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HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting at the Hollis Brookline Middle School

Present:

Darlene Mann, Chair
Raul Blanche, Vice Chair
Brian Rater, Secretary
Tom Enright
Lorin Rydstrom (called in at 7:59)
Jim Solinas
Krista Whalen
Andrew Corey, Superintendent
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator

Absent:

David Blinn

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM.

Budget Presentation

Darlene presented an overview of the proposed budget and warrant articles. The presentation can be found online here:

<http://sau41.org/COOP/annual-meeting/2017/FY18%20COOP%20Public%20Hearing%20Presentation.pdf>

7:23 Coop Budget meeting suspended and Public Hearing begins.

Public Hearing on the Budget

Article 1 Support Staff Contract

Krista presented an overview of the warrant article.
There was no public input

Article 2 Operating Budget

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Darlene presented an overview of the warrant article.

Michelle StJohn of Orchard Dr. Hollis – asked about the expanded role of the athletic trainer. Andy explained the expanded hours and services.

Article 3 Contingency Fund

Darlene presented an overview of the warrant article.

There was no public input.

Article 4 SAU Budget

Darlene presented an overview of the warrant article.

There was no public input.

Article 5 Athletic Expendable Trust

Darlene presented an overview of the warrant article.

Tom Solon of Shay Rock Rd, Brookline noted that, although the fund is non-lapsing, the intent has been to spend the raised funds each year.

Article 6 Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust

Darlene presented an overview of the warrant article.

There was no public input.

Article 7 Special Education Expendable Trust

Darlene presented an overview of the warrant article.

Elizabeth Brown of Williams Way in Hollis would like to see both the amount raised and the cap raised to higher dollar values due to the costs that can be associated with special education. Darlene asked what levels she would suggest and Elizabeth suggested doubling both.

Tom Solon of Shady Rock Rd in Brookline agreed with Elizabeth that the appropriation be raised to “up to \$100,000” and that the cap should be doubled from \$125,000 to \$250,000.

Article 8 Catastrophic Aid

Michelle StJohn of Orchard Dr. Hollis asked for the distinction between this article and article 7, the special education expendable trust. Darlene explained that this article provides access to state aid while article 7 sets aside local tax funds.

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Tom Solon of Shady Rock Rd in Brookline stated that catastrophic aid is state aid for costs above a certain minimum level.

Article 9 Transact any other business

There was no public input.

7:57 the public hearing was closed and the Budget Committee meeting resumed.

Tom asked if it was appropriate for Lorin to vote on recommendations without being present for the public input. Tom suggested that we ask for legal council input on this issue for future votes.

Lorin joined the meeting via speaker phone.

Article 1 Support Staff

Moved by Tom, seconded by Jim.

The article is recommended 6-0-1. Jim, Brian, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes". Raul abstained as his wife is a member of the support staff.

Article 2 Operating Budget

Moved by Tom, seconded by Raul.

The article is recommended 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes".

Article 3 Contingency

Moved by Tom, seconded by Jim.

The article is recommended 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes".

Article 4 SAU Budget

Moved by Jim, seconded by Raul.

The article is recommended 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes".

Article 5 Athletics Expendable Trust

Moved by Tom, seconded by Raul.

The article is recommended 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes".

Article 6 Facilities Maintenance Trust

Moved by Tom, seconded by Jim.

The article is recommended 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes".

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Article 7 Special Education Trust

Moved by Tom, seconded by Jim.

Krista moved that we amend the article to raise the cap to \$250,000. Seconded by Brian.

The amendment failed 2-5-0. Brian and Krista voted "yes". Jim, Raul, Darlene, Tom and Lauren voted "no".

The article is recommended 6-1-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, and Tom voted "yes". Lorin voted "no".

Administrative Business

The Budget Committee members will need to go to the SAU individually to sign the forms related to the warrant articles when they are ready.

Lorin moved that the February 22nd meeting be canceled. Jim seconded. Approved 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes".

Secretary's Report

Raul moved to accept the minutes of January 25. Jim seconded. Approved 6-0-1. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, and Lorin voted "yes". Tom abstained.

Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, **March 22nd** at 7:30PM at the Middle School Multipurpose Room. The Board will also meet March 13th for the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District annual meeting.

Raul moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0. Jim, Brian, Raul, Darlene, Krista, Tom and Lorin voted "yes". Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Rater

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