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## HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 13, 2018 meeting at the Hollis Brookline Middle School

### **Present:**

Darlene Mann, Chair

Raul Blanche, Vice Chair

Brian Rater, Secretary

John Cross, School Board representative (joined at 7:02)

Tom Enright

Lorin Rydstrom

Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator

### **Absent:**

David Blinn

Jim Solinas

The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM.

### **Resignation of Jim Solinas**

Jim Solinas has submitted his resignation effective immediately. He cited a lack of available time to devote to the work of the Committee as the reason.

We will publicly notice the now open position and hope to be able to fill it at our next meeting in August. The position, which represents Brookline, will have a term that expires in March 2019.

### **Quorum**

There was discussion about how many member of the committee are needed to constitute a quorum. Darlene will research this and report back to the Committee.

### **Secretary's Report**

Raul moved to accept the minutes of February 8<sup>th</sup>. Lorin seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

### **Public Input**

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Tom Solon, Coop School Board Chair, addressed several topics. First, he wanted it to be known that the Coop School Board takes the opinions of the Coop Budget Committee very seriously in their deliberations. He also wanted to reiterate his position that there are legal impediments to sharing certain types of information. He also expressed the position that the purpose of the Maintenance Trust Fund is to build up funding to cover large expenses related to maintenance.

Darlene responded that it was the understanding of the Coop Budget Committee that the purpose of the Maintenance Trust Fund was to cover unexpected emergencies related to maintenance. She also expressed the view that, if a Trust Funds for large projects, if they are created, should be for a specific project.

## **Financial Update**

Kelly updated the committee on the status of unspent funds and the reasons for the underspending. The professional staff have not taken as much training as had been budgeted for and there were significant savings in transportation costs. Currently, there is projected to be \$231,000 available to return to the taxpayers, but the exact value will not be known until September.

So far, no funds have been spent on the athletic fields. \$13,000 has been allocated in the FY19 budget for surveys.

Several state grants have been approved and a second round is coming. These are focused on school security.

Hollis Brookline Middle School has been recognized as one of the safest schools in New Hampshire.

## **Audit**

The annual independent audit has been completed. There were not findings. It was decided to invite the auditor to a fall meeting to discuss the process and results.

## **August meeting**

It was decided to move the August meeting to the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **School Board update**

The school board has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit against the athletic field due to lack of standing. The judge has 60 days to decide on this, but may do so sooner. The deadline to apply for the bond bank has passed and could not be met due to the lawsuit. Therefore, the loan will have to come from a commercial bank, which will likely have higher rates. Options are being examined.

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The school board is planning a workshop in July to look at ways of improving the school district meeting.

The school board has made some structural changes in the administration of special education.

## **Facilities update**

Kelly presented the latest Capital Improvements Plan.

## **Operating Budget**

Kelly reminded the committee that the retirement benefits will be adjusted again this year as they are adjusted every two years. Also, it was noted that both Hollis and Brookline are doing property reevaluations.

## **Strategic Plan**

Kelly updated the committee on the Administration's education Strategic Plan.

## **Next Meeting**

Our next regular meeting will be August 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Hollis Brookline Middle School library.

Raul moved that we adjourn. Lorin seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0. Adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Rater

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