

Approved as *Amended* February 17, 2010

HOLLIS-BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

February 3, 2010

Public Meeting at SAU Conference Room

Janice Tremblay, Chairperson
Tom Enright, Vice Chair
Dan Peterson
Steve Simons
Fred Hubert

Susan Hodgdon, Superintendent of Schools
Tim Kelley, Principal HBHS
Pat Goyette, Principal HBMS
Mark McLaughlin, Business Administrator

Chair Tremblay called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

Mark McLaughlin, Business Administrator, presented the revised version of the Board's FY11 budget. Additional reductions include \$80,657 from Special Education requirements, consisting of ARRA Funding and one transfer of a student placed out-of district to in-district status in FY11.

BA McLaughlin and Board Member Dan Peterson reviewed and confirmed the financial impact of the two new proposed collective bargaining agreements (contracts): a \$32,000 warrant required for the Support Staff Contract and a \$186,000 warrant required for the Professional Staff Contract. The net result is an additional \$218,000 that will impact the tax rate.

BA McLaughlin reported that, as a result of these adjustments, the FY11 budget currently stands at **\$15,900** over the amount needed to bring a zero increase budget forward to the voters.

Discussion next centered on the proposed transportation budget and our status regarding bus ridership. Susan Hodgdon, Superintendent, advised that there are two Brookline buses that are just under the maximum rider limit and that there are no Hollis buses close to maximum. Further discussion centered on money in the new budget for computers and textbooks. Principal Tim Kelley reported that he is finding it difficult to purchase a full set (100) of used Calculus textbooks. Mr. Peterson commented that if there was sufficient money in FY10 budget near the end of the school year, the Board might consider making some of the anticipated purchases from the FY10 budget.

Board Member Steve Simon motioned to removed \$18,000 from the transportation line, account 2700-510, reflecting the removal of one bus from the schedule in November 2009. Board Member Tom Enright seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Chair Tremblay presented the possibility of bringing a warrant to district meeting to seek authorization to set up a general contingency fund for FY11. The funding source would be from any remaining Unreserved Fund Balance from FY10. The feeling among Board was that the timing

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was not right; it would be too much of a political issue. The Board's primary goal this year is to gain support for the two contract warrants and for the operating budget.

Chair Tremblay appointed Board Member Fred Hubert as the Board's representative to the Coop Budget Committee with full voting rights. Mr. Peterson, the current representative, will be out of town for the week of Feb. 8 to Feb. 12 and unable to attend the scheduled February 8, 2010 meeting of the Coop Budget Committee. At this critical time in budget preparation, it is essential that the Coop School Board have a representative who has full voting rights. Chair Tremblay noted that on February 2, she had advised (via email) Steve Pucci, Chair of the Coop Budget Committee, that this appointment would take place.

Discussion followed regarding the strategy to achieve a -3% overall budget. Administration reported that this level of reduction would require the elimination of courses that are not required for graduation (high school) and non-core courses (middle school); reduction and/or elimination of co-curricular activities; and/or reduction of the number of credits to graduate. Once the number of staff positions that would need to be eliminated is determined, Superintendent Hodgdon will prepare and report on the areas of reduction. The Board directed Administration to have the information to the Board no later than February 15, the date of the Public Hearing on the FY11 budget.

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Hubert reported that it is their understanding that currently there appear to be four votes on the Coop Budget Committee in support of the level budget. The budget and warrants will be voted on by members of Coop Budget Committee and the Coop School Board after the February 15, 2010, public hearing.

Mr. Hubert motioned to accept the Tentative Agreement with the Professional Staff (Hollis Education Association), effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. He reported that the membership of HEA had voted to ratify the agreement. Mr. Enright seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

There will be seven (7) **warrant articles** presented to voters this year.

1. Funding for the Support Staff (HESSA) Contract
2. Contingency warrant to call a special district meeting to renegotiate (if #1 fails)
3. Funding for the Professional Staff (HEA) Contract
4. Contingency warrant to call a special district meeting to renegotiate (if #3 fails)
5. Funding for the FY11 Operating Budget
6. Authorization for the Coop Board to accept Catastrophic Aid
7. Authorization for the Coop Board to pursue grant money and funding for the Energy/Lighting Project

Presentations at the Public Hearing and at the District Meeting will be handled by the following:

1. Mr. Peterson - Two Collective Bargaining Agreements
2. Superintendent Hodgdon - Information related to additional cuts (if necessary)
3. Mr. Hubert - Information related to the Energy warrant - costs, savings, etc.

Superintendent Hodgdon and Middle School Principal Pat Goyette presented a plan to provide temporary administrative support in the absence of Steve Secor, Assistant Principal at HBMS. The

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period of the support will run from February 4 through February 19, 2010. The plan is for Dennis Goyette, an experienced, retired school administrator to be hired as an outside contractor to assist with Assistant Principal duties during that time frame.

Mr. Simons motioned to waive the last sentence of H/B policy GBEA for the purpose of temporarily contracting with Dennis Goyette as substitute Assistant Principal from February 4, 2010 through February 19, 2010. Mr. Enright seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mrs. Goyette reported that Middle School science teacher Dave Bond's last day prior to his sabbatical leave will be February 5, 2010. She has found a potential substitute for his Science classes, and is currently checking references. The potential candidate is currently a Special Education paraprofessional at Londonderry whose credentials are that she is a certified teacher with teaching experience. She would be hired as a substitute for the first ten days; thereafter the potential candidate would be paid on a per diem basis.

Mr. Enright questioned the status on the search for a new high school principal. Superintendent Hodgdon responded that it had been posted internally as well as online, with an application deadline of no later than February 19, 2010. A search panel will be put together to decide how to gather and analyze information, to interview appropriate candidates, and then reach a decision on finalists. A process flow of the panel's work will also be established by the panel. There would need to be a representative or representatives from the Coop Board on the panel. Mr. Enright stated that he wanted the finalists to be brought to the Coop Board for interviews. He expressed that the timeline is critical, especially if an internal candidate applies and is chosen.

Mr. Hubert moved to adjourn. Mr. Simons seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Submitted by Janice Tremblay, Chairperson

Approved: