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HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting at the Hollis Brookline Middle School

Present:

Darlene Mann, Chair
Raul Blanche, Vice Chair
Brian Rater, Secretary
David Blinn
Lorin Rydstrom
Jim Solinas
Krista Whalen

Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
Andrew Corey, Superintendent

Absent:

Tom Enright

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM.

Secretary's Report

Dave moved to accept the minutes of November 29th. Krista seconded. Approved 7-0-0.
Krista moved to accept the minutes of December 21st. Dave seconded. Approved 4-0-3. Jim, Lorin and Brian abstained.

Public Input

There was no public input.

An email was received from Eric Pauer in opposition to the facilities expansion and the athletic field bonds.

Facilities Expansion presentation

Cameron Hallett, a freshman student, gave a 3D virtual reality presentation on the proposed new facilities spaces.

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Raul asked about new equipment that would be required, electrical requirements and security cameras. Andy indicated that some of the new equipment may be donated, and the administration will consider cameras. Cindy VanCoughnett noted that electrical outlets would be available through the ceiling.

Draft Warrant

The facilities warrant article proposes \$1.98 million be bonded. The athletic field warrant article asks for \$1.66 million. However, there are alternative versions of the articles that assume a portion of the funding will come from donations. These alternative versions ask for a \$1.683 million bond (85%) for facilities article and a \$1.411 million bond (85%) for the athletic field.

The athletic field proposal uses Astroturf to reduce ongoing maintenance costs and water needs.

Lorin recommended that the warrant articles include raising private funds, but not making the start of the project contingent upon fully raising the private funds.

There was discussion of the pros and cons of having a bond vs. leasing for the athletic facilities.

Contracts

The support staff contract would increase salaries for paraprofessionals and custodians to make the salaries more competitive with other, local school districts. The warrant article anticipates an increase of \$78,813 for FY19. This is a three-year contract to be voted yearly in increments.

Operating Budget

The proposed operating budget is \$21,294,000.

There was a fire alarm issue at the High School recently, but the alarm did not work as designed and the Hollis Fire Chief wants the SAU to replace the existing control panel by September. A new control panel would cost around \$78,000. This expense would be taken from the current FY18 operating budget, reducing the unassigned fund balance. The administration has applied for a state grant that would cover 20% of the cost if approved.

Andy also advised that he is planning to pre-purchase Chromebooks with FY18 dollars so that this can be removed from the FY19 budget. With the addition of some funding for lacrosse in FY19, that would bring the FY19 budget back to the guidance provided by the budget committee. The budget committee indicated that it was fine with keeping the Chromebooks in the FY19 budget and going slightly over guidance. The Chromebooks are estimated to cost \$15,000.

Tax impacts

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The budget not including the facilities and athletic fields would increase taxes by approximately \$0.29 per thousand in Hollis and \$0.55 per thousand in Brookline.

Legislative Update

Darlene provided a list of bills in the state legislature that would affect the Coop.

Raul, Jim and Brian will form a subcommittee to monitor state legislation.

Announcements

Upcoming dates:

Jan 31 – workshop for editing budget presentation
Feb 1 – facilities public forum
Feb 5 – Brookline School District deliberative session
Feb 6 – Hollis School District public hearing
Feb 7 – Hollis Town public hearing
Feb 8 – Coop public hearing
Mar 6 – Hollis School District meeting
Mar 13 – Election Day
Mar 14 – Brookline town meeting
Mar 15 – Coop School District meeting
Mar 17 – Hollis town meeting

Next Meeting

We will have a workshop on Wednesday, January 31st at 6:30pm at the middle school to edit the draft budget presentation.

The Coop Budget hearing is planned for February 8th at 6:30pm at the middle school.

Our next regular meeting will be February 28th at 6:30 in the Hollis Brookline Middle School library.

Dave moved that we adjourn. Raul seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0. Adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Rater

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