

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD**  
**APRIL 17, 2018**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Matthew Maguire, Chairman, presided:

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

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance:                        Andrew Corey, Superintendent  
   Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy  
   Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School

---

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Superintendent Corey stated the 2018-2019 school calendar approved by the Board at its March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, was presented to and approved by the Hollis and COOP School Boards.

The Brookline School Board had requested both voting dates for the coming year be identified as Professional Development days so that students would not be present while voting is occurring in the buildings. The requested change was made.

The calendar identifies the start date for teachers as August 29<sup>th</sup>, and if all goes as planned, June 20<sup>th</sup> as the last day of school for students (includes 5 snow days). The date for graduation in the COOP School District is June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The calendar will be sent to the building administrators to be distributed to parents during open houses, parent/teacher conferences, etc.

The last day of the current school year will be Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> (full day).

Superintendent Corey stated Lauren DiGennaro has accepted the position of Assistant Principal of Student Services at the Hollis Brookline High School. As a result, she will resign from her position on the Board.

Policy [BBBE](#) – Unexpired Term Fulfillment, reads in part: “Whenever a vacancy shall occur on the School Board, the Board shall fill the vacancy by appointing a successor to serve until the next annual meeting of the district, when the remaining term of the vacancy will be filled by election.”

Superintendent Corey recommended the Board post the vacancy this week and close it on Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>. The vacancy would be posted on both the SAU and BSB websites, in each of the buildings, and in weekly newsletters.

Anyone having interest in serving in this capacity would be asked to email the Chairman and the Superintendent. The Board would invite those who have expressed an interest to attend its May meeting during which they would be allowed the opportunity to share with the Board and public why they are interested in serving and allow the Board to pose questions.

Superintendent Corey and Chairman Maguire would gather from Board members questions the Board would like the candidates asked so that the interview process could be conducted in an expedient manner. Understanding the number of candidates and questions in advance of the meeting will also help determine the length of time that should be set aside for the interview process.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Board would contact the individual the Board wishes to appoint. The newly appointed Board member would be sworn in, provided an Orientation, given a tour of the facilities, and seated in time for the Board's June meeting.

Superintendent Corey reiterated the individual would be appointed to the Board until the next Annual Meeting at which point the voters would determine who will fill that seat for the remainder of the term. A question often asked is the level of commitment required, e.g., number of hours. The amount of time required varies depending on how involved the individual wishes to become, e.g., whether an individual chooses to sit on sub-committees, etc. Chairman Maguire commented there are many who do not realize, as a member of a District School Board, you are also a member of the SAU 41 Governing Board, which meets quarterly.

Superintendent Corey stated his belief the commitment in terms of preparation for and attendance at meetings is about 5 hours/month.

***The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the recommended process.***

Chairman Maguire congratulated Ms. DiGennaro on her new position and thanked her for her service to the Board and the community-at-large.

Ms. DiGennaro thanked the Board and Administration commenting it has been an amazing experience, and she has valued all the work the Board has done.

PUBLIC INPUT - None

### PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Principals Molinari and Dobe highlighted some of the items included in the Principals Report included with the [agenda](#) packet.

Principal Dobe commented the infrastructure grant projects introduced at the Board's last meeting are anticipated to be undertaken this spring, summer, and perhaps early fall.

Regarding the State-wide testing program, students at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy (CSDA) will be taking the test the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> week in May. Each grade level will have a week (6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and then 4<sup>th</sup>). The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking a science portion, which is different than in years past.

Regarding anticipated grade/team organization for the 2018-2019 school year, at the Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS), a teacher from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be moving to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and there will be some

reconfiguration of Case Managers (what grade level they are sharing). At CSDA, Tim Putnam will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He has taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the past and is very strong as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. There will be a team of 4 teachers at grade 6 and 4 teachers at grade 4. There is a vacancy in grade 5. The position has been posted.

Mr. Haag requested an updated organizational chart be provided once the new position is filled.

## DISCUSSION

- Kindergarten

Principal Molinari stated the half-day kindergarten students have missed 15 days of school due to seven snow days and eight delays. Proposed is for these students to make up some of the time by attending the last week of school full day with dismissal for them at 2:30 p.m. Allowing half-day students to attend the final week of school as full day students, will also ease the transition to a full day when attending first grade.

He noted this practice started last year, was well received by teachers and was found to be helpful for students to develop that stamina. They also got to participate in events such as step-up day, field day, etc. He requested permission from the Board to allow that to happen.

### *The Board supported the request.*

Principal Molinari noted the total number of Kindergarten students for 2018-2019 has changed since reported. The current total is 61; 38 full-day, 21 half-day, 2 undecided.

The Board had requested feedback about the half-day enrollment. Principal Molinari stated there to be some families that simply prefer the child(ren) enrolled in a half-day program and others that do so because of the cost of tuition (\$375/mo.).

He proposed the establishment of a Kindergarten steering committee to investigate the possibility of moving to a full-day program. He suggested the committee consist of a Board member, member of the Administration, teacher, parent, etc. The committee would explore logistics, curriculum, staffing, research the process utilized by area schools when moving to a full-day program, etc. Chairman Maguire questioned if the intent would be for the committee to forward a recommendation to either support or not support such a move or if the intent is more in line with information gathering. Principal Molinari stated the intent would be to provide the information to the Board to determine if it is feasible to move in that direction.

Superintendent Corey stated his belief the intent would be to bring back a recommendation. Principal Molinari wished to utilize the upcoming months to undertake this endeavor so that by the time budget season comes around again, the District will have a placeholder, and could look at the larger picture. The Board could decide to include the cost in the operating budget or put it out as a separate Warrant Article. A number of districts are examining such a move and others are making that move. The other issue that is coming into play that needs to be examined further is the \$1,100/student the State is providing. Principal Molinari would run the steering committee and would have representation from all areas. The committee would go through a process like what the Hollis School District utilized. The expectation would be that information would begin being funneled to the Board in the August/September timeframe. What was done in Hollis was a separate Warrant Article to ensure, if moving forward, that it is what the community desires.

Vice Chairman Haag volunteered to serve as the Board representative.

Superintendent Corey stated information relative to the committee Charge and membership would be brought back to the Board at its May meeting. They will look to conduct public forums to inform the community of the discussion and seek feedback.

Principal Dobe spoke of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) conference, which was attended by a team of the District's teachers at the end of March. The ASCD is a worldwide educational association in professional development and improvement of education. They hosted the conference in Boston. There were a lot of takeaways from that conference. He stated the desire to introduce the Board to that more at the next meeting. The largest takeaway was the investment the ASCD has made in their whole child education approach, which is something our District has embraced for quite some time.

Principal Dobe spoke of the committee focused on math continuum K-12 and the presentation the Assistant Superintendent provided at the Board's December 19, 2017 meeting. As part of the presentation, she addressed the committee's work to create and formalize programs for students who learn mathematics at different rates. To create an accelerated math program and provide additional structure and transparency about student access to that, we now have math placement exams. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in participating, with parental permission, took the grade 6 to grade 7 math placement exam the previous week and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will take their grade 5 to grade 6 math placement exam at the end of May.

Superintendent Corey stated Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator, would bring before the Board, at its May meeting, information on funding sources for the 20% match for the safety grants received by the District.

Principal Dobe provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Winter Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) results (can be viewed [here](#) beginning at tape counter 29:40).

The presentation provided links to the NWEA MAP Growth website wherein a great deal of information can be found that explains how the test works and what it tells us about student learning and informs teacher instruction.

Principal Dobe displayed several charts, the first of which depicted percentage of students at or above the norm grade level mean. Through the norm study the NWEA has conducted, they have a mean or average score for students at the grade level at that time of year. The chart shows the percentage of students that were at or above grade level mean in the fall and again in the winter. The charts and percentages represent a particular cohort (follow students from one grade to another).

The large takeaway is there is an exceptional grade 4 cohort. The strongest gain was in grade 5 from the fall to the spring. At this time, in Reading, CSDA has 85% of its students meeting or exceeding the norm.

In mathematics the chart depicts 85% of students meeting or exceeding the norm. The biggest gain is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics. Principal Dobe commented on the additional things that were done this year to support growth of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The desired gains have been achieved.

Principal Dobe noted charts that were provided identifying growth for students against what is projected. In reading, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students did not reach the projected gain; however, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students did.

In mathematics, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students met the projected gain, 5<sup>th</sup> grade did not, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students had a spectacular gain.

Principal Dobe spoke of the big takeaways from the test scores, the likely contributing factors, and next steps for reading and mathematics instruction.

He noted, a student who remains within the norm on this test, is making good gains. Standards get increasingly complex and the norms continue to rise. If a student is staying on par across all those years, your school and your community are remarkable, and things are working. The District has exceeded that. Then you get into the realm of exponential growth.

Principal Dobe commented with the commitment to math in recent years, we now have reading and math performance balanced. There had always been a significant inequity and there typically is in elementary school; reading performance outshines math performance. That was true here. The District has made up ground in mathematics to the point where the scores are balanced between reading, language arts, and mathematics. Cohort gains are strong (exponential growth).

Based on this one snapshot, the school-wide percentile is 92<sup>nd</sup> in mathematics and 94<sup>th</sup> in reading.

Principal Dobe spoke of the District's goal to focus on the population of students that had difficulty meeting with success. The goal was to create systems and supports that would reduce the number of students in those lower performing categories, and they have been able to do that. As the District has continued to refine its programming for students with faster rates of learning, those students continue to progress.

Principal Dobe commented on the lower-class sizes and the effectiveness of that, which he described as profound. He also commented on other contributing factors such as school culture, greater personalized learning, and enrichment for all.

Moving forward what is looked for is continuous improvement. There is the need to find ways to ensure the District has an effective Response to Intervention (Rtl) for students at all grade levels.

Ms. Marsano commented on the reduction in score for 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading and questioned if that is a reflection of the emphasis that was placed on math. Principal Dobe stated his belief it is. He commented the students are still performing very well at high levels just relatively not as much, and it is not consistent with what the District has typically seen for that grade level.

Ms. Marsano questioned if there would be small groups again next year. Principal Dobe stated time would be taken to evaluate the cohort.

Ms. Sarris thanked Principal Dobe for the information and the way in which it was presented. She spoke of being pleased to be able to truly get a sense of how our students are performing on these tests.

Principal Dobe noted the teachers have many other reports they use for their purposes in their PLC or team level grade discussions about student growth; what is working, how students are responding, and what we can do to improve that. There is another whole chapter to the NWEA and is what teachers use to inform their instruction.

Ms. Sarris remarked there was a time when it felt as if the curriculum was being driven by need for students to understand how to take tests. Given this success the District can feel comfortable that our teachers, in their creative ways, are providing the instruction that allows for success on the test without having to drill test taking practices. Principal Dobe stated that to be the case. It is said that smart kids test well. The District wants to help students develop well as strong individuals.

Superintendent Corey informed the Board Beth Penney and Principals Dobe and Molinari recently applied for a State Grant seeking to create an outdoor classroom at RMMS and provide a variety of professional development opportunities around STEM and Mathematics.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brookline School Board – **Organizational Meeting** ..... March 27, 2018

**MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

At its March meeting, the Board requested clarification of the name of one of the public speakers noted in the minutes of the January 11, 2018 Public Hearing. Since that time, the information has been provided and the draft minutes updated and posted to the District’s website.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 11, 2018**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER DIGENNARO**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

Brookline School Board – **Public Hearing** ..... January 11, 2018

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-1**

*Member Sarris Abstained*

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (a) THE DISMISSAL, PROMOTION OR COMPENSATION OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE AND RSA 91-A:3, II (c) TO DISCUSS A MATTER, WHICH IF DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, WOULD LIKELY AFFECT ADVERSELY THE REPUTATION OF A PERSON, OTHER THAN A MEMBER OF THE BODY OR AGENCY ITSELF**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER DIGENNARO**

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

Yea: Matthew Maguire, Kenneth Haag, Lauren DiGennaro, Erin Sarris, Alison Marsano  
5  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*The Board went into non-public session at 6:57 p.m.*

*The Board came out of non-public session at 7:19 p.m.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMPENSATION**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER DIGENNARO**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The April 17, 2018 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_