



**HOLLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

**School Committee Meeting
May 14, 2020**

Present: Mrs. Raffi (Chair); Ms. Hanstad (Vice Chair); Ms. Kocian; Mrs. Listewnik; Mr. Morton; Ms. Neborsky; Ms. Shaughnessy; Dr. Jackson, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Botelho, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Buday, Business Manager; Mr. Jordan, Adams Middle School Principal; Ms. Devoe, Student Representative; Ms. Powers, Student Representative

Absent:

Call to Order

Mrs. Raffi called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 HCAT webpage within 24 hours in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Action Requirement of keeping the public informed of actions during this meeting. I would 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: Ms. Kocian, present; Mrs. Listewnik, present; Mr. Morton, present; Ms. Shaughnessy, present; Ms. Neborsky, present; Ms. Hanstad, present; Mrs. Raffi, present.

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

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

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

Mrs. Raffi then informed the public that on May 18th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., the Holliston Public Schools, in concert with the Holliston Special Education Parents Association and the Holliston PTO’s Mindshare group will be hosting “Let’s Talk About Pandemic Parenting Part 2: When Motivation Meets Spring Fever.” Questions can be directed to Mindshare.holliston@gmail.com.

School Start Times Implementation Update

Dr. Jackson that this week we’ve been focusing on resetting staff expectations regarding school start times next year. Some staff members may have been under the assumption that the issue of the change in school start times would be revisited. Based on the uncertainty surrounding school this fall, he reinforced

the School Committee's intention to move forward with the new school start times. The senior Admin Council has reviewed the major outstanding issues and has developed a common understanding as to how we want to move forward. We are struggling with some of the challenges faced by the HFT's Cease and Desist order sent to the Committee in February that bars our access to teachers to participate in collaborating on options.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Jackson introduced middle school principal David Jordan to answer questions from the Committee that were posed during their last meeting regarding live sessions at the middle school.

Mr. Jordan stated that there were some modifications being made to live sessions for the remaining weeks of school. Beginning in Week 10 (Memorial Day week), they will be moving from a model of one live session, per teacher, along with one recorded session and one extra help session, to one live session per section, which will reduce zoom attendance from about 70 students down to about 25. For the last 3 weeks of school, core classes will have 2 live sessions, 30 minutes per week. Mr. Jordan took questions from the Committee, and a discussion followed.

Dr. Jackson then talked about recent discussions with the Admin Council regarding schools starting up in September. These discussions include insight on the social-emotional, the educational, and the logistical issues that we will be facing. He stated that he and Mr. Buday recently attended a seminar on Budgeting During a Pandemic, and just today the Executive Committee of M.A.S.S. spent two hours with Commissioner Riley and his staff, who shared some of the planning going on at the State level, including a Return to School Working Group at the State level consisting of 27 people who will help develop state-wide guidance on the issue of fall restart and recovery. Dr. Jackson stated that the Commissioner cautioned that the State's guidance will not be available until mid- to late June at the earliest, and individual districts should not do a lot of individual planning and decision making until the guidance comes out. Several Committee members suggested that a collaborative task force involving parents, administrators, and members of the community might be a positive step toward Holliston's recovery. A discussion followed.

Return of Fees

Ms. Hanstad began a discussion on the return of fees for Kindergarten and Pre-K tuition, bussing, student activities, athletic fees, and high school parking fees. She highlighted areas where savings could be made and other areas where they could not. She took questions from Committee members, and a discussion followed. The Committee then agreed to table the discussion regarding fee refunds until the next meeting.

Spring Capital Request

Ms. Hanstad opened a discussion regarding a request by the Select Board that the Committee consider lowering their capital request. Major items in the capital request right now are:

- Miller School Roof Repairs - \$125,000
- Repairs to Kamitian Field Turf - \$500,000
- Various Technology Items - \$400,000

The Budget Subcommittee met recently and decided to go ahead with the Miller roof repairs. They decided not to make the repairs to the turf field, cautioning we may only be able to get another year out of it without repairs. They elected to defer that request to the fall. They also elected to leave the technology request intact, with the understanding that it could change.

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Mrs. Listewnik, the Committee voted to approve the revised capital request as presented.

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

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

Capital Policy Discussion/Vote

Ms. Hanstad stated that the Select Board's Capital Policy subordinates our capital budget process to their review and has a timeline that is not workable for the Committee. It does not line up with the district's budget process. Therefore, the Budget Subcommittee will request that the Select Board amend the language in their policy to say that the policy applies to all committees that report to the Select Board. That will mean that the Budget Subcommittee would not have to adhere to the Select Board's timeline. Ms. Hanstad suggested that Atty. Waugh look at the suggested policy revision before sending it to the Select Board. The Committee agreed.

2020-2021 School Calendar Discussion

Ms. Neborsky began a discussion regarding the 2020-2021 school calendar, with an eye toward making the following changes:

- Moving the Professional Development Days on September 4th and October 9th
- Possibly moving the first day of the 2020-2021 school year back one week to August 24th.

Dr. Jackson stated that have been ongoing conversations regarding both professional development and curriculum development, as well as implementing a new K-5 ELA curriculum next year. We are trying to determine our staff's capacity to do any professional development after school lets out in June, and we believe that teachers are going to need a break. Also, assuming we come back to some sort of model that's different from a traditional school model, those early days will be critical in terms of professional development for executing that plan. There is also a question about whether September 15th would be declared Marathon Monday by the Governor, thereby making that day a no school day or State holiday. Dr. Jackson agreed that we should keep the issue on the table.

Dr. Botelho noted that the need for professional development next year is going to be as great as it could ever be, and the plan we currently have in place allows for that ongoing professional development throughout the year with more frequency that will maximize potential for professional learning and impact students. A discussion followed.

FY21 Operating Budget

Ms. Hanstad suggested that a discussion on revising the FY21 operating budget take place at the next meeting.

Warrants

Mrs. Raffi then informed the Committee of a recent warrant signed on behalf of the Committee:

- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$126,695.11

Next Meeting

Mrs. Raffi stated that the next meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on May 18th. It will be an Executive Session for the purpose of negotiating with non-union personnel.

The next open session will be on May 21st at 7:00 p.m. Items on that agenda are expected to include:

- COVID-19 Update
- School Start Times Implementation Update
- Return of Fees Discussion
- FY21 Operating Budget Discussion
- May Financial Statement
- ESY Update
- Select Board Policy Review
- Introduction of new Holliston High School Assistant Principal

Mrs. Listewnik reminded the Committee that there is also a Policy Subcommittee on Monday, May 18th.

Adjournment of Open Session

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Mr. Morton, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ahronian

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

School Committee Meeting
May 17, 2019

- Agenda
- Minutes of April 26, 2019, Regular Session