



**HOLLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

**School Committee Meeting
May 21, 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. Hanstad, present; Mr. Morton, present; Ms. Shaughnessy, present; Mrs. Listewnik, present; Ms. Neborsky, present; Ms. Kocian, present; Mrs. Raffi, present.

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Mrs. Morton, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of May 7, 2020, regular session as presented.

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

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Listewnik and seconded by Ms. Shaughnessy, the Committee voted to accept and retain the minutes of May 7, 2020, Executive Session #1 as presented.

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

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

On a motion made by Ms. Hanstad and seconded by Ms. Shaughnessy, the Committee voted to accept and retain the minutes of May 7, 2020, Executive Session #2 as presented.

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

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

School Committee Individual Comments

Ms. Neborsky reported the following:

- The high school will be doing a virtual performance of “Much Ado About Nothing.”
- Art Saves Lives has also been moved online.
- The middle school Art Club has continued painting a large mural that will be hung up at the middle school.
- At the Miller School, Sara Peters has coordinated a virtual production of the 5th Grade Variety Show, with the theme of “We’re all in this Together” which should be ready by mid-June.

Central Office Administrators’ Comments

Dr. Jackson encouraged the public to go on the Holliston High School website and view Art Saves Lives.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the School Committee

Kristine Chestna, a Holliston parent and Holliston High School teacher, requested that teachers be given an opportunity to be a part of the school reopening team from the earliest stages of planning.

Amanda Rivera, a Holliston High School teacher, thanked the School Committee and administration for the work that has gone into serving our students and community. She offered her help on the task force for reopening, as well as citing some ideas for teacher professional development and curriculum changes for a potential hybrid model.

Jaime Cutone, Adams Middle School teacher and president of the Holliston Federation of Teachers, thanked all those who are helping to make the remote learning model work for our students. She then offered public comment regarding ongoing issues between the Holliston Federation of Teachers, school administration, and the Holliston School Committee.

Mrs. Raffi then closed public comment.

Introduction of New High School Assistant Principal

Dr. Jackson welcomed Holliston High School Principal Nicole Bottomley to the meeting. Ms. Bottomley thanked interim Assistant Principal Ron Sudmyer for his contributions during the 2019-2020 school year. She then introduced Karen Archambault, as the new Assistant Principal at the high school. Ms. Archambault spoke briefly about her background and experience. She stated she has a passion for teacher/student relationships, faculty/administration relationships, and cultural proficiency. Several Committee members welcomed Ms. Archambault to the community.

Mrs. Raffi then thanked the student representatives for their participation and input during the school year and wished them the best of luck.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Jackson reported that on Monday morning, Dr. Jackson and Dr. Botelho sent an update to the community regarding planning for the fall and the four possible learning scenarios that were under consideration.

This morning, Holliston High School announced that it is formally delaying its graduation exercises until Saturday, July 25th. This decision was made with input from Mrs. Bottomley, Dr. Jackson, Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Mike Cassidy, and Police Chief Matt Stone. There will also be a senior car parade held on graduation day, June 7th. Details are still being finalized, and we will be relying on our public safety officials to help develop that plan. Additional information will be announced as it becomes available.

Dr. Jackson then called the Committee's attention to an item that was added to the packet just today regarding planning for the fall. We are focusing on four scenarios:

- 100% remote learning;
- A hybrid scenario where a percentage of students come to school while another percentage does not, and those students rotate;
- A full opening with 100% of students present, but with social distancing and medical safety protocols in place;
- Business as usual.

There are 23 different factors against which each of these scenarios will be analyzed, such as scheduling, staffing patterns and plans; health and safety protocols, etc. Planning will be going until August 15th, or until we open our doors. Dr. Jackson expressed his pride in the teachers who spoke today not only as content experts, but also as experts in the online and virtual world they've been traversing. He added that their thoughts are crucial to the development of these plans. He welcomed their feedback throughout this process.

Dr. Jackson stated that first efforts will be focused on the hybrid model, because it has the highest likelihood of being the one that will be implemented. He also stated that it would likely be the most expensive to implement. So in order to give the Budget Subcommittee and the School Committee input into the potential costs of opening under non-standard circumstances, we will focus on the hybrid model.

The initial challenge that will be faced is that we will need to figure out what our capacity is, and whether or not we can plan for a 50/50 model. A further discussion followed.

School Start Times Implementation Update

Dr. Jackson stated that there was no new information this evening.

FY21 Budget Discussion and Revote

Ms. Hanstad stated that the Budget Subcommittee met again this week. She shared the revised FY21 budget with the Committee, highlighting the most recent changes. The Budget Subcommittee is recommending that the FY21 budget request be reduced to run rate plus fixed costs. The exceptions to that are the Mood Check program and the request for a permanent substitute at the high school. The Kamitian Field project has been deferred to the fall. The new FY21 budget recommended is now \$35,139,715, an increase of 0.55% over FY20. The fall capital request will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Morton and seconded by Mrs. Listewnik, the Committee voted to approve the FY21 revised budget of \$35,139,715.

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

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

User Fee Refunds

Ms. Hanstad began a discussion regarding user fee refunds and tuition refunds for kindergarten. The Budget Subcommittee has come up with the idea of a hardship fund containing \$50,000. Any family who has a hardship and has paid tuition for full-day Kindergarten is eligible to apply for a refund. The \$50,000 will be divided among the number of applicants, up to \$1,197, an amount equal to the tuition for the number of days since the shut down. Pre-K is a fully self-funded program; and as such, there will not be any refunds for Pre-K.

With regard to bus fees, the prorated return would be \$20.46 per bus pass.

She took questions and comments from the Committee, and a discussion followed.

On a motion made by Ms. Hanstad and seconded by Mr. Morton, the Committee voted to approve a refund of \$20.46 per bus pass to the 970 recipients.

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

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

On a motion made by Ms. Hanstad and seconded by Ms. Kocian, the Committee voted to approve a partial refund of Pre-K tuition.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Hanstad, no; Mrs. Listewnik, no; Ms. Kocian, no; Mr. Morton, no; Ms. Shaughnessy, abstain; Ms. Neborsky, no; Mrs. Raffi, no.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Ms. Hanstad, the Committee voted to approve a partial refund of up to \$50,000 from the Kindergarten revolving account to provide full-day Kindergarten fee payers the opportunity to apply for a hardship refund of up to \$1,197, to be distributed as described in the memo from the Superintendent dated May 21, 2020, and subject to the review of counsel.

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

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

Select Board Policy on Capital

Mrs. Raffi stated that based on the discussion at the previous School Committee meeting, she forwarded Ms. Hanstad's comments on the Select Board's policy on Capital to Atty. Waugh for his review. Atty. Waugh agreed with the comments on the Policy and did not recommend alternate language.

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Ms. Shaughnessy, the Committee voted to approve the amendments to the Select Board policy on capital as presented.

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

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

May Financial Report

Mr. Buday gave an overview of the May financial report found in the packet.

Warrants

Mrs. Raffi reported that she recently signed the following warrants on behalf of the Committee:

- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$115,771.37
- A cafeteria bill warrant in the amount of \$1,809.76

Circling back to the FY21 budget discussion, Ms. Hanstad asked a question about the technology purchase. Mr. Buday suggested that the timing was good to make the purchase while we can, and that waiting until the fall was not a viable option. Dr. Jackson requested that they wait until June 4th to give Dr. Jackson and Dr. Botelho an opportunity to speak with Dan McLeod regarding the specifics of the technology purchase. Mr. Buday then reported that Mr. McLeod was checking supply chains and costs.

Next Meeting

Mrs. Raffi stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on June 4, 2020.

On a motion made by Mrs. Listewnik and seconded by Ms. Shaughnessy, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ahronian