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**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD**  
**SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:00 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: Andrew Corey, Superintendent  
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator  
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School  
Patricia Bouley, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy  
Mike Davey, Energy Efficient Investments (EEI)  
Ingrid Nichols, Banwell Architects

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**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** - None

**CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS**

Superintendent Corey informed the Board of the Intent to Bargain Notification received from the Brookline Education Support Staff Association, NEA-NH (BESSA):

*“Dear Mr. Haag,*

*This is to inform you that the Brookline Education Support Staff Association, NEA-NH, desires to bargain a master contract for the contract year beginning July 1, 2022. This notification is in accordance with the requirements of RSA 273-A:3. Members of the negotiation team would like to gather with the representatives from the School Board to set ground rules and dates for meetings.*

*Thank you very much.*

*Dawna Bosquet, Association President”*

Chairman Haag noted the need to appoint two (2) members to serve as the Board’s Representatives to the Negotiation Team. He asked members to consider serving in this capacity, and those wishing to do so make that desire known to him prior to the next meeting. Appointments will be made at the October meeting.

1 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2  
3 Brookline School Board . . . . . [August 17, 2021](#)

4  
5 *The following amendments were offered:*

- 6  
7 Page 9, Line 19; replace “189” with “18”  
8 Page 17, Line 29; replace “schools” with “school”  
9

10 **MOTION BY MEMBER JEW TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED**  
11 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**  
12 **MOTION CARRIED**  
13 **5-0-0**

14  
15 **PUBLIC INPUT**

16  
17 Noted was inclusion on the agenda of a first reading of Policy BEDH - Public Participation at Board Meetings.  
18 The proposed language would modernize the Board’s policy, which has not been reviewed since 2014, and  
19 would align it with the policies of the other districts within the SAU. Language within the proposed policy  
20 states: “Individual speakers will be allotted three minutes per person.”  
21

22 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ADHERE TO THE AMENDED LANGUAGE PUT FORTH FOR**  
23 **POLICY BEDH**  
24 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

25  
26 **ON THE QUESTION**

27  
28 Chairman Haag stated his recommendation would be to adhere to the language that provides each speaker three  
29 (3) minutes to provide input, and that input remain on topic.

30 **MOTION CARRIED**  
31 **5-0-0**

32  
33 Joshua Leduc, 7 Captain Seaver Road

34  
35 His children attend the district. He began by stating he would be speaking off topic wishing to address the mask  
36 mandate. It is not necessary and should be optional. He should not have to restrict his child’s breathing ability  
37 by having to have a mask on while sitting in class, particularly when desks remain 6’ apart. He spoke of those  
38 in the audience who were wearing red and his hope the intent was to show support of his position.  
39

40 Mr. Leduc’s son approached the Board stating his belief masks are uncalled for and should be optional. While  
41 in class, they are distracting and uncomfortable. In his opinion, not only do they look stupid, but you cannot  
42 breathe.  
43

44 Rosemary Baier, 2 Kemp Drive

45  
46 Was speaking on behalf of parents who wished to present a petition opposing mask mandates in Brookline  
47 schools. With no emergency order in effect, they feel parents should be given the choice of whether their  
48 children should be required to wear masks in school.

1 The same information that was presented at the August meeting of this Board was also presented at the COOP  
2 School Board meeting, yet the decision for middle and high school students was for masks to be optional. She  
3 suggested that decision was reached because enough parents and residents expressed concerns and voiced their  
4 right to be able to choose.

5  
6 They are concerned about their children's mental as well as physical wellbeing and feel masks are not a healthy  
7 option. Masks are a way to make those who are scared feel more secure but are affecting our children.

8  
9 Her child has already missed school because she is dealing with anxiety from returning to school and being  
10 required to wear a mask. In addition to the health of the children, what concerns them about the mask mandate  
11 is that the decision was based on the belief of Board members that it was the overall desire of the community.  
12 The petition was created to show that is not the case. The decision was based on 39 emails for the mandate and  
13 5 against along with people who expressed their desires at the meeting. Roughly 44 emails do not represent the  
14 community. Since the time of the meeting, parents have been emailing Board members regarding the decision.  
15 One School Board member made it very clear that many families were on vacation traveling at the time of the  
16 meeting. With that acknowledgement alone, she does not see how the determination for the mandate was a fair  
17 one.

18  
19 She found it very difficult to find information online. It was not posted on any school board website. When she  
20 looked for it on the SAU41 website, she was unable to view the information. An email sent to parents in July  
21 regarding the reopening plan had no specific information regarding the date, time, location or information that  
22 would be discussed during the meeting. Many parents reached out to her stating they thought the mask decision  
23 had already been made. It has been brought to their attention that some members of the Board will utilize social  
24 media to post information about the meetings, yet this information was not posted on social media. There is  
25 major inconsistency with the Board's communication with parents and public. It raises suspicions about the  
26 Board's intentions and impacts Board member credibility in accurately representing the community. They  
27 requested the decision for mask mandate be overturned. A link to the petition was sent to the Board via email.

28  
29 Mike Baier, 2 Kemp Drive

30  
31 All they desire is the ability to choose, as adults, parents, and professionals that have access to all the same data.  
32 Masks are not substantiated. Elementary schools in the next town over make it optional. Why do RMMS and  
33 CSDA need to be treated differently when all of the other schools in these towns have mask optional. When we  
34 think about how small an airborne virus like COVID-19 is; if you do a size comparison, they are more than 40  
35 times smaller than a single strand of hair.

36  
37 Through tons of breathing studies by professionals and even OSHA regulations talk about when you wear a  
38 multi-layered mask even under an N95 mask even paint specs get through. If paint gets through those masks  
39 what makes you think a virus won't? It begs the question of how effective masks are.

40  
41 At the start of the pandemic you could find masks at the store. Before they changed the packaging it used to tell  
42 you they do not protect against viruses. They always called out Corona Virus specifically. When the push for  
43 masks started that language was taken off the packaging by the manufacturer.

44  
45 The desire is for the ability to make the choice for our children. This is a slippery slope we are embarking on  
46 here when we start mandating medical requirements at a school level when there really is no constitutional or  
47 legal authority to do so.

1 The other issue is when masks get to come off. Last month the School Board indicated a plan would be created.  
2 The topic is not even on the agenda. When do the masks come off?  
3

4 Carrie McLaughlin, 129 Route 13  
5

6 Has 2 children in the school system and was unaware the meeting was scheduled to take place or that this was a  
7 conversation that was occurring. She spoke of how quickly mold grows in masks. As a single-parent who  
8 works 99% of the time, she does not get the chance to wash them or replace them often. It is doing more harm  
9 than good for her children; making them sick in a different way. It is unrealistic to expect the masks to be able  
10 to be washed as often as needed and unnecessary. They are the least likely to be hurt by this.  
11

12 Tom Revetria, 63 North Mason Road  
13

14 Spoke at the last meeting. His thoughts following the meeting were that the Board did not care about the  
15 opinions of the parents who came to speak. The vote was unanimous to mandate masks when there were 7  
16 people that spoke for masks and 6 against. Many who spoke for masks were basing it on feelings/their will to  
17 protect the kids. We can understand that, but a lot of people who spoke against the mask mandate provided  
18 studies, information, cited sources, etc. None of that mattered.  
19

20 He cannot stand for it, and as a result, took his child out of the school district for the option of a private school  
21 where masks are optional. That comes at a cost to him above the cost of property taxes. He wished to tell the  
22 Board they did not listen to its constituency. He views the requirement to wear masks as medical tyranny.  
23

24 It takes 8-10 days to die without food, 3 days without water, and 3 minutes without oxygen. To have your  
25 oxygen restricted for many hours a day; for what purpose? We all know the mask does not provide protection  
26 against the virus. At the end of the day it is a psychological attack on developing children.  
27

28 It is shameful that the Board did not listen to the parents and for having a little bit of power and exercising it on  
29 everybody else.  
30

31 Melinda Albanna, 76 Averill Road  
32

33 This is her 5<sup>th</sup> request for information on the end game. It was talked about for approx. 5 minutes at the last  
34 meeting and bunted until tonight, and again it is not on the agenda. Not all children are the same. What isn't a  
35 big deal to her, or the children of others can be a very big deal for another child. Never in the history of  
36 mankind has a one size fits all approach worked; not in medicine, learning or discipline. It doesn't work now.  
37 There was talk of concern of long COVID, which is still very rare in children. Most viruses have symptoms  
38 that hang on long after an illness has passed. The most common symptoms of long COVID in kids are  
39 headache, fatigue, and sore throat. Ironically, common side effects of wearing a mask are headache, fatigue,  
40 and sore throat. You are causing the same harm you are trying to prevent, for a longer period.  
41

42 Another side effect of wearing masks is anxiety. It is happening to our children. What are the long term side  
43 effects of that? How about depression in an 8-year-old; for what benefit? That question has not been answered.  
44

45 We are a month into the third school year of COVID. In the State today, there have been 2 outbreaks, one in a  
46 school with a mask mandate and the other without. Of the 28 current clusters, 17 have a mask mandate, 11 do  
47 not. If masks work the way you want them to, she would think those numbers would at least be reversed. Zero  
48 children have been hospitalized and zero have died. You are causing physical, mental, and emotional harm to  
49 actual children to make zero difference.

1  
2 You talk about not having the guidance you need; exhibit A of why you should not be making this decision.  
3 You know who doesn't need more guidance, the people you are supposed to be representing. Why are the  
4 parents upset; because a group of strangers who are not our children's doctors, counselors, friend, have decided  
5 they know what is best for them. Whether the harm is something as simple as not being able to concentrate,  
6 physical as to causing headaches, or mental and causing anxiety and fear, it is causing harm to make zero  
7 difference in the actual spread of the virus. How many children do you believe it acceptable to sacrifice for the  
8 false sense of security? As of the meeting last month, it is at least more than 1.

9  
10 She requested the Board allow parents to choose what is best for their whole child, for calmer and cooler heads  
11 to prevail. As of the data today, your cure is worse than the disease and should be ended immediately.

12  
13 Dakota Harvey, 1 Milford Street

14  
15 Believes masks should be optional. Her son has asthma. She has never seen him use a nebulizer more often  
16 and now has an attachment for his inhaler since having to wear masks all day in school. He also has anxiety  
17 around this. She does not see any kids wearing masks other than when in school. That is supposed to be their  
18 safe place. It doesn't feel like that.

19  
20 Katie Parikh, 8 Petersen Road

21  
22 Thanked the Board noting her son is in kindergarten and is off to a great start in the school year. She and her  
23 husband were relieved that a mask mandate was put in place. She appreciates that it follows the advice of the  
24 American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC. She was speaking as a parent and a physician. While the cases  
25 are high, and we are in an area of substantial or high transmission, it is a good idea to have a mask mandate.

26  
27 Trevor Rank, 31 Mountain Road

28  
29 Believes masks should be optional. If you look at the data and read what scientists are saying, there is no proof  
30 masks do anything to help curb COVID especially for kids who are not even really being affected by the virus.  
31 You can get your opinion from the media, but that is not fair because those outlets are not honest. You have to  
32 look at the raw data. Masks are proven to have negative effects. There is no proof they are helping.

33  
34 Emily Winchester, 7 Captain Seaver road

35  
36 Works at a daycare with 16 three-year-old's all day, every day, unmasked. Any person that has a child knows  
37 that three-year old's touch everything, everything goes in their mouth, etc. They have not had a single case.  
38 When a child falls in the playground and gets a scrape, she has to contact the parent and get verbal consent to  
39 put a band-aid on their leg because it is considered medical equipment. So is a mask. When she filled out her  
40 children's registration forms, she never had to sign a consent to put a medical device on her child.

41  
42 She spoke of the difficulty some face with obtaining masks and asked if the district would start providing them.

43  
44 Cindy LaCroix, 3 Louis Drive

45  
46 The agenda does include a discussion of the Opening of School Plan. The agenda item does not specifically  
47 say mask discussion, however, that discussion has occurred under this topic for the past few months.

1 She spoke of being a long-hauler; was sick in January and to this day if near food it smells like sour rotten  
2 onions. She cannot be around food without it turning her stomach and giving her a headache. She had mild  
3 symptoms in January. Her taste and sense of smell were gone for about 6 weeks. They came back perfect. In  
4 June she made a salad and she suddenly thought she had rotten food in her kitchen. Every time she is near food  
5 it smells that way.

6  
7 Her daughter lost her sense of taste and smell and thankfully got it back. She cannot imagine what her life  
8 would be like if she had to live with that every day.

9  
10 She stated appreciation for students wearing masks and that the district continues to do what it can to keep them  
11 safe. It does impact children, and when it does impact them, it is significant. Heart issues is a big thing they  
12 see in super fit children.

13  
14 Mary LeBaron, 8 Parker Road

15  
16 All 4 of her children have attended RMMS and 2 have graduated from CSDA. Last year her 2 elementary  
17 children could not attend RMMS or CSDA due to the fact it is unhealthy for children to wear masks for 6+  
18 hours/day, which was and is again your policy. Again this year they cannot join their classmates and friends at  
19 RMMS and CSDA because of the mask policy and the lack of choice regarding masks although their older  
20 siblings can enjoy the right to breathe freely at the middle and high schools.

21  
22 She understands that at the start of the 2020-2021 school year we didn't have enough information to make better  
23 informed decisions, but now we know better. We know children do not spread or get COVID as adults do. We  
24 know not a single child in the State has died from COVID. We have studies proving masks are not effective  
25 and are harmful to children.

26  
27 There are several notably larger school systems in the State that have found a way to conduct in-person learning  
28 without the masks. The mask policy discriminates against students that cannot wear them and is most harmful  
29 for children. It is detrimental to their health, mental wellness and their emotional development.

30  
31 The CDC indicates that masks made available to the general public do not suffice to prevent the virus from  
32 entering respiratory passages, yet you voted again to require them to attend school. She asked the Board to let  
33 the parents decide whether or not to mask.

34  
35 Mike Baier, 2 Kemp Drive

36  
37 There are a number of different ways beyond breathing through your nose and mouth of how you can catch a  
38 virus and get sick. These viruses are transmitted the same as the cold and flu virus. They travel the exact same  
39 way, are ingested the same way, and spread in your body the same way. If there is a spital in the air, you might  
40 not breathe it in, btu what if it gets in your eye? What if you have a cut on your hand? The virus can get in  
41 there too and make you sick. Think about the whole person It is silly, unscientific and really ignorant, in the  
42 definition of ignorance of not knowing any better, to force a mask when we are not protecting any other part of  
43 the body.

1 Rosemary Baier, 2 Kemp Drive

2  
3 Wished to be clear, they are not saying kids cannot or should not wear masks, they just want the ability to  
4 choose for themselves.

5  
6 Thomas McGuire, 23 Taylor Drive

7  
8 We are imposing a restriction based on the lowest form of government we have, our town School Board. He  
9 has a daughter who tested positive for COVID, but neither of his other children got it. They were around each  
10 other 24 hours/day and not wearing masks. His daughter had no symptoms and they only learned of her status  
11 because they were mandatorily getting tested because his wife had contracted COVID. He also never tested  
12 positive.

13  
14 Currently the CDC is recommending not requiring wearing a mask. The State is not requiring anyone to wear a  
15 mask in school as noticed in the middle and high schools. He asked why this restriction is being imposed. Why  
16 would we not give parents a choice when there is no restriction on the State or Federal level mandating us to do  
17 this? Why would we go down that path of restricting the choices of individual citizens when we are deciding  
18 based on probably inappropriate data that we are just taking from either the CDC or the State, which is not  
19 requiring it in any shape or form?

20  
21 Trevor Rank, 31 Mountain Road

22  
23 The CDC is recommending masks for kids, but if we have been paying attention over the last year and a half,  
24 there is at least 5-6 things that the CDC has said and then reversed their position a few months later. The WHO  
25 is not recommending masks for children. We all need to be careful with where we are getting our information  
26 and who we are listening to. We need to take in the whole picture.

27  
28 **PRINCIPALS' REPORT**

29  
30 Daniel Molinari, Principal, RMMS, spoke of the successful kindergarten open house and the virtual open  
31 houses.

32  
33 Teachers and students have been outstanding during this difficult time. The school is functioning as close to  
34 normal as possible, and he believes the community would be proud of what is going on on the school grounds at  
35 this time.

36  
37 Patricia Bouley, Principal, CSDA, shared similar sentiments commenting on how nice it is to see the children  
38 and hear their laughter. There is a great sense of community.

39  
40 Open houses were positively received, and parents expressed appreciation for Zoom, which made it easier for  
41 parents to attend. She praised all the teachers for their hard work in preparing for this year.

42  
43 Staff openings in the district include 2 MTSS Paraeducators and 3 Paraeducators at RMMS, and a Reading  
44 Teacher, 1 MTSS Paraeducator and 1 Paraeducator at CSDA.

45  
46 The Food Pantry project continues. The Eagle Scouts have started the building of a pavilion. He thanked the  
47 Brookline Women's Club and PTO for collaborating their efforts to paint the walkways and basketball court at  
48 RMMS.

1 At CSDA, they repainted the basketball courts, repainted the four-square grid, and added an additional  
2 hopscotch.

3  
4 Asked if the virtual open house would continue, Principal Molinari stated it to be an option that will continue to  
5 be looked at as a district. Although in-person has its benefits, there are times when attendance becomes a  
6 childcare issue.

7  
8 Asked about ways in which individuals may be incentivized to consider the MTSS positions, Principal Molinari  
9 noted the MTSS is a goal for the principals and the district. They were successful in hiring some individuals,  
10 but because of other staffing needs, some have had to be moved around. It is a desirable position, and a timing  
11 issue.

## 12 **DISCUSSION**

### 13 **• Facilities Committee Update**

14  
15 A [presentation](#) was provided by Mike Davey, Energy Efficient Investments (EEI) and Ingrid Nichols, Banwell  
16 Architects.

17  
18 For the past year they have worked with the district to familiarize themselves with the buildings. The goal of  
19 the study was two-fold. They were to look at energy efficiency, e.g., ways to improve costs and update building  
20 systems and during the process learned more about the community and the concerns around the needs of the  
21 schools.

22  
23 From a big picture standpoint, enrollment in the State, with the exception of the southern tier, is declining.  
24 Enrollment in Brookline has been steady; years of incline up to 6% and then overall steady with the potential in  
25 the community for growth. W

26  
27 Over time, in response to community growth, there have been sporadic additions to RMMS. Existing today are  
28 3 separate boiler rooms. They looked for ways to improve the existing building and consider potential growth  
29 so that we can grow at the right time, the right way. Mr. Davey spoke of how services provided have increased  
30 over the last decade, e.g., more Pre-k students in the building than ever before, full-day kindergarten. The  
31 district is providing the same amount of students more and more services. These buildings were not built for  
32 that and are strained at capacity.

33  
34 Mr. Davey spoke of projects done for other districts. Portsmouth and Keene had elementary schools that had no  
35 significant renovations since the '80s. EEI worked with Banwell to modernize the HVAC systems of those  
36 schools. He spoke of CSDA noting the most that can be put on existing ventilation systems is referred to as a  
37 MERV4, which is only good for catching pollen and cannot get finer than that. The systems that have been put  
38 in in Manchester are MERV14 and 16. They are so fine you have to wear PPE to take those filters out because  
39 they are catching things down at the microbial levels. A lot of schools are making the move to those better  
40 filtration systems. You can't put those type of filters in some of the older HVAC systems at the schools. Doing  
41 things like modernizing lights to LED will save the district about \$24,000. Ms. Nichols added a lot of districts  
42 start with the energy projects and once getting into taking down ceilings, redoing duct work, etc., the benefit of  
43 identifying any changes that should be considered while conducting such works becomes apparent. It doesn't  
44 make sense to do all of these lighting and HVAC changes if you really need to modernize and change your  
45 administration for more security. That is where Banwell came in, to work with the principals to determine the  
46 need for that before they go and rip apart the school to add in new energy efficiency measures.  
47  
48

1 They reviewed energy and code. What stood out was that both schools have large square footage to be without  
2 sprinkler systems. That was a bit unusual to find particularly with RMMS, which is a multi-level structure  
3 (does not have sprinkler system or handicap access). In general, those sprinkler upgrades aren't typically forced  
4 by code until you start doing major renovations.

5  
6 The goal was to take a comprehensive, long-term look at the facilities. Rather than simply looking at boiler  
7 replacement, they looked to understand the 10-15 year potential additions so that the boilers could be sized for  
8 that. RMMS lacks a digital control system. At the high school, they have a Control Technologies HVAC  
9 system that allows for complete remote setback, monitoring, and air quality sensing. The building lacks a  
10 central cooling and ventilation system. There are 3 different small boiler plants with residential style oil boilers.  
11 In general oil is not a heating fuel. It is only New England and the upper peninsula of Michigan that use oil  
12 heat. All of the high efficiency heating being produced today is for gas equipment. The recommendation is to  
13 consider a move to propane.

14  
15 Currently the ventilation system is ground mounted units without a lot of controllability spread throughout the  
16 building, which makes them very susceptible to pollen, weather, and at the ground level they just don't have the  
17 life expectancy they would if they were internal. Recommended is to bring those units into a mezzanine above  
18 the gym and central ducting with the option for dehumidification. LED lighting will save more than \$10,000.

19  
20 At RMMS, the building does not have the option for 5 classrooms for each grade. There is not a separate gym  
21 and cafeteria (constantly fighting for space, cleanliness and storage).

22  
23 Displayed was a site plan of RMMS. Ms. Nichols spoke of the location of the main entrance. For the past 4  
24 months or so they have been working with EEI, the SAU Facilities Director and the School Administration to  
25 establish needs. They have arrived at a point in the planning where feedback is being sought. The existing  
26 floor plan was displayed and the uses for the spaces noted.

27  
28 The next diagram displayed depicted the plan in its current state; three small additions proposed. The top of the  
29 diagram showed the addition of five classrooms (grade 3) and storage areas. Bottom center of the diagram  
30 showed a small addition along with the existing classrooms (grade 3) to be utilized for the new administration  
31 area. Because the kitchen is outdated and the gym and cafeteria are the same space, being proposed is  
32 construction of a new kitchen and cafeteria. The existing kitchen will be retrofitted into new cafeteria space.  
33 To facilitate that, 2 classrooms are being demolished (will be relocated as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade addition). The  
34 library would be located downstairs to provide for greater accessibility after hours, etc. They have worked hard  
35 to identify what classes go where and have created a class house concept, e.g., kindergarten students are located  
36 right off the playground, different classes are combined in their different nodes. They have secured the main  
37 entrance; includes entry vestibule to help save energy and promote having the main entry secure off the front  
38 drive. An elevator would be put in (required by code). Some special education areas will be expanded. All  
39 code issues would be addressed. Mechanicals would be updated, LED lights added, and all systems would be  
40 brought up to current requirements.

41  
42 The additions will result in classroom sizes of 5 for grades K-3 and maintaining 2 classrooms for Pre-K. The  
43 end result is an additional 4 classrooms. Current projections from NESDEC indicate the need for an additional  
44 2 classrooms. The addition of 4 would be capable of handling the instances of bubbles in particular grades, an  
45 influx of enrollment, etc.

1 With budgeting (at 80% accuracy), they looked at recommendations a la carte and as a whole. Once a  
2 community identifies the areas of focus and the timeline, additional time (approx. month) would be spent to fine  
3 tune the presentation/numbers.  
4

5 Asked about the threshold at which ADA accommodations are required, Ms. Nichols stated the requirement to  
6 expend up to 20% of the project on ADA improvements. The dollar minimum is about \$700,000 to kick into a  
7 requirement for a full scale elevator.  
8

9 Asked about the ability to gain zoning/planning approvals to add on to the cafeteria and back of the gym, Mr.  
10 Davey stated if the Board directed them to study a particular approach, they would take the next month to meet  
11 with those officials and do the civil preliminary design. His understanding is that it can be done. Ms. Nichols  
12 commented typically, in the State, school boards are exempt from those rules.  
13

14 CSDA is a newer school. However, a lot of the main infrastructure is getting on 20 years old. That is about the  
15 life expectancy of a fire alarm control system. The boilers have seen some tough winters and been run hard. At  
16 one point there were problems with the power to the building (uneven). A previous board had authorized power  
17 correction devices, which means there were shorts and power fluctuations experienced in the building. All  
18 classrooms have unit ventilators that are approx. 20 years old. They were the cheapest way to heat and ventilate  
19 a school, but are not energy efficient, do not provide good filtration, don't provide dehumidification. It doesn't  
20 mean they won't last another 10 years; they will. It is not the type of system you would have chosen today;  
21 doesn't meet energy code or health recommendations and is energy inefficient.  
22

23 Manchester has voted to get rid of their unit vents and go to all ducted energy recovery systems and are using  
24 federal funding towards that.  
25

26 At CSDA the cafeteria is underutilized. There are modulars that students have to leave the school to go to (an  
27 area where additions could be considered).  
28

29 Ms. Nichols displayed a diagram of the current option under consideration. The plan would be to be rid of the  
30 portables for classroom use and utilize for storage or another use. Then add on 5 additional classrooms  
31 (resulting in grades 4-6 having 5 classrooms each).  
32

33 A possible addition to the cafeteria was considered as the existing space has limited windows, etc. Currently  
34 they have 3 lunches and may have to go to 4. At this point, that consideration has come off the plan.  
35

36 Asked about project cost, Mr. Davey stated, were the entirety of the proposed project to be completed, the cost  
37 would be in the area of \$11.6 million; new boilers, full ventilation upgrade, both additions, renovation to the  
38 lower level, sprinkler system, code upgrades, LED lights, solar panels on the roof, propane boilers, and the new  
39 elevator and sprinkler fire alarm.  
40

41 For RMMS, the estimate, using an 18-year lease, would equate to approx. \$800,000/year in cost with approx.  
42 \$45,000 in savings (net \$750,000 budget impact). If doing only the ventilation and energy efficiency measures,  
43 the approx. budget impact would be \$200,000. Another scenario would be some of the renovations but without  
44 the major additions that came out, after energy savings considered, to approx. \$330,000. These are not firm  
45 numbers; about 80% accurate and intended to provide an order of magnitude when thinking about budgetary  
46 impacts.

1 For CSDA, there is an estimated cost of \$5 million if doing the addition, sprinkler, solar, boilers, MERV  
2 controls and lighting. That would get rid of the old ventilation system, upgrade the fire alarm, add a sprinkler  
3 system, and put in solar power. If doing everything, the budget impact is in the \$400,000 range, which would  
4 be reduced by \$50,000 in savings.

5  
6 There are a multitude of variations, e.g., could do a targeted project including lighting, controls and boiler  
7 resulting in minimal to no tax impact. It depends on whether you believe this is the right time to bring the  
8 ventilation upgrades and/or the addition forward, or if it is time to focus solely on energy efficiency.

9  
10 Interest rates are very low. Mr. Davey spoke of having just received a 20-year bond quote from the NH Bond  
11 Bank (semi-public), which came in at 1.79%. Lease rates (private) are at about 2.6%.

12  
13 Chairman Haag commented on the renovations and it being substantially more at RMMS. He questioned if it  
14 makes sense to make the addition larger at CSDA and move the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade there. CSDA is a large, newer  
15 campus with the potential for growth. There might be more value with that approach. Ms. Nichols remarked  
16 regardless of where the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is housed, there remains the need for 5 classrooms per grade.

17  
18 Chairman Haag questioned if it is easier to build onto CSDA (less work and less disruptive). Ms. Nichols  
19 responded she would not say it is less disruptive. In that scenario, the cafeteria would not suffice and would  
20 have to be enlarged. She does not see cost savings by building at CSDA rather than RMMS.

21  
22 Mr. Davey stated that was discussed. It is not that it could not be done. He would not do it for cost savings, he  
23 would do it for academic reasons. Although the school has more acreage, a lot of it is not very accessible for  
24 additions. They struggled to figure out where an addition could go at CSDA; there are athletic fields to the  
25 back, access roads, etc. It was easier finding spots to put an addition at RMMS. There would remain code  
26 issues such as the elevator. Mr. Davey suggested an additional review be conducted where the line items could  
27 be discussed in great detail.

28  
29 Chairman Haag stated the class size policy is not on the agenda for review, and he is not aware of any intention  
30 to change that policy. Discussion of it was included in the presentation to provide an understanding of what is  
31 driving the growth. That is what has precipitated moving from an energy study to the renovation model.

32  
33 As a member of the Town's Facilities Study Committee, Chairman Haag noted the committee has met all  
34 summer to reach the deadlines (9-30). The 3 large issues being discussed are ordinances because of the time  
35 setbacks. They looked at a growth management ordinance, which remains under review. They developed a  
36 well water ordinance and a workforce housing ordinance. Those two ordinances have been presented to the  
37 Planning Board and are under review. They help curb the growth and update the codes and standards. The  
38 growth management ordinance is another tool. All of these things are meant to work in parallel. Two of the  
39 primary aspects identified in the Master Plan are well water and schools. The sense of the committee is that  
40 there remains work to be done to support the Master Plan.

41  
42 The committee is on track to submit the three ordinances and then work the Master Plan. He is of the belief  
43 they will come up to Town Meeting this year, and certainly help with managing the growth. Between the 2010  
44 and 2020 census, Brookline experienced a 13% growth rate (highest in region). Asked if draft copies of the  
45 ordinances are available as part of the Planning Board meeting minutes, Chairman Haag was uncertain. He will  
46 look into that.

1 Superintendent Corey spoke of the presentation noting the intent to review those again in October and  
2 November. The desire is for the Board to consider next steps in November. If looking to move forward, efforts  
3 would begin to finalize a warrant article that would go before the citizenry in March. He requested Board  
4 members having feedback send it, via email, to him, the Principals or Chairman Haag as members of the  
5 Facilities Committee. That feedback can be brought back to EEI and Banwell to start to narrow the focus. The  
6 last few pages of the packet note options that have already been eliminated because of cost.

7  
8 To provide perspective, Amherst is building a new elementary school (K-5/500 students) at a cost of \$55  
9 million.

10  
11 Another approach that could be considered is the phased approach used in the Hollis School District. This  
12 summer we finished the last major component (done over three years). If going with a lease approach, the  
13 funds sit in an account earning minimal interest. If utilizing a bond you are paying on it from inception. The  
14 most recent sale of bonds in the State occurred in July. The 5 year was .75%, 10 year .96%, 15 year 1.49%, 20-  
15 year 1.74%, and 29 years was 1.98%.

16  
17 Growth is already occurring. The RMMS library, which was once an 1,800 sq. ft. library is now for reading  
18 services and the school library (divided into 2 sections to accommodate increased enrollment at the primary  
19 grades). We will need to capture another space in the coming year to meet what is already in the building. If  
20 unable to do anything in the way of renovations, it would result in putting classes such as music and art onto  
21 carts where they would push in services to classrooms. There is a wealth of information still to be gathered and  
22 shared. If moving forward with a bond, there would be a structured process for public meetings/input as well as  
23 warrant approvals.

24  
25 Member Jew asked for clarification that EEI and Banwell would be responsible for project management. It  
26 would not fall to the SAU's Facilities Director. Superintendent Corey stated EEI and Banwell would provide  
27 oversight. What happens is we would go from a facilities committee to a building committee (likely same  
28 membership). Weekly meetings would be conducted during which the Facilities Director would provide his  
29 expertise from a construction standpoint. That is the role he serves on the committee.

30  
31 Chairman Haag spoke of the importance of understanding that 900 sq. ft. is required for a classroom. We are up  
32 against it from a capacity standpoint. Asked, Superintendent Corey stated his belief, from the standpoint of a  
33 phased rollout, the first target area would be RMMS. He noted the same type of study is being looked at in the  
34 COOP district because this same group of students will be progressing to the COOP very quickly. Our middle  
35 school is close to capacity and the high school has gone from the mid to high 700s to pushing 850, which makes  
36 us right now the largest Division II school in the State.

37  
38 Chairman Haag spoke of having done a correlation study on the NESDEC numbers. Going back about 5 years  
39 it is approx. 97-99% confidence level. Growth is projected at 100 in the next 5 years.

40  
41 Superintendent Corey commented on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER  
42 III) funds. For our towns when we are talking about ESSER III, we are talking about \$40,000. For comparison  
43 purposes, he noted Bedford received \$1.2 million. Some of the projects being considered by districts are based  
44 on their funding. Manchester is receiving about \$5.5 million. The COOP School District, our largest, will get  
45 about \$60,000. Level of funding is based on the free and reduced lunch population.

46  
47 ***There being no objection, the Board went out of the regular order of business to take up the discussion of the***  
48 ***Opening of School Plan.***

- 49
- Opening of School Plan

1  
2 Superintendent Corey thanked those in attendance for providing their input and noted the Administration and  
3 Board receives input supporting both sides of the equation. He wished to thank all concerned as the discussions  
4 have been professional and the input appreciated.

5  
6 Regarding the re-opening plan, the district will be moving towards mixing groups at recess. There is  
7 confidence in the protocols that are in place and the desire to avoid limiting friendships to any degree. We may  
8 have to revert back, but it is felt to be an appropriate step. They will also be mixing when delivering services,  
9 e.g., currently if two students need readings services they have been accommodated by classroom, which puts a  
10 strain on staffing. We will be moving more to a cooperative model for those type of services.

11  
12 Regarding cases, he feels very fortunate we have had zero in the Brookline schools. He wished to thank the  
13 teachers, students, families, custodians, everybody involved because they are following the protocols and doing  
14 an outstanding job.

15  
16 Last week, between the two communities, we were running about 25-28 cases depending on the day. That  
17 stayed consistent this week as well. Yesterday, like the State, we started to see a dip. Our numbers went down  
18 on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 19 and then today down again to 13. We presently have 7 active cases in Brookline and 6 in  
19 Hollis. As of today we did not have any new cases. He is not a scientist, but what he does notice when looking  
20 at the vaccination rates compared to other towns, both Hollis and Brookline's vaccination rates are higher than  
21 many other towns that are experiencing these outbreaks. Hollis is 71.4% vaccinated and Brookline 60.2%.

22  
23 He talks regularly with medical professionals that have children in our school system. They continue to  
24 advocate for masks. Many of the people he is talking to are the same pediatricians we are taking our children  
25 to. He does understand the difference is the length of the day. That is difficult and our kids and your children  
26 are doing an outstanding job. Our teachers are stressing handwashing, we have hand sanitizer available, and the  
27 same cleaning protocols that served us well last year.

28  
29 There have been questions about how he is looking at this. Unlike other districts, he does not have a magic  
30 number. If you talk about our county, it is considered substantial. If you talk to the State, they say substantial is  
31 masks. The rate in our towns is much lower. That is a credit to everyone in our towns; baseball leagues, soccer  
32 leagues, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, anyone who uses the building, they have their set of protocols and each one of  
33 those protocols, he believes, has helped to address the rate.

34  
35 What he is looking at and will be talking to the Board about at future meetings, is what he will refer to as  
36 targeted masking. He is not there yet but wished to provide an understanding. His greatest concern is should  
37 there be a spike we do not have a remote option for families. That option does not exist this year. It was part of  
38 the Governor's Emergency Order, which is no longer in effect. He spoke of staffing levels, which are very  
39 tight.

40  
41 From an educational standpoint, his primary concern at the younger grades is reading. Reading is a skill that  
42 students would benefit from being able to see each other's lips. That is well known. If our trend, which is  
43 positive, were to continue, that is where he would start. We would design social distancing to be able to, during  
44 that segment of the school day (approx. an hour), take off masks. He would build off of that. We would keep  
45 masks in a transition from a classroom to the cafeteria. He stressed he is not there yet but is very pleased with  
46 how things are going.

1 He has no problem coming back to the Board when he believes he is ready and making recommendations to  
2 move in this fashion. He does not feel it should be based on a chart. Last year we opened, served 80% of our  
3 kids except for some prescriptive breaks for zoom, functioned very well and were between 20-30 cases for the  
4 entire school year. He believes that can be done again.

5  
6 He respects all of the parents who are looking for a choice. His dilemma is that for 6 hours/day he has the  
7 responsibility for the children in the district. Just like at the COOP, he would like to eventually get to a mask  
8 optional environment. He is just not there. He was excited yesterday to see there is the potential for a vaccine  
9 coming out. Not because he will sit here and tell people to go get the vaccine, but because once that option  
10 comes out, families now have a choice whether they want to take that option or not. Things go very well at the  
11 COOP district. He believes one of the reasons for that is because a large number of our students chose to get  
12 vaccinated and as a result, he is very happy with the numbers there.

13  
14 That is the structure he is looking to role out in Brookline and in Hollis. Numbers may dictate the pace  
15 differently in each of those districts.

16  
17 In terms of medical advice, the group that he speaks with on a regular basis still believes we should be with  
18 masks. At the same time, they know he is tracking the data and without planning it this way, we kind of have  
19 somewhat of a test environment at the COOP because it is mask optional. He thinks part of the benefit for us is  
20 that we were in session last year. When he visits the buildings and watches the students leave class to go use  
21 the restroom, every single student in our building now knows we are using the occupied or unoccupied sign, so  
22 we never have over the maximum number in a bathroom. You can see kids counting the tiles. They know  
23 social distancing. Our youngest ones have always been taught the concept of a hoola hoop for personal space  
24 (long before COVID). That gives you the 3'. It is a known entity. Our staff taught all year, so they understand  
25 all of the protocols. We are seeing spikes in some of our neighboring communities. Some are extensive.

26  
27 In a masked environment like our elementary schools, if two students are both masked, 3' or more apart, and  
28 one contracts COVID, the other does not have to quarantine this year. The parents have to monitor symptoms  
29 and if becoming symptomatic, they call the school nurse and protocols kick in. Last year, that automatically  
30 would have put the other student at home (with the 6' of social distancing in play). We are able to keep a lot  
31 more children in school regularly because the quarantine rules have changed. At the same time, NH DHHS is  
32 again in some ways relying on us to do the contact tracing.

33  
34 He provided the example of a notice he sent out earlier in the day. To him it looked perfect. After sending it he  
35 realized he referenced a district employee, which was accurate; however, in every other notice he has indicated  
36 an employee at RMMS, CSDA, middle school, or high school. He used the example of his position as one he  
37 would consider a district employee because that position can go anywhere and be in any building. When he  
38 goes, he is required, as part of the protocol, to FOB in and out so that his presence is always registered with the  
39 times in the building. Every single teacher and district employee does that because it is part of the contact  
40 tracing. He could come into a building, could basically be the one with COVID, and may have no contact with  
41 a classroom. That is what is meant by a district employee; not essentially associated with children. There are  
42 some that are because there are district employees for custodians who are in multiple buildings and service  
43 providers who travel among multiple buildings. The key is not necessarily the building, it is whether you  
44 received 1 or 2 emails. The first email says you are impacted; your child is impacted. There were no emails for  
45 this district employee, no need to quarantine and no exposure. The second email that is sent is to everyone in  
46 the SAU so that everyone is aware there was a case. He will correct that with an email in the morning trying to  
47 explain that. In most cases, not all, they have very limited access to children. That was different pre-COVID.  
48 He was a former math teacher and used to love to come to the elementary schools and work with students in  
49 math. He does not do that now. We don't want to take any extra risks of exposure. We might visit and say

1 hello so that the students can see them, but he, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug, Kelly Seeley if she is in a  
2 building, all really respect the protocols that have been put in place. The goal is to stay in session, in-person as  
3 much as we can.  
4

5 We read about the social emotional piece every day. It bothers him tremendously but understand that is why we  
6 were in-person last year. Some of our students are still struggling and we are working with every one of them.  
7 That is where he is at with regard to the plan. The Board authorized him to make the decisions/changes. He  
8 will never surprise the Board or our families. When a decision is made to move forward, he will notify the  
9 Board. It may not be at a meeting. If numbers keep going down it may be notice through email. He would  
10 then notify families.  
11

12 Some may have seen matrixes in other towns, but he does not feel that is the right approach. We have been  
13 successful up until this point, and he will continue with his methodology and the people he uses and the places  
14 where he gathers his data. As much as he understands data can be flawed, if you go to one place and continue  
15 with flawed data it should stay relatively in line. It is not necessarily perfect, but it should work.  
16

17 Mike Baier, 2 Kemp Drive  
18

19 Is extremely disappointed with what the Superintendent has said. This age group that we are trying to protect  
20 has the lowest transmission rate and the least impact when they do get sick. This is already the safest  
21 population. Last month when we came to the meeting, he had hoped that there would be support in this because  
22 Superintendent Corey was the only one who didn't have a mask on. Last month they were all sitting closer.  
23 Two of the ladies on the Board drove to the meeting last month together in a car without masks and then came  
24 into the building and put masks on to sit next to each other.  
25

26 When we talk about the reasoning and logic, everything that was just said doesn't make any sense. There is no  
27 real science to support that. It is a fear based decision. Social distancing is garbage. It has been proven to be.  
28 The vaccine isn't what is keeping the kids in the high grades safe. It is their God given immune system that is  
29 statistically 27 times stronger than the vaccine in terms of preventing transmission. These little kids have  
30 transmission and infection rates that are below the floor. What are we protecting them from? If anyone should  
31 be masked, it is the older kids.  
32

33 He does not understand why, if there is a spike in cases, we couldn't go back to having a temporary remote  
34 classroom? Is it the cost of the zoom license? If that is the case, he will buy it. If it is the hosting and those  
35 other things, he will help resolve those issues; that is what he does for a living.  
36

37 Superintendent Corey stated he would be happy to do two things; would answer the zoom question now, and if  
38 provided with his contact information they could have a prolonged conversation. The zoom question is because  
39 the authority to do that type of learning went away with the Emergency Order.  
40

41 Mr. Baier asked for clarification at the State level they disallow you to do that at all. Superintendent Corey  
42 stated that to be correct. They no longer would count for instructional days, to meet the required number of  
43 hours that have to be fulfilled as a school system.  
44

45 Vice Chairman Sarris stated the desire for the Board to have an opportunity to discuss this. They were pretty  
46 gracious in extending the 3 minutes. She wanted to move this forward so that those in attendance and watching  
47 could hear from the Board. There have been a lot of assumptions made, a lot of accusations, and a lot of  
48 thoughts about what we are thinking. She would like the Board members who want to respond to some of these  
49 points and the community-at-large, to be able to. She wants the community to know they are being heard.

1  
2 Yes, we have thought a lot about this since the last meeting. Yes, we care about our kids, and we want what is  
3 best for them. Like she said the last time, there is what she feels personally, but she is considering all of the  
4 input provided. Her goal, and she believes that of everyone, is for the kids to be in school this year. That was  
5 the priority. We know that the biggest harm to our kids in the past year was them missing out on being in-  
6 person in school. Yes, that is also what the CDC and NH DHHS say; what is best for the kids is to be in school  
7 in-person.

8  
9 The State is not mandating anything. The State has left it to the local communities. All the State can do is  
10 recommend. What we do is look to the NH DHHS, the experts in the State and ask what they recommend.  
11 They recommend children go to school in masks. However, she too has concerns about this for long stretches  
12 of time. She does not think it is a clear answer. She is very open to the thoughts of the Superintendent  
13 regarding targeted masking. While we are in a county of substantial transmission, she thinks it is the  
14 responsibility to follow the direction of DHHS. But we do live in a community that is not reflective of the  
15 whole county and we have to acknowledge that nuance.

16  
17 ***Mr. Baier spoke out from the audience without being recognized.***

18  
19 Vice Chairman Sarris stated this to be time for the Board to discuss the issue.

20  
21 ***Mr. Baier continued to speak out stating the responses are not what was promised.***

22  
23 Vice Chairman Sarris continued by stating we have to acknowledge that the community that we live in does not  
24 necessarily reflect the substantial transmission in the county as a whole. She is very open to the Superintendent  
25 bringing forward the idea of instruction time beyond just reading being able to be unmasked. That would  
26 validate what so many of our community members want. It is not about her choice for her kids, it is about  
27 acknowledging that we will have that until we have vaccinations available for our kids and/or we are not in a  
28 place of substantial transmission and the DHHS recommends that children go to school without masks.

29  
30 The proceedings were interrupted numerous times by Mr. Baier speaking out from the audience during the  
31 period of Board discussion and without being recognized.

32  
33 Chairman Haag explained the time period for public comment had ended and the time had come for the Board  
34 to have its discussion. Despite repeated attempts by the Chairman to put an end to the disruptions and the Vice  
35 Chairman noting the interruptions were out of order, Mr. Baier continued to speak out from the audience above  
36 the voices of members.

37  
38 Chairman Haag reiterated the Board would deliberate at this point. He asked Mr. Baier to refrain from his  
39 questions at this point. The Board had been more than gracious in extending the time period for public  
40 comment, he had been trying to sit back and allow everything from a public comment standpoint. Interruptions  
41 would not normally be permitted. He asked him to please respect the process and allow the Board to deliberate.

42  
43 Chairman Haag spoke of the public comment provided and the desire to make a few things known. There was a  
44 comment about the School Board meetings not being posted. As is noted on the website, meetings are  
45 conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Agendas are posted on the website a week in advance of meetings.  
46 There is a group called the Open Government Working Group that is working deliberately to help with  
47 communications because small towns like ours sometimes have a hard time communicating. We are trying to  
48 be as transparent as possible with everything but recognize there are only so many mechanisms to post and  
49 make this information available. There is nothing done in the dark of the night with any of this.

1  
2 Regarding the comment around the number of emails, somehow, we got lost in the message that that was the  
3 reason for the decision making. The decision making was based off of information from the NH DHHS, which  
4 is based on CDC guidance, the American Academy of Pediatrics. NH DHHS is what we pegged to last year for  
5 our entire reopening plan. All three of those pieces come together with this recommendation. With that they  
6 recommend universal masking when level of community transmission meets substantial or high in those areas.  
7 It has been said multiple times that we don't have the authority to do that. We don't have the medical opinion  
8 of this, so we are passing along the guidance of NH DHHS, the AAP and the CDC. This is not a situation any  
9 of us want to be in. He understands they don't empathize with the Board because they don't like its decision; it  
10 is not something that members take lightly. This has been an extremely stressful couple of months because they  
11 know that they are disappointing a cohort of people. That is not something that anyone wants to do, but they  
12 are tied to the DHHS guidance and are in a substantial county right now, which is what is driving the decision  
13 making. He wished to be abundantly clear it is not a personal opinion; they are following the guidance of the  
14 best information they have available to them.

15  
16 School growth and curriculum are areas they would expect to be discussing. A global pandemic is difficult, and  
17 they are trying to take the guidance of the medical key decision makers to guide them because they are not  
18 experts in the field.

19  
20 Member Marsano asked if the district has considered the option, down the road, for a testing opt-out.  
21 Superintendent Corey stated he has a meeting next week with a gentleman who resides in Brookline and works  
22 for one of the testing companies. They have voluntary testing options for staff and students that is more of a  
23 pool testing. Some districts have gone to that. He will learn more about it next week. He is uncertain if he  
24 would recommend that. It is being looked at.

25  
26 Member Marsano spoke of having heard of a district she believes to be outside of the State that is looking at a  
27 heard immunity rate as their cutoff for mask mandates. She questioned if that has been considered.  
28 Superintendent Corey remarked if you look at our vaccination rate plus the number of people in the two  
29 communities that have had COVID and now have their own immunities, he will venture to say we could add  
30 10% to each of the vaccination rates currently listed. The problem is conflicting data; there is one group that  
31 would say if you have had COVID you should get the vaccine and another that states if you have had it your  
32 immune system is more protective than getting the vaccine. As a non-medical person it is very difficult.

33  
34 Vice Chairman Sarris remarked once children have the option of being vaccinated, given the rate and data we  
35 have, she would be comfortable with saying that just having the option to be vaccinated plus the three weeks or  
36 whatever period, is enough data for her. Waiting to get vaccination rates, etc. would be a prolonged process.

37  
38 Member Jew agreed once available and those who want to can, and then you give it sufficient time.

39  
40 Member Marsano spoke of a concern brought to her attention; outside gym classes are required to wear masks.  
41 Superintendent Corey stated there is nothing that occurs outdoors, that he is aware of, that requires wearing of  
42 masks. Principal Molinari remarked, if anything, when outdoors, students are encouraged to take masks off.

1 Member Marsano spoke of a concern she and some of the parents have had throughout this situation being the  
2 consistency of mask breaks across the spectrum. There has been concern that activity is not done regularly  
3 consistently. She questioned if there is a way to regulate that better. Superintendent Corey stated he would  
4 meet with the principals as he is aware they had built them into their schedules. If it isn't happening, they will  
5 address it. If it can be increased, they will look to do that.

6  
7 Member Marsano asked if students sitting at their desks and 3' apart are able to take their masks off. Principal  
8 Bouley stated if they are all at their desks doing independent work, teachers can allow them to take masks off if  
9 they choose to.

10  
11 Member Marsano questioned if that is up to the teacher. Principal Bouley responded, yes, because they want to  
12 make sure they are doing independent work, that the students will be staying at their seats. Principal Molinari  
13 added the teachers are really working on the balance of it. They do a great job at finding those opportunities to  
14 provide the breaks. It is really when they are in transition, e.g., when in the hallways, that they are required to  
15 wear them, when going to grab a book off the shelf and passing by other students, they are masked. When they  
16 are at their seats, teachers are finding opportunities to provide that break, if desired. They are always  
17 encouraging it. The students are not masked 6 hours/day.

18  
19 Principal Bouley commented she goes into the classrooms every single day. She is seeing classes taking mask  
20 breaks. They are encouraged, weather permitting, to go outdoors for snack, etc.

21  
22 Member Marsano encouraged the use of handwashing and hand sanitizer.

23  
24 Vice Chairman Sarris questioned the immediate family members of a child testing positive having to  
25 quarantine. If a student has COVID, siblings are now quarantining for 10 days and then a negative test. Those  
26 siblings could potentially be out for 20 days if they contract COVID. You could have a sibling that is  
27 potentially out of school for up to 20 days. Superintendent Corey stated the minute a student goes over 10 days,  
28 (pre-COVID) they are automatically eligible for tutoring services. That goes through the Student Services  
29 Department. That has always been in place. That comes into play by calling the school. Typically you are  
30 transferred to the special education coordinator as they also oversee tutoring. It would be no different if a  
31 student had broken their leg and was going to be out for 20 days.

32  
33 Vice Chairman Sarris noted she works in a neighboring school district that started the year without masks with a  
34 matrix. It lasted 6 days. They reached a pretty significant infection rate in the district. Everybody has been  
35 masked after the first 6 days per their protocols, but the residual trouble is the prolonged absences due to  
36 quarantining of family members. Now they are at this place where there is a combination of mask protocols and  
37 a portion of students who are not in the classroom. This community has better vaccination rates, and she does  
38 not envision it being a big problem if that happens, but that is just another angle to keep in mind as rates start to  
39 go down and we relax restrictions.

40  
41 Chairman Haag restated the Board appreciates all of the feedback it has received. He is hopeful the rationale for  
42 the decision making is understood.

43  
44 ***The Board returned to the regular order of business.***

1 ● Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Discussion

2  
3 Discussions will begin in October. Superintendent Corey requested Board members make known any particular  
4 items they were looking to be added to the budget. He provided the example of the COOP district that asked  
5 him to consider looking at a social worker for the building or something more to focus on mental health issues.  
6 One of the things he and the principals have discussed is seeing an excess of responsibilities on the  
7 administrators, and the potential for the former curriculum position, but with a background in mental health.  
8 That would be someone who could come in and do what we need to do on the educational front, but also help to  
9 guide us because this isn't just going to end when we get COVID under control. The mental health issues will  
10 be with us.

11  
12 Also in October the Board will be provided with the final figures for FY22. He believes the Board will be  
13 pleased with the amount to fund balance that will be returned to the tax base. The Business Office did  
14 yeoman's work, and the district received a clean audit report.

15  
16 ● 4 Lund Lane (SAU) Lease Committee Update

17  
18 Superintendent Corey noted Member Jew sits on the committee representing Brookline. The committee  
19 decided to seek out a commercial real estate expert to assist with the lease, e.g., value of building, lease  
20 structure. Both Member Jew and Elizabeth Brown, COOP School Board member, who also sits on the  
21 committee, have a background in the area and were able to seek out individuals. One name that rose to the  
22 surface was Deane Navaroli. He is familiar with Mr. Navaroli as the individual heading up the Emergency  
23 Management Team. School Board Member Brown reached out to Mr. Navaroli who has volunteered his  
24 services. Superintendent Corey expressed gratitude. Information on those efforts should be available in the  
25 mid-October timeframe.

26  
27 ● Transportation Contract – Informational

28  
29 Included as part of the [agenda](#) packet is a copy of the contract between SAU #41 and Student Transportation of  
30 America. Very little has changed in terms of language; replacement of "Assistant Superintendent of Student  
31 Services" with "Director of Student Services" (page 8). The bulk of the changes appear on the Rate Structure.

32  
33 The desire was to provide the document to the individual school boards in advance of the SAU41 Governing  
34 Board meeting scheduled for October 14th during which the contract will be discussed/deliberated on. When  
35 posting for the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, notice of individual school board meetings will also be posted with the  
36 understanding each board will be required to consider the contract. Although the SAU41 Governing Board  
37 determines the transportation company, the individual boards allocate the resources to pay for those services.

38  
39 Student Transportation of America (STA) has served the SAU well. They are fully staffed with an additional  
40 driver given the dispatcher is also able to drive. Bus runs are doing well and all athletic obligations at the  
41 COOP are being met.

42  
43 STA approached the SAU regarding the optional two-year period (language in the current contract). They  
44 expressed the desire to negotiate a new contract as it would allow them to provide driver job security and would  
45 assist them in securing funding to continue to update their fleet. They have met the obligations of updating their  
46 fleet; many buses have gone from 71 to 77 passenger. When you have a fleet in Brookline of 8-9 runs and gain  
47 6 seats/bus, you have gained 54 seats. STA has worked hard to consolidate routes and decrease run time. As  
48 enrollment increases, there may be the need to add another bus to keep the ride time to 45 minutes. They have  
49 also met all of their obligations for special education transportation.

1  
2 Superintendent Corey requested members having questions email them to him so that they can be passed along  
3 to STA prior to the meeting. The Regional Manager for STA will attend the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to go over  
4 the contract and answer any questions.

5  
6 Asked when the PM pickup times will be provided, Superintendent Corey stated he would reach out to STA for  
7 a response. He spoke of the system in place whereby he receives a text when the buses leave the high school  
8 and Principals Molinari and Bouley text him when they arrive at and leave the schools. We are at a point where  
9 departures are on time.

10  
11 Chairman Haag spoke of prior discussions around a GPS tracker and questioned if that is part of the contract  
12 language. Superintendent Corey stated that was discussed with STA. There are very few schools using that  
13 technology. It was well thought of when it came out, but once you know your morning and afternoon pickup  
14 times, unless you get an email, we are pretty consistent. It is an expensive piece that has kind of gone away  
15 because the old efficiency is still there.

16  
17 **DELIBERATIONS**

- 18  
19 • To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy **GADA** – Employment References and Verification  
20 (Prohibiting Aiding and Abetting of Sexual Abuse)  
21 *Given its second Reading;*

22  
23 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT POLICY GADA**  
24 **– EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES AND VERIFICATION (PROHIBITING AIDING AND ABETTING**  
25 **OF SEXUAL ABUSE)**

26 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**

27 **MOTION CARRIED**

28 **5-0-0**

- 29  
30 • To see what action the Board will take regarding **Policy JLDBB** – Suicide Prevention and Response  
31 *Given its second Reading;*

32  
33 Vice Chairman Sarris questioned if the language included under #1 is needed in policy. It is very specific and  
34 procedural. There is another area where the language refers to reviewing the plan. In theory we will review a  
35 plan, which will have detailed information. She believes the COOP School Board had this conversation as well.  
36 Asked about the Hollis School District policy, Vice Chairman Sarris commented on her belief that this  
37 discussion is being had there as well and that Hollis has the longer policy.

38  
39 Beth Janine Williams, COOP School Board Member, stated the COOP School Board cut that section out and  
40 added a line stating the plan would follow the law.

41  
42 Superintendent Corey stated his belief the avenue could be taken. His recommendation was to move the policy  
43 forward to second reading, instruct the Policy Committee to look at that section, and if there is a desire to make  
44 a change that could occur as part of the third reading.

1 Principal Molinari commented he likes the section. The wording is lengthy, and perhaps could be replaced with  
2 a reference to State law.

3  
4 **MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO AMEND POLICY JLDBB – SUICIDE PREVENTION AND**  
5 **RESPONSE, IN SECTION 1C BY INSERTING “DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE” AT THE**  
6 **START OF THE SENTENCE, AND IN SECTION 1J BY REPLACING “SUCH INCLUDE SUCH”**  
7 **WITH “INCLUSION OF”, AND ACCEPT THE SECOND READING, AS AMENDED**  
8 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

9 **MOTION CARRIED**

10 **5-0-0**

- 11  
12 • To see what action the Board will take regarding **Policy BEDH** - Public Participation at Board Meetings  
13 *Given its first Reading;*

14  
15 Chairman Haag spoke of having attended a meeting of the New Hampshire School Board Association  
16 (NHSBA) conducted on this topic. He has reviewed the proposed amendments to the policy and found that they  
17 very much align with the recommendations of the NHSBA.

18  
19 Vice Chairman Sarris stated her belief the policy will help facilitate public input at meetings.

20  
21 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY BEDH – PUBLIC**  
22 **PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS, AS PRESENTED**

23 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

24 **MOTION CARRIED**

25 **5-0-0**

- 26  
27 • To see what action the Board will take regarding **Policy JLF** - Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect  
28 *Given its first Reading;*

29  
30 **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY JLF –**  
31 **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

32 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

33  
34 ON THE QUESTION

35  
36 Asked, Vice Chairman Sarris stated this policy was not in place previously.

37  
38 Superintendent Corey stated the policy is mandated by law and the district goes over this regularly with staff  
39 (all mandated reporters).

40  
41 Noted was that the last sentence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph states “Additionally, information pertaining to the  
42 requirements of section A of this policy shall be included in each student handbook or placed on the district’s  
43 website.”; however, there is no section A.

44 **MOTION CARRIED**

45 **5-0-0**

1 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**  
2

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

8  
9 *A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:*

10  
11 Yea: Alison Marsano, Karen Jew, Rebecca Howie, Erin Sarris, Kenneth Haag

12 5

13 Nay: 0

14 **MOTION CARRIED**

15  
16 *The Board went into non-public session at 8:44 p.m.*

17 *The Board came out of non-public session at 9:02 p.m.*

18  
19 **ADJOURNMENT**

20  
21 **MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ADJOURN**

22 **SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**

23 **MOTION CARRIED**

24 **5-0-0**

25  
26 *The September 22, 2021, meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.*

27  
28  
29  
30 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_