

Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board
Joint Meeting with the Hollis Brookline Cooperative Budget Committee
Thursday, February 2, 2023
Hollis Brookline Middle School
6:30

All times are subject to change without notice

- 6:30 Call to order
Agenda Adjustments
- 6:40 **Public Hearing**
- Lease Hearing – the purpose of the lease hearing is to review plans/options for replacing aging boilers, upgrading to LED lighting and removal of oil tanks with the transition to propane
- 6:55 Public Input regarding the Lease Hearing
- 7:15 **Public Hearing**
- **Budget/Warrant Articles** – the purpose of this public hearing is to review the Proposed Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District Budget for 2023-2024 as well as proposed Board warrant articles and those submitted by citizen’s petition.
- 7:30 Public Input regarding the Budget/Warrant Article Hearing
- 7:45 **Deliberations**
- To see what action the Board will take regarding the proposed lease for replacing aging boilers, upgrading to LED lighting and removal of oil tanks with transition to propane
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding the proposed Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District Budget 2023-2024, Board warrant articles and those submitted by citizens petition
- 8:10 To take up any other items that may come forth as a result of the meeting
- 8:15 Motion to Adjourn

January 11, 2023

To: Hollis Cooperative School Board
From: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Re: Building renovations

Dear Board Members,

Since July of 2022 we have been discussing plans for both the short term and long term renovations at both Hollis Brookline High School and Hollis Brookline Middle School. During this time period we have reviewed plans, discussed alternatives and been provided estimates by EEI our consultant. During these months of discussing we have decided to delay a potential expansion to the Hollis Brookline High School café that would have also resulted in four additional classrooms being created. Most recently, we have focused our attention on the aging infrastructure at building related to boilers, lighting and the transition from oil to propane. As part of these discussions we have also been reviewing our middle school science classrooms and the need for an upgrade.

After these many months of discussion I am recommending the following for the Boards consideration. I am recommending we proceed with a lease warrant article to address the boilers at both buildings, controls systems at both buildings, the removal of our underground oil tanks to be replaced with propane; both buildings should have their lighting systems updated to LED lights.

The boiler systems at the high school are original to the buildings and are reaching the end of their useful life. The middle school boilers range in age from 25 years of service to 30 years of service. State environmental laws will be requiring us to upgrade the piping that connects the underground tanks to both the middle school and high school boilers. This piping upgrade is mandated and will cost the Coop District approximately \$150,000 per building (\$300,000 total) should this renovation project not move forward. By moving to propane boilers we will eliminate our underground oil tanks and the potential environmental risks while also leveraging our buying power as the Cooperative School District would be bidding with the Hollis School District and the Town of Hollis to secure our propane provider. This increase in bulk buying should result in a more competitive bid process. The LED lighting will enhance the learning environment as well as reduce our electrical consumption. During our process we also reviewed a renovation to our middle school science wing. After multiple discussions and reviewing multiple options we have decided to delay these science renovations until we have more time to review designs while determining our future curriculum needs. I envision the science wing and the expansion of the high cafeteria and the development of increased instructional space at the high school to be brought forward in the coming budget cycles. I would also expect to provide the communities with an update of eventually expanding our discussions to include the use of solar arrays to reduce energy consumption. The chart below shows the cost estimates for the infrastructure renovations as well as the potential savings these projects will most likely generate.

Project	Description	Cost	Projected Yearly Savings	Rebate
1	HS LED lighting	\$558,603	\$42,036	\$40,000
2	HS Boiler	\$1,180,000	\$47,670	\$16,000
HS Boiler has three major Components		A. Remove HS oil tank	\$52,000	
		B. Furnish and install new propane tanks	\$75,000	
		C. Furnish and install boilers	\$1,053,000	
		Totals the \$1,180,000		
3	MS LED lighting	\$423,702	\$26,810	\$30,000
4.	MS Boiler	\$914,500	\$30,921	\$16,000
MS Boiler also has three major Components		A. Remove HS oil tank	\$48,500	
		B. Furnish and install new propane tanks	\$60,000	
		C. Furnish and install boilers	\$806,000	
		Totals the \$914,500		
5.	<i>MS Science wing</i>	<i>\$1,209,508</i>	<i>Recommend delaying to a future budget cycle</i>	

By not moving forward with the renovations to the Middle School science labs we reduce the overall cost of the lease warrant article to \$3,076,805 (LED lighting and new boilers at both schools) which I am recommending. As I stated earlier, in my memo, I believe that the science lab renovations need further discussion and refinement prior to being brought forward. The associated savings once renovations are complete would result in cost avoidance of approximately \$147,437 on an annual basis.

An annual lease payment on \$3,076,805 (5% interest rate and a 15 year term) is estimated at \$291,272 or a 10 year lease payment on \$3,076,805 (3.8% interest rate) is estimated at \$364,000.

HOLLIS/BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARRANT
The State of New Hampshire

To the inhabitants of the Hollis/Brookline Cooperative School District in the Towns of Hollis and Brookline in the County of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in District Affairs.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO MEET AT THE HOLLIS BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM IN SAID DISTRICT ON THE **EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH, 2023** AT SIX THIRTY IN THE EVENING TO ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS.

Article 1. To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a 15-year lease purchase agreement for **\$3,076,806** to finance the acquisition and installation of energy efficient LED lighting and propane boilers with associated costs for oil tank removal for both the Hollis Brookline High School and Middle School; and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$291,272** for payments due under the lease purchase agreement during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This lease purchase agreement will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. (Majority vote required.) **The school board recommends the appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 2. To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items for the third year of a four-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board and the Hollis Education Support Staff Association for the 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, which calls for the following increases in support staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2023-24	\$162,006

and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$162,006** for the third fiscal year (2023-24 school year), such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in support staff salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 3. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$26,499,039** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 4. Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,140,822** as the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District's portion of the SAU budget of **\$2,264,374** for the forthcoming fiscal year? This year's adjusted budget of **\$2,247,208** with **\$1,132,174** assigned to the school budget of this school district will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 5. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$300,000** to be added to the previously established School Building and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. The sum to come from the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District's June 30, 2023 unassigned fund balance, available on July 1, 2023. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 6. To see if the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$25,000** to come from the June 30, 2023 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023 to be added to the previously established Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. No amount to be

raised from taxation. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 7. Shall the school district vote to authorize the School Board to continue to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount, in any fiscal year, not to exceed 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment in accordance with RSA 198:4-b a, II as amended in 2020, which requires the School Board to hold one public hearing before expending this retained fund balance, and requires the School Board to provide an accounting of the activities of this retained fund balance to the District in its annual report? (Majority vote required).

(Please note: The School Board is currently authorized to retain up to 1% of the District's net assessment in year-end unassigned general funds as an ongoing contingency fund. However, RSA 198:4-b was amended in 2020; thus, failure to pass Article 7 will cast doubt on the School Board's continued authorization to retain up to 1% under the new version of the law). **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 8. To see if the school district will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate up to \$125,000 to go into the fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance available on July 1, 2023, and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 9. Petition Warrant Article. To see if the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District will vote to amend the Articles of Agreement of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District by adding the following new Article 12:

Article 12: The approval of a proposed amendment to these Articles of Agreement shall require a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority approval by ballot. The polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by the moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the question. If a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority of those voting on the question vote "yes", then the amendment is approved. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 10. Petition Warrant Article. Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 5%? **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 11. Petition Warrant Article. To prevent taxpayer dollars from funding lobbying against the interests of parents and citizens, shall the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District zero out budget line item "Fees, School Board" 10.2310.810.00.0? **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 12. Petition Warrant Article. To reduce the Hollis and Brookline property tax burdens, shall the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District rescind authorization under RSA 198:4-b II so that the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District no longer retains any unassigned general funds under RSA 198:4-b II? **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 13. Petition Warrant Article. Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5 V-b, requiring that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the school board, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article? The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body. **The school board recommends this appropriation 0-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 0-0-0.**

Article 14. To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.