

BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD

DECEMBER 16, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:01 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Kenneth Haag, Chairman, presided:

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

Members of the School Board Absent:

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School
Matthew Mailloux, Secretary, Finance Cmte. (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)

Superintendent Corey noted, although advertised as a joint meeting with the Finance Committee, due to other commitments, the Finance Committee was unable to attend. Questions were forwarded for which feedback was sought. Overall, the comments provided were very positive. The committee was appreciative of the budget process.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - None

CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS

Superintendent Corey spoke of the conflict waiver letter provided the Board (copy attached). The letter is in relation to a discussion around the SAU’s rental of the property at 4 Lund Lane. The potential for conflict is derived by the fact that the Hollis School District is the owner of the property, every member of the Hollis School Board is also a member of the SAU 41 Governing Board, the SAU 41 Governing Board Chairman is also a member of the Brookline School Board, and the Superintendent serves multiple districts. The waiver is a means of providing notice to the public of the inherent conflicts should discussions take place around a long-term lease. The Hollis District is utilizing Thomas Closson, Esq. for representation and the SAU is represented by James O’Shaughnessy, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brookline School Board [November 18, 2020](#)

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 7, Line 7; replace “note” with “noted”
- Page 9, Line 31; insert “questioned” before “if the district”
- Page 10, Line 40; delete “which is” before “required”
- Page 12, Line 5; replace “question” with “questioned”

**MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO APPROVE, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

PUBLIC INPUT - None

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS) stated report cards would be sent out on Friday and be available through the SwiftK12 Parent Portal. Directions on how to access that will be included in the newsletter.

December 21st and 22nd are fully remote dates. December 23rd is a teacher collaboration day and no school for students. December 24th through January 1st is the holiday break. January 4th through the 15th will be remote learning days. January 18th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Earlier in the day the 5th grade class at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy (CSDA) participated in a virtual field trip to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center Science Museum, which was well received.

Each year CSDA and RMMS partner with the SHARE organization. This year RMMS collected pajamas and CSDA socks (178 pairs).

The food pantry is running a fun challenge around donations to support the pantry, and contributions have been overflowing.

The PTO recently conducted a direct donation fundraiser, which raised \$6,500. A virtual book fair was conducted raising nearly \$3,700 between the two schools. Principal Molinaro expressed his gratitude to the PTO for finding a means to ensure fundraising efforts and the normalcy of events like the book fair continue.

The PTO purchased boot trays for CSDA so that students can store winter boots outside of the classroom. They wrote a letter to Sterilite who was extremely generous in their donation of 300 laundry baskets to the students. Every in-person student has a laundry basket to store their winter gear.

Chairman Haag commented on the light display and his hope that becomes a tradition. Principal Molinari commented that came out of a discussion the Brookline Women's Club, the PTO, Superintendent Corey, and he had a while ago. They worked to get the neighborhoods and businesses involved. The event was well done.

DISCUSSION

- COVID 19 Update

Things continue to go well within the school system. Superintendent Corey expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in the efforts that have made that happen. The children have been absolutely fabulous. There have been no issues around mask wearing or other issues that were of concern back in August.

The Administration participates in the weekly calls with Dr. Benjamin Chan, State Epidemiologist, NH DHHS. Assistant Superintendent Thompson has done a great job of working with the nurses on the protocols that are utilized when receiving a call of a positive test or concern. Those protocols continue to change/be adapted.

There is more of the contact tracing being done through the offices of our nurses because the DHHS has become overwhelmed. Each of our school administrators has a folder that includes information on every teacher's seating chart, the cafeteria seating chart; all of the essential pieces of information for contact tracing.

That protocol was developed in-house by Principal Molinari being the one to address the first case. Once he became aware of what the DHHS wanted for information, he set up a folder that was shared with all six Principals, and has become our regular protocol. A very good job has been done of minimizing the number of cases in school. The district is not aware of any school spread. There has been community spread. He spoke of the invaluable support of the parents. He commended Cathy Burgee Farwell, RN at RMMS, and Maureen Lorden, RN at CSDA, noting the amount of time (day, evening, and weekends) they have put in and their efforts that go above and beyond for students and staff.

Superintendent Corey spoke of the cleaning procedures in place. At the start of the year, when experiencing staffing issues, the district utilized a janitorial service for assistance. That organization has focused their attention on the bathrooms. They are utilized at RMMS as CSDA is fully staffed.

Every room is sprayed on a nightly basis. Accessory rooms, e.g., nurse's office, office space, are either sprayed in the evening or the morning (matter of custodial shifts). Superintendent Corey commended Lance Finamore, Facilities Director, who not only developed the schedules, but also performed custodial duties when we were short staffed.

Noted was that cleaning efforts are focused on disinfecting. Some areas such as emptying of barrels, dusting, etc. have had to become less of a priority. The product used for disinfecting leaves a film when mopping the floors. Some questions were raised by staff regarding the appearance of the floors (don't look as clean). Director Finamore commented during his morning walk-thru he knows the floors have been cleaned because they have that film.

Superintendent Corey remarked, we know the buildings are clean. We are human and mistakes do occur. A teacher who worked fully remote from inside the building, and is the only one to utilize the room, noted the room went a number of days without being cleaned because the custodians did not realize that she was in there. That has been corrected.

Chairman Haag thanked the Superintendent for feedback around custodial staff and being fully staffed. He stressed the district is following DHHS protocols.

Vice Chairman Sarris questioned how remote class enrollment is impacted by the students that have been in and out/quarantined. Superintendent Corey responded many parents, when their child is not feeling great, have opted for the Google classroom option as well as the teacher zooming with the student(s) on an individual basis. In most instances it is not a permanent switch. Enrollment for remote learning remains pretty constant. This week there were some parents, because of family situations, who made the decision to move to remote, but chose the Google classroom option. That allowed them to have a greater sense of comfort when they were going to be welcoming people into their home for the holidays.

Superintendent Corey spoke of tracking the number of cases in the surrounding communities (Nashua, Hudson, Pelham, Merrimack, Bedford, Amherst, Milford, Litchfield, Manchester, and Londonderry) in addition to Hollis and Brookline. He saw the trend of increase after Thanksgiving. In a majority of those communities, the numbers seem to be coming down a little. He believes the same trend will be seen after the Christmas holiday.

The Administration will be sending out a notice requesting families continue completing the daily monitoring form during the time students are fully remote (January 4th through January 19th). That will allow for local data to be tracked and ensure the district should open on the 19th.

Member Marsano questioned if, throughout the school day (in the classroom), most students are wearing their masks, e.g., not as many mask breaks being taken. Superintendent Corey remarked masks are on a bit more than may have been anticipated. He spoke of how well the students have adjusted to behaviors in the classroom, e.g., 6' distance when leaving desk.

Member Marsano spoke of lunch time when masks have to be off to eat, and questioned if the students are maintaining the 6' of distance. Superintendent Corey responded, for the most part, if you were to observe the cafeteria you would see some students who will literally pull their mask up to eat and drink, others come in at the start of the period, sit down, and the mask comes off. There is an occasional child who forgets, gets up to go to the trash barrel, and is reminded, but those instances are few and far between.

It is the riskiest piece. He commented the highest rate of risk to him was watching the high school students as there is that natural tendency to want to be with friends. They have really been pretty good. Each day when they enter, they cue the QR code on their phone to indicate which table they sat at. At the elementary level it is very much regimented; Principal Molinari knows what child is at what table at what time. In Brookline, both gyms are being used to eat, which is a larger space and well ventilated. The Hollis School District is eating in classrooms because they just don't have the massive gym spaces that Brookline has. In both situations it works because of the procedures and protocols in place.

Vice Chairman Sarris asked for clarification, in the Brookline schools when doing contact tracing, the lunch time is not considered close contact. Superintendent Corey remarked not from the standards of DHHS in terms of the 6'. The determination is not made by the district. DHHS is contacted, and they go through the pieces. Other than Assistant Superintendent Thompson and the building Principal, no administrator is involved. The Administration looks to the medical professionals to determine who will be quarantined.

The CDC came out with the 7 days of quarantine and a negative test as a recommendation. The SAU did not adopt that until the DHHS adopted it. Because it is taking so long for the test results, that is still resulting in a 14-day quarantine. Superintendent Corey spoke of the wealth of experience the nurses have. They are the ones who are working with DHHS and making the medical decisions.

Member Jew commented she personally did not think the district would get this far into the school year in-person. She spoke of the amazing job that has been done by all. The feedback in the community has been great. She remembered back before the start of the year when Shannon Sinclair came to the microphone and said we can do this, we can teach even the little ones. There was hesitancy over who would wear masks, etc. This has shown that they are adaptable and can be taught what has to be done to be in the school. They want to be in school.

Superintendent Corey commented the COOP School District is not happy not to be in school at the moment. You really know they want to be there.

- Superintendent's Evaluation Update

The Superintendent Performance Evaluation Committee (SPEC), working with the SAU41 Governing Board Chairman, Erin Sarris, will be sending out the Board approved short form to be completed by Board members. The hope is to complete the process in February.

Member Marsano stated the form has already gone out. Board members are supposed to have their submissions in by December 31st. The submissions will be gathered and approved at the next meeting and will then be forwarded to the SPEC to be finalized.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Update

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee has met, and minutes of their meeting(s) are posted on the SAU website. They are near completion of the draft resolution, and plan to bring it before the Board. A document will be brought to the Board in January, the Superintendent will provide a vision of what the steps are, and then the committee will formalize those steps. The goal would be that by the March/April timeframe the Committee will be dissolved. The work will become part of the School Board's Strategic Plan, and be divided up into more concrete sub-committees. Membership of the DEI Committee would be welcomed to serve on those sub-committees. They would start to focus in on what is needed for professional development, curriculum, etc. The goal would be to develop a five-year plan for implementation and deliverables to the school boards.

In the document provided by the Committee will be their recommendation to the Board that it does become part of the Strategic Plan and that we do develop more of a concrete process looking at it through the lens of a child from PreK-12.

That will dovetail with the work being done by Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug on the Portrait of a Cavalier; what we want our graduating students to look like. Superintendent Corey spoke of his previous discussion of the desire to incorporate Courageous Conversations where there is periodically built into our curriculum those discussions where we are tackling some difficult topics. The intent would be to ensure, from a curriculum point of view, that we are representing the multiple viewpoints that are present in our community so that our children learn how to have an appropriate dialogue and an appropriate disagreement.

- Brookline Schools – Supplemental Fund Allocation

The Governor had put aside \$10 million in supplemental funds that could be applied for. The Brookline School District submitted for slightly over \$80,000 worth of reimbursable expenses incurred between July 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. The district received approximately 70% of the funding requested or \$55,001.45. That funding is in addition to the funding received that was based on the calculation of \$200/student.

- Expense and Revenue Report

The report provided with the agenda outlines the projected (as of this time) fund balance of \$168,220. With a negative revenue balance of \$138, the projected Unreserved Fund Balance (UFB) becomes \$168,082. That amount is reduced by allocations to the various trusts, e.g., Maintenance Trust (\$75,000), Special Education Trust (\$25,000), and Contingency (\$40,000), and the resulting projected UFB would be \$28,082.

Superintendent Corey noted the projected UFB does not reflect utilization of the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) funds or any funding out of the Special Education Trust Fund. Requests to expend from those funds would typically come in the spring when there is a much clearer picture of the budget. At this time, it is unknown what other funding might be available through the Federal Government.

All encumbrances are included in the current report. Should additional funding not become available, all of the current/known expenses are already included within the budget. He credited the strength of the business office and their work on an encumbrance based model.

- Annual Meetings

A calendar of anticipated meeting dates was included with the agenda packet. The Moderators for the COOP, Hollis, and Brookline have been communicating. There is a proposal from the State for the potential of a deliberative session becoming a Zoom session. The Articles would be put out to the community and the Zoom session would allow for public input on the articles. The articles would come back to the Board/elected body. The elected body would consider the feedback provided and determine what the final warrant article would be. The second Zoom session would be to present the articles in their final form. It is believed in-person voting would be able to occur. The school would move to remote learning on that day (March 9, 2021). In a perfect world voting would occur in Brookline, Hollis, and the COOP on March 9th.

Understanding it would be easier for the voters to be able to vote for the Brookline School District, Brookline Town, and COOP School District in the same location, the question of whether the COOP vote could occur off COOP property is being posed. If unable to vote in a single location, another question being asked is if voting could be moved to a Saturday. At the COOP meeting, discussion occurred around the potential option for drive-thru voting. The problem being that on March 9th weather is unpredictable.

There may be adjustments to the annual meeting calendar that has been provided. The dates for the public hearings will remain unchanged.

Vice Chairman Sarris asked for additional clarification the second Zoom session would simply be for the presentation of the Warrant. Superintendent Corey stated that to be the case. Under a normal scenario, the Deliberative Session is the opportunity for the citizenry to debate the articles and make any desired changes. In order to give that voice in a Zoom meeting, you need to allow the citizenry to voice their desires, but are unable to conduct voting in that setting (cannot verify residency, etc.). The Board then has the opportunity to consider all public input when determining the final Warrant. The second Zoom session will present the final Warrant to the public.

Vice Chairman Sarris questioned the need for the second Zoom session noting the Warrant will be published. Superintendent Corey stated it to be an over-abundance of caution to ensure notice is provided to the citizenry. Although not an issue for Brookline, in the Hollis and COOP districts where they utilize non-traditional ballots, the Moderator has recommended ballots be printed in a form to use the AccuVote machines given the amount of time needed to hand count.

Chairman Haag restated there would be a Public Hearing in January, two Zoom meetings in February, and the March 9th voting day. Superintendent Corey stated the goal to be back before the Board at its January meeting with definitive dates.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy **DAF** – Federal Grants
 - 1st Reading 11-18-20

Given its 2nd Reading;

MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ACCEPT THE SECOND READING OF POLICY DAF – FEDERAL GRANTS, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

- To see what action the Board will take regarding Policy **EFD** – Wellness
 - 1st Reading 11-18-20

Given its 2nd Reading;

MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ACCEPT THE SECOND READING OF POLICY EFD – WELLNESS, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Sarris questioned if any changes have been proposed since the time of the first reading. Superintendent Corey stated his understanding there were none.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Superintendent Corey questioned if there were members willing to serve on the Policy Committee. Chairman Haag and Vice Chairman Sarris volunteered to share that responsibility.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Superintendent Corey provided a review of Round 4 of the budget review process. In its current form, the proposed operating budget for FY22 is \$10,025,776.39, which represents an increase over the current FY21 budget of \$374,016.39 (3.88%). Added to that is the SAU assessment of \$361,236.00 and allocations to the various trusts; Contingency (\$40,000), Maintenance Trust (\$75,000), and Special Education Trust (\$25,000) resulting in a total of \$10,527,012.39, which is an increase over the FY21 budget of \$415,792.39 (4.11%). Within that amount there are special education costs totaling \$398,163.91. These costs are legally mandated, and services students are entitled to receive.

Superintendent Corey spoke of the efforts taken to build many of the programs in-house, first because we believe educating our students locally is in their best interest and because of the cost effectiveness of doing so. Cost sharing has occurred around significant positions within the SAU, e.g., behavioral specialists work across the SAU and their salaries are shared by all three districts. It is difficult to hire for those positions, and when unable to fill such a position, contracted fees to provide those services range from \$150-\$250/hour, plus travel. Then you only have the individual(s) for the designated hours set for the school.

The Student Services Department has done yeoman's work to establish self-contained programming for our youngest students. When having to place a student out of district, the cost is at a minimum \$100,000/year. If placing a child out as a kindergarten student, you basically have 21 years of that expense. We have students whose cost can be upwards of \$300,000-\$400,000 for residential placements. A portion of the cost is reimbursed (approx. 64% provided in the following year).

Addressing new items, Superintendent Corey reviewed changes that have occurred since the last review. Under the heading of Academics, funding remains for social studies curriculum; however, there is the potential that the State will not get around to identifying the new standards. If they do not, the funds that would have been encumbered for that will not be expended, and would be returned to the UFB balance at year-end. A significant amount of the funding needed for the band and orchestra program comes from grant funding and the remaining \$2,000 out of the budget. The program was previously 100% funded by participants.

Under the heading of Personnel, the MTSS Interventionist positions for regular education reading and math support have been reduced from two (2) at each school to one (1) at each of the schools (there is currently 1 MTSS Interventionist at CSDA). Superintendent Corey spoke of the reduction in the salary for the science position noting the goal expressed years ago to make that position obsolete by encouraging all teachers to become proficient in the area of science. That has truly happened across the district, and the Administration is comfortable moving the funds to cover the cost of the MTSS Interventionist positions. The earlier you can intervene in academics for a child, the more chance you have at success. There is concern related to the pandemic and dips in math that are being seen around the country. It is believed that in having the MTSS Interventionist positions on staff, they can work with those students to address that.

The shared positions originally proposed for an SAU Directed Substitute and SAU Directed Food Service position have been removed leaving only the SAU Directed Facilities Substitute.

Under the heading of Replacement Computer Equipment, the cost of the Chromebooks has been moved out of the operating budget, and will be funded through REAP Grant funds (designated use is for technology). Under Shared Services/Software the filtering software (Go Guardian), which is a tool for Chromebooks was originally proposed for K-12, and will now be piloted in grades 7-12. The level of concern for our youngest learners on the internet is just not being seen. There is a comfort level with the Barracuda software that is on the master server. Go Guardian would have provided another level of protection for at-home use. At these grades, it is found students are a bit more supervised.

Under the heading of Facilities/Maintenance, the majority of the items had been moved to be funded through the Maintenance Trust as part of the round 3 review. In round 4, the HVAC controller replacement proposed for RMMS has been moved to the expendable trust fund.

The Maintenance Expendable Trust has a balance of \$50,000. Proposed for the FY22 warrant is an allocation of \$75,000. From that, proposed expenditures include \$22,723 for classroom flooring, \$8,000 for exterior door ramps, and \$22,178 for the HVAC controller replacement at RMMS. Superintendent Corey commented on not losing sight of the discussions around energy efficiency, noting it is a very difficult year to put that type of bond before the voters. Work continues with the two vendors to narrow the focus. Asked if the HVAC controller has to be addressed this year, he responded by putting the allocation into the maintenance trust does not dictate that the work has to be done, but does provide the funding should it become unavoidable.

Principal Molinari noted a question raised at the November meeting regarding the \$5,000 identified for window balances/seals (phased project) at CSDA. He informed the Board that a company was brought in (during remote day) to fix 13 window sashes. At least 2 windows in every classroom are able to be used with ease (as

an emergency exit if needed). The cost was in line with what is proposed to be budgeted for the work at RMMS.

Superintendent Corey noted included with the information provided was a breakdown of items to be funded with REAP grant funds (ending balance projected at \$15,390). That ending balance is contingent on whether REAP funds are looked to in the spring. Should the district choose not to utilize REAP funding for computer purchases as a means of offsetting some of the expenses incurred related to COVID, the ending balance would be greater than anticipated.

The total proposed increase to the operating budget is \$374,016.39 (3.88%) over the FY21 budget; \$398,163.91 of that amount is related to special education costs, which are mandated expenses. When comparing operating budgets for regular education, it is basically level funded from year to year. If you look at the difference, it is approx. the \$15,000 in costs that have been moved over to be funded through REAP Grant funds. The district will receive everything that is needed for regular education, pay special education obligations, and is doing its best to maintain as much of a level budget as it can.

The SAU assessment is \$361,236.00 and allocations to the various trusts; Contingency (\$40,000), Maintenance Trust (\$75,000), and Special Education Trust (\$25,000) are added resulting in a total of \$10,527,012.39, which is an increase, over the FY21 budget, of \$415,792.39 (4.11%).

Also included with the agenda packet was the Brookline Facility Improvement Plan, which itemizes items based on cost; under \$20,000 and over \$20,000 prioritized by year. Items listed for FY22 include exterior door repairs (\$3,000), Window repairs (\$5,000), HVAC controller replacement (\$22,178) - may or may not occur, exit door ramps (\$8,000), hallway ramp tile replacement (\$2,500) and classroom flooring (6) (\$22,723) for a total of \$63,401. Superintendent Corey noted the plan is flexible; items can move from year to year depending on current condition/status.

Superintendent Corey commented should the district consider a bond for facilities, alternative energies, etc., he would recommend the Board look at these items to determine what, if anything, would be appropriate to include in a bond if borrowing continues to be at such a low cost. Noted was that the last five-year note sold by the State was at an interest rate of 0.81%. There might be an opportunity again next year to take care of some expenses based on some really good rates for borrowing.

Recommended for FY23 is an energy study. It may be that a different option is considered as one of the vendors that presented to the Board is more along the lines of wraparound services. In Hollis, the decision was made to bring in architects and that type of skillset to conduct a study to develop a larger plan. There is no right or wrong approach; just a matter of how you want to proceed. There are many districts that are using the wraparound services where there is really not much of an expense to the district and many others who are using their own in-house sub-committees.

In FY22, there really are no large ticket items to be addressed. There was discussion around a section of roof at RMMS. It was evaluated, and it is simply not time yet. It will be reevaluated next year. The fire panel at CSDA is listed under FY23. The Fire Chief will be asked to inspect it again next year. At that time, either the decision will be made that it could continue to be postponed, that it is required to be replaced, or that it is a good budget year, and the time is right to replace it.

The first draft of warrant articles was also provided with the agenda. The only new articles are Article 8, which would provide authority to the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year and Article 9, which is authorizing the school district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds (up to 5% of the current year's net assessment). Noted this year is that Brookline does not have the level of contingency funds or any unreserved fund balance that would be seen on the Town side or in the other two districts. Should there be the need to hire an additional teacher due to COVID, for example, identifying an area of the budget where the funds could be taken from would be very difficult.

Chairman Haag commented on the lighting opportunities through Eversource. Although uncertain if that will be available in the coming year, it is something the district should be mindful of. During discussion of potential energy savings, lighting was identified as a big opportunity. Superintendent Corey spoke of the potential opportunities for solar on what is a large piece of property and structure.

Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of being pleased with the inclusion of the MTSS Interventionist positions to address issues being seen around remote learning. She is concerned there is a mental health component that is also impacting test scores, etc. That is an area she believes needs to be considered at the earliest. She is also of the belief it could tie very closely into other initiatives such as the DEI Committee, Courageous Conversations, etc. The ability to engage our students with their teachers in a trusting way at this level is critical for students to be successful in those regards. She believes there to be a large barrier that teachers and students are dealing with right now. There are students that have academic gaps for a variety of reasons, and Interventionists address some, but not all of that. There are things that need to be looked into that will have a direct impact on student academic outcomes, e.g., teacher training on trauma informed education.

Superintendent Corey responded that he would talk with Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug and Assistant Superintendent Thompson regarding staffing levels. Many of the positions being discussed fall under the realm of special education, from a budgetary standpoint. At the same time, they are services that any student may access. They will look at the counseling services, and perhaps start to formulate a plan. That discussion would be really appropriate once completing the DEI work because as we move to the Strategic Plan we can identify pieces like this. One of the things the Administration has been able to do, with the support of the Board, is gain a level of student-teacher interaction as a result of the smaller class sizes.

He suggested Assistant Superintendent Thompson could provide a presentation on those features at the January meeting so that there can be a clear understanding of the services the district has and how they work with a student who is not necessarily on an IEP.

Principal Molinari commented part of this is a coding issue. MTSS is basically Response to Intervention, but in addition to that it is focusing on those issues brought up, e.g., social-emotional learning. Although the description of the positions focuses on math and reading, it is inclusive of the social-emotional aspects.

Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of the large number of roles described, and asked for clarification of the role of an Interventionist. Principal Molinari remarked at RMMS every 8 weeks they do a day-to-day. In the day-to-days teachers share with the team (comprised of guidance counselors, case managers, reading specialist, math specialist, and the teacher) the academic and social emotional pieces. A holistic view of the student is taken and the needs identified. They target the skills and who will provide the interventions. It could be that a student needs some small group intervention with the guidance counselor or reading groups with the reading interventionist, etc.

With the added positions, they can be spread out in different areas of the building and be more versatile. They are not specifically a reading specialist, they could be doing reading group, math group, or social-emotional learning.

Superintendent Corey stated the point is well taken, and it may be something where the Administration looks at it more from a shared position. He is uncertain the district could justify an individual for 600 students, but may be able if the position were split across the three districts to target those valid concerns. We do not yet understand the long-term impact of COVID on students. Vice Chairman Sarris spoke of the need to incorporate that perspective with building personnel as well.

Superintendent Corey commented when this first began, every person in every profession went on adrenalin and went on and went on, now the adrenalin is just not there, and fatigue is setting in. It is difficult on anyone in any job because everything has changed so radically. That includes parenting. That separation of going to school and going to work is very healthy. We are going to have to address this.

Principal Molinari stated teachers in the district began utilizing resources offered through the Choose Love program and other social-emotional learning resources that have been implemented in the classroom early last year.

Member Jew questioned if long-term plans anticipate consideration of a Curriculum Coordinator position. Superintendent Corey responded yes, but it is very difficult to bring that position in. What continues to happen is the position is discussed and then a greater need is identified. It is the belief the MTSS Interventionists being directly with students will be a better use of resources. It is also believed if the position could be gained at some point, the district would see a more in-depth look at curriculum. To have someone in the building and watching the curriculum would pay dividends. If that were to be done it would be a shared position for the two buildings.

Matthew Mailloux, Secretary, Finance Committee, stated appreciation for the efforts to find reductions where possible. The framework put forth is very strong.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ADJOURN

SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The December 16, 2020 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____

November 24, 2020

Ms. Erin Sarris
Board Chair
SAU 41
4 Lund Lane
Hollis, NH 03049

Mr. Robert Mann
School Board Chair
Hollis School District
4 Lund Lane
Hollis, NH 03049

RE: Conflict Waiver Request to SAU 41 and Hollis School District

Dear Ms. Sarris and Mr. Mann:

SAU 41 (the "SAU") has asked our firm to represent the SAU in the matter of negotiating a lease agreement for use of the SAU administrative building, which is owned by the Hollis School District (the "District"). Because our firm is general counsel to both the SAU and the District, our representation of the SAU in this matter would be adverse to the District and thus would constitute a conflict of interest under the NH Rules of Professional Responsibility for lawyers. Notwithstanding the conflict, we believe that we will be able to provide competent and diligent representation of the SAU in this matter and to the District in all other unrelated matters. Under these circumstances, the Rules permit us to represent the SAU in this matter provided that both parties consent to the representation.

The advantage to providing consent is that we are familiar with the SAU and the District and the situation necessitating the lease agreement. In addition, the consent will avoid the SAU having to find new counsel (I understand that the District has arranged for separate counsel for this matter). Note that either party may withdraw its consent at any time.

If you agree to our representation of the SAU with respect to this discrete matter, our understanding is that, if issues concerning the lease agreement arise between the parties, we will represent the SAU for those issues, and the District will obtain separate counsel.

Please call me if you have any questions about this letter. On behalf of your respective school boards, if you agree to waive the above conflict of interest and consent to our representation as described herein, please confirm by countersigning this letter and returning a copy to me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ James A. O'Shaughnessy

James A. O'Shaughnessy

Gregory Im

JAO/GI/dmf

cc: Andrew Corey, Superintendent

November 24, 2020

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Agreed and Conflict Waived:

SAU 41

By: _____

Erin Sarris
Board Chair

Date: _____

HOLLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____

Robert Mann
School Board Chair

Date: _____