



**HOLLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

**School Committee Special Meeting  
April 23, 2020**

Present: Mrs. Raffi (Chair); Ms. Hanstad (Vice Chair) (arrived at 7:07 p.m.); Ms. Kocian; Mrs. Listewnik; Mr. Morton; Ms. Neborsky; Ms. Shaughnessy; Dr. Jackson, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Botelho, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Buday, Business Manager

Absent:

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Raffi called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. She then read the following statement aloud:

“Pursuant to the Governor’s Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, paragraph 20, as well as the Select Board’s Emergency Order dated March 16, 2020, the Holliston School Committee will be using remote participation for this meeting. The audio of this meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the school’s webpage within 24 hours in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Action Requirement of keeping the public informed of actions during this meeting. I ask that all participants remotely attending this meeting please state your name for identification purposes each time you speak throughout the meeting.

At this time, a roll call attendance will be taken.”

Roll Call: Mrs. Listewnik, present; Ms. Shaughnessy, present; Mr. Morton, present; Ms. Kocian, present; Ms. Neborsky, present; Mrs. Raffi, present, Ms. Hanstad, absent.

On a motion by Ms. Kocian, seconded by Mrs. Listewnik, The Committee voted to utilize remote participation for the meeting.

Roll Call: Mrs. Listewnik, yes; Ms. Shaughnessy, yes; Mr. Morton, yes; Ms. Kocian, yes; Ms. Neborsky, yes; Mrs. Raffi, yes, Ms. Hanstad, absent.

Vote: Favor: 6      Oppose: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 1 (Ms. Hanstad)

Mrs. Raffi introduced High School Principal Nicole Bottomley and Tom Reeve, Technology Integration Specialist at Holliston High School.

Ms. Hanstad arrived at 7:07 p.m.

**COVID-19 School Closure Update/Discussion**

Dr. Jackson reported that on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Governor Baker ordered all school buildings to remain closed through the remainder of the school year. Remote learning will continue through the last day of school, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Following the Governor’s announcement, there was a meeting with all Guidance Counselors and SAT Teams in the district. Each team was tasked with reviewing the student body and

family situations, with an eye towards students and/or families who might have a negative reaction to that news. During that meeting, a handful of students and families were identified as possibly needing additional check-ins. All of those check-ins took place on Tuesday.

Dr. Jackson then reported the student participation data from week 2.

- At Placentino, participation in Zoom calls remains high, at 97%. “Some work submitted” went from 81% to 88%, and they began tracking “all work submitted,” which is currently at 62%.
- At Miller, participation in Zoom calls remains high, at 96%. “Some work submitted” went from 70% in week 1 to 92% in week 2; and “all work submitted” was at 80% as an average across all three grades.
- At the middle school, participation in Zoom calls remains high. In week 1 there were 3 students who hadn’t connected. In week 2 there were 10, and all students have been contacted by either school administration, Guidance, or the Holliston Police Department. “All work submitted” in week 1 was at 50% and jumped to 67% in week 2.
- At the high school we are still working to track those specific participation rates. Google Classroom usage went from 73% in week 1 to 85% in week 2. Gmail usage went from 96% in week 1 to 98% in week 2.

We continue to receive feedback from a handful of middle school parents seeking more face-to-face time. Next Monday a new survey will go out to parents and students that will include that question.

Dr. Jackson then noted that the DESE is drafting revised guidelines for remote learning for the remainder of the school year. In his capacity as President of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Dr. Jackson has had an opportunity to see the first draft, entitled “Strengthening Our Remote Learning Experience” which will be published early next week.

### **FY20 Budget Discussion**

Dr. Jackson reported that the Committee recently voted to continue paying all district employees through the end of the school year, with the exception of Extended Day employees, who will be paid through Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. This agenda item is on this evening’s agenda for the Committee to decide whether or not to continue paying those employees to the end of the school year. Mrs. Raffi noted that both Dr. Jackson and Ms. White, Extended Day Director, are making sure that the Extended Day staff are providing activities and curriculum even though there are no children in the building. The curriculum and activities are offered on our website.

On a motion made by Ms. Kocian and seconded by Ms. Shaughnessy, the Committee voted to approve continuing to paying Extended Day employees until the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Neborsky, yes; Mrs. Kocian, yes; Ms. Listewnik, yes; Ms. Shaughnessy, yes; Mr. Morton, yes; Ms. Hanstad, yes; Mrs. Raffi, yes.

Vote: Favor: 7      Oppose: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 0

In response to a question from Ms. Shaughnessy, Dr. Jackson then reported that the district has not yet made any decisions as to whether the TKO summer program or the Extended School Year program will be open. However, the district is putting plans in place to run both programs, should the district be allowed to do so. Guidelines from the DESE are also going to start to include options for school districts to consider regarding what the fall opening might look like. Dr. Jackson cautioned that even if the stay-at-home order is lifted, if social distancing is still being followed, there will need to be significant changes made to those programs.

### **HHS Computer Science Endorsement**

Dr. Jackson introduced Holliston High School Principal Nicole Bottomley and Technology Integration Specialist Tom Reeve. Mr. Reeve gave a presentation about the Holliston High School Computer Science Endorsement Program. The program has two goals:

- To increase Holliston High School student participation in computer science-related coursework and programs; and
- To demonstrate Holliston's commitment to computer science education.

Mr. Reeve elaborated on the many types of computer science, citing examples such as Coding and Cybersecurity, Networking Hardware, Website Design, E-Commerce, and Social Media Management. The purpose of the Computer Science curriculum at Holliston High School is to offer students the ability to go in a lot of different directions and use computer science in a variety of different fields. He listed the courses currently available to our students, then gave his recommendation that the district offer a transcript endorsement program to entice student interest in our current offerings, and to coordinate computer science courses and curriculum. The Computer Science Endorsement will be an academic endorsement included as part of the Holliston High School transcript indicating that the student followed a course of study in computer science related curriculum and projects. A student would need to take five courses from the list of computer science offerings in the four Computer Science Learning categories of Coding, Complex Apps, Hardware & Systems, and CS & Society. They will also be expected to complete an independent project.

Mr. Reeve then took questions and comments from the Committee, and a discussion followed.

On a motion made by Mrs. Listewnik, and seconded by Ms. Kocian, the Committee voted to approve the Computer Science Endorsement as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Neborsky, yes; Mrs. Kocian, yes; Ms. Listewnik, yes; Ms. Shaughnessy, yes; Mr. Morton, yes; Ms. Hanstad, yes; Mrs. Raffi, yes.

Vote: Favor: 7      Oppose: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 0

### **Update on Director of Student Services**

Dr. Jackson updated the Committee on the search for a new Student Services Director. We have three finalists:

**Barbara Cerwonka** is currently the Assistant Director of Student Services in North Attleboro;

**Mary Buchanan** is currently the Director of Student Services in Cohasset;

**Kelly Camp** is currently the Student Services Administrator at Robert Adams Middle School

Dr. Jackson has interviewed all three candidates, and we are checking references. There will be a remote open house site visit for each candidate next week, and Dr. Jackson should be ready to make a recommendation by the next School Committee meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. He opened the discussion for questions from the Committee.

### **Warrants**

Mrs. Raffi then stated that on behalf of the Committee, she recently signed a school bill warrant in the amount of \$16,377.07.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Mrs. Raffi stated that the next meeting is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Raffi stated that there would be a need for Executive Session this evening for the purpose of discussion collective bargaining strategy with the Holliston Federation of Teachers, from which the Committee would not return to public session.

On a motion by Mr. Morton and seconded by Mrs. Listewnik, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining strategy with the Holliston Federation of Teachers. The Committee would not return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Listewnik, yes; Ms. Shaughnessy, yes; Mr. Morton, yes; Ms. Hanstad, yes; Ms. Kocian, yes; Ms. Neborsky, yes; Mrs. Raffi, yes.

Vote: Favor: 7      Oppose: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 0

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Ahronian