

**HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 2, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District (COOP) Budget Committee on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6:05 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School Library.

Darlene Mann, Chairman presided:

Members of the Budget Cmte. Present: Raul Blanche, Vice Chairman
David Blinn
Matthew Maguire
Brian Rater (participated electronically)
Anthony Stanizzi
Cindy VanCoughnett, School Bd. Rep.
Tom Whalen

Members of the Budget Cmte. Absent:

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

Members of the School Board Absent: Elizabeth Brown

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
Drew Mason, Moderator, Hollis School District

**PUBLIC HEARING
VENTILATION AND ENERGY UPGRADES
LEASE**

As Brian Rater was participating electronically, in accordance with the Right to Know Law, he was asked to state, for the record; where he was, why his attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with him, and whether or not he was able to hear the proceedings. He responded he was participating electronically from his home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical as he was recovering from an illness, no one was with him, and he could hear the proceedings. Those present at the meeting were able to hear Committee Member Rater and were reminded all votes would be taken by roll call.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to review plans/options for replacing aging HVAC rooftop units with new HVAC/cooling units for the High School.

The proposed article reads as follows:

To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a 15-year lease purchase agreement for **\$2,886,491** to finance the acquisition and installation of energy efficient cooling equipment at Hollis Brookline High School to replace aging equipment, bring comfort to staff and students and to improve energy efficiency; and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$235,471** for payments due under the lease purchase agreement during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This lease purchase agreement will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. (Majority vote required.)

Estimated tax impact for both Hollis and Brookline is \$0.11/\$1,000.

Asked if the equipment is limited to cooling, Superintendent Corey stated it to be both heating and cooling. The question was asked of amending the article prior to posting. The response was that the School Board could make that amendment during the joint meeting as the Board controls the Warrant as of this time.

Superintendent Corey stated for the ventilation and energy upgrades, the goal is to control the indoor environments and learning spaces and create comfortable conditions as well as sustainable energy efficiency. We will gain the benefit of dehumidification, a new heating function and much more efficient boilers for the high school.

Specifically, they would replace aging roof top units, which would improve both ventilation and energy savings. The new roof top units will include dehumidification that will better regulate indoor environments during the uncomfortable humid months of the school year.

Local area schools, including Nashua and Manchester, are adopting this approach for controlling building climates.

This accomplishes our need to replace aging building systems while creating a better learning environment with comfortable teaching spaces throughout the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS). Replaced would be units that were installed in 1996; HVAC 3, which is the Media Center/Library, HVAC 2; special education/FIEMUS second floor wing, Roof Top Unit (RTU) 1; 2nd and 3rd floor front facing classrooms, RTU 2; 2nd and 3rd floor courtyard classrooms, HRU 1 Locker/Classrooms, and RTU-1C; 2000 addition wing – classrooms/labs 2nd and 3rd floor.

Projected cost is \$2,456,491.40. Adding to that the contingency of \$130,000 and electrical upgrades costing \$300,000 brings the total project cost to \$2,886,491.40.

This represents the first of several phases to the overall project.

The Budget Committee had questioned what would not be done as part of this phase. Not covered would be additional RTUs (3, 4, 5, and 6) that date from 1996 to 2000. They would be delayed to a future phase of the project partly because of the areas of coverage, e.g., auditorium (already has dehumidification), two gymnasiums and dance room (already has dehumidification).

The main office and guidance office would be included in a future phase. The last portion of a future phase would be the remaining rooms.

Part of the reasoning for the proposed project is that the units are approaching end of useful life. The proposed first phase would allow for a substantial change in the heating and cooling system to the HBHS. He spoke of the conditions on the 3rd floor (science labs) at the HBHS in early fall/late spring.

During COVID, extensive time was spent reviewing the ventilation systems across the SAU. Although in compliance and have served us well, this project will allow the district to prepare for the next 20-25 years of building useful life.

Chairman Mann opened the floor for public comment at 6:13 p.m.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 6:14 p.m.

Date _____

Signed _____