

1 Approved as Amended: 7-27-10

2 BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD

3
4 JULY 14, 2010

5
6 MEETING MINUTES

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8 A regular meeting of the Brookline School Board was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 8:07 a.m. at the Richard
9 Maghakian Memorial School.

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11 Chairman Dave Partridge presided:

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13 Members of the Board Present: Beth Lukovits, Vice-Chair
14 Ernie Pistor, Secretary
15 Forrest Milkowski

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17 Members of the Board Absent: Wanda Meagher

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19 Also in Attendance: Betsey Cox-Buteau, SAU41 Assistant Superintendent

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22 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

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24 No agenda adjustments were made.

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26 Benefits Buyout for Administrator Contracts

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28 Chairman Partridge stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and ratify the decision from the "workshop" on
29 July 12, 2010, to authorize the Superintendent to offer a health insurance buyout to the incoming Assistant
30 Principal/Special Education Coordinator at RMMS, who had requested the same. Member Lukovits commented that she
31 had heard from four teachers who would be interested in a similar buyout. Member Milkowski pointed out that a buyout
32 for teachers would require a new contract. Chairman Partridge stated that the teachers' contract could be reopened with
33 the consent of both sides, however he was not sure that it was practical given that the new fiscal year had started and that
34 insurance plans were already in place. Member Milkowski stated that, in his experience running businesses, insurance
35 contracts were month-to-month, and employees could choose to withdraw from the plan at any time.

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37 Chairman Partridge was concerned that any such buyout clause, should it come about, be structured such that the district
38 saves money rather than losing it due to large numbers of employees who had already opted not to receive insurance
39 deciding to take buyouts. Member Pistor questioned whether the fact that employees must pay a percentage of their
40 insurance premiums was not already sufficient motivation for employees who were covered under other plans to refuse
41 coverage under the district's plan. Chairman Partridge responded that it depends on the structure of the buyout, and
42 whether the percentage the employee must pay is less than the cost of adding a member to a spouse's (or other) plan.
43 He also stated that the business administrator would need to analyze the numbers to arrive at a sensible arrangement,
44 and that any such buyout that might be negotiated for the current fiscal year should only apply to employees who are
45 currently receiving insurance through the district.

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47 Assistant Superintendent Cox-Buteau asked if reopening the teachers' contract would open the entire contract for
48 renegotiation, to which Member Milkowski responded that the Board would not be willing to renegotiate any other
49 provisions at this time.

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51 Discussion ensued regarding the Hollis and Co-op district administrator insurance buyout plans, during which it was
52 stated that Hollis offers \$1500 and the Co-op offers a higher amount. Member Milkowski suggested that our buyout
53 should be in the range of \$1500 to \$2000.

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55 **MOTION BY MEMBER MILKOWSKI TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO OFFER AN INSURANCE BUYOUT**
56 **FOR AN AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE INCOMING ASSISTANT**
57 **PRINCIPAL/SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR FOR RMMS.**

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59 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER LUKOVITS**

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1 ON THE QUESTION

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3 Member Pistor asked whether the assistant principal intended to accept insurance from the district if a buyout was not
4 ratified. Chairman Partridge stated that that was his understanding. Discussion ensued regarding the magnitude of the
5 potential savings, during which Member Lukovits pointed out that about \$20,000 had been budgeted for insurance for that
6 position, and that the assistant principal accepting insurance would cost the district about \$15,000.
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8 **MOTION CARRIED**
9 **4/0**

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11 Chairman Partridge asked if there were any other topics to discuss.

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13 Broadcast of School Board Meetings

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15 Member Milkowski asked when the Board would begin broadcasting its meetings as discussed at the June 22, 2010
16 meeting. Chairman Partridge indicated a need to discuss the issue with the chairman of the cable/web committee, and
17 that he knew that the Board's regular monthly meeting day and time was the same as the Conservation Commission's,
18 and that the Conservation Commission currently broadcasts out of the Town Hall meeting room. So the Board would
19 either need to move its regular meeting time or swap rooms with the Conservation Commission in order to broadcast out
20 of Town Hall. He also stated that meetings off of the regular schedule would not be televised. Member Milkowski
21 suggested that by the Board's August meeting, a clear plan should be in place for discussion.
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23 Member Milkowski asked whether the Board's meetings could be broadcast over the World Wide Web. Discussion of
24 cable and web broadcasting logistics ensued, during which Chairman Partridge and Member Milkowski agreed that
25 broadcasting over the web was more difficult.
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27 Chairman Partridge stated that the Cable/Web Committee had been planning to wire the CSDA library for broadcasting for
28 years, but that the administration had raised issues, including where the equipment could be securely stored. He
29 suggested that the Board move its regular meetings to the Town Hall meeting room for broadcasting purposes. Member
30 Milkowski expressed concerns regarding the scheduling issue.
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32 ADJOURNMENT

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34 **MOTION BY MEMBER MILKOWSKI TO ADJOURN**
35 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER LUKOVITS.**
36 **MOTION CARRIED**

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38 *The July 14, 2010 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 8:31 a.m.*
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47 Date _____ Signed _____
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