

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD
FEBRUARY 20, 2019
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:06 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Matthew Maguire, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present: Alison Marsano, Secretary
 Rebecca Howie
 Erin Sarris (arrived at 6:30 p.m.)

Members of the Board Absent: Kenneth Haag, Vice Chairman

Also in Attendance: Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
 Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator
 Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
 Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Chairman Maguire commented on a question Ms. Marsano raised relative to a response to [Learn Everywhere](#). He requested the item be added under Discussion.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO THAT THE AGENDA BE ADJUSTED AS REQUESTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE
MOTION CARRIED
3-0-0**

CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS - None

PUBLIC INPUT

Eric Pauer, 12 Westview Road

Thanked the Board for its decision not to bring the full-day Kindergarten article forward this year. He spoke of the increases the communities will be facing, and his belief postponing this proposal was the right thing to do.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, (CSDA) highlighted some of the events included in the report. Students have completed the winter NWEA assessment. This computer-based assessment is taken in early October and mid-February. Results will be shared later in the year. Students will participate in the New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System (NHSAS) in May.

This past week a group of students from the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS) spent time with 4th grade students presenting a health and safety program. Students had an opportunity to go to different stations in the specialist areas to receive instruction from high school students on such things as identifying poisonous plants, pool safety, electrical safety, etc.

Fourth grade students are scheduled for a field trip to Lowell Mills.

A national assessment for selected 4th grade students will be conducted after the break. The assessment is conducted by the NH Department of Education. Parents of students involved have been contacted. This is an assessment the District participates in from time to time as do other districts throughout the State. It is referred to as the Nation's Report Card.

On March 12th, staff will be at the HBHS participating in professional development activities; math training, learn more about a special project in writing instruction and writing program development a number of the District's core teachers have been participating in throughout this year.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted they are bringing in Dr. Nicki Newton for the math work. Dr. Newton is a nationally known and respected author in the field of math and math instruction. She has been participating in one of our district's book studies and communicating directly with our teachers all year long. She has been impressed with our teachers and what we do for our students, and is very excited for the opportunity to meet them face-to-face. We are very fortunate to have that opportunity available to us.

The annual Elementary STEM Expo. will be conducted on March 21st at the Hollis Brookline Middle School.

Earlier in the day 6th grade students participated in their annual egg smash, crash, and dash event. Students spend time during their science classes and other opportunities in the day to work with a teammate to develop a car out of K'NEX. There are several challenges the cars need to participate in; speed test, distance, smash; can it withstand high-speed collision and not damage the egg nestled in the center of the vehicle.

Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS), spoke of the Kaleidoscope event scheduled for the following evening. The event will feature jump and dance, and will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. From 6:30 - 7:00 p.m., student work will be presented in the Learning Commons and Lobby for all submissions entered. The March Kaleidoscope will focus on music in schools.

When returning from break, students will celebrate Read Across America Week. The week will include a variety of events, e.g., kick-off assembly, parade, crazy sock day, etc.

Neil Stone will come to the school on Friday to talk to each grade level on a range of topics; perseverance, self-control, compassion, etc.

Principal Molinari noted the scheduling of a Policy Committee meeting on March 5th during which the committee will discuss policies JLJ - Life-Threatening Allergies, and JH - Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy.

DISCUSSION

- PSIF - Safety Grant Update

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the District is near completion with many of the projects. There is some additional work to be done at CSDA most of which is scheduled for April break.

Principal Dobe commented the crown jewel of the infrastructure grant process is a re-engineering/re-construction of the main entrance; making it much more secure. Another large project is the thumb lock project for classrooms and office spaces. That will allow for the rooms to be instantly locked/secured.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked, due to a statewide difficulty obtaining contractors for many of these projects, the State has permitted districts to request additional time (beyond April) to complete the projects. What is required is for the District to submit information relative to progress. Board members are required to sign the paperwork indicating awareness of where the District stands regarding completion of projects.

Asked if the lobby extension would begin prior to or during the April break, she stated the work would have to be done while school is not in session. It is believed that will occur at that time.

Chairman Maguire questioned the design option chosen. Principal Dobe remarked the three design options were quoted. A group at central office reviewed the options and arrived at the model believed to be most secure and that would be supported by the grant.

The camera immediately outside of the main entrance will be improved allowing for viewing of visitors prior to buzzing in. Visitors will be buzzed into what is essentially an airlock. Although the exterior set of main entrance doors has been and continues to be secured, the second set of doors has not been. The hardware will be installed to enable the second set of doors to be locked similarly to the exterior doors. In order to gain entry, visitors will be buzzed into the airlock, greeted by a receptionist (teller window installed in wall of airlock), and then buzzed into the main part of the building.

Chairman Maguire questioned if the second set of doors would be pushed back to allow space for the teller window. Principal Dobe stated the plan was adjusted from the initial design, and would not require moving of the second set of doors. What is being done is exactly what Homeland Security & Emergency Management recommended. The other model was investigated; however, would not provide added security and was cost prohibitive.

- School Calendar - 2019-2020

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the COOP School District reviewed the calendar and provided feedback. They will look to approve the calendar at next month's meeting.

The proposed calendar is similar to the current year. However, as it is not an election year, the professional development day is scheduled for November 8th. March 10th is also identified as a professional development day.

Noted was the Board's position that students not be in school during the primary election. Thought will have to be given to that based on contractual professional development days in the calendar.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the length of the December break, which makes the school year a little longer. With the 23rd falling on a Monday, it is not believed attendance would be great. The suggested calendar from the State includes that day off. For the following year, where the week would be a Monday and Tuesday, school would be run to avoid an excessively long vacation.

A suggestion made at the COOP School Board meeting was to take the full two weeks off and tack that on to the end; however, there is a concern for hourly employees around going that long of a period in the middle of the school year without pay. That would include bus drivers.

Chairman Maguire stated the desire to explore other options for voting in Town, particularly for primary elections.

Ms. Marsano remarked, what was indicated to her during attendance at a forum in Concord, was that we are not the only District that has that concern/issue. Other districts have expressed concerns over voting while students are in school because of State and Federal laws.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated appreciation for the feedback.

PUBLIC HEARING

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO THAT THE BOARD RECESS UNTIL THE
CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITIZENS PETITION**

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-0

The Board recessed at 6:31 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

Ms. Sarris questioned if, for the citizens' petition, the ballot would indicate the position of the Board. Chairman Maguire stated his belief what is shown on the Town's website is how it will appear on the ballot; did not include language relative to the Board's position. He noted, for the viewing audience, the Board voted unanimously against supporting the tax cap.

Ms. Sarris questioned if that is simply how it works with a citizens' petition. Ms. Marsano suggested it could have been a matter of the timing of getting information to the printer. Printing occurred after the Deliberative Session. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated she would look into it.

- Learn Everywhere

Ms. Marsano spoke of having attended the Delegate Assembly of the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) where representatives from member school boards vote on Resolutions and Statements of Belief, which guide the NHSBA's legislative advocacy efforts with the New Hampshire Legislature.

An email was received relative to the Administrative Rules of Learn Everywhere. Learn Everywhere is where either profit or non-profit groups can be granted basic educational value to be assessed to the students doing work. For example, students involved with the Girls Scouts who are doing a project, etc., could be offered credit for that work. The concern the NHSBA has with this is it takes away from the local school boards the power over curriculum, and who qualifies as being deserving of that educational right.

There are already in existence Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) that do a fantastic job. The hope was that the Board would be able to provide a written position by this date.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked we have something already; ELO. We have ELOs for the COOP School District, which she believes to be important as it goes along with some of the theme of what the Board has been taking a position on. With an ELO, a student creates a proposal which is reviewed, vetted, and approved or not approved, at the local level, in our school by someone who is hired to do that. It could be a number of things, e.g., onsite work, something done on an individual basis. However, a school employee determines whether it is credit worthy.

The proposal takes away local control. It says anyone can go to the State Board of Education to seek approval for various things – Learn Everywhere. There are some concerns that she would have as a central office person; being able to control where our students are, what they are doing, and who they are interacting with. If a student were to request credit through this opportunity, we are required to complete background checks on every person that student would be interacting with, would have to vet the site, would have the Department of Labor vet the site. There is a whole process the District has in place before sending students there. This would take that away.

The other piece of it is we would then be required to provide transportation for this student to do anything and everything they want to do that they propose to the State as opposed to our local level.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug suggested, should the Board feel strongly about it, a simple statement regarding removal of local control might share the sentiment.

Ms. Sarris stated her belief that is consistent with the positions the Board has taken and what the overarching sentiment and concerns are related to State level initiatives having to do with education. She believes making such a statement would be straightforward.

Ms. Sarris stated another concern to be the Learn Everywhere sites don't even require educators. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug provided the example of a student having a certain level of support with them at all times; the District would then be required to fund that level of support in their job place when it wasn't something the school team felt was appropriate. There are a lot of unanswered questions about a number of items relative to liability and funding. While it seems like a great opportunity, the SAU has that opportunity already through ELOs. The individual that works on that was one of the premier persons in the State who started all of this. We really have great opportunities for all our students.

Chairman Maguire suggested the Board could take a position, which could be sent via email.

Ms. Marsano stated the Commissioner of Education issued a letter in support of Learn Everywhere, which the NHSBA sent out. The letter from the NHSBA indicates while NHSBA is sharing this message, it does not indicate a change in their position relative to proposed Ed 1400 rules. The concerns NHSBA has continue to exist. Additionally NHSBA's opposition to these proposed rules is

also based on the following NHSBA Resolution: RV:K NHSBA opposes any branch of New Hampshire Government adopting or supporting curriculum standards that usurp State’s rights and de-emphasize and limit local control of curriculum and local school board oversight.

MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO RESPOND TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION’S LEARN EVERYWHERE, BY STATING “THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD IS SUPPORTIVE OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT GRANT OUR DISTRICTS LOCAL CONTROL. BECAUSE LEARN EVERYWHERE DIMINISHES LOCAL CONTROL, THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD TAKES THE POSITION THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE. AMONG MANY CONCERNS, THE KEY ONES ARE IN REGARD TO LIABILITY, COST, AND QUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES”
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0

Ms. Sarris stated the desire to invite Legislative delegates to provide regular updates at Board meetings. Chairman Maguire commented on pending legislation that has been discussed at the COOP Budget Committee meetings, e.g., apportionment formulas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brookline School Board January 23, 2019

MOTION BY MEMBER HOWIE TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER SARRIS TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0

The February 20, 2019 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Date _____

Signed _____