

HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

MARCH 17, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board was conducted on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 5:33 p.m. at the Hollis/Brookline Middle School Library.

Chairman, Holly Deurloo Babcock, presided:

Members of the School Board present: Tom Solon, Vice Chairman
Beth Janine Williams, Secretary
Elizabeth Brown
Cindy VanCoughnett
Krista Whalen (participated electronically)
Kate Stoll

Members of the School Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

As Krista Whalen was participating electronically, in accordance with the Right to Know Law, Chairman Deurloo Babcock requested she state, for the record; where she was, why her attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with her, and whether or not she was able to hear the proceedings.

Ms. Whalen responded she was in self-quarantine, her attendance in person was not reasonably practical given this reason, she was alone, and could hear the proceedings. Chairman Deurloo Babcock stated, for the record, those present at the meeting were able to hear Ms. Whalen and reminded the Board all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

APPOINTMENT OF PROCESS OBSERVER

Chairman Deurloo Babcock appointed Ms. Williams as Process Observer.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

A request was made to adjust the agenda by adding discussion of COVID-19 and deliberation on recommendations by the Superintendent prior to any other action of the Board.

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

DISCUSSION

Superintendent Corey informed the Board, and viewing audience, the District would be moving to remote learning on March 18, 2020, and spoke of the need to deliberate on items related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DELIBERATION

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Superintendent's recommendations

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE WITH STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICA TO CONTINUE COMPENSATION FOR BUS DRIVERS DURING THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey noted the request, at this time, is to negotiate through April 3, 2020. He stated his concern was relative to having bus drivers ready as soon as we resume normal operations. He will provide additional information, when available.

Vice Chairman Solon asked if this authorized negotiations or is the result of the negotiations. Member Brown stated that actions like this by the Board are what give the community angst. Ms. Williams asked if the Board had a goal in mind to inform the Superintendent how to negotiate. Vice Chairman Solon questioned if this could be discussed at the Board level given it is a SAU contract. Superintendent Corey stated the Board could discuss how to expend COOP funds that are in the current budget.

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

Yea: Beth Janine Williams, Cindy VanCoughnett, Krista Whalen, Holly Deurloo Babcock
4
Nay: Elizabeth Brown, Tom Solon
2

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO COMPENSATE HOURLY EMPLOYEES TO COMPLETE REQUIRED TRAININGS FOR JOB REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS TEACHER AND STUDENT SUPPORT DURING THIS DESIGNATED STATE OF EMERGENCY
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated the request is for hourly employees to complete required trainings such as Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI), and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It could also possibly include food delivery. Funds have already been budgeted. Employees are able to access their sick or personal time, but unemployment benefits are not fully known at this time. Vice Chairman Solon questioned the necessity as they would be doing legitimate work.

Ms. Williams questioned an employee's options, if not feeling comfortable. Superintendent Corey stated if they were sick, they have sick and personal time.

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

Yea: Tom Solon, Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Cindy VanCoughnett, Krista Whalen, Holly Deurloo Babcock
6
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO OFFER MEALS THROUGH THE SAU41 FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM, AND, IF NECESSARY, TO EXPEND DISTRICT FUNDS, TO ENSURE OUR FAMILIES HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACCESS MEALS DURING THIS DESIGNATED STATE OF EMERGENCY
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey spoke of the potential that not everyone who comes for bagged meals could be already deemed eligible for free and reduced lunch. Their circumstance might change given this State of Emergency, and he does not want to turn any families away.

Amy Cassidy, Food Service Director, is gathering more information from the State, but we would like to have the authority to get this going if we do not have a definitive answer from the State.

Vice Chairman Solon stated the motion was vague, and asked if the meaning was anyone or those deemed eligible by administration.

**AMENDED MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO OFFER MEALS, TO INDIVIDUALS DEEMED QUALIFIED BY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, THROUGH THE SAU41 FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM, AND, IF NECESSARY, TO EXPEND DISTRICT FUNDS, TO ENSURE OUR FAMILIES HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACCESS MEALS DURING THIS DESIGNATED STATE OF EMERGENCY
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Ms. Williams stressed she did not want to turn anyone away. Ms. Whalen stated that with respect to taxpayers, this is different than bus drivers. This is our community helping each other. Ms. Brown stated she was comfortable with the motion without an amendment.

AMENDED MOTION WITHDRAWN

Vote on the original motion

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT DURING THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY, SCHOOL BOARDS CAN “MEET ELECTRONICALLY” IF THEY CAN COMPLY WITH RSA 91-A:2, II AND THE PRESIDING OFFICER DECLARES THE MEETING AN “EMERGENCY”
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated he would like to hold the meetings at Hollis Brookline Middle School as it has the greatest streaming capability and the greatest amount of space should members of the public wish to attend.

Ms. Williams questioned if the change of venue would be only during the State of Emergency as she would not want to set precedent. Superintendent Corey responded this change is only for the State of Emergency.

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO APPOINT A DESIGNEE TO SERVE AS THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHOULD WE MOVE TO “MEET ELECTRONICALLY” UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF RSA 91-A:2, II DURING THIS DESIGNATED STATE OF EMERGENCY
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated that the Chair would designate the presiding officer for the meeting.

Vice Chairman Solon questioned the legality of conducting a Brookline meeting in Hollis. Superintendent Corey stated he would ask the question of legal counsel. Asked, Chairman Deurloo Babcock indicated the presiding officer would be designated when a meeting is called.

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PAUSE THE POLICY REGARDING HB1612, STUDENT ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, UNTIL THE STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS CONCLUDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated he does not want to limit the ability of teachers during this time of remote learning. He wants to respect the freedom of teachers to communicate with parents. Asked if the Board has this authority, Superintendent Corey stated it does.

The Assistant Superintendents have vetted Zoom. Some of our work will move to the Zoom platform. Asked if we would assume liability as a District, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated that we are not moving to Google Hangouts because we would not be able to control the use of student-student video chatting while using SAU41.org accounts. Utilizing a platform like Zoom puts the control in the hands of

the teachers. Students can find other ways to video conference, but it would not be via the District accounts.

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

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

6

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THIS DESIGNATED STATE OF EMERGENCY

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT

ON THE QUESTION

Superintendent Corey stated that he is asking for the authority to make decisions as they become necessary. For example, once the Board members have approved the manifests via email, he does not want to require Board members to come into the building to sign the manifests.

Vice Chairman Solon asked if we do this then, when the State of Emergency ends, we are taking away your power to run the District. Ms. Brown remarked part of her wishes we hadn't had this discussion.

Superintendent Corey stated he completely understands the points made, but in 8 weeks, when we are good and he is questioned, he does not think the community will be upset about what decisions were made. At the moment, this is just from now until 4/3/2020.

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

Yea: Beth Janine Williams, Elizabeth Brown, Cindy VanCoughnett, Krista Whalen,
Holly Deurloo Babcock

5

Nay: Tom Solon

1

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

- NEASC Five-Year Report

The Board continued its discussion of the NEASC Five-Year Report (copy provided with the agenda).

DELIBERATION (Continued)

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the Five-Year Progress Report submitted by Principal Barnes

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE FIVE-YEAR REPORT AS
SUBMITTED BY PRINCIPAL BARNES AND PROVIDED WITH THE AGENDA
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

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

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

6

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Member Stoll Abstained

**MOTION BY MEMBER WILLIAMS THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-
PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (e)
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER VANCOUGHNETT**

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into non-public session at 6:31 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

7

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

The March 17, 2020 meeting of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Date: _____

Signed: _____