

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
FIRST SESSION (DELIBERATIVE)
FEBRUARY 5, 2018
MEETING MINUTES

The First Session (Deliberative) of the Annual Meeting of the Brookline School District was conducted on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy Library.

Moderator Peter Webb presided.

Members of the School Board Present: Matthew Maguire, Chairman
Lauren DiGennaro, Vice Chairman
Alison Marsano, Secretary
Kenneth Haag
Erin Sarris

Members of the School Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator
Amy Rowe, Director of Student Services
Anne Elser, Assistant Director of Student Services
Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School
Karen Kulick, Special Education Administrator
Linda Chomiak, Brookline Finance Committee
Brian Rater, Brookline Finance Committee
William Phillips, Esq., School District Attorney

Moderator Webb led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Webb noted an error in the handout titled “2018 Overview of Brookline Annual Meetings”, which indicates the Hollis Brookline School District meeting is March 12, 2018. The meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2018.

Moderator Webb noted this to be an SB2 meeting under RSA 40:13 also known as the Official Ballot Referendum System. The School Board has created a Warrant having 10 Articles. Under SB2, the Warrant is effectively the Ballot. Before the voters was the opportunity to discuss each of the Warrant Articles and to consider any amendments. Although the Ballot could be changed, it could not be approved until before the voters on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Moderator Webb introduced members of the Brookline School Board and SAU 41 Administration. Although members of the Administration are not members of the Town, and, therefore, technically not permitted to participate, given what they could add to the discussion, he suggested they be allowed to speak.

A show of hands indicated voters wished to allow members of the Administration to participate in the discussion.

Article 1

Election of Officers. To elect all necessary School District officers for the ensuing terms by official ballot vote on March 13, 2018, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

- To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.
- To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- To choose two (2) members of the School Board for the ensuing three (3) years.

Moderator Webb noted the voters would vote on the article on March 13, 2018.

Article 2

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to approve the cost of items for the first of a two-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Teachers Association for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years, which calls for the following increase in professional staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2018-19	\$154,095

and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$154,095** for the first fiscal year (2018-2019 school year), such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in professional staff salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. This is the first fiscal year of a two-year agreement. Negotiated cost item increases for the next fiscal year (2019-2020) will require approval of a specific warrant article on the 2019 ballot. **The School Board recommends this article 4-0-0.**

Matthew Maguire, Chairman, Brookline School Board, explained the Article represents the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Teachers Association. Teachers are working without a contract in the current school year.

The salary table consists of a series of steps, each with an identified/associated salary. Employees move along the salary table in steps, e.g., year 1 is step 1, year 2 step 2, etc. What is meant by a table increase is an increase to the identified salary amount for a step on the table, e.g., year 1, 1.5% increase, year 2, .75% increase. Off-step is for those employees who have exceeded the number of steps (years) on the table.

This year's cost is \$154,095. Salaries in 2018/2019 represent a 1.5% table increase plus step movement and 2.25% for off-step employees.

In 2019-2020, it is .75% table increase plus step, and 2.25% for off-step employees.

In the first year of the contract, the District pays 100% of the lowest cost health insurance plan, and caps are applied to remaining plans. In the second year of the contract caps are applied to all three plans.

A Flexible Spending Account plan was added for teachers for the upcoming school year.

Eric Pauer, 12 Westview Road

Questioned if teachers working without a contract in the current year were compensated under the terms of the previous salary table. Mr. Maguire responded they were. Mr. Pauer questioned if teachers received a step increase in the current year and was told they did not. In the absence of a contract, there is no movement on the salary table. When asked if teachers who received additional educational training had movement based on that, Mr. Maguire stated they did.

Mr. Pauer commented a teacher on the salary table, based on the proposed contract and having had no movement on the table in the previous year, would receive an approx. 7.7% increase over the life of the proposed contract (2 years). Mr. Maguire stated agreement.

Mr. Pauer commented the contributions to the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) have been increasing exponentially. In FY17, it was 15.67% and FY18 and FY19 it is 17.36%. He questioned if it is truly an 11% increase and was informed it is. He spoke of the percentage being contributed by the teachers (7%), which is the same percentage they contributed in the previous year, and commented, as a result, they are gaining more. He stated his hope the article will be reconsidered.

Brian Rater, Brookline Finance Committee

Stated the Finance Committee is in favor of all the Warrant Articles. By way of providing historical information on the NHRS, he stated it was regulated by State law, which artificially placed a cap on the amount of money going into the system. It was not keeping up with where it should have been, which was addressed by the Legislature a few years ago. They are now playing catchup by requiring employers to contribute larger amounts. That is the situation for all employees across the State, not just the schools.

Eric Pauer

Stated the NHRS is what they call a defined benefit plan. They're guaranteed to get a minimum return of 8.25% or 8.5%. When it is below that, the employer must pay to get to that level. If the market does better, they get all the upside. He stated his displeasure with the way the system works.

No further discussion was offered on Article 2.

Article 3

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to approve the cost of items included in a four-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Education Support Staff Association for the 2018-2019 through 2021-2022 school years, which calls for the following increase in support staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2018-2019	\$40,467
2019-2020	\$32,542
2020-2021	\$35,544
2021-2022	\$31,754

and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$40,467** for the first fiscal year (2018-2019 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 article 4-0-0.**

Kenneth Haag, Brookline School Board, stated salaries in 2018/2019 represent a 2% table increase plus step movement. Off-step employees receive a 3% increase. On average, it will be a 3% for every employee under this agreement. It is a four-year agreement. The first year is a little higher than the rest; as part of the agreement, the Para-professionals have been asked to work an additional day at the beginning of the school year. Included in the first-year cost is the \$2,300 to cover the cost of that 1 additional day. In the three years following, it is a 2.25% table increase plus step movement, and 3% for off-step employees.

Mr. Haag spoke of language gained in terms of management rights. The agreement would provide the District with a 90-day probationary period for all support staff employees. The insurance language is similar to that discussed under Article 2.

The salary table has had a large adjustment from the previous language, and is now more standardized with the language of other contracts within the SAU. It is more manageable for the Business Office.

The contract would allow the SAU to designate a skeleton crew day, which would trigger custodial staff to come in with the sole goal of cleaning the buildings.

No further discussion was offered on Article 3.

Article 4

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$9,080,562**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$8,939,050**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Majority vote required to pass. **The School Board recommends this article 4-0-0.**

Superintendent Corey explained the major change is personnel related. A classroom teacher position has been added to decrease class size. Also proposed is moving the Science Specialist position from part-time (0.7) to full-time (1.0) to enhance and continue efforts in the area of science. In the area of academics, there is an increase in the amount of \$7,250 for new software that brings additional math and science learning opportunities to students at both ends of the spectrum. Taken into consideration is the need to continue to address building maintenance needs.

On the revenue side, increases are seen through the Retained Education Tax (\$17,120) and in special education aid (\$29,000) (formerly known as catastrophic aid). Decreases are in Medicaid (\$16,500), Adequate Aide Grant (\$59,590), and other revenues (approx. \$22,000). Superintendent Corey stressed, at this time, the figures are estimates.

The major changes in the budget include a reduction in the cost of health insurance (GMR of -1%) resulting in a decrease of \$24,367. Special education transportation costs have increased by \$41,875.

There are no retirements planned for FY19. There is a contractual obligation associated with retirements (last year the cost was \$53,885 (shows as a reduction in FY19)).

If the proposed budget is adopted, a decrease in class sizes would result leading to the following ratios for next year: Grade one 18.25/1, grade two 19.5/1, grade three 17/1, grade four 18/1, grade five 20/1, and grade six 18/1. The District would be able to provide continued improvements into the science curriculum. The District would be able to address needed improvements to the buildings.

If the default budget is adopted class sizes would remain above the Board policy for educational specifications, planned science improvements would be reduced, and the District would have to revisit the building maintenance items to determine which could be deferred for a year.

Superintendent Corey stated a default budget (\$8,939,050) is the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year (\$8,833,998), reduced and increased (\$214,600), as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenses (\$109,548) contained in the operating budget.

Diane Pauer, 12 Westview Road

Requested additional information on the building maintenance needs. Superintendent Corey stated there to be a series of projects planned for FY19, and provided examples; at RMMS, classroom sink and countertop replacements, Phase I of the playground project, carpeting in a number of classrooms, and boiler replacement (\$7,600). At CSDA, carpeting, hallway repairs (tile), window replacements, and resurfacing and painting in the gym.

Brendan Denehy, 31 Mason Road

Commented being considered is a \$9 million budget; however, at this Deliberative Session, there are no copies of the budget made available. Superintendent Corey stated copies could be made available. He spoke of past practice of having paper copies available, which have historically gone unused. The budget has been discussed since June of last year. Those discussions have included the Finance Committee and have been open to the public. Intended for this meeting was an overview of the Warrant Articles.

Eric Pauer

Questioned the language of the Article that reads in part “the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.” He stated he has not seen that language in the past, and would like to know how that works, and why it is included.

William Phillips, Esq., School District Attorney, stated the language is part of the SB2 budget approval process. This Article comes directly from State Statute. In the Statute, it states if the proposed operating budget fails it is within the purview of the governing body to reassess, and if determining it could not manage the school district with the default budget, the governing body has the ability to propose another budget and conduct a special meeting. It was noted the language was included in last year's Warrant Article.

Eric Pauer

Questioned if the special meeting would be comprised of a Deliberative Session and then 30 days later a ballot vote under SB2. Attorney Phillips stated that to be correct.

Roger Ogden, 13 Potanipo Hill Road

Stated he was confused by maintenance being a part of the operating budget when Article 6 addresses the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for maintenance issues.

Superintendent Corey stated there are maintenance items identified within the operating budget and maintenance items identified within the CIP, which are intended to be funded through the School Facilities Maintenance Fund. The contingency in the operating budget is intended to address unanticipated expenses, e.g., this year preschool enrollment grew unexpectedly. The District was required, by law, to provide another teacher for the 3 and 4-year-old students. That was at a cost of approx. \$39,000 which was not budgeted for. When instances such as that occur, the only funding source that can be looked to is the operating budget. In the absence of a contingency, funds allocated to other educational items must be utilized.

Although not a requirement, it has been, and will continue to be, the practice of the School Board to conduct a Public Hearing prior to voting to expend funds from the Maintenance Fund.

Ms. Sarris remarked there are maintenance items identified within the operating budget and larger/more costly maintenance items for which long-term planning/savings occurs. The CIP identifies planned future expenses, and the amount of the yearly requested allocation/savings needed to cover the anticipated costs.

Roger Ogden

Spoke of the CIP included with Article 6, which identifies Phase I of the playground, and questioned if the playground is part of Article 4 or the CIP.

Superintendent Corey stated as we progress further into the year the School Board will determine which items will be addressed through the operating budget and which will be addressed utilizing the Maintenance Trust Fund. He provided the example of the boilers stating were there funds in the operating budget, he would recommend the boilers be purchased with those funds rather than utilizing the Maintenance Trust Fund.

Eric Pauer

Questioned where within the budget the cost of dues to the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) is identified, and was informed the portion of that cost attributed to the Brookline School District is within the operating budget. Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator, stated the cost to be approx. \$4,000.

Mr. Pauer questioned if he could zero out that line, thereby prohibiting funds from being utilized for that purpose. Moderator Webb stated that could not be done. Mr. Pauer indicated that has been done in the past. Moderator Webb noted it is a bottom line budget. Attorney Phillips stated the only thing that could be amended is the total amount of the Article. The governing body has the discretion to expend the funds provided there are funds in the line item in the budget. Mr. Pauer stated his intent would be to reduce the budget by \$4,000 so that there would not be funds available to pay the dues to the NHSBA.

MOTION BY ERIC PAUER TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 BY REDUCING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE PROPOSED FY19 OPERATING BUDGET BY FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000) RESULTING IN A REVISED TOTAL OF NINE MILLION SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO DOLLARS (\$9,076,562)
MOTION SECONDED

ON THE QUESTION

Eric Pauer

Stated the NHSBA does do some things for the District, but it is also a lobbying organization that takes on positions that are counter to those of a number of parents. He personally disagrees with almost every position they take. Some of the funds gained through dues are expended for lobbying reasons. For that reason, he does not wish to continue that participation.

Jessica Hartman, 51 Mountain Road

Remarked she trusts what the School Board has put forth for a budget, and stated her opposition to the proposed amendment.

Diane Pauer

Stated her support of the proposed amendment, and remarked she does not believe taxpayer dollars should go towards a lobbying group.

Tom Solon, 2 Shady Rock Road

Stated the NHSBA provides a lot of services to the school boards and community. It provides education for new and existing school board members and includes legal guidance that results in a significant savings in the amount of funds that would otherwise be spent through hourly contracted services. The NHSBA does do lobbying at the State level.

The NHSBA's policy positions are determined by its members at its annual Delegate Assembly. These Resolutions are adopted by NHSBA members and guide the positions NHSBA takes at the Legislature.

Mr. Solon stated reducing the budget by \$4,000 will have no impact on whether the District participates in the NHSBA. Membership is at the SAU level, and that cost is split between the districts. Although passage of the amendment may be a gesture, it will not have the intended affect. It will have harmful effects is you believe the budget is appropriate otherwise.

Moderator Webb called for the vote.

MOTION FAILED

No further discussion was offered on Article 4.

Article 5

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 a sum of up to **\$50,000** to go into fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2018. **The School Board recommends this article 4-0-0.**

Lauren DiGennaro, Vice Chairman, Brookline School Board, stated the purpose of the contingency fund is to cover unanticipated expenses. Examples were provided of bursting pipes, roof leaks, summer move-ins. She remarked, although not required, it has been the practice of the SAU to conduct a Public Hearing prior to voting on expenditures from the fund, and the intent would be to follow that practice.

Roger Ogden

Questioned if the Town must set aside funds for such unexpected expenditures. Moderator Webb responded the Town has a different governing body. One does not fund the other, and they cannot comingle. Yes, the Town has its own contingency funds; it is a creation of Statute that entitles the Town to do that and the School Board to do that, and they have chosen to.

Mr. Ogden commented when he asked the Selectmen why the number was so large the answer he received was the State recommended 5%, and they were putting in 17% because they have to do it for the schools as well. He stated his belief those monies are accessible to the school.

Moderator Webb stated that to be incorrect.

Diane Pauer

Questioned how many contingency funds the Brookline School District has, what their names are, and what they are intended for.

Ms. DiGennaro stated there to be a single contingency fund. She noted each warrant has a different title and purpose. Article 5, is intended to fund the unexpected expenses that arise during the year. If expenses can be covered by the operating budget they are.

Diane Pauer

Stated her question to have been very specific; how many contingency funds does the Brookline School District have?

Ms. DiGennaro stated there to be a single contingency fund, which is addressed in this Article. Warrant Article 6 is for the School Facilities Maintenance Fund and Article 7 the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.

Attorney Phillips stated there to be trust funds, which can only be used for the purpose for which they were established. He stated his belief this year is the first time the District has put forth a Warrant Article for a contingency fund. It is essentially monies put aside to strip down other budget line items.

Tom Solon

Questioned if there is a target the District would like to achieve in terms of a balance in the contingency fund, e.g., is this request the first towards a goal of a larger amount.

Ms. DiGennaro stated her belief, particularly with this being the first year a contingency fund is proposed, that the balance will have to be considered on a yearly basis.

Mr. Maguire spoke to the example provided of utilizing a contingency fund in the instance of unanticipated move-ins over the summer months resulting in the need to hire an additional teacher. Utilizing the contingency fund would allow the District to fund the position without having to take monies away from other planned expenses within the operating budget.

Mr. Haag commented monies in contingency, if not used, are returned to the Town's general fund. Monies in trust funds are not.

Eric Pauer

Questioned, if at the end of FY18 there is a surplus, could the Board simply choose not to return the monies to the Town's general fund or is it required, in the absence of the Article, to return the funds.

Attorney Phillips stated the surplus is returned to the general fund except to the extent that in the prior year there were articles where there may have been approval to move monies from the surplus to one of the trust funds, etc. There is a small period where there are encumbered funds that can be set aside, e.g., an expense occurred in June and is not paid out until July.

Mr. Pauer questioned, if the article is passed, and the entirety of the fund is not expended prior to the end of FY19, does another warrant article have to be put forth for the following year. Attorney Phillips stated that to be the case.

Roger Ogden

Questioned the amount of the anticipated surplus, and was informed, if the proposed warrant articles pass, the remaining balance to be returned to the general fund is approx. \$35,000.

Webb Scales, 49 Dupaw Gould Road

Questioned if this is any more complicated than the Board asking permission to add \$50,000 to the budget.

Crystal Cheyne, Taylor Drive

Stated her concern with the \$50,000 number being sufficient should there be a need to fund an additional teaching position. She questioned if the allocation should be more in the area of \$68,000.

Ms. DiGennaro stated the number can vary. There is the need to look at what can be utilized from the operating budget, and what would be needed from contingency. This is a number the Board wished to start with.

MOTION BY CRYSTAL CHEYNE TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 BY INCREASING THE AMOUNT TO SIXTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$68,000)
MOTION SECONDED

ON THE QUESTION

Mr. Maguire remarked \$50,000 was requested with the belief should a need arise that required \$68,000, an \$18,000 expense against the operating budget would be far easier to absorb than a \$68,000 expense.

Brian Rater

Questioned, and was informed the articles are funded in the order in which they appear.

Webb Scales

Questioned if the voters, at the Deliberative Session, have the power to re-order the articles. Attorney Phillips responded they do not. Mr. Scales commented, now that the voters have adopted SB2, they have lost the ability to reorder the order in which these articles are funded. Attorney Phillips stated that to be correct.

Drew Kellner, 7 Yankee Way

Stated his preference would be to have the trust funds that were established be funded prior to contingency funds.

Moderator Webb called for the vote.

MOTION FAILED

Webb Scales

Questioned, and was informed, in the event the amount of surplus is not sufficient to fund all the articles, they are funded in the order written until surplus is depleted.

Moderator Webb noted the posted Warrant Article begins: "To see if a school district"

MOTION BY TOM SOLON TO AMEND ARTICLE 5, IN THE FIRST SENTENCE, BY REPLACING "A SCHOOL DISTRICT" WITH "THE SCHOOL DISTRICT"
MOTION SECONDED

Moderator Webb called for the vote.

MOTION CARRIED

No further discussion was offered on Article 5.

Article 6

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$50,000** from the June 30 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year to be added to the previously established SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND. **The School Board recommends this article 4-0-0.**

Alison Marsano, Brookline School Board, explained the School Facilities Maintenance Fund is a mechanism to save for long-term/CIP projects. She provided the example of the projected \$41,250 in capital expenditures planned for FY19. She spoke of the aging infrastructure, and the ability to avoid fluctuations in the tax rate by planning/saving for anticipated expenditures over a period. The current balance is \$72,000.

Brendan Denehy

Noted Articles 5 and 7 refer to July 1, 2018. Article 6 reads “July 1 of this year”.

MOTION BY BRENDAN DENEHY TO AMEND ARTICLE 6 BY REPLACING “JULY 1 OF THIS YEAR” WITH “JULY 1, 2018”
MOTION SECONDED

Moderator Webb called for the vote.

MOTION CARRIED

Roger Ogden

Questioned what would be included in Phase I of the playground project, and was informed currently the playground has several deficiencies. A portion must be removed for safety reasons. Phase II would include replacement of the equipment.

Mr. Ogden commented it does not sound as if it is maintenance work.

Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School, stated maintenance would address the audit from the insurance company. Part of the cost is associated with moving some pieces of the structure that are not in compliance with playground restrictions. There is the need to update some bolts, add mulch, fill in cracks, replace structures, etc.

Mr. Ogden spoke of a committee that is discussing a new playground, seeking funding, etc. Principal Molinari stated that to be a Town playground committee, and not related to the school’s playground.

Principal Molinari noted the preschool playground is made up of residential equipment, which must be removed.

No further discussion was offered on Article 6.

Article 7

To see if the school district will vote to to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$25,000** from the June 30 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year to be added to the previously established SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND. No amount to be raised from taxation. **The School Board recommends this article 4-0-0.**

Eris Sarris, Brookline School Board, remarked special education is an area where there do tend to be unanticipated expenses. The District is required to pay the cost of identified needs for students whenever they arise. The purpose of the fund would be to help defray costs of those unanticipated expenses.

The fund was established last year (\$100,000 allocation) and remains at that level. However, it is believed at least a portion of that will be expended in the current school year.

Moderator Webb noted a difference between the language stated and that which was posted, although not a substantive difference.

Webb Scales

Remarked Article 9 is related to accessing future year state and federal special education aid funds, and stated his understanding those funds would be accepted to cover an expense of the prior year. The District ends up with a 2-year lag between when the expenses are incurred and when they are reimbursed.

Amy Rowe, Director, Student Services, responded special education aid (previously catastrophic aid) is based on an individual expense for a district on an individual student that exceeds approx. \$54,000. The District must expend \$54,000 before being reimbursed any funds, and it is a year later.

The trust is based on the occurrence of an unanticipated expense. She provided an example of what Brookline had to face this year; there was such an unanticipated flux of students in the preschool that a separate section had to be opened. There were 7 additional preschool students. The cost of those individual programs will not reach the level of reimbursement.

Director Rowe stated there to be a large number of students that have moved into the District having Individual Education Plans (IEPs) who have had unanticipated costs associated with those IEPs. The expectation is that the District will need to look to the trust to fund some of those expenses.

Mr. Scales commented if looking to receive \$29,000 in special education aid, and given the likelihood the District will look to this fund to cover costs in the current year, a \$25,000 allocation does not seem to be enough. He questioned if the Board could offer a more realistic figure to keep the fund at the level it needs to be should something truly catastrophic come about.

Director Rowe stated revenue from special education aid is estimated based upon known and anticipated program expenses. Application is made in July, and the funds are received in the January timeframe.

Mr. Scales questioned the amount believed to be needed from the fund in the current school year. Ms. Sarris stated the District does not anticipate depleting the existing balance. What is known is there is a likelihood a portion of the balance will have to be utilized. Director Rowe added just in the past week in both Hollis and

Brookline she has been made aware of families moving in with students having IEPs. She is unaware of what those needed services will be. Those costs were not anticipated when the proposed budget was created.

Mr. Scales commented this trust was funded last year with the idea of costs associated with an out-of-district placement, which could be \$100,000± for a single student. If the balance of the fund is reduced during this school year, that leaves the District vulnerable to that 1 student coming in. Director Rowe stated that to be correct. Mr. Scales questioned if the proposed allocation of \$25,000 is sufficient to cover what may be needed for the current year. Director Rowe stated she feels comfortable the \$25,000 requested will cover what the District will expend in the current school year.

No further discussion was offered on Article 7.

Article 8

Shall the voters of the Brookline School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$1,577,723 for the forthcoming fiscal year in which **\$279,152** is assigned to the school budget of this school district? This year's adjusted budget of \$1,543,057 with \$274,158 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 article 4-0-0.**

Eric Pauer

Questioned if additional personnel mentioned were hired this year or would be hired next year, and, if so, how that works with a default budget.

The School Administrative Unit is the business and administrative offices. The proposed budget encompasses 14 individuals. There are four individuals that run the H.R. and all the business functions. Between the four entities, SAU 41 is a \$50 million corporation with six buildings, which is overseen by 4 individuals. Superintendent Corey stated the request to be for an additional position.

It was noted the language refers to an adjusted budget not a default budget. The SAU falls under a different category of an adjusted budget, which would include the position.

The Hollis School District owns the building the SAU operates out of. The building is approx. 110 years of age, and is adequate at best (2 bathrooms serving 14 people). Increases have been requested to cover the increase in rental rates as well as an increase in the current 6 hours/week for custodial services.

Mr. Pauer stated with the adjusted budget the requested additional personnel would be added unlike what occurs with a default budget. Superintendent Corey stated that to be correct.

Superintendent Corey reiterated, for the article to pass, it requires a majority of the collective votes of all three school districts.

No further discussion was offered on Article 8.

Article 9

To see if the school district voters will authorize the Brookline School District to access future year state and federal special education aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations.

Mr. Maguire stated passage would allow the district to access special education aid funds.

No further discussion was offered on Article 9.

Article 10

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

Jill Aitken, 10 Potanipo Hill Road

Commented when voting on all the Warrant Articles it is important to understand the work that the School Board and Administration has put in. They try to walk that fine line of being frugal with taxpayer money while trying to anticipate some of the unexpected things that may arise as well as maintenance issues that can be planned for, etc.

Roger Ogden

Asked for confirmation the wording changes that were approved for some of the Articles would be made prior to consideration of a vote.

Moderator Webb stated the amended language would appear on the ballot. He questioned if the amended versions would be available for review elsewhere. It was stated the amended language would appear in the Town Report.

Mr. Ogden noted the Warrant Articles indicate the School Board's support, but do not identify the Finance Committee's position.

No further discussion was offered on Article 10.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ERIC PAUER TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The February 5, 2018 first session (Deliberative) of the Annual Meeting of the Brookline School District was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Matthew Maguire, Chairman, Brookline School Board

Date: _____

Andrew Corey, Superintendent, SAU41

Date: _____