

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD  
JANUARY 21, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Matthew Maguire, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present:      Kenneth Haag, Vice Chairman  
Rebecca Howie, Secretary  
Alison Marsano  
Erin Sarris

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance:                    Andrew Corey, Superintendent  
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent  
Bob Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services  
Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator  
Kristen Maher, Assistant Business Administrator  
Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy  
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School  
Brian Rater, Chairman, Brookline Finance Committee  
Graham Loff, Secretary, Brookline Finance Committee  
Dana Ketchen, Brookline Finance Committee

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**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** - None

**CORRESPONDENCE/RESIGNATIONS/NOMINATIONS** - None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECESS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FY21 BUDGET**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The Board recessed at 6:32 p.m.*

*The Board reconvened at 7:33 p.m.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO THAT THE AGENDA BE ADJUSTED BY ADDING A NON-PUBLIC MEETING PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

## ON THE QUESTION

It was explained the purpose would be for the Board to review its input to the Superintendent evaluation.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

## DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board and Finance Committee will take regarding the proposed Warrant Articles for the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

### Article 2

*To see if the Brookline School District will vote to approve the cost of items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Teachers Association for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years, which calls for the following increase in professional staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:*

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2020-2021	\$146,163
2021-2022	\$170,569
2022-2023	\$163,945
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$480,677</b>

*and further to raise and appropriate a sum of \$146,163 for the first fiscal year (2020-21 school year), such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in professional staff salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.*

### **MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 2, AS PRESENTED**

### **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

## ON THE QUESTION

Ms. Marsano stated her belief sanbornization would be a separate Warrant Article. Superintendent Corey confirmed it is not.

Dana Ketchen, Brookline Finance Committee, questioned the length of time utilized for negotiations, and was informed negotiations began in the June timeframe and concluded in December. Superintendent Corey stated they ended in mediation on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Ketchen noted sanbornization means the contract cannot be changed for 3 years. Those are funds that are voted and approved for the full term of the three-year contract. It is a fixed allocation in the school budget that cannot be changed.

Asked if that is an accurate statement, Superintendent Corey remarked not 100% as there have been years where teachers have given back. There was a very difficult year in Brookline during which teachers voluntarily gave up a raise (2008-2009 timeframe). Sanbornization does result in the obligation to fund the contract in the out years.

Brian Rater, Chairman, Brookline Finance Committee, stated his heartburn with sanbornization is that it takes away the power from future voters. In the absence of sanbornization, the costs of each year of the contract go before the voters.

Ms. Sarris commented it is an interesting principle and perspective; however, questioned how you can call a contract a three-year contract if it is truly a one-year contract with a proposal for the outyears.

Ms. Marsano spoke of being torn. She has concerns with the third year believing it to be too far out to make assumptions relative to GMR, etc. She stated her support for the contract and reiterated her concern is with the fiscal impact of the outlying year.

Graham Loff, Secretary, Brookline Finance Committee, stated his belief the Board made an error removing the franchise of future voters. For a government organization to take a voters' franchise requires more than what was put in from the perspective he has, without the benefit of being involved in the negotiations.

Ms. Ketchen commented she has resided here for 35 years. It is a community that has been historically supportive of teachers and the District. This sort of feels like the support that has been provided all of these years is not appreciated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4-1-0**

*Member Marsano voted in opposition*

***The Finance Committee does not recommend the Article 1-2-0***

*Members Rater and Ketchen voted in opposition*

**Article 3**

*To see if the Brookline School District will vote to implement a Full-Day Kindergarten Program at Richard Maghakian Memorial School starting with the 2020-2021 school year, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$143,065 (Gross Budget) for the purpose of funding the additional operating costs of the program. It is anticipated that 65 students will be enrolled for total additional State revenues of \$120,535. Defeat of this article will have no impact on continuing the Kindergarten program currently in place.*

*If this article passes, the General Fund Operating Budget will decrease by \$96,965 and the General Fund Revenues will also decrease by \$96,965, which represents the revenue sources related to the Kindergarten program currently in place that will not be available if Full-Day Kindergarten passes; the cost of operating Full-Day Kindergarten will be included in the operating budget in future years.*

*Additional cost of new full-day program: \$46,100*

*Expected State funding: \$120,535*

*Current parent-paid revenue that will be lost: \$217,500*

*Revenue difference: \$96,965*

*Net effect to the taxpayer: \$143,065*

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 3, AS PRESENTED  
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG**

**ON THE QUESTION**

Ms. Marsano stated her full support of full-day kindergarten believing it to be a large benefit to the community, and although a cost, a reasonable one. It is not without cost if the Article does not pass; there would remain a \$40,000 increase.

Ms. Ketchen commented she had planned to vote in favor of the Article until the sanbornization of the teacher contract occurred. She clarified sanbornization relates to the salary of the teacher that would be hired to support this.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee does not recommend the Article 1-2-0*

*Members Loff and Ketchen vote in opposition*

**Article 4**

*To see if the Brookline School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$9,459,497. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$9,379,264, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER HOWIE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 4, AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee recommends the Article 3-0-0*

**Article 5**

*To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$75,000 from the June 30 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2020 to be added to the previously established SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 5, AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee recommends the Article 3-0-0*

**Article 6**

*To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$25,000 from the June 30 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2020 to be added to the previously established SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND. No amount to be raised from taxation.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 6, AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee recommends the Article 3-0-0*

**Article 7**

*To see if the school district will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$40,000 to go into the fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2020.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 7, AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee recommends the Article 2-1-0*  
*Member Ketchen voted in opposition*

**Article 8**

*Shall the voters of the Brookline School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$1,807,100 for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$319,460 is assigned to the school budget of this school district? This year's adjusted budget of \$1,718,104 with \$307,815 assigned to the school budget of this school district, will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 8, AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee recommends the Article 2-1-0*  
*Member Ketchen voted in opposition*

**Article 9**

*To see if the school district voters will authorize the Brookline School District to access future year state and federal special education aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations.*

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 9, AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

*The Finance Committee recommends the Article 3-0-0*

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (c) TO DISCUSS A MATTER, WHICH IF DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, WOULD LIKELY AFFECT ADVERSELY THE REPUTATION OF A PERSON, OTHER THAN A MEMBER OF THE BODY OR AGENCY ITSELF**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HOWIE**

*A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Matthew Maguire, Kenneth Haag, Erin Sarris, Alison Marsano, Rebecca Howie

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

*The Board went into non-public session at 7:53 p.m.*

*The Board came out of non-public session at 8:44 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO TO ADJOURN**

**SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The January 21, 2020 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_