-person meeting due to COVID related issues, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

### **Member VanCoughnett**

Stated she was participating electronically while out of town on vacation, her attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and she could hear the proceedings.

**Member Whalen**

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

**Chairman Deurloo Babcock**

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

**Chairman Deurloo Babcock**

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

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted the Board typically meets on the third Wednesday of each month, but due to the situation with COVID, the Board has deviated from its normal meeting schedule. All meetings have been publicly noticed. The Board has been meeting in person since June, but due to extenuating circumstances related to scheduling during the COVID pandemic this meeting is being conducted via Zoom.

**Member Williams**

Stated she was participating electronically from work, her 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.

**Vice Chairman Solon**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, his 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.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

*There being no objection, the agenda was adjusted by moving public input to follow the Board's discussion of the presentation on the proposed amendments to the Return to School Building Plan 2020-2021 (Plan).*

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - None

**NOMINATIONS/RESIGNATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Superintendent Corey thanked members of the community who have provided input regarding the wording around masks. The proposed changes, which have not yet been accepted by the Board, are based on discussions with the workforce. Staff is concerned, and has expressed the view that masks offer another layer of protection. Staff has asked that they be required.

Mask breaks will be built into the daily schedule, and flexibility will be provided to both the Administration and staff to decide when they will occur based on what is taking place instructionally.

Outdoor learning components will also be increased to reduce the use of masks. It is not envisioned a student would wear a mask for 7 hours/day. Students will wear their masks (meaning a mask, face shield, gaiter, or face covering) when boarding the bus, entering school, walking through corridors, or when a teacher/administrator asks them to be worn. In the classroom, teachers will provide breaks. Students will take them off during lunch and during outdoor lessons.

The Administration will be monitoring all aspects of the Plan and will evaluate any changes based on local conditions. Recent State data is trending in a positive direction, and if the situation warrants, adjustments will be made prior to September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **DISCUSSION**

- Updates to the Return to School Building Plan 2020-2021

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug spoke of changes that have been made to the Plan based on input received.

## **Health & Safety**

With regard to daily symptom monitoring, both students and staff will be required to answer a series of questions. The questions will change as the recommendations from DHHS have changed. That language will be sent to the Community Advisory Group to identify the exact questions. If responding yes to any of the questions the student is expected to remain at home.

The response to the form is simply yes or no. The form generates a list of yes responses, which is shared with the school nurse for follow-up to gain additional information in regard to symptoms and what follow-up might be necessary. A list of families who did not complete the form would be generated and the families contacted directly to go through the same set of questions prior to student arrival onsite.

Assistant Superintendent Thompson commented on the guidelines released by the NH DHHS. At the time of the first presentation, the guidelines had not been vetted. The recommendations have now been vetted and feedback received from the community advisory group and school nurses. As a result, the district is proposing full implementation of the guidelines for symptomatic students and staff. Important to note is that these will change and evolve over time. The following language will be added to the Plan:

- All DHHS Guidelines for Schools for symptomatic students and staff will be adopted. This includes:
  - Any student or staff member who is symptomatic and confirmed with COVID-19:
    - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
    - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever (off fever-reducing meds), AND
    - Symptoms have improved
  - Any student or staff member who is symptomatic but person refuses testing for COVID-19: same as if confirmed with COVID-19
  - Any student or staff member who is asymptomatic but tests positive for COVID-19: 10 days (assuming person remains asymptomatic, if person develops symptoms see above)
  - Any student or staff member who is exposed to someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19: 14 days (assuming person remains asymptomatic)
    - Person cannot “test-out” of 14 day quarantine
  - Any student or staff member who has traveled outside of New England: 14 days (from last day of travel)

## **Instructional**

A question that has come up quite frequently is the idea of pivoting. The model is flexible enough to move from one model to another. There is no black and white answer for when we would transition from say the physical environment to a fully remote environment. That would start with the District communicating with the Department of Education and the DHHS.

Provided was the example of what occurred in March when the decision was made by the Superintendent to close the schools for a single day to do a deep clean after it was suspected a staff member may have been exposed to COVID. That day entailed a lot of conversations as a senior leadership team, with building administration, there were calls with the Department of Education, the Department of Education was consulting with the Governor, we were in contact with the DHHS. The feedback they provided was they didn't think it was necessary to close, but we had the ability to make that decision ourselves. Our Superintendent took it upon himself to close the school in an abundance of caution.

Decisions regarding pivoting from instructional models will be made after careful consideration of available data including, but not limited to, local and state infection rates, potential known exposure by students and staff, and workforce availability. We need to have a certain number of teachers in the physical school environment if we are going to be able to offer a physical or remote model.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug addressed direct instruction noting it will follow the in-person instruction model in regard to the schedule and expectations for learning. Remote Learning 2.0 will be synchronous; at the exact same time following the building schedule.

Session length and daily frequency are based on district-determined best-practice, e.g., Kindergarten students will not be expected to be on Zoom for the same amount of time as our Seniors. Through the work of the Instructional and Technology Sub-committees, the sweet spot for the optimal amount of time on a device has been identified.

Pacing will mirror in-person instruction. There will be collaboration to ensure that our remote teachers are keeping in pace with in-person teachers. Class periods might include a daily live lesson followed by independent class work offline as well as an additional homework assignment. Class periods might include an assessment that could be taken online or on paper while engaged in a Zoom session so that an adult is monitoring the assessment.

If your child is participating in Zoom instruction, we want to ensure we are following the law and not recording the Zoom session from your phone or computer, that it is really just live interaction. We are making families aware of the fact that it is illegal in New Hampshire to record telephonic or electronic communication without everyone's knowledge.

Assistant Superintendent Thompson stated the intent to hire a dedicated substitute for each one of the buildings (2 are proposed at the high school based on size). Building administration will direct the work of this individual. Not only is support for classroom instruction looked at, but also someone who could support the work of the nurses. It is understood, if adding an auxiliary location for the nurse, we have a supervision issue if we have students in more than one location.

With regard to additional cleaning protocol, there is a hydrogen peroxide based product that is on the CDC list for cleaning. All surfaces will be cleaned with a mister and then an electrostatic sprayer used to deliver

the peroxide based product. Because it is electrostatic, it clings to all sides of surfaces. Cleaning protocol videos will be included as part of the professional development.

A presentation was provided depicting what a typical school day will look like. Can be viewed [here](#) (beginning at tape counter 20:22).

Principal Girzone remarked students arriving at the school (bus or parent drop-off) prior to 7:20 a.m. will wait outdoors (back athletic field). Doors open at 7:20 a.m. Students will go directly to ROCK (advisory/homeroom) for attendance. Lockers will not be made available to students. Students will be allowed and expected to carry with them a backpack containing the materials needed for the day.

The schedule has been adjusted to allow for longer passing time between classes (half class at a time). Class dismissal will be staggered, and students expected to report directly to their next class. Students will be expected to social distance in hallways with traffic being one way each side of the hall. Hallways are being striped with 6' arrows and centerline.

When possible, students will have lunch on the back field. When needing to be indoors, students will be assigned various indoor spaces to allow for social distancing, e.g., MPR, gym, library.

Excess furniture will be removed from classrooms to allow for social distancing. Students will have assigned seats. Common areas such as the main office and lunch line registers have been outfitted with plexiglass barriers.

The school nurse will have both the primary office and an auxiliary room for students exhibiting symptoms who may require dismissal.

Students may opt for an in-person or remote learning environment.

Custodial hours have been adjusted to increase cleaning and sanitizing procedures during the school day. All classroom surfaces will be cleaned at the end of the day by a peroxide-based chemical sprayer then an electrostatic misted used to deliver the product.

Dismissal will be staggered, and students will exit the building through an assigned egress based on their classroom and mode of transportation. Buses will line up on Jeff Smith Lane at the end of the day to pick up both middle and high school students. Parents picking up students are asked to pull their cars as far forward as possible (towards Love Lane). 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents will be added to the line up in front of the building and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents in the back.

Friday PLCs will occur as an early release instead of a delayed opening. School will end and students will be dismissed at 12:20 on Friday to allow for PLCs/teacher collaboration/professional development and deep cleaning throughout the building.

Two proposed schedules were displayed/discussed (tape counter [29:00](#)).

Principal Barnes provided a depiction of a school day at the HBHS. Doors will open at 7:35 a.m. Students arriving before that time will be asked to wait outdoors. Students will go directly to class for attendance purposes and COVID protocols/symptom monitoring. The number of minutes in the first class has been extended. Lockers will not be made available. Students will be allowed and expected to carry with them a backpack containing the materials needed for the day.

Upon arrival to the first period (and each subsequent) students will be asked to sanitize their hands (encouraged to bring their own). Students will be asked to bring to school a fully charged personal device and power supply. For those who require one, a Chromebook will be loaned out by the District. A key element to the schedule is the expansion of CavBlock. This is a perfect opportunity to do that particularly where there is an obvious need. The goal is to focus on community building and getting to know students. We don't know how long we will be able to be fully in-person and want to be able to maximize that time. The concept of advisory has been mentioned over a number of years. We would look to take one of the CavBlock (Monday) times and dedicate it something that would be like an advisory, and would include all staff and administration having a group of advisory students. Should we need to move to remote, he can see the advisory being the basis of a lot of what we will be able to offer students in terms of support, which would be above and beyond what we were able to offer last year.

The schedule has been adjusted to allow for longer passing time in between classes. Dismissal will be staggered, and students will be expected to report directly to their next class. Students are expected to social distance with hallway traffic being one way each side of the hall.

Lunches will be split up between multiple indoor and outdoor spaces, In times of inclement weather students will utilize a variety of indoor spaces to allow for social distancing. End of day dismissal will be staggered, and students will exit through a designated egress based on their classroom and mode of transportation. They are looking to expand parking. If buses are at the bottom of Jeff Smith Lane, he could see potentially expanding the lower lot parking. Since supervision would be moving with parking, it would be shifted down towards Jeff Smith Lane. Having buses on Jeff Smith Lane will allow for what is anticipated to be a significant number of pick-ups and drop-offs.

The Health Office will have a primary as well as auxiliary office for students exhibiting symptoms who may require dismissal.

Students may opt for an in-person or remote learning environment.

Custodial hours may be adjusted as needed to increase cleaning and sanitizing. All classroom surfaces will be cleaned at the end of the day as described earlier.

Friday PLCs will occur as an early release instead of a delayed opening. School will end and students will be dismissed at 12:20 on Friday to allow for PLCs/teacher collaboration/professional development and to reinforce and help develop curriculum for the advisory on Monday as well as deep cleaning throughout the building.

Examples were provided of potential fall schedules (tape counter [43:05](#))

Vice Chairman Solon questioned how a student or staff member's decision to change their status will be handled. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the ease of that is dependent on conversations currently taking place with the workforce.

Asked how a mismatch of remote and in-person faculty/student requirements will be addressed, she responded a faculty member could provide direct instruction via Zoom, from multiple locations. If there are in-person students who are assigned that teacher, the student could still report to the classroom to receive that direct instruction, which would be provided via projection with the teacher on the other end via Zoom from an alternate location. There would be another adult in the physical location with the students.

Asked what happens when the in-person student count exceeds classroom allowance, she indicated that would be a factor taken into consideration if looking to allow students to change their status from in-person and remote. We would have to ensure spacing is adequate. It is known just about all classrooms can accommodate 20 desks maintaining 6' of separation. Some classrooms allow for more than that. The Administration would have to look at every class and the students enrolled. Asked if in an instance of having a class that is only offered in one section, will enrollment be limited to the capacity of the class to maintain social distancing requirements, she stated a variety of factors would be taken into consideration, one being looking to limit and have conversations with the students. Another would be looking into changing the room. Another factor would be the possibility of no mask breaks or changing the furniture to allow for greater distancing. Some of the desks, due to their shape, allow for greater distancing. Every one would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Asked how the synchronized remote teaching matched or paced relative to the in-person instruction, she stated it may involve full-time/on demand screen engagement and might not. What could happen is opening up with a mini lesson and then break off into small working groups. There might be a 10-minute session with one smaller group and another with another group. They could also be separated into different working groups within Zoom. Potentially there could be independent work off Zoom and returning for a final exit ticket to ensure the students learned what the expectation was for that day.

Asked what the current status or thought process is around the term room Zoom, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the Administration is in conversation with the workforce. Asked if it is anticipated classes will be recorded for possible replay, she stated they will not unless dictated by a legal document such as an IEP or 504.

Asked if recorded based on a requirement within a particular student's IEP/504, would it then be available for others, Assistant Superintendent Thompson stated an IEP or 504 team can deliberate and decide. They do have the authority to allow classroom recordings. They also have the authority to allow for live zooming. That would be an individual team decision. He does not have an answer as to whether that video could be made available to others. Legal counsel can be asked for an opinion.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if anything is anticipated or occurring to ensure remote teaching competency (different set of skills involved). Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked the District is near completion with the professional development around best practices and minimum expectations for digital tool usage and remote learning criteria. Depending on where conversations go with the workforce, the next appropriate step would be discussing the evaluations of the workforce in a potentially different environment. We have to take step 1 before we can take step 2. Asked if it is mandatorily required that the District start out presumptive that anyone and everyone can teach remotely, she stated that to be correct.

Member Stoll questioned if teachers would have the flexibility to say that masks can be off for a period of time if the class is distanced, all students are sitting, etc., and was informed they would. The intent is to allow teachers to make that decision instructionally.

Member Brown questioned how attendance will be taken for Zoom classes. The response was just as with traditional in-person schooling, a student can show up tardy, sometimes they show up to the beginning and get lost along the way. All of those instances are noted, and the information shared with Administration. Her thought is that there would be a different code for present via Zoom versus in-person just to help track the information.

Assistant Superintendent Thompson noted if logging in on Zoom, theoretically the student could log in without a camera on and we wouldn't know. That is where the teacher's responsibility ends; if they log in there is nothing we can do if the student chooses not to be there.

Member Brown commented on the variety of reasons a student could be absent that are not related to COVID. In those situations will they be able to toggle in/toggle out versus remote versus in-person instruction? Superintendent Corey stated that to be a conversation that is being had with the workforce.

Member Whalen asked if the Principals have a preference with the proposed schedules. Principal Girzone stated the large benefit to the second proposal having 3 lunches is that if in the building into the winter, it will probably be important to make every effort to minimize numbers. It will incorporate a bit more logistics in the building and coordination of supervision, but if indoors, he would lean towards splitting groups into the 3 different lunches. It wouldn't be the normal circumstances where students eat by grade. Study halls and skills classes that meet that period would be split to avoid disrupting academics. To start the year, the first model with the two lunches (outdoor model) addresses that concern about the larger numbers.

Principal Barnes stated the idea that with CavBlock at the end of the day you could expect students to either be assigned somewhere or be dismissed. It is a bit of an experiment with lessening numbers to let students choose, especially those that are remote in one capacity or another. Some kids will be comfortable coming back to the building to work with 1 or 2 teachers.

Member Whalen questioned costs associated with the changes being made. Superintendent Corey stated an update will be provided at the August meeting. To re-open and stay open would basically double cleaning costs, e.g., supplies. That will also cause the District to look at staffing levels. There may be a potential hire needed for cleaning. Tents will be leased across the SAU (approx. 13) until Thanksgiving and then a decision made if wishing to lease again in the spring. The SAU has purchased wipes, hand sanitizer, plexiglass, PPE, and has moved forward in the evaluation of the HVAC systems to ensure we are up to date mechanically and can have airflow changed at the required rates. There will be potential increase if deciding to go with sports, e.g., transportation. Updates will be available at the August meeting with regard to athletics and clubs. It may be that the Board reaches the decision to increase the athletic fee or perhaps run varsity sports only, etc. There could be a conversation around policy regarding transportation as there may be a benefit in allowing families to transport.

This evening a recommendation will be made for a permanent substitute at the middle school and two at the high school. Traditionally the district has not expended the entire budget line item for substitutes. It is not believed the budget amount will be exceeded. Another request is for an increase in pay for substitutes (certified and non) and the nurse substitute. The bandwidth has been increased to ensure, if the direction taken, staff could work from the building if going remote. There are a number of requests in regard to the

American With Disabilities Act that may involve purchases. It is believed those costs may be absorbed into the existing budget.

There is the potential for filtering devices to be purchased. He and Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug visited a local dentist to see firsthand a device being utilized there; type of device that might be utilized on the third floor in the high school because of excessive heat (turn air over 12-15 times/hour). There will be some specific purchases for special education. There is the potential for costs related to special education for outside service providers to come onsite. It may be that the expenses could be addressed through the Special Education Trust Fund.

From a maintenance standpoint, if there are recommendations related to the HVAC, the district would look to the Maintenance Trust Fund. There was a larger allocation this year than requested, and some of the projects had been delayed understanding there might be some physical plant items come up.

Member VanCoughnett asked for clarification the Plan states if there is a teacher that feels they want the students to wear masks during their entire period, they will. Superintendent Corey responded if there is a teacher, based on their medical condition, who feels it is essential for their students to keep their masks on for their period, then he believes students will comply with that request. The intent is not necessarily to have students wearing masks 7 hours/day.

Assistant Superintendent Thompson commented in addition to staff, there may be students who are immune compromised who have to wear masks for the duration of their school day.

Member VanCoughnett questioned how it will be determined which proposal will be chosen and how it will be announced to parents. Superintendent Corey stated the Principals were asked to provide two drafts to look at what the proposals were and how they fit under the umbrella of the master plan. Ultimately, when looking at both he does not see a concern for either one. If a traditional format and not a pandemic year he would prefer CavBlock be in the middle of the day. Because it is a time of pandemic and it helps with transportation and allows some students to leave at the end of the day, he believes there to be a lot of benefit to the model of the SEL on Mondays because we have Friday planning time to organize that. With the middle school, he does not have a preference either way. He and Principal Girzone have talked, and he likes the idea the lower we can make the numbers at lunch the better off we are, and he worries about a transition if doing two lunches in the fall and moving to three in the winter. That is another change, and middle school students do well with routine.

Ultimately, he will defer to their decision because it is their building and they have to run the schedule.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted during this meeting the Board will deliberate on the Plan; guidelines presented by the Assistant Superintendents. The pieces with regard to schedule will come before the Board in August, and will not require a vote of the Board.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if CTE classes would be offered, and if so would they only be for in-person. Superintendent Corey spoke of having met with Superintendents earlier in the day. Alvirne will be offering their CTE through a hybrid approach. He has not yet received information from Nashua as they are still in the planning stages. Milford is discussing the hybrid approach, but he has not gotten information back on CTE. Most Superintendents have been focusing on their own town and spent some time discussing CTE today as it also involves protocols of whose policies would be enforced where.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if they would be able to put it into a plan that will begin in a month's time or if it will not be part of the first semester. Superintendent Corey stated his belief there will be

opportunities, he is simply uncertain if all offerings will be available. Some of our students finished their CTE remotely, and for some it went very well. For others it was a struggle (hands on courses).

With regard to budgetary impacts, he questioned the degree of significance in additional costs. Superintendent Corey stated his belief, at this time, it would be tens of thousands of dollars.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned how remote faculty would participate in PLC/advisory and remote students participate in CavBlock commenting from the schedule conversation it sounds as if the only way someone can participate in the CavBlock activities is to be onsite. Assistant Superintendent Thompson stated it will depend on how things shake out with the workforce, but he does not see how a remote student wouldn't be allowed to sign up like anyone else for adaptive scheduler and just be remote in. It may be contingent with discussions with the workforce. The intent would be that remote students would be able to gain the benefit of the CavBlock activities without coming into the building, in particular the advisory piece. Asked if remote staff would also be able to participate, Assistant Superintendent Thompson stated his belief that could be the case. He reiterated it depends on who.

Member Brown strongly urged against having CavBlock at the end of the day for the same reason she does not want to have any sort of hybrid schedule at the high school; these kids in particular, this age, really benefit from structure and from being together. To the extent that we can, it is important to bring students back in the building and give them on campus structure. The natural thing we have all recognized is that some students will opt out of CavBlock because it would feel as if they would be getting out of school early.

We've added an advisory, which is a nice teacher structured focused connection between staff and students, but if we move CavBlock to the end and end up disbursing a good chunk of the students all over town we have lost one of the major reasons we have supported CavBlock.

There was talk of moving down the supervision to where the buses are. That would allow for more movement. Are we going to have supervision moving down in the lower part of the parking lot at the beginning of CavBlock as there would be a lot of movement? Do we have staff to monitor the parking lot for an entire CavBlock period?

Principal Barnes responded with the addition of two permanent substitutes there would be more staff onsite. With the buses below, supervision will be moving closer towards the lower level parking lot. There are two ways to look at CavBlock at the end of the day; we have to align the schedule at the middle school slightly, and students who are not signed up for anything would be dismissed at that point, which would become a transportation issue. If not taking the bus, there is no reason for them to wait around if not in CavBlock.

Member Brown remarked that highlights what she believes to be a safety concern on campus. If students are not going to sign up in the adaptive scheduler for an activity to do during CavBlock, 3 of those days/week we will have a lot of students leaving in private transportation and there is concern that adult supervision would not normally be coming down onto the lower part of the school grounds until closer to the time that buses arrive. There will be a lot of movement and no supervision. Principal Barnes remarked with the two permanent substitutes, there would be ample staff to cover that monitoring. He does understand the argument, which is why he put two schedule options out there. However, those same students who might be leaving with other students are probably arriving with those same students. They will carpool, and that cannot be prevented under any model.

Member Brown stated concern with the absence of locker spaces. If having sports, where will all of the gear be located and how do we avoid cross contamination from one student's gear to another's? Superintendent Corey stated that will be addressed in the plan that will be presented by the Athletic Director.

Member Stoll questioned if consideration has been given to minimizing the amount of materials students will be required to carry in their backpacks. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded from the SAU level recommendations they have pushed down and basically identified that as a potential problem. The building leadership team has been asked to work with teachers to minimize what is needed on a daily basis.

Member Stoll questioned if remote students would be permitted to participate in sports, clubs, etc. Superintendent Corey stated if they are our students they will be eligible just as a homeschool student would be in our Town. It would just be a matter of their compliance with whatever procedures and protocols the Athletic Director identifies.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned what is being approved by a vote of the Board to support the Plan. He noted what has been presented is a picture/vision that comes with many unknowns. Superintendent Corey stated the Administration is providing a SAU framework, and is saying to administrators, your plans, procedures, policies, etc. must fit under the framework. When the Board approves that framework they have validated that it is what they want because they are representing the community. When you vote on the framework you are stating agreement we will be using masks and doing social distancing, that we will be reducing numbers and going after 6' of spacing. All of those items you could technically say are an administrative decision, but what the administrators will get is the question who authorized that. The Board is the legislative body for the school district and carries that authority as it does with either curriculum, policy, or the budget. This validates what is being presented, which then allows the proposals that the Principals put forth regarding their schedules to be approved by him because those schedules meet the framework.

Vice Chairman Solon stated the problem he has is that he does not see much of anything that is prohibited by the Plan. Almost everything has the caveat of depending on what we need at the time or depending on what we feel is appropriate. You say masks, but with a lot of qualifiers of depending on this or that. He understands and he listened to the Primex opening schools presentation. The only thing he got from that, which correlated with this, is they seem to be instructing administrators to get board approval because board members cannot be personally liable and therefore it essentially mitigates risk. He does not understand the functional benefit of the Board weighing in on this when they have no control or say over what actually occurs in the school unless going to the point of making a specific policy affecting one of these areas or approve or disapprove an amount of money to accomplish one of them.

He understands what was stated and it aligns with what his perception was. Still, on a personal level, he questions the appropriateness of doing so. A major concern he has about the whole thing gets focused with a statement that was made "We all know that remote is not going to be as good as in person." That is his problem; this is a plan that has been established to get back to doing what we have done well in the past under other circumstances. He is not really happy about how it looks at what is needed to go forward under a new paradigm.

Superintendent Corey stated the Administration would love to move forward in a new paradigm, but in approximately 40 days we need to open up in some shape or form. We are happy to have all of those discussions. He believes in 3-5 years, maybe less, remote instruction could be just as good as in-person instruction, but we are not there yet. We will get there because there were some tremendous things that were seen coming out of remote and some students who struggle in the traditional environment that thrived in remote.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock remarked students who are children of certain healthcare workers are going to be answering yes to one of the questions included in the daily symptom monitoring form. She questioned how that will be handled. Assistant Superintendent Thompson responded when the original draft was written it included sample questions that mirrored some of the questions that have been asked of some of the in-person students that are receiving special education services at the high school. He and Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug have revised the question so that it does not in any way preclude children of a healthcare worker from our schools. It essentially will ask if the child has had exposure, and takes the parent piece out of it. Those questions will be vetted through the community group before a final version is decided upon.

Member Williams spoke of being pleased that language is being revised. She suggested just asking about the student or if referring to the parent that it questions if there has been unprotected exposure to COVID.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated her understanding the language currently in the Plan relative to the requirement for wearing of masks is being reviewed and/or revised and will be brought back before the Board at the August meeting. However, she wished to note the need to recognize that our teachers who have grades 7-12 can possibly be challenged by students who may not want to comply for a variety of reasons, and to ensure that the language that we include in this document gives our teachers the feeling of the support that they are going to need to be able to ask a student to put a mask on. However we tweak the language we need to support our staff in their feelings and ensuring they get what they need from all of us.

With regard to CavBlock, although she can see the convenience of having it at the end of the day and providing a little more staggering of dismissal time, she believes strongly in the commitment that we have had to CavBlock and the opportunity for our students to have time in the middle of the day. She is pleased with the addition of the advisory piece, but would like to see it stay in the middle of the day.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Tiffany Testa, 101 Mooar Hill Road, Hollis

Spoke of being a huge advocate and proponent for implementing advisory at the high school level. In regard to the mask wearing and concern, she suggested advisory could begin with discussion of what it means to have community social responsibility.

She stated agreement with the remarks made in support of CavBlock taking place in the middle of the school day.

She has a huge concern that the District did not look at a hybrid in terms of partial in/partial out. If our number one concern were getting all students in she believes there would have been more faculty and family buy-in. She believes there is a big paradigm shift that we know is there now and will last forever, and she hopes we pay attention to it.

Kelly Zakar, 5 Cider Mill Road, Brookline

Commented on her support of having CavBlock at the end of the day. She believes there may be families who don't have their child engaged in in-person learning but may be engaged in after-school activities or sports. The CavBlock at the end of the day gives those students the opportunity to come into the school when there may not be as many people in the building.

She questioned what time of day the daily symptom monitoring form is required to be submitted. She suspects on any given day there could be 10% of the population that responds yes to that form. Understanding the start of the school day in the nurse's office is a busy time, she questioned if that needs to be submitted by a certain time so that the nurses have an opportunity to review the list of students who have answered yes or not submitted a survey. She suggested an offsite person who could review those at home to take the burden off the nurse.

Cindy Ryherd, 150 Witches Spring Road, Hollis

Stated her belief it is fair to ask parents of athletes to pitch in a bit more for student fees this year. She questioned when the Board would be meeting next, and when it is anticipated registration will occur where parents make a choice regarding in-person versus remote.

She asked, if her child has to miss school because they are simply sick or because they were quarantined for whatever reason, would they participate remotely to the same exact classroom with the same teacher.

Is there any possibility there will be schedule changes because once registration happens you determine there might be a class that only has a single block, there are 25 people registered, all 25 are going to be in-person, and it is a class such as ceramics that can only be in a particular room? Is it possible students might have to have their schedules adjusted because of an inability to social distance or would the alternative be that everyone has to wear masks?

Pete D'Agostino, 9 Louis Drive, Brookline

Stated the conversation about re-opening the schools is probably the most significant conversation that parents and administrations are having now. He was concerned with the discussion that came up regarding the amount of time the meeting has taken and the request that those providing public input not repeat things. He believes it important for the public to repeat them, so the Board has a sense of how many people feel the same way about something.

Both the Brookline and Hollis School Boards have voted to reevaluate the mask criteria. It currently states student and staff use of face coverings will be required at all times in grades K-12, and then it creates a loophole. It creates a mandate with a loophole, which he believes to be incredibly difficult for the students. The language that was in the original proposal was more than adequate and provides the teachers with the flexibility to have the students wear masks or not when appropriate based on the original guidelines. He requested the Board push that section off until the Administration can address it as they are with the other school districts

He is hopeful the Board and Chair will allow the public to repeat as much as they need to what their feelings are, and if tonight is not enough time to have the full meeting that it be continued to another night.

Laurie Miller, 14 Forest View Drive, Hollis

Spoke of mention of a hybrid where a student could attend some classes in person and others remotely. If that is truly the case, she would like to learn more about that. As a parent she would like to be able to have her student attend classes where things are done hands-on and do everything else remote.

She questioned when parents will be provided detailed information about how remote learning will work and when a decision will have to be made around whether a student will participate in-person or remotely.

Trisha Brien, 34 Captain Seaver Road, Brookline

With regard to specials, will additional information on how those classes will run be made available prior to parents having to decide about in-person or remote?

In band and chorus wearing a mask may not work.

With regard to gym, students typically receive a locker and are able to change. Since students will be carrying backpacks, where will they be stored during this time?

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated registration would begin the following day.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock commented it is sort of a catch 22 in that we need to have the information and the data to make definite decisions as to how each day will look but parents would like to know how each day would look before they make the decision.

With regard to the question of whether there is a deadline for parents to reverse their decision, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated in the registration material is the request that the process be completed by August 10<sup>th</sup>. We cannot deny education to anyone. We are asking for that so that we can do the best job possible at planning appropriately.

Asked what would occur if a student is quarantined, Superintendent Corey stated, at this time, that is an item that is in discussion with the workforce. We are subject to impact bargaining and that is part of the discussion.

Asked if schedule changes are anticipated should there be a scenario where a class cannot run, Principal Barnes commented, depending on how the discussions go that the Superintendent mentioned, he would anticipate some choosing to choose an a la carte menu. One of the hard parts is the transportation piece. That is why it is going to have to be situational and on a case-by-case basis.

With regard to band, chorus, or gym, Superintendent Corey stated there would be additional information available for the August meeting. He noted Matt Babossa at the high school attended professional development training on the topic of teaching music during the pandemic. We have a community member who is a music therapist who recently attended a professional development opportunity and was kind enough to share the information gained with the teachers.

We will also be looking at much larger spaces with significant social distancing possible for things such as choir. There is also the opportunity to go outdoors. He does believe those classes will be run, it will be parent choice, and staff will be well prepared K-12 to address those issues.

With regard to the nurse receiving information at the start of the day, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the form requires a straight yes or no response. There will be a set time by which the form needs to be completed, which will be building based because of staggered start times. A report is generated. If you have answered yes to any of those questions, the student is not to come to school that day. We will follow up, but we don't need to follow up prior to the start of school. We will gather information throughout the day as we engage in conversation with those families. What is going to be critical is identifying those who did not respond. Those families would be contacted individually prior to the start of school.

Superintendent Corey remarked the report comes in to both the school nurse and the administration as it is recognized the morning is a busy time for the nurse. The list will force the administrator and nurse to have a daily conversation. Protocols will be put in place to ensure that is the #1 priority, without overloading the nurses.

With regard to the question asked about gym class, Principal Girzone stated he met with the P.E. Department to discuss providing the opportunity for students who choose to change, an opportunity to do so. We will cycle students through. There are 6 bays in each locker room. It would be 2 shifts at a time but without the use of an actual locker. Each individual would have an assigned space in the gym for their backpack. They talked about the rotation of activities to avoid a sharing of equipment, the safe sanitizing at the end of each day, and a variety of different activities that would be determined safe. The department has a good handle on how to safely administer a curriculum and ensure students remain safe. In addition, there will be incorporation into the curriculum some of the health and safety protocols that now exist.

### **DELIBERATIONS**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the reopening plan proposed by Administration

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO APPROVE THE RETURN TO SCHOOL BUILDING PLAN 2020-2021, ABSENT THE MASK REQUIREMENT SECTION, WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED AND/OR REFINED AT THE BOARD'S AUGUST MEETING  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

### **ON THE QUESTION**

Member Whalen commented she has given this issue a great deal of thought taking into consideration all of the input provided. She believes this to be a plan that allows families to make some choices, which she believes to be fair, and the best thing we can do. It certainly makes it more difficult to give choices, but is really important. It is and will continue to change how we educate. Although she can see the benefits of both in-person and remote learning, she is of the belief when people are in a room and can have discussions back and forth it is beneficial.

All of the experts agree that in-person learning is where we need to try to be headed. When you are in a community that is not experiencing as much spread we need to look at opening. It is important to try to make that option available.

She understands it is difficult to open registration when we don't have all of the answers. She is hopeful we can all remain patient and help parents get the answers they desire, and that we can all remain patient with the administration and staff.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock echoed the remarks of Member Whalen commenting we are asking our students and staff for patience and flexibility, and we as parents in the community need to be as patient and flexible as we can with everything. This is an unpredictable time. She commended the Administration and everyone working behind the scenes to put together a plan for our students. She believes that at their heart, every single one starts every day with the children in the forefront of their thoughts and hearts.

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

Yea: Kate Stoll, Krista Whalen, Elizabeth Brown, Elizabeth Williams, Cindy VanCoughnett,  
Holly Deurloo Babcock

6

Nay: Tom Solon

1

**MOTION CARRIED**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the approval of a permanent substitute for each school building at a rate of \$100 per day.

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO APPROVE TWO PERMANENT SUBSTITUTES AT THE HOLLIS-BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL AND ONE PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, AT A RATE OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) PER DAY  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

Yea: Kate Stoll, Krista Whalen, Elizabeth Brown, Elizabeth Williams, Cindy VanCoughnett,  
Holly Deurloo Babcock

6

Nay: Tom Solon

1

**MOTION CARRIED**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the approval of an increase in the daily rate for a substitute to a rate of \$85 per day (non-certified), a rate of \$100 per day (NH Teacher Certification held), and a rate of \$150 per day for a nurse substitute, for the 2020-2021 school year.

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN THE DAILY RATE FOR A SUBSTITUTE TO EIGHTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$85.00) PER DAY FOR NON-CERTIFIED, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) PER DAY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL HOLDING A NEW HAMPSHIRE TEACHER CERTIFICATION, AND A RATE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS PER DAY FOR A NURSE SUBSTITUTE, FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

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

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

7

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the proposed updates to the school calendar

**MOTION BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT TO APPROVE THE UPDATES TO THE 2020-2021  
SCHOOL CALENDAR AS PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated the proposed changes to be a delay in the opening of schools until September 9<sup>th</sup>, which provides two professional development days added to the schedule on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. October 9<sup>th</sup> would become a fully remote day across the SAU so we can practice running our systems off the SAU site. November 3<sup>rd</sup> is not a change to the calendar, but where we traditionally have done a SAU professional development day, that will be given back to the buildings for collaboration and items of curriculum since we know we are still identifying gaps from last year. What is new in November is the proposal that November 23<sup>rd</sup> would become a remote learning practice day and the 24<sup>th</sup> would be a teacher collaboration and curriculum day. That would also give us a solid week to clean the buildings as we start to head into the colder weather. In December, the request is that the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> are remote days and the 23<sup>rd</sup> is a curriculum collaboration day.

The Administration will be back before the Board with any recommendations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester likely in October.

Vice Chairman Solon asked if the 24<sup>th</sup> of November and 23<sup>rd</sup> of December are student or no student days, and was informed they would be no student days as they would be professional development/collaboration.

Asked about snow days, Superintendent Corey stated there remain snow days built into the calendar. However, it is anticipated remote learning will be used in place of snow days. The only way the district would continue with a snow day would be in the event of loss of power. The procedure would be that the snow call would be made and would be followed up with a notification if it qualifies for a remote day or not.

Asked if it is possible that the last day of school could be as early as the 16<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Corey stated there to be a high probability that when the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester calendar is reviewed, the Board could choose the date for graduation and the final date for school.

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

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

7

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Asked about the date of the next meeting, Superintendent Corey proposed Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. either in the Library or the Multi-Purpose Room. Chairman Deurloo Babcock will poll the Board to determine availability so that a date can be set.

Asked if there is the anticipated need for action between now and then, Superintendent Corey stated there is the potential as the district is in impact bargaining. That would be more of an emergency meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

7

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*The July 31, 2020 meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

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