

HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

MARCH 17, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School Library.

Holly Deurloo Babcock, Chairman, presided:

Members of the School Board Present: Tom Solon, Vice Chairman
Kate Stoll, Secretary
Krista Whalen
Beth Janine Williams

Members of the School Board Absent: Elizabeth Brown
Cindy VanCoughnett

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Rick Barnes, Principal, Hollis Brookline High School
Samantha Shepard, Incoming Student Council Representative
Annie Hazelton, Student Council Rep., Hollis-Brookline High School

APPOINTMENT OF PROCESS OBSERVER

Chairman Deurloo Babcock appointed Vice Chairman Solon as Process Observer.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

A request was made to amend the agenda by including acceptance of prior meeting minutes.

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

NOMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

The district will host a vaccination clinic for all staff members in the SAU, the Amherst, Mount Vernon, and Milford school districts, as well as members from the Regional Services & Education Center (special education collaborative), those involved in education through Beaver Brook, and others that have fallen into the category of 2a, on March 24th and 25th.

The process of hosting a clinic began 4-5 weeks ago and has taken a great deal of work and time on the part of Assistant Superintendent Thompson and Carrie Marsh, Human Resource Director. Approx. 1,000 people are expected to be vaccinated as part of this effort. The district will be in session. Volunteers will be onsite to help provide coverage. On April 13th and 14th, the process will be completed to administer the second vaccine.

Superintendent Corey informed the Board that every student, across the SAU, that has requested to be in-person has been accommodated. On Monday, approx. 70 additional students were returned to in-person resulting in a ratio of approx. 90% face-to-face and 10% fully remote. Upon the completion of the vaccinations, the intent is to begin the recall of staff to get them back into their classrooms. Superintendent Corey noted the Administration would meet with union representatives the following day to begin those discussions.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned the percentage of staff currently in-person. He questioned the amount of instruction taking place in school provided by a remote teacher. Superintendent Corey stated that is occurring with certain staff members. Principal Barnes remarked, unless in an instance such as a maternity leave, if a staff member is out for a specific reason, they are teaching remotely via Zoom to the in-person classroom as well as their Zoom students. Asked for a rough estimate of the percentage of staff teaching remotely, he estimated it to be 4-5 staff members teaching remotely at the high school. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted there is an equal number teaching remotely at the middle school.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 20, 2021

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – 1st Non-Public [January 20, 2021](#)

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-1

Member Williams Abstained

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – 2nd Non-Public [January 20, 2021](#)

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-1

Member Williams Abstained

Jt. Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board & COOP Budget Committee [February 2, 2021](#)

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [February 10, 2021](#)

The following amendments were offered:

Page 11, Line 39 and Page 12, Line 6; correct the spelling of Vice Chairman Solon’s name

Page 18, Line 38; replace “lots” with “lost”

Page 15, Line 22; delete “Cap”

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Public Hearing**. [February 10, 2021](#)

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 2, Line 12; replace “the Cost Per Pupil (CPP) with “his calculated cost per pupil”
- Page 2, Line 14; replace the “,” with a “.”
- Page 2, Line 15; replace “CPP” with “calculated cost per pupil”
- Page 3, Line 3; replace “move” with “moved”
- Page 6, Line 9; delete “. He”
- Page 9, Line 44; replace “show” with “shown”
- Page 10, Line 2; replace “HB214” with “HB1214”
- Page 12, Line 38; replace “gong” with “going”
- Page 12, Line 43; delete “the” before “Ms. St. John”
- Page 14, Line 16; replace “provide” with “provided”
- Page 14, Line 32; correct the spelling of “idea”
- Page 14, Line 33; correct the spelling of “is”
- Page 14, Line 45 correct the spelling of “to”
- Page 14, Line 47; replace “Zooming” with Zoning”
- Page 15, Line 25; delete “to”
- Page 15, Line 36; replace “no” with “on”
- Page 15, Line 38; replace “AA” with “AoA”
- Page 18 Line 35; replace “or” with “of”
- Page 23, Line 34; correct the spelling of “what”

**MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS
MOTION CARRIED**

5-0-0

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board – **Public Hearing**. [February 11, 2021](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS
MOTION CARRIED**

5-0-0

Special Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board [February 17, 2021](#)

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0

PUBLIC INPUT

Member Williams commented at times when we introduce public input, we indicate that comments must pertain to items included on the agenda. The policy does not indicate that is a requirement. She recommended the Board review the policy noting that the Hollis School Board takes a different approach to the opening remarks around public input by stating comments must be relevant to district policies, procedures, operations, etc. It is not limited. She has heard both positive and negative impact around restricting input to agenda items.

PRINCIPAL AND ATHLETIC REPORTS

Principal Barnes presented the reports provided (copies included as part of the agenda packet).

Highlights of the report from the Hollis Brookline Middle School (HBMS), include congratulations to 8th grade student Lloyd Feng who placed 10th at the MathCounts Chapter Qualifier and competed at the Chapter Invitational held on February 25th. Lloyd placed 8th at the Chapter Invitational, which puts him in the qualifying bracket. He will take part in the NH State Meet on March 25th.

The NHSAS assessments will be administered at the HBMS for all 7th and 8th grade students. The assessments are mandatory and students, both remote and in-person, are expected to participate once the dates are assigned in the Spring.

Sixth and 7th grade course registrations for the '21-'22 school year as well as the 6th grade transition to Middle School activities will begin in the coming weeks. Parents will be sent directions on how to register for next year's classes. The HBMS administrators will be hosting an evening presentation via Zoom for parents of current 6th graders.

Highlighting items from the Athletic Director's report, Principal Barnes noted the Girls Swimming team, Boys Ski Team, Wrestling Team, Bowling Team, and Boys Hockey capped their seasons off with state runner-up finishes in their divisions.

The Girls Swimming Team had a phenomenal season with 4 freshmen breaking school records.

Justin Colby earned State Championship honors in the Slalom race of the Division II Boys Alpine Ski Meet, leading the Boys Ski team to a state runner-up finish.

Annie Hazelton, Student Council Rep., stated the focus as of late has been the Annual Spirit Week. It took a great deal more planning this year due to the pandemic. The HBHS is collecting donations to local organizations to help end hunger and food insecurity. The HB community has been very generous as donations are coming in at a record pace as compared to previous years. Each class adopted a local business that has been impacted by the pandemic. Each Council encouraged classmates to get take-out meals from those businesses as their way of incorporating Spirit Week into the community.

Addressing his report, Principal Barnes noted the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS) had several musicians selected for the New Hampshire Music awards All State Festival as well as the Jazz All State Honors. The program is rigorous and even more so given it had to be done over Zoom.

New Hampshire NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing went to Ashlesha Bhojane and Alexandra Hill. Award recipients were selected from more than 4,200 applicants from all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, U.S. Overseas military bases, and Canada.

SATs will be administered in person on March 24th and 25th. AP exams will be May 3rd through the 17th. The prom is set for Friday, May 21st at Beaver Brook. Graduation is tentatively set for Saturday June 12th on the Lacrosse Field.

In meeting with the Leadership Team, the decision was made to follow the path set forth with mid-terms with COVID, and not do finals for this year for the same reasons we did not do mid-terms; with the inequity present given the current format and understanding we have several students coming back who have not been in school for a year. It is felt they would be better served with more seat time/time of direct instruction as opposed to prepping for a test.

The NEASC Response to Five Year Report is the response to our Five-Year progress report that we originally submitted right before the pandemic. In our follow up discussions with NEASC, they indicated they would be willing to extend the deadline for their request for us to submit the Special Report until September 15, 2021.

The Commission on Public Schools was pleased to learn of the following:

- Organization of K-12 content area curriculum coordinated by the Assistant Superintendent and the Professional Development days to support this work.
- Required course at each grade level to ensure that they are heterogeneously grouped and the enrolling of students of all levels in one section of Civics and Economics to ensure they are truly heterogeneous.

As well, the Commission was pleased to note the following:

- Large-scale upgrades to the wireless infrastructure that can support up to 2,000 devices at any one time.
- Growth in partnerships with the local business community and further development of the extended learning opportunities (ELO) program so that it is comprehensive and now includes 40 employers.

The Commission referenced concern with the 44% of the recommendations that have been classified as in-progress, planned for the future, or no action. Knowing the tone of that paragraph, Principal Barnes reached out to the individual who is now the Association Director of NEASC and who had led the site visit. They had a productive discussion during which he explained the district did not just jump in creating rubrics to address the various items, we, in some ways, went a few steps back before going forward through the Instructional Practices Committee believing we could not address some of these things until addressing some of the foundational issues we have been working on for a long time. He also explained the impact of the pandemic and how we are one of only a few schools that is hitting 5 days a week and the amount of time and effort that requires.

The special report should detail information in response to the following:

- Indicate the progress to date on all recommendations in the Evaluation Report not yet classified as completed and/or a reason why each of the recommendations has not been fully implemented.
- Provide an update on the formal program or process to ensure each student has an adult in the school, beyond the school counselor, who assists the student in achieving the school's 21st century learning expectations.

Principal Barnes recommended stipends to incentivize teachers to run and become advisors to do a pilot for 2021 with an eye on full-scale implementation in 2022-2023.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented at HB we do not simply do something because we are told to do it; if we put something in place, we want to do it right. To put an advisory program in place and do it right is not something you just jump into. There must be community support. It is on the horizon, and we will do it right. Asked about student feedback, Principal Barnes commented given the impacts on students, including those resulting from the pandemic, he is seeing more of an appetite for this than ever before.

Member Williams spoke of being impressed with what the Student Council has been able to coordinate this year. Chairman Deurloo Babcock commented the success of us having kids in school is because we have the students we have. The Board has compassion for what the students have gone through and understands how challenging this year has been.

Member Williams thanked the Athletic Director for the report and spoke of the incredible season the district has had. She noted the HBHS has a full-length musical that will be coming out the last weekend in March and first weekend in April (streaming). It is the only high school we know of in southern New Hampshire that has been able to do something this big this year. As of a few days ago over 1,500 hours had been logged by students.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if anything is already in progress regarding the advisory discussion. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug responded the grant has been written and approved. There is funding lined up. Principal Barnes added the committee was formed a few months ago. There was more of a working group to look at resources that already exist, start putting those resources together, and work with teachers that volunteered and demonstrated interest in potentially running a pilot. This has been going on in schools for a long time. There are a lot of things to pull from out there, it is just a matter of making it fit for us. They have not been meeting as of late, but that could easily be started up again with an eye on starting next year. The interest is there, and he believes, with the stipend, there would be a decent pilot to run an advisory. He believes students would volunteer to be a part of that.

Vice Chairman Solon stated the desire to learn how the students are participating in the process so that we put a process in place that will be utilized and accepted where the students become stakeholders rather than victims of it. The second thing would be identifying what is set out as metrics to determine impact of the work so that if we are doing it, we at least have something that we are looking at to assess the performance of it. Principal Barnes remarked student participation is something that can be done. The metrics exist and are attainable.

Vice Chairman Solon commented he understands there is a push for this type of service. What has not been articulated is what the intended benefit is. What is it attempting to target and how do you determine whether it is effective? Principal Barnes stated the easy answer, although broad, is making sure students feel like they connect with at least one adult. Chairman Deurloo Babcock remarked conceptually it is that every student feel known in the building and that they have a presence in the building. If you have that one connection; when a student feels known they are less likely to get lost whether academically or emotionally. The idea is that you

will capture those kids that might not seek help from a Guidance Counselor but are sort of going through the motions. The question is if advisory is the only way to get there.

DISCUSSION

- Certification of the Articles of Agreement

When the updated Articles of Agreement (AoA) were last brought before the Board, questions were asked regarding the certification. Superintendent Corey reached out to legal counsel who completed work to certify the AoA, to the best of his ability. In doing so, he worked with the COOP District Clerk, Diane Leavitt. Ms. Leavitt provided the Board with a letter (copy included with agenda packet) detailing information on changes made to the AoA over time to arrive at the current language. The suggestion made was to post the updated AoA, inclusive of the backup documentation, to the website.

Legal counsel has recommended the Board vote to agree with the certification provided by the District Clerk and to post the AoA on the website.

The Board went out of the regular order of business to take up the vote on the Articles of Agreement.

- To see what action the Board will take regarding accepting the current Articles of Agreement as certified by the Clerk

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT AND POST THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT AS CERTIFIED BY THE CLERK

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The Board returned to the regular order of business.

- HBMS Principal Search Committee Update

The position was posted a few months back, and applications collected. A sub-committee of the Interview Committee completed pre-screenings and speed-round interviews. Candidates were brought before the Committee. Goals were discussed, questions selected, and the process and timeline reviewed. Last Thursday, 4 candidates were interviewed, and 2 finalists named: David Sutherland who has been an assistant Principal for the past 7 years at Londonderry Middle School prior to which he was an Assistant Principal in Allenstown, and prior to that a 6th grade teacher and a science teacher in multiple districts, and Patrick West who is currently both the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Hillsborough Derry Middle School. Prior to that Patrick was a middle school math teacher and a Lego Let Your Mind Go Program Director. The finalists will be brought to the middle school on Friday for a building tour. On March 25th, the district will host a Zoom Meet and Greet. There will be a session for community members, one for students, and one for faculty.

An SAU Leadership Team interview will be conducted, and a candidate will be brought to the Board meeting on April 14th.

- Policy Committee Update & Database Review

Chairman Deurloo Babcock spoke of being behind on policy. The New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) has recently sent out an update. The NHSBA provides a service (at a cost of \$1,500) where they would go through the district's policy manual and inform the Board of any areas missing as well as provide an overall review of the manual.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned if this is an action that has been taken in the past. The current membership of the Policy Committee was in favor of moving in this direction.

Asked what the work would entail, she stated her understanding they would provide a list of any missing items (required by law) and would inform what might be missing in the way of recommended policies.

Vice Chairman Solon stated that has been done in the past. If to do that first pass and identify things that are necessary, he is supportive of it.

The item will be included under deliberations on next month's agenda.

- Finalize the Articles of Agreement potential Warrant language, and determine the date of a special meeting

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated the certification of the AoA was regarding the current Articles of Agreement and all amendments that have occurred prior to this moment.

During the review, it came to light that there is language within the AoA that is obsolete. The Board has formed a special committee to review the articles and would like to make some changes. There is the potential for addressing these changes at a special meeting.

Vice Chairman Solon commented particularly at this time when there are other amendments being proposed through Citizen Petitions, the Board felt it important to have them start from a clean document that represents the state of the COOP that currently exists to avoid confusion and the risk of piggybacking things that might have accumulative effect. Legal counsel has offered two variations of how a warrant could be worded. At this point, what we are looking for is to confirm consensus of which one the Board prefers, verify that there is still support to do this, and determine when. He stated his personal preference to be to address this prior to the District Meeting where substantive changes are being proposed.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated uncertainty there is time to permit a meeting to occur prior to the April 10th meeting. Vice Chairman Solon commented if unable to accomplish prior to District Meeting, the question is should it be done at District Meeting. Chairman Deurloo Babcock was not in favor of addressing it at District Meeting. Member Whalen stated her belief it would be difficult and could give the impression the Board was trying to throw something at people before the meeting. Vice Chairman Solon stated the Board was looking for an opinion from legal of if we have a special meeting does this open the Articles up to other change. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated her belief legal counsel's opinion was that it could not, as language has to be printed ahead of time and is not amendable on the floor.

Asked if that will be true of the Citizens Petition Warrant Article as well, Superintendent Corey stated whatever relates to the AoA must be printed in the newspaper specific to the language of what the article will state and that is what can be discussed. Vice Chairman Solon asked for clarification any votes to change the AoA are strictly up or down votes. Superintendent Corey stated that is the opinion legal counsel has provided. He will ask again if a citizen can submit a petition on that given day. To him, some of the pieces of the meeting are like

apportionment; we propose a formula, put it out there, and then once the meeting starts the meeting is controlled by the legislative body.

Vice Chairman Solon stated if it is the case that it can be amended, that adds to the importance of doing it simultaneously with the other articles. If only an up or down vote and we are certain of that, having it as a stand-alone meeting does not present an exceptional risk.

Superintendent Corey stated he did ask the question that because there was a citizen's petition for the AoA, could the Board make amendments to that and the answer to that came from legal counsel was no.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated the Board voted to put it on the Warrant after legal review. Legal counsel came back with information on how to move forward. It is cumbersome and why we are talking about whether to put it on this warrant or a separate warrant. She stated her opinion it should be at a special meeting. There is an outdoor meeting in April. We have 15 items for that meeting, which is a lot, and she is concerned the item would be tabled. She would like a special meeting to be conducted after April 10th. In terms of which method, she does not feel strongly.

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO USE THE METHOD DESCRIBED AS THE EDITORIAL/NON-SUBSTANTATIVE CHANGES TO THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT CAME IN FROM THE PUBLIC, WHICH IS RATHER THAN DELETING ARTICLES, LEAVE THE NUMBERS IN PLACE AND MARK AS OBSOLETE
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated the desire for the date of a special meeting to follow the April 10th meeting, and questioned if there was a recommendation from the Administration.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if there is a benefit of scheduling it to piggyback the April School Board meeting. Superintendent Corey spoke of what would be required to ensure a well-attended meeting could be accommodated. Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated the desire to reach out to the Moderator for coordination of a date. Superintendent Corey commented, in education, typically in April we start to lose the focus of families.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned the will of the Board relative to conducting a special meeting or placing the item on the Warrant for the District Meeting. Member Stoll did not believe it best to add to the current warrant. Member Williams was fine with it being on a separate date but wished to understand what that date would be.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated her belief a date could not be determine absent input from the Moderator. Superintendent Corey questioned if the meeting would be indoors or outdoors. Member Whalen spoke of the potential for a September date. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug was supportive of a September date. Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated her belief the September timeframe would work and would allow time for the Board to meet, as required, with the Hollis and Brookline School Boards in advance of June.

Superintendent Corey spoke of meetings of the School Board Chairs that are conducted monthly. Those did not occur in the past. There is more communication occurring between the boards. He believes a lot of things have been done that meet the intent of the requirement.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if Board Chair meetings have been conducted this year and was told they have.

**MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO SCHEDULE THE SPECIAL MEETING AND HEARING FOR
SEPTEMBER OF 2021**

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the 2021-2022 School Calendar

No changes have been proposed since the last discussion of the proposed calendar.

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED, THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL
CALENDAR**

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER STOLL

ON THE QUESTION

Asked what the current thought process is on snow days, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated traditional snow days were done this past year. The proposed schedule includes 5 snow days.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE POLICY KF – COMMUNITY
USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SOLON

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy KF - Community Use of School facilities

1st Reading: 11-13-19 (as presented)

2nd Reading: 1-22-20 (as amended)

Tabled: 2-12-20 (tabled)

Given its third reading;

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted the policy was reviewed by legal counsel with the desire to incorporate language that would prohibit any kind of protesting. Legal counsel suggested not doing that. New language is being proposed.

The date of the second amendment should be listed as “January 22, 2020” rather than “January 22, 2019”.

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AMEND THE 7TH PARAGRAPH TO READ “IT IS THE EXPRESS INTENT OF THE DISTRICT NOT TO CREATE A PUBLIC FORUM AND THE 8TH PARAGRAPH BY REPLACING “AS CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE” WITH “AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON. IN THE EVENT THAT THE DISTRICT HAS TO CANCEL AN EVENT, ALL FEES WILL BE REPAID”, ACCEPT THE THIRD READING, AND ADOPT POLICY KF – COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN**

ON THE QUESTION

Member Williams commented the actual fee schedule and the information that goes along with this is still in the works. People have asked about the procedures. Chairman Deurloo Babcock commented it was an oversight that that information was not included in the agenda packet, and, as a result, no formal action will be taken at this time.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned the language “It is the express intent of the District not to create a public forum.”. Gatherings such as for the purpose of public hearings, are in fact public forums. Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated her belief the language provided by legal counsel sought to address the concept of protests. Vice Chairman Solon remarked if not having public forums, how do you authorize having those meetings, which are public forums.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock stepped down and Vice Chairman Solon presided.

Several members of the Board acknowledged the concern. Superintendent Corey suggested the language be revisited. He suggested the Board table both the policy and fee structure discussion.

Vice Chairman Solon stepped down and Chairman Deurloo Babcock presided.

**AMENDED MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ACCEPT THE THIRD READING OF POLICY KF – COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

Vote on the main motion to accept the third reading

**MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Community Use of School Facilities Form & Fee Schedule

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned if this is an item that requires a Board vote and was told it should. Asked if it requires the same process of several readings, Superintendent Corey stated it does not.

Principal Barnes spoke of several conversations at the Board level and Policy Committee that resulted in ensuring the fees are consistent between facilities and setting that information in table form for ease of use. The Board had discussed the need for the language that states “The building Principal or their designee reserves the right to cancel or reschedule events as circumstances dictate”, which is needed should the district get into a playoff game and need the use of the facility, etc.

Member Williams noted the language was changed in the policy and included the words “for any reason”. She suggested the language be consistent between the two.

Principal Barnes noted the discussion around breaking up the fees into three-hour increments. Language that remains the same is around the regulations governing the use including smoking. Vaping should be included. Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted the per- hour rate was changed for staff members and musical equipment.

Vice Chairman Solon suggested the language around fees for use of equipment be moved to the section covering indoor use to avoid confusion. Chairman Deurloo Babcock suggested the language be moved (margins adjusted) so that it does not appear to be related to the fields. Asked if the additional fees apply across the board, Principal Barnes stated they would.

Member Williams spoke of discussion of the language under the regulation governing fees (bottom of first page), category A & B on school days - no charge and then if a non-school day there is a charge. She questioned if language could identify that there is no charge on school days if the activity does not require additional personnel, etc.

Principal Barnes questioned the concern about the additional fees looking like a footnote. His intent would be that if on school days there were a need, which there could be, then these additional fees could apply. Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated the need for that to be clear under number 1. The problem is it is basically saying there is no charge/fees for these categories on school days.

Vice Chairman Solon suggested #1 should go away. Chairman Deurloo Babcock suggested the distinction, rather than school days or non-school days, should be whether there is the need for additional personnel for the purpose of the group. She suggested, in category A and B, to remove the language and include something along the lines of “utility, personnel, equipment charges as deemed applicable by the building Principal”. If you want to clarify more, the language extra, additional, or dedicated could be used. Vice Chairman Solon suggested the policy be referenced.

Vice Chairman Solon commented he and others in the community who have spoken on this have stated the desire for any cost incurred by the district, even if a municipal activity, be paid by the organization.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock suggested language could be added in the first sentence; however, noted the district does have resources the Towns provide and do not always charge for. Circumstances may differ and the discretion should be that of the building Principal to allow the ability to respect the shared resources of the communities. Superintendent Corey provided recent examples; if we run into difficulty with snow and need a large bucket truck to come down and move a snow pile, he can call the Hollis Department of Public Works, they come down and address it, and a bill is never seen. Next Tuesday the district will conduct the vaccine clinic and the Hollis Police Department is going to provide police officers to address traffic, and the district typically does not see a bill for those services. Some in the community may wish for the district to charge for certain things, but if we go down that road, the district will be charged for services provided. He is uncertain it would all be equal in the wash.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned the intent behind the two field columns; category D & E; is it something we will need to discuss or are we not going to be allowing use of those? Chairman Deurloo Babcock suggested that had not been determined yet as it would be private promoters receiving a percentage of the profit and sponsored by groups. That would basically be someone wants to throw a concert. Vice Chairman Solon commented we will allow those things to happen, we just have to determine a fee. He believes the Superintendent had already surveyed nearby facilities and going rates for turf fields.

Superintendent Corey stated the Athletic Department has the rates for Souhegan and Bedford (two closest turf fields).

Asked if it is expected the cost will be greater than Nashua fields or less given cost of maintenance, Chairman Deurloo Babcock commented she did not believe there was a difference in price. Vice Chairman Solon questioned if there is market value that allows it to be higher or do we want to make it less expensive because maintenance is easier. Superintendent Corey stated his belief there is a market value to make it higher because of the way it drains, etc., it guarantees a playing surface in all conditions. Asked if there is any likely cause for differential charge seasonally, e.g., early season versus late season use, Superintendent Corey stated the only differential would be the time of day as that would be the difference of lights or no lights. There is a separate charge for lights. Superintendent Corey stated his belief everything has become year-round; whether lacrosse or soccer, it is year-round. A set charge for that activity is the easiest way to go.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted being discussed is charging youth organizations and Hollis and Brookline community groups when they are fundraising (running a tournament) and for-profit groups. Asked, Superintendent Corey stated the gate at the bottom of the field is locked to prohibit vehicle traffic. The Hollis Police Department makes regular runs through just to ensure if being used by students it is Hollis-Brookline students.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock questioned putting a sign up stating for Hollis-Brookline use only. Superintendent Corey stated that could be done. Monies are available for adding cameras.

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy JLCJ: Concussions and Head Injuries
Given its first reading;

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AMEND POLICY JLCJ – CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH, BY REPLACING “SECTION A” WITH BY “SECTION I” AND “SECTION B” WITH “SECTION II”, AND ACCEPT THE FIRST READING, AS AMENDED MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

ON THE QUESTION

Member Williams noted a clean copy of the proposed policy, a copy of the current policy and a marked-up copy of the current policy were provided because of the number of changes being proposed.

The policy was adopted about 9 years ago and has not been updated since. Since that time there have been changes in understanding in neurosciences, changes in State RSA, and updates by the NHSBA.

The RSA that was adopted in September dictates that the Department of Education (DOE) will work on a procedure and give information to the districts and that school boards must have a policy in place. The DOE has not yet provided that information, but that does not excuse the districts from having a policy in place. There is the potential for additional changes once the information is received from the DOE.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the science and State RSA, we wanted to better recognize that concussions happen outside of sports, need to support adequate return to learn (something the initial policy was lacking), and that return to participation play happens safely.

The big changes are the definitions to define head injury, healthcare provider, student athletes, sports, etc. It is a total overhaul for our return to learn, and one that has been supported by the group that has reviewed it, which includes the Principals from both schools, the Athletic Administrators, Athletic Trainer, all three of the school Nurses, and high school Guidance. Return to participation versus play was discussed at length. Thoughtful language went into the policy to ensure the Athletic Director and Trainer have the privilege to say when something is not safe and to remove students from play if needed. The duty to report was made clear to include following the guidelines within Policy EBBB to ensure all parties are aware of an injury.

The procedures are being tailored. It appears the procedures that have been covering the high school may be able to cover both the high school and the middle school.

Vice Chairman Solon noted the section titled “Duty to Report”, and the language that states: “Teachers should report to the school nurse (or administrator in charge if the nurse is not available)”. The word “should” is not as strong as he would like it to be. He suggested going through the policy and replacing the word “should” with “will” or “must” (not discretionary). He questioned if the policy dictates the need for the baseline testing the district conducts.

Member Williams stated that to be included in the procedures. Having reviewed all State RSAs, it is something that is part of the medical clearance. It is mentioned in policy that to even return they need clearance from a medical provider. Asked if baseline testing is required, Principal Barnes stated it is required of the athletes but cannot be mandated for non-athletes.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if the policy instructs people to reference that or assumes that requirement is known. Member Williams remarked a lot has been put in place in this policy; specifically, that as part of the return to participate, you must go through the Athletic Director, and how they move through those is clear in procedures.

Vice Chairman Solon commented if we have this data it would be a shame if it were not given to the right person so that they can make that assessment. Superintendent Corey stated the data, and the test goes to the Athletic Trainer. Member Williams noted part of what was discussed at length for inclusion in the procedure is signature check points. The law requires a signature from a healthcare provider, and you need written permission from a parent. That is non-negotiable. We have talked about requiring signatures from an administrator on a campus level and the Athletic Trainer or Director.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if there should be language requiring the district to provide that baseline data to medical providers if it is available. Member Williams stated it can be provided and accessed through impact testing. Superintendent Corey remarked typically when there is a concussion our Athletic Trainer would be involved with both the parents and in many cases the child’s healthcare professional.

Chairman Deurloo Babcock noted the language states successful completion of the graduated return to play procedures, under the direction of the Athletic Trainer, is required before full return to play is permitted.

Vice Chairman Solon commented the district has this great information that was collected on a lot of students, but we have students who may get injured elsewhere. Is there something to trigger us to share the data. Member Williams remarked she would hesitate to put something that specific in policy as things are constantly changing in the tools we use to evaluate.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned if those resources could be made more generally applicable to an injury that occurs under any circumstance. Chairman Deurloo Babcock suggested language in the return to learning protocol; a statement such as if there is anything available it will be provided. Member Williams questioned, under that scenario, who would be responsible for knowing a particular student received a concussion, the student is not an athlete, but seek out data that may be available that is applicable, etc. She noted to return to academics, already required is a signature from a healthcare provider and parent(s).

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

REPORT OUT BY PROCESS OBSERVER

Vice Chairman Solon commented on additional items added to the agenda and the thorough conversation on many topics, including some that may not have been anticipated.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3, II (c) TO DISCUSS A MATTER, WHICH IF DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, WOULD LIKELY AFFECT ADVERSELY THE REPUTATION OF A PERSON, OTHER THAN A MEMBER OF THE BODY OR AGENCY ITSELF

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS

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

Yea: Krista Whalen, Holly Deurloo Babcock, Tom Solon, Kate Stoll, Beth Janine Williams

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into non-public session at 8:00 p.m.

The Board came out of non-public session at 8:11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER SOLON TO ADJOURN

SECONDED BY MEMBER WHALEN

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The March 17, 2021 meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Date: _____

Signed: _____