

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD
OCTOBER 28, 2020
PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Brookline School Board on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:29 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Kenneth Haag, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present: Erin Sarris, Vice Chairman
 Karen Jew, Secretary
 Rebecca Howie
 Alison Marsano

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
 Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
 Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
 Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School

**PUBLIC HEARING
FY21 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE
ASSOCIATED WITH THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND
ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT AND
ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL SOURCES**

Chairman Haag noted, in accordance with [RSA 198:20-b](#), the Board and viewing audience would be provided with information regarding the request for acceptance and expenditure of FY21 unanticipated revenue associated with the CARES Act and any other local, state or federal sources.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the Brookline School District has been allocated \$5,000 for the remote learning grant, \$9,143.45 for the CARES Act, and a recent announcement was made that there is additional COVID relief funding equal to \$200/student enrolled (based on recently certified Average Daily Membership).

This revenue was not anticipated during the budget process. A Public Hearing is required to consider approval of acceptance, and expenditure of the funds towards expenses associated with COVID.

The original intent of the public hearing was to address remote learning and CARES Act funds. Information on the additional \$200/student was learned later. Intended with this public hearing is to gather input relative to acceptance and expenditure of any funds made available to the District.

Chairman Haag commented on having read there is another \$10 million outstanding in funding. Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of the Governor having announced \$45 million in supplemental public school response funds. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the \$200/student comes out of the \$45 million. Although the additional \$10 million is an allocation and we don't really have to apply for it, we have to submit a rough budget to demonstrate costs associated with re-opening for COVID. It could include costs for additional staff members, PPE, cleaning equipment, etc. If we demonstrate that our cost items surpass the \$200/student then we can apply to become eligible for that additional funding out of the \$10 million that is outstanding. Asked if it is believed the District will be applying for additional funds, Ms. Seeley stated it may be necessary for a small amount.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented on the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Fund that can be utilized toward reducing class size. However, the reason we had to reduce class size was due to COVID. The desire is to utilize this funding source first and utilize REAP funds, if possible, for other intended purchases, e.g., technology.

Asked if there is a deadline for the grant fund application and if funds could be gained to cover the cost of technology that is returned damaged, etc., Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated she and the Business Administrator are going to attend a webinar on Friday morning to learn more; however, she believes it has been indicated the deadline is December 10th, and that funding would have to be released by December 31st. Asked if an encumbrance could be done for technology, Ms. Seeley stated the hope that can be achieved. More will be learned during the Webinar.

Chairman Haag opened the floor for public comment at 6:37 p.m.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Matthew Mailloux, 60 Dupaw Gould Road

Serves on the Finance Committee and works for Governor Sununu in the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the State House. He strongly encouraged the Board to make use of these funds; specifically the \$200/student allocation. Those funds are assigned to be extremely flexible and help districts account for needs that have come about due to COVID-19. They are numerous, especially in a hybrid model. Additionally, with the \$10 million reserve fund, should Brookline have additional costs not met by other funding sources, he would encourage applying for the funding.

He stated appreciation for the broad nature of the request. He would want the District to be able to take advantage of additional Federal action or other funding that may be made available from the State.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 6:38 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____