

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
APRIL 1, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES**

The Organizational Meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 4:02 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School Library.

Andrew Corey, Superintendent, presided:

Board Members Participating Elect.:      Kenneth Haag  
Rebecca Howie  
Karen Jew  
Alison Marsano  
Erin Sarris

Members of the Board Absent:

Also Participating Electronically:      Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent  
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy  
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School

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Superintendent Corey called the Organizational Meeting of the Brookline School Board to order.

In accordance with [NH RSA 91-A:2, III \(b\)](#), Superintendent Corey stated, due to the COVID-19 / Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Board members and members of the Administration were participating via Zoom. Each member of the Board was asked to state, for the record, where they were, why their attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the proceedings.

**Member Marsano**

Stated she was participating electronically from home, her attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and she could hear the proceedings.

**Member Howie**

Stated she was participating electronically from home, her attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and she could hear the proceedings.

**Member Haag**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, his attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and he could hear the proceedings.

**Member Jew**

Stated she was participating electronically from home, her attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and she could hear the proceedings.

**Member Sarris**

Stated she was participating electronically from home, her attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and she could hear the proceedings.

Superintendent Corey acknowledged all members participating electronically could be heard, and reminded the Board all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

**ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Superintendent Corey called for nominations for Chairman of the Brookline School Board for the 2020-2021 term.

**MEMBER SARRIS NOMINATED MEMBER HAAG  
SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

**VOTE ON ELECTION OF KEN HAAG TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE  
BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM**

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

Yea: Alison Marsano, Karen Jew, Erin Sarris, Rebecca Howie, Kenneth Haag  
5  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Superintendent Corey declared Ken Haag Chairman of the Brookline School Board for the 2020-2021 term.*

At the request of the Chairman, Superintendent Corey continued presiding over the meeting.

Superintendent Corey called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Brookline School Board for the 2020-2021 term.

**MEMBER HAAG NOMINATED MEMBER SARRIS  
SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**

**VOTE ON ELECTION OF ERIN SARRIS TO THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE  
BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM**

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

Yea: Alison Marsano, Karen Jew, Erin Sarris, Rebecca Howie, Kenneth Haag  
5  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Superintendent Corey declared Erin Sarris Vice-Chairman of the Brookline School Board for the 2020-2021 term.*

Superintendent Corey called for nominations for Secretary of the Brookline School Board for the 2020-2021 term.

**MEMBER MARSANO NOMINATED MEMBER JEW  
SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

**VOTE ON ELECTION OF KAREN JEW TO THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE  
BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM**

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

Yea: Alison Marsano, Karen Jew, Erin Sarris, Rebecca Howie, Kenneth Haag  
5  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Superintendent Corey declared Karen Jew Secretary of the Brookline School Board for the 2020-2021 term.*

*Noted was that the signers of the Manifests would remain unchanged for the 2020-2021 term.*

### **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Items that would normally be addressed during this meeting, which include acceptance of prior meeting minutes, policies BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics and DFA - Investment, and committee assignments were postponed.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Superintendent Corey noted capabilities within Zoom to permit public input. Assistant Superintendent Thompson indicated there were public participants connected. Understanding there was the opportunity for Assistant Superintendent Thompson, as the host of the electronic meeting, to view the desire of public participants to speak and manage that ability, the Board expressed the desire for public comment to be accepted.

## **DISCUSSION**

- COVID-19

Superintendent Corey remarked, as an educational group, there are a minimum of 3 Zoom meetings each week. Some are directly related to Superintendent type discussions and others around student services. The Governor has extended remote learning until May 4<sup>th</sup>. It is not clear if that is the end date or if it will extend further. That should be better understood over the coming weeks. There are no decisions relative to vacation at this time. The Administration will confer with the boards, and will likely conduct another meeting to discuss that specific topic. There are two trains of thought regarding April vacation; one is the belief students and families may need a break; particularly if remote learning continues through the end of June. The other is perhaps we would be better off to push through, since travel would not be an option, and end the school year earlier.

From a Board point of view, there are a few pieces the Administration continues to research. Typically when a school is closed during vacation, we are not able to serve meals. Guidance is being sought from the State on that as we are serving approximately 50 families from the two communities. There are lunches and breakfast being served at the Richard Maghakian Middle School and the Hollis Brookline Middle School on Mondays and Wednesdays. He encouraged anyone in need of services like that to reach out to Amy Cassidy, Food Service Director.

With regard to Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), the District is contracted with families and providers for services. Were we to end the school year early, we would need to provide more services as we enter the Extended School Year (ESY). The ESY is likely to require us to offer more services as there are certain IEPs (very few) that are not being met. It is a very complex discussion around vacation. The decision will not be made alone; the Administration will visit the decision with the community and Board to gather input.

- Remote Learning

Superintendent Corey stated a survey would be provided to all families across the SAU the following day. The desire is to gather feedback on what has and has not been successful with remote learning, e.g., what is sought in terms of relief. From internal discussions, they are looking to establish more grade level consistency from classroom to classroom and teacher to teacher. They are looking at the level and pace of work. We are competing with bandwidth in our homes; number of people trying to accomplish a number of tasks all at the same time. We are looking to narrow in on the content that we want to make essential to this remote learning component. From the feedback we have received from families, it is going well. March 13<sup>th</sup> was the last day we were in school. It is really our 11<sup>th</sup> day on remote learning.

There will be no state testing. This also factors in the length of our school year. Typically, at an elementary level, we would be looking at 3-4 days to do state testing. We will be gaining that instructional time back. The Administration will look at the end of the school year and determine a date to suggest to the Board for the last day of school.

With regard to transportation during this period, the Administration is in negotiations with the bus company, reviewing contracts and how that is effected by the Federal stimulus package as there will be funding that school districts will be eligible for. However, to be eligible for that we would have to meet certain guidelines.

As was discussed in regard to students with IEPs, if we are unable to deliver services during the school year, we would have to deliver those through compensatory services. This summer and even into next fall, we could incur costs with regard to delivery of those services. We have to balance what we are doing in terms of decision making around staffing, transportation, etc. to potentially not losing that stimulus funding as it may be needed to offset some of the cost of compensatory services.

Superintendent Corey expressed his gratitude to Assistant Superintendent Thompson and Amy Rowe, Student Services Transition Coordinator, for their dedication to our special education students. They have reorganized that department into a remote department very quickly and efficiently holding over 100 Zoom meetings with families, to reconstruct IEPs and ensure we can provide the needed services.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug has been spearheading everything and anything related to curriculum and remote learning. Our staff is doing tremendous work, and her leadership has been outstanding.

Principals Dobe and Molinari have moved into virtual Principals. They are attending Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, doing faculty meetings, visiting classrooms, monitoring sites, working closely with our nurses and guidance counselors so that if a family is not responding or participating for a couple of days, we are reaching out to them to make sure that they are okay, and see if there is a need for more technology, etc. We have done a host of non-educational functions; delivering water to families, assisting families that have had emergencies occur, etc.

The community has been overwhelmingly supportive. He commended the community for their efforts at the food pantry. He spoke of discussions with Tad Putney, Town Administrator, who informed him the food pantry is well stocked. That is a direct result of community efforts. To go along with that is the volunteer organization N68, which is providing food and meals for people over the weekend. They took care of about 50 families last weekend. The Administration participates as members of the town emergency management teams, and are kept up to date on information.

Eric Pauer, 12 Westview Drive

Spoke of a vote of the Board at its last meeting to support the Superintendent's recommendation to pay the bus drivers for the time they were out of work until April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and questioned why they would not simply file for unemployment. He questioned how gainfully employed support staff being paid now are, and what they are doing during this time of remote learning.

Assistant Superintendent Thompson responded the support staff is really doing the same work they would be doing were we in a physical environment; they are supporting the learning of students. They are working with case managers, classroom teachers, zooming with students, calling students and their families, participating through email, etc. During the last few weeks, while the District was getting IEP meetings set up, and there have been hundreds in the last two weeks, the para-professionals were doing a lot of training that we typically cannot get to as there simply is not enough time in the day when they are supporting students. This includes safety training, RBT training; training to be able to work with students with challenging behaviors, CPI training. Now we have moved out of the phase of having them do professional development, and they are now working with students. They are gainfully employed, and are being very creative about how they are providing support to students. In fact, they are actually providing support to students who are not necessarily on IEPs, who are just struggling as we move into a remote environment. They have been very flexible with us, and are doing some really good work.

Superintendent Corey remarked in regard to the transportation question, what the Board did last month is provide him the authority to negotiate with the bus company. Kelly Seeley, Business Administration, and he have reached out to the bus company and are in negotiations. We have not come to a settlement and have not made a payment for this coming month. We also want to see how that plays into the stimulus package. The bus company is a contractor of ours and there are certain stipulations that have to be met to qualify for the reimbursement for the expenses during this time of emergency. He remarked he does not have a clear answer. That is in process. Once additional information is available, the Board will be updated.

Matthew Mailloux, Secretary, Brookline Finance Committee

Introduced himself to the Board, and commented on looking forward to assisting the Board in whatever way he can in his new role.

Superintendent Corey noted Mr. Pauer put forth a question regarding the comfort level around utilizing Zoom for the recount scheduled for this Friday morning at Town Hall. Superintendent Corey suggested it to be an issue he could discuss with legal counsel. He questioned the will of the Board.

Asked about the logistics of doing it that way, Superintendent Corey stated his understanding that the Board would be present when ballots come into question. The Moderator would provide the individuals who would do the recount. He believes it could be streamed through Brookline cable. With the ability to do things remotely, it could be that Zoom would be an avenue that could be used. Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of being open to the idea. Superintendent Corey stated he would communicate with legal counsel and all interested parties to see if that could be coordinated.

- Brookline School District Calendar 2020-2021

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted Labor Day is extraordinarily late, but we are following the traditional calendar in that teachers return the Monday prior to Labor Day. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are professional development days with school beginning on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. School would be in session for Thursday and Friday followed by Labor Day weekend. Professional development days are proposed for September 8<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup> due to voting occurring at the high school and the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

There are no professional development days proposed for the February/March timeframe (moved to September). The last day of school is proposed for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, which would include 5 snow days. The last teacher day would be Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. That would provide for the typical 178 school days and 185 working days for teachers.

When we open school and the Superintendent presents to everyone, most teachers are really thinking about what needs to be done to prepare their classrooms. This would allow teachers to have the 3 days of prepping their classrooms for the arrival of students. Once the classroom is set, they have met their students and have figured out the first couple of days, then they can focus on the District initiatives/goals, and appropriately timed professional development. There are some functional advantages to it, it is just an awkward start of the school year.

Member Marsano spoke of the late start and end dates. She questioned if the Board has ever considered a slightly longer day and moving to number of hours in a school year as opposed to number of days, and

what the process would be to make such a change. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated that to be tied directly to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), which dictates number of days, etc. We do have a very long day and far more hours than are needed according to the minimum standards for the State. But, looking at the start of the school year, that is also dictated by one of the district's CBAs. We have talked about snow days and, now that we have gone with remote learning, whether there is the potential to do some sort of remote learning in lieu of a snow day and making it up in June. Right now we have quite a few students with loaned Chromebooks. We would have to figure out what that would look like in the middle of a school year on a snow day. We certainly have a better sense of how we could manage that. At the end of the day, Superintendent Corey is the one who determines the very last day of school and how many snow days we need to make up.

Superintendent Corey commented we have been talking about this concept for snow days, but he would also like to look at this concept potentially for election days. Teachers are going to know students are home. If all of a sudden we picked up a day in November for an election and did away with snow days by going with remote learning, the last day would likely be in the middle of June, which is much more acceptable. We have never looked at our calendar from just an hourly or day perspective, we have looked at it from a curriculum perspective. We feel that it is appropriate for what we want to deliver as a curriculum. Again, if we were replacing time off with remote learning, he would be very comfortable getting out in the middle of June. That is definitely something that we as a SAU can take a look at and come back to the Board in the future to discuss.

Member Marsano stated a desire to look into that, and commented she has the sense the community would be willing to come together to, through private donations, to accommodate students who are in need of Chromebooks.

Member Jew spoke of uncertainty regarding the possibility of mail in ballots for the upcoming election noting we don't really know what the election will look like. Superintendent Corey stated agreement noting that is a decision that can be delayed. Vice Chairman Sarris stated the desire to view data, based on the resources the community has, on what school-day participation looks like with remote learning. If we hit a certain benchmark of participation on any given day, even based on the community members that we know have access to resources, is it sufficient to be considered a school day. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the SAU is currently tracking participation for attendance purposes. There is a high percentage of participation. There are a handful of students that the District is reaching out to individually and working with.

While she would agree we would still meet the threshold, that does not sit well to continue despite knowing that we have a group that cannot participate. It is certainly something to continue to look through and perhaps we have a computer loan out process in place.

Chairman Haag stated agreement it is something to consider perhaps for election days. It could provide for some more consistency in months like November. Superintendent Corey commented it would give teachers a known date that we are preparing for and would allow us to prepare when we are aware of major storms coming. Because it wouldn't be a continuous online piece, he believes it would work very well.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO APPROVE THE 2020-2021 BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR, AS PRESENTED  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

**ON THE QUESTION**

Chairman Haag questioned, and was informed there would remain flexibility with November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Superintendent Corey noted he would need to gain permission from the Commissioner and Department of Education for remote learning; however, he believes the District will be able to prove its success, and it would allow us to continually practice this so that should something ever occur again we would be prepared.

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

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

5

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Superintendent Corey informed the Board, during the Town Meeting there was agreement that the Town and School District would put together a study group to look at a formal budget committee. A notice was received from the Selectboard looking for a School Board representative to be named. He will speak with the Chairman offline regarding an appointment.

**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 HOWIE**

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

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

5

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*The Board went into non-public session at 4:48 p.m.*

*The Board came out of non-public session at 5:10 p.m.*

**DELIBERATIONS**

- To see action the Board will take regarding the Administration's recommendations regarding teacher nominations.



**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT’S  
RECOMMENDATION FOR TEACHER NOMINATIONS, AS PRESENTED  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**

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

Yea: Alison Marsano, Karen Jew, Erin Sarris, Rebecca Howie, Kenneth Haag  
5  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ADJOURN  
SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

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

Yea: Alison Marsano, Karen Jew, Erin Sarris, Rebecca Howie, Kenneth Haag  
5  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

*The Organizational Meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.*

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

## Brookline School District

### Recommendations for Contract Renewals 2020-2021

**Annual Contracts:** Please indicate if professional was on continuing contract in another NH District by putting (CC) next to their name. If so, they move from non-continuing contract to continuing contract when advancing from Year 3 to Year 4.

| Year 2 Professional   | Grade              | Year 3 Professional     | Grade                   |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sally Barnett         | 0.5 Reading        | Nichole Palmer          | Grade 5                 |
| Megan Dever           | 0.5 Grade K        | Elizabeth Bucknam       | Reading Specialist -0.6 |
| Corrine Lozowski      | Grade 2            |                         |                         |
| Suzanne Tetrault (CC) | Digital Specialist |                         |                         |
|                       |                    |                         |                         |
| Year 4 Professional   | Grade              | Year 5 Professional     | Grade                   |
| Shawna Cutler         | Preschool          | Kimberly Frye           | ESOL                    |
| Karen Oppelaar        | Case Manager       | Kristin Trent           | Grade 3                 |
| Nicole Machado        | Grade 3            | Jill Robinson           | Grade 2                 |
| Amanda Finigan        | Case Manager       | Jessica Visinski-Bumpus | School Counselor        |
| Shelley Kosek         | Grade 4            | Hanna Furbush           | Grade 6                 |
| Lauren Melia          | Reading Specialist | Brittany Hicks          | Grade 6                 |

| Annual to Continuing | Grade K             | Grade 1         | Grade 2             |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Elizabeth Penney     | Lauren Arruda       | Lisa Boucher    | Shannon Dwyer       |
|                      | Emily Ekis          | Sacha Doucet    | Kathleen Milewski   |
|                      | Allie Hills Everett | Patricia Waller | Jessica O. Laflamme |
|                      |                     |                 |                     |
| Grade 3              | Grade 4             | Grade 5         | Grade 6             |
| Lisa Talcott         | Deborah Calkin      | Melissa Leafe   | Gregory Snoke       |
|                      | Lisa Lindsay        | Jane Gauthier   | Tim Putnam          |
|                      | Joseph Vitulli      | Renelle Stone   |                     |

| Specialists                     |                                   |                                |                                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kimberly Beaudette<br>(Reading) | Deborah Bowry<br>(Counselor)      | Maureen Lorden<br>(Nurse)      | Cathy Burbee Farwell<br>(Nurse) |
| Kristine Murray<br>(Library)    | Barbara Sobol<br>(Library)        | Lisa Winters (Math)            | Karin Pillion (Math)            |
| Shannon Sinclair<br>(0.6 Music) | Christina Catino<br>(0.6 - Music) | Monica Boisvert (0.6 - Art)    | Megan Gagne (0.6 - Art)         |
|                                 | Tammy Van Dyke<br>(P.E./Health)   | Steven Martus<br>(P.E./Health) |                                 |
| Case Managers                   |                                   |                                |                                 |
| Amanda Bent                     | Sarah Griffin                     | Jaime Matylewski               | Stephanie Rogers                |