

Regular Meeting
February 17, 2009
Hollis-Brookline Middle School

Janice Tremblay, Chairperson
Tom Enright
Fred Hubert
James O'Shea, MD
Dan Peterson
Steve Simons
Tom Solon

Susan Hodgdon, Superintendent of Schools
Tim Kelley, Principal, Hollis-Brookline High School
Pat Goyette, Principal, Hollis-Brookline Middle School
Emily Davis, Student Representative
Betsy A. Packard, Recording Secretary

Others present included members of the Public.

Chairperson Janice Tremblay called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

2. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

3. REPORTS

Business Administrator's Report

None.

Network Administrator's Report

None.

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor's Report

None.

High School Principal's Report

Mr. Kelley reported that they are busy with the NEASC report due March 1, 2010. They have been using staff time and early release time to work on it.

Mr. Kelley advised the Board that the High School has been nominated by the DOE for a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award, which is the highest award given by the Government. There is a 27-page application form.

Mr. Kelley stated that he had looked at the growth of AP courses since 2004, and found the following:

	# of Tests Given	Passing Rate	Percentage of Top Scores
2004	105	59%	12%
2009	298	83%	27%

Mr. Kelley added that PSAT and SAT scores have gone up every year for the last three years. Only three schools in the State (both public and private, from K-12) have been nominated for the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award.

Mr. Simons asked if there is more than one winner. Mr. Kelley felt that there was.

Dr. O'Shea asked that Mr. Kelley speak to the NECAP scores. Mr. Kelley reported that reading and writing are off the charts. Students are good in math, but not as good as reading. He stated that the High School was 2nd in the State. Mr. Kelley explained that there are many ways to interpret the data, adding that there are curriculum changes to be made. Math is hard to get a handle on. Supt. Hodgdon pointed out that it also makes a difference as to when the math skills are taught vs. the tests given. She added that the State of Maine did a study of MEAs and how they correlate to SATs. It was felt that there was some correlation, but not a direct one.

Dr. O'Shea stated that he would like to know if they were looking at making the math curriculum the best it could be. He added that the District may have an excellent school, but the State standards could work against it. He suggested looking at other states that use NECAPs.

Student Board Representative's Report

Ms. Davis reported that the High School was celebrating Spirit Week and that they had had an assembly at the end of the day. Monday was a Tug-o-war with students vs. teachers, as well as Madlimbs, and was run by the Freshmen. Wednesday was Musical Chairs and Trivia, and was run by the Sophomore and Junior classes. Wednesday night's basketball game was students vs. administrators and the price of admission was canned goods, which will be donated.

Middle School Principal's Report

Dr. O'Shea asked if Ms. Goyette was all set with funds for the Washington, D.C. trip. She responded that she was. She added that they will be going to the Capitol for the first time in 6 years, and that they have a meeting with Senator Shaheen.

Ms. Goyette reported that the Mathcounts Team placed first in the Chapter Competition against 18 middle schools from Southern New Hampshire.

Ms. Goyette advised that the Middle School was just about fully staffed and will be finalized after vacation.

Ms. Goyette reported that Dave Bond has been sending daily emails back from his sabbatical in Antarctica. The emails are posted on his classroom door for students to read. She then read an excerpt from one of his emails.

Dr. O'Shea asked if the transition of the new staff members was going well. Mr. Goyette responded that Clara Duval has transitioned into Science for Dave Bond, there is a new front office secretary, and an Assistant Principal sub. All are doing well.

High School Principal's Report – continued

Mr. Kelley stated that he had an action item for the Board. The graduation date needed to be set. He stated that Wednesday, June 9th would be day 175. He added that in the past, they always told the State

on April 1st what the graduation date would be. He explained that the previous commissioner was considerate of the fact that there could be additional snow days or flood days after April 1.

Chair. Tremblay stated that she would like to hold a short meeting after the March School District Meeting at which time they could set graduation day.

Director of Special Education's Report

Electronic report submitted.

Superintendent's Report

Communications & Correspondence

Supt. Hodgdon reported that she had received a question from a member of the public regarding the 2010-2011 school calendar. The person had heard that the February vacation would coincide with the Massachusetts vacation week and was concerned. Supt. Hodgdon stated that she had talked with Nashua and they were looking into such a change.

Strategic Planning Committee

Supt. Hodgdon gave the following timeline for the Strategic Planning Committee:

Research dialogue phase	Winter/Spring
Development of strategic plan	Late spring
Presentation	Late Fall

Supt. Hodgdon explained that there are two sub-committees:

Community Engagement

Research – involves online, schools of the future, good practices, districts nearby

The membership is made up of the following:

- 3 Board members - Janice Tremblay, Bill Beauregard, Dave Partridge
- 5 Administrators
- 2 Community members
- 3 Teachers
- 2 High School students
- Facilitator – Mary Jane McOwen

Data Management System – “Inform”

Supt. Hodgdon reported on the data management system called “Inform.” She stated that they learned about it in early May and saw a demonstration. Both Boards and Administrators did research on it, and had a favorable opinion of it. They worked with Pearson to get a quote, but the quote came in higher than Nashua District is, so Pearson came back with more aggressive pricing. This folds in to “Race to the Top.”

“Race to the Top” wants data on students from 4 years to 4th year in college. Should know in the spring if the District gets the grant, which is the first round.

Mr. Hubert asked what the price of the quote was. Supt. Hodgdon responded that it started at \$35,000, but was brought down to \$30,000.

Mr. Solon mentioned that the “Race to the Top” application did not get full signatures, that is, the union did not sign it. The union could not support it because they had not been adequately informed. The timeframe on submitting the first round application was short. He questioned if the District goes into the second round, could they the union’s their support? Supt. Hodgdon stated that the Memorandum of Understanding required signatures, and the more the better. She added that she has talked with some of the unions and plans to talk to the others. There wasn’t a lot of lead-time for the first round.

Transportation

Supt. Hodgdon reported on transportation, stating that they had gotten resolution regarding some difficulties that she became aware of a week ago. Some students have been moved to other buses, but it lengthens their ride. Buses that are close to maximum ridership will not allow additional riders.

Mr. Solon stated that it was his understanding that a student who was not a normal rider on a bus would need prior approval. Ms. Goyette responded that some buses are not allowing additional riders. When a student requests approval to ride a different bus, the secretary calls Nancy Orde to see if there is room.

Alert Now

Supt. Hodgdon reported that the question of establishing a coding system for the Alert Now messages had been brought forth. She advised the Board that she had worked with Rich Raymond to develop a system where the following will appear in the subject line of the sent message:

- 1) News Item
- 2) Important Message (such as report cards issued, low level alerts)
- 3) Critical Information (such as school closings, health alerts)

Supt. Hodgdon advised the Board that Mr. Raymond has established a Parent Portal. There are three areas of the Parent Portal:

- 1) Early warning weather
- 2) News, sports events
- 3) General

Mr. Solon asked how a parent gets on the Portal. Supt. Hodgdon responded that they have additional instructions. Mr. Hubert asked if the coding system would be included in voice mails. Supt. Hodgdon responded that it would.

Principal Search

Supt. Hodgdon reported that in regards to the Principal search they have been advertising on EdJobsNH.com. The application period closes February 19, 2010. They currently have 3 external applications and 1 internal application. There is an organizational meeting of the search committee scheduled for the next day; however, they are still getting the committee lined up.

Supt. Hodgdon reviewed the following timeline:

- 1) Organization meeting
- 2) Interviews
- 3) Candidates come to visit, meet that staff
- 4) Recommendations of finalists to the Board by March 29
- 5) Board conducts interviews on March 30 and 31

Supt. Hodgdon stated that the search committee membership will consist of:

Superintendent
Special Education – Assistant Director
Middle School Principal
High School Assistant Principal
Board Member – James O’Shea
Teacher
Department Chair
Guidance
Parent

Chair. Tremblay stated that she would like to invite parents who would like to serve on the committee to let Supt. Hodgdon know within the next few days.

Mr. Hubert asked if Dr. O'Shea was not re-elected, would they have a back-up Board member. Chair. Tremblay responded that they would and that person would immediately be brought up to speed.

Mr. Enright felt that if there were a sufficient number of parents volunteering to be on the committee, they should have two. Chair. Tremblay added that they could have a parent from each town. Mr. Solon felt it was worth having two parents on the committee and that it did not matter that there would be one from each town. Mr. Simons disagreed, stating that they always had a representative from each town. Supt. Hodgdon pointed out that the current panel consisted of 9 members and if they added another member, there would be issues concerning tiebreakers.

4. COST SAVINGS INITIATIVE

Mr. McLaughlin was not present to report.

5. HOLLIS ENERGY COMMITTEE (HEC)

Mr. Enright reported that the application had been filed the previous day. The Coop's application was the lowest one submitted of the other districts because the Coop District has rather good lighting. The committee lowered the grant amount and raised the Smart Start, which would be paid by the savings gained. This will mean a longer pay back, but still under 3 years. Mr. Enright stated that the committee did an incredible job and did a lot of work. The Hollis Town Manager signed the Coop's portion and drove the application to Concord, getting there ½ hour prior to the closing deadline.

6. STAFFING

Supt. Hodgdon nominated Lauren Corliss for the English position at the Middle School. Ms. Corliss previously worked at the Middle School for one year. She has a BA in Journalism from St. Michaels and a Masters from Lyndon State. She is at BA 30+ Step 12. Pro-rated compensation is \$25,020.52.

Steve Simons moved that the Board approve the appointment of Lauren Corliss as nominated by the Superintendent. James O'Shea seconded. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0 – 0.

7. FY11 BUDGET

Mr. Enright felt that the Board was not in a position to change the warrant that night and proposed that they vote on the articles as they stand.

WARRANT VOTES:

Article 1: Elections of Coop District officers – no vote.

Article 2: *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$186,978 to fund the increase in cost items relative to professional staff salaries and fringe benefits for the 2010-2011 school year which resulted from good faith negotiations with the professional staff, and which represents the negotiated increase over last year's salaries and fringe benefits. This is the first year of a three-year contract. The budget committee recommends/does not recommend this appropriation. The school board recommends/does not recommend this appropriation.*

“NOTE: Pursuant to RSA 273:A:12, VII, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan, but excluding the cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect even after the termination date of this agreement, until a new agreement is executed.”

Mr. Solon questioned if the repeal of the Evergreen clause negated the wording.

Mr. Enright stated that he was not in favor of the language in the "Note." Mr. Simons felt that the "Note" in essence was in the teachers' contract. Mr. Hubert stated that they had gotten an opinion from Atty. Drescher. He added that they must vote on the warrant that night.

Mr. Enright felt the "Note" was notifying the public that there is a statue that the public needed to be aware of. He pointed out that Mr. Peterson will talk about it in his presentation. Mr. Enright felt there could be some ramifications. He wondered if Evergreen was repealed, would they still be obligated because of the "Note"?

Supt. Hodgdon stated that the DRA added language that did not make it into the 2010 handout, but is on the website, pursuant to RSA 273:A:12, VII. Atty. Drescher recommended adding an explanatory note.

Mr. Peterson stated that he was concerned that the "Note" could be interpreted as more than an explanatory note.

Mr. Hubert stated that the Board needed to know if they could amend the warrant. Mr. Enright responded that they could, as they can change the numbers in the warrant articles.

Fred Hubert moved that the Board remove the "Note" in its entirety in Article 2 and Article 4. Tom Enright seconded.

Mr. Peterson explained that Section 15-1 and RSA 273:A:12, VII are different.

Motion carried. 6 – 0 – 1 (Simons abstained.)

Dan Peterson moved that the Board recommend Article 2 as amended. Fred Hubert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 3: Shall the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District, if Article 2 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 2 cost items only?

Dan Peterson moved that the Board strike Article 3. Fred Hubert seconded.

Mr. Peterson stated that if the District rejects Article 2, he questioned the wisdom to start up new negotiations outside of the regular negotiation cycle.

Mr. Solon agreed. He felt it would be an attempt to subvert the intention of the meeting.

Mr. Enright stated that he first asked to have the Article in the warrant, but given all that has gone on, he would now agree to remove it.

Mr. Hubert felt that Article 3 may be opposite to the voters' wishes. He added that the Board did not know the voters' intention. Perhaps they would like to vote down the current proposed contract, but would like to renegotiate. If Article 3 is left in, then the voters have a choice.

Mr. Simons felt it would be a mistake to remove Article 3. He pointed out that the Article states to call a special meeting "at its option." He felt it was important to have a contract with the professional staff.

Dr. O'Shea agreed with Mr. Hubert and Mr. Simons. He stated that he agreed with the current proposed contract, but he could see that the voters may not like the contract, but want to go back to the table. He added that he strongly felt it should stay in the warrant.

Mr. Hubert stated that he was in support of combining Article 3 and Article 5. He pointed out that if both Article 2 and Article 4 got voted down, they would have to have two special meetings. Mr. Simons stated that two special meetings could be held the same day.

Mr. Enright stated that an additional consideration is that the teachers did not have a contract last year, so he felt they should make every effort to negotiate.

Motion failed. 1 – 6 – 0 (Tremblay, Enright, Simons, Peterson, Hubert, O’Shea against)

Article 4: *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$32,109 to fund the increase in cost items relative to support staff salaries and fringe benefits for the 2010-2011 school year which resulted from good faith negotiations with the professional staff, and which represents the negotiated increase over last year’s salaries and fringe benefits. This is the first year of a three-year contract. The budget committee recommends/does not recommend this appropriation. The school board recommends/does not recommend this appropriation.*

“NOTE: Pursuant to RSA 273:A:12, VII, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan, but excluding the cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect even after the termination date of this agreement, until a new agreement is executed.”

Tom Enright moved that the Board recommend Article 4 as amended. Tom Solon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 5: *Shall the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District, if Article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 4 cost items only?*

No motion required.

Article 6: *To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$181,114 for the purpose of paying for the cost of implementing identified measures to make the District’s buildings and infrastructure more energy efficient and, further, to authorize the School Board to enter into an agreement or agreements with any and/or all of the other municipal entities in SAU 41, (the Brookline School District, the Hollis School District), as well as the towns of Hollis and/or Brookline, for the purpose of coordinating this effort to make the same as cost effective as possible, and to take any action necessary to implement the purpose of this article, said appropriation to be entirely raise, in part, from a grant form the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program**, which is administered by the NH Office of Energy and Planning, and the balance to be raise by a corresponding grant from a collaborative third party such as the **Public Service Company of NH or other entity providing such grants**, it being understood that this appropriation and the corresponding authority to expend are contingent on the same being entirely funded from said grants and that no amount thereof shall be raise by taxation.*

Tom Enright moved that the Board recommend Article 6. James O’Shea seconded.

Mr. Solon questioned that considering the way the Article was worded, was there an option to spend less. He wondered if they had to recommend a specific amount. Mr. Peterson stated that at the District Meeting, they will have more information and that would be the right time to amend the amount.

Mr. Solon asked if the dollar amount was based on specific items. Mr. Enright responded that they were.

Mr. Solon asked if the District could do the project with out Public Service of NH. Mr. Hubert explained that they applied for the grant with a certain amount of the project being funded another way. He added that if they know what the grant amount is by the time of the District Meeting, they can amend the amount.

Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 7: *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$18,448,415 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include appropriations voted*

in other warrant articles. The budget committee recommends/does not recommend this appropriation. The school board recommends/does not recommend this appropriation.

Fred Hubert moved that the Board recommend Article 7 as written. Dan Peterson seconded.

Mr. Enright stated that he would not support the Article. He felt that they still had more work to do on the budget, but he did not feel that the Budget Committee had a solid basis for the number they came up with.

Mr. Peterson stated that he felt the same. He agreed that there was more work to be done on the budget.

Motion was defeated unanimously. 0 – 7 – 0.

Mr. Peterson noted that the only vote that had been taken on the budget by full representation of the Budget Committee was taken the previous week. The vote at that time was 5 – 2- 1, which was a vote in favor of the original School Board budget.

Article 8: To see if the school district will authorize the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District to access future year state and federal catastrophic aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations. The school board recommends this article.

Steve Simons moved that the School Board recommend Article 8. Tom Enright seconded. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 9: (By petition). No motion required.

Article 10: *To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.* No motion required.

Mr. Enright asked that the Chair, Tremblay meet with an attorney regarding Article 9. Supt. Hodgdon responded that Atty. Drescher recommended that the School Board not take a stand on Article 9.

Mr. Solon stated that at the Budget Hearing a statement was made that it was the Budget Committee's budget. He questioned why the School Board generates the budget. He wondered why the Budget Committee did not go through the process of negotiating and understanding the budget. Mr. Enright responded that they had never seen the Budget Committee function like the current one does. He explained that there usually is a collaboration, that they go through the items and discuss it.

8. MINUTES

Minutes of January 20, 2010

Steve Simons moved that the Board accept the minutes of January 20, 2010 as written. James O'Shea seconded. Motion carried. 6 – 0 –1 (Peterson abstained)

Minutes of February 3, 2010

Mr. Simons proposed the following changes:

- 4th paragraph – Business Administrator - budget currently stands at \$15,900 instead of \$18,000.
- Page 2, "There would be seven warrants presented to the voters" should be "seven articles in the warrant."

Steve Simons moved that the Board accept the minutes of February 3, 2010 as amended. Fred Hubert seconded. Motion carried. 5 – 0 – 2. (Solon, O'Shea abstained)

9. MARCH 2010 BOARD MEETING

Chair. Tremblay stated that she would like to hold a short meeting after the District Meeting to vote on the Chair, Vice Chair, and Board Secretary. They will also need to set the graduation date. She asked that the members put it on their calendars.

Mr. Simons pointed out that the Board needed a workshop to work on the budget. Mr. Hubert felt it was in the best interest of the Board to wait as long as possible for the workshop so they will have the most current data.

Mr. Enright stated that the Board had asked Supt. Hodgdon to present a scenario of what a -3% budget would look like. Supt. Hodgdon stated that she and Mr. Kelley met and put such a scenario together. She added that she had been prepared to present it at the Budget Hearing.

Mr. Enright felt that they now needed to see what -\$250,000 budget would look like.

Mr. Hubert felt that there would be work for the Administrators and for the Business Administrator to do an analysis of salaries and benefits.

It was decided to hold a workshop meeting on March 8, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. in the High School Conference Room.

James O'Shea moved that the Board enter non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation. Tom Enright seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting in the affirmative. 7 - 0 - 0.

The Board entered non-public session at 8:15 p.m.

The Board returned from non-public session at 9:00 p.m.

James O'Shea moved that the Board adjourn. Fred Hubert seconded. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.