



The Blue Jay Assembly focused on areas such as self-awareness/self-management and kindness.

Report cards will be posted in PowerSchool on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The CSDA Winter Book Fair will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. The CSDA Winter Concert will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Noted was that the \$100 refundable deposit was returned to the Brookline Lions Club's following use of the facility on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Principal Dobe discussed the school-wide STEM event that took place on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was a crime scene investigation organized by Ms. Kosek and Ms. Penney. The school mascot, Whiskers, went missing. With the help of a Brookline Police Officer and all of the classroom teachers, the students completed various tasks such as fingerprint analysis, handwriting analysis, and (fake) blood sample testing. The students correctly identified Mrs. Hicks as the kidnapper. It turns out, she had requested to borrow Whickers to cheer up her child who was ill. The note had been torn up, so the message was never fully delivered.

- Kindergarten Update

Principal Molinari presented the information that will be made available to the voters at the Annual District Meeting relative to the Warrant Article in support of a full-day kindergarten program. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda packet.

The presentation identified the expected benefits of a full-day program; strengthen early childhood intervention, deliver a balanced curriculum at a developmentally appropriate pace for all students, meet State mandated play-based expectations, provide a common experience with the Hollis School District, and align with the New Hampshire Early Learning Task Force goal of increasing full-day kindergarten in the State.

Historical data was provided detailing the number of kindergarten students dating back to 2015; 230 full-day students (1 out of 10 (33%) requiring additional support when reaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade) and 122 half-day students (1 out of 3 (10%) required additional support).

A similar survey to the one distributed last year was sent out to past and present participants in the kindergarten program; 252 surveys were collected versus 284 from the previous year. Data gathered indicated 174 or 69% were in favor of implementing a full-day program five days a week for all students (results of last year's survey were 166), 20 (8%) were strongly opposed (last year; 27), 51 (20%) were opposed (last year; 28), and 3% had no preference (last year; 1).

On the question of "Will a full-day kindergarten program better prepare students academically for 1 grade?", 10.7% responded maybe (last year 11.3%), 23% responded no (last year 14.8%), 14.7% responded yes (last year 18.3) and 51.6% responded "Strong Yes" (last year 55.61%).

Asked if, in their opinion, a full-day program would help children to develop socially and emotionally, 17.5% responded no, 14.3% maybe, and 68.3% yes.

In summary, 65.2% strongly supported or supported a full-day program (73.2% last year), 13.8% may, but would like additional information, (13% last year), 19% are opposed (13.7% last year), and 2% were neither for nor against.

Asked how a full-day program should be funded, 68% believe it should be taxpayer funded, 27% parent funded, and 5% undecided.

Twenty three surveys were turned in for the parents of students attending the half day program over the past 4 years, 18% responded to the survey question regarding the deciding factor for choosing the half-day program. Seventeen percent were stay-at-home parents, 22% indicated it a matter of their belief system, 57% stated financial reasons, and 4% that there were no available slots in the full-day program.

Of the New Hampshire School Districts/Towns, 91.1% (163) offer a full-day program and 8.9% (16) a half-day program.

## **DISCUSSION**

- Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Workshop

The Board was provided with a budget spreadsheet, which breaks down the expenses by line item (copy attached).

Expected increases that remain unknown at this time include an increase in the cost of health insurance (Guaranteed Maximum Rate (GMR) is 4.1%), and dental (GMR 3.9%). Other increases, which are beyond the District's control include heating, electrical, and plowing.

In the area of retirements, noted was that the deadline for informing of the intent to retire is January. It is after that time that the District will be aware of its obligation.

The cost of special education transportation is volatile, and expected to increase.

- Fiscal Year 2021 – New Items Requests

Superintendent Corey spoke of the process undertaken; a series of discussions/rounds occurs with new item requests. Round 1 consists of an identification of all requests. Round 2 sees cuts being made, which continue through Round 4. The Administration is currently in Round 3. Requests are broken down into the categories of academics, personnel, new computer equipment, shared services/software, safety/compliance issues, facilities/maintenance, warrant articles, and Maintenance Expendable Trust. Specific requests are identified on the document included with the agenda and titled BDS FY21 Budget Detail for new Items – Round 3 (copy attached).

Highlighted were the changes that have occurred since the last round/discussion.

Under the heading of Academics, the cost for the band & orchestra program shows a reduction from \$11,000 to \$3,000. The district will be utilizing a Federal Grant to cover the \$8,000 that was removed from the budget.

Under personnel, Principal Molinari has requested 2 RTI programming Paraprofessionals. The latest round of discussion identifies 1 RTI programming Paraprofessional and a corresponding reduction of \$18,846.

The kindergarten teacher will move to full time. The dollar amount is included in the Warrant Article (not in total on the spreadsheet). The desire was to include the position identification.

The reduction (\$69,205) under the heading of Personnel is related to the Preschool Teacher position that was in the budget last year. The position was hired in August of 2017, and had not been in the budget. There were two preschool teachers for two full school years. The students enrolled in that program either aged out or moved out over the summer. Therefore, the position was not filled this school year, and is no longer needed to be reflected in the budget moving into FY21. The funding will remain in the current budget not to be expended without Board approval.

Proposed were three shared positions; SAU Directed Nurse Substitute, Directed Substitute across SAU, and a SAU Directed Facilities Substitute. The priority has always been stated to be the Directed Nurse Substitute, which is seen as a safety and health piece. There is also the benefit of having coverage during the testing nurses are required to conduct, e.g., vision/hearing, Scoliosis. In Round 3 of the budget discussions, the positions of Directed Substitute and Directed Facilities Substitute have been zeroed out, and the position of Directed Nurse Substitute reduced by \$1,250. These changes can be seen in the breakdown for each of the schools.

A request for an RTI programming Paraprofessional at CSDA has been removed from the budget resulting in a reduction of \$18,846.

A correction was noted to the cost identified for desktops under the heading of Replacement Computer Equipment – Current; the cost of 5 desktops at \$620 should be listed as \$3,100 not \$1,850 (RMMS and CSDA).

Identified under Safety/Compliance Issues, costs associated with Phase I of the cameras have been moved to the Maintenance Trust Fund resulting in a reduction of \$25,000 at RMMS and \$23,000 at CSDA.

Under Facilities/Maintenance, at RMMS, the cost of flooring for rooms 1, 11, and 10 have been zeroed out (\$11,400 savings) and an expense of \$8,500 has been added for the Milford Street hallway (The Milford Street hallway will complete the phased in approach of replacing the flooring on all the hallways at RMMS). At CSDA, the student restroom resealing line has been zeroed out (\$8,500 savings).

#### - Brookline Warrant Article Discussion

With regard to Warrant Articles, the operating budget is currently identified as \$9,528,705. The District is in negotiations for the teacher contract. Full-day kindergarten is identified at a cost of \$143,350, the estimate for the SAU assessment is \$319,460, contingency is listed at \$25,000, the Maintenance Trust at \$75,000, and the Special Education Trust at \$25,000. The previous round identified \$68,000 for Building Systems Evaluations. The desire had been expressed to have an energy efficiency study conducted. That amount has been removed from the budget.

The Maintenance Expendable Trust has a beginning balance of \$50,000, and a proposed Warrant Article of \$75,000. Previously identified as an expense from that line was the boiler replacement at CSDA (\$40,000). Now listed is the cost of the camera replacements at both school (totaling \$48,000).

An adjustment should be made to the spreadsheet in that the amounts listed for the Maintenance Trust and contingency allocations should be reversed. Shown on the spreadsheet is a placeholder for the teacher contract and kindergarten. Building systems has been removed to keep the overall budget down.

Transportation costs will increase for kindergarten in FY21. NH RSA 189:6 Transportation of Pupils, will mandate the transportation of students in kindergarten. Moving forward, the District will be responsible for transportation for students in grades K-8 (previously 1-8). If staying with a half-day program, the District will be required to transport students home from the a.m. section and to school for the p.m. section. Moving to a required full-day program would eliminate that mid-day expense. A full bus costs \$50,000/run. Two runs will be needed to cover each side of the Town. There is the need to take that cost into consideration when discussing the kindergarten program. Being projected for the warrant is approx. \$143,350.

If nothing were to change and the budget approved, as is, tomorrow, the total would be \$10,116,515.96, which represents a reduction from last year of \$131,218.33 or -1.3%.

Vice Chairman Haag suggested the allocation request to the Contingency Fund be increased by \$40,000 to cover the cost of the increase in transportation related to kindergarten to ensure adequate funds to cover the cost should the Warrant Article not be approved by the voters. The consensus of the Board was to support such an increase.

Superintendent Corey informed the Board the Administration is working with the Department of Education to clarify adequacy based on kindergarten enrollment, which will ultimately impact the warrant article for kindergarten.

Superintendent Corey stated that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) would be available for the Board's next meeting (broken down by projects under and over \$20,000)

- Fiscal Year 2021 – SAU Budget Update

Superintendent Corey stated the SAU 41 budget proposal is near level funded. A single position is being requested; Facilities Director. The increase over the FY20 budget is \$67,786 or 3.9%. Were the voters to approve a default budget, the SAU would not move forward with the position. The SAU budget is the first to pass (December). Once approved by the SAU 41 Governing Board, it is incorporated into the individual district budgets.

## **DELIBERATIONS**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding **Policy IMG – Animals in the Classroom**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading 6-12-19
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 10-23-19

*Given its third reading;*

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT POLICY  
IMG – ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding **Policy JICL - School District Internet Access for Students**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading 6-12-19
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 10-23-19

*Given its third reading;*

*Principal Molinari spoke of the amendment the Board requested at its last meeting; in the first sentence of the third paragraph, replace “all SAU #41 computers” with “All devices with SAU 41 internet access”.*

The Board was provided a copy of the amended policy.

**MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT POLICY JICL – SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET ACCESS FOR STUDENTS, AS AMENDED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding returning the \$100 security deposit to the Brookline Lion’s Club.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RETURN THE ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR (\$100.00) FACILITY USE DEPOSIT TO THE BROOKLINE LION’S CLUB**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-0**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Brookline School Board .....[October 23, 2019](#)

*The following amendments were offered:*

- Page 3, Line 34; insert “-end” following “year”
- Page 4, Line 31; “Paraprofessionals” should be singular
- Page 4, Line 35; replace “are” with “is”
- Page 5, Line 33; delete “he believes”
- Page 6, Line 20; delete “be” following “would”

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ADJOURN  
SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE  
MOTION CARRIED  
4-0-0**

*The November 20, 2019 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.*

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