



**HOLLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

**School Committee Meeting
May 28, 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

Absent:

Call to Order

Mrs. Raffi called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She then took a roll call attendance.

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

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.”

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

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

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

Personnel Statement

Mrs. Raffi read the following Statement aloud:

“To the Holliston Public Schools Family and the Community at Large:

It is bittersweet that we officially announce the upcoming departure of Dr. Brad Jackson, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Jackson will be leaving Holliston on June 30th to join the Shawsheen Valley Vocational Technical School District as their new Superintendent Director. Dr. Jackson, who prefers to be called by the School Committee as Brad, has served as Superintendent of Schools since 2004. He is currently the second-longest-serving Superintendent serving a single school district in Massachusetts.

In his 16 years as Superintendent of Schools, he has:

- Focused his initial efforts on building a culture of collaboration between and among teachers and administrators, introducing the model of Professional Learning Communities as the vehicle for that to happen. The collaborative culture that permeates all of our schools today continues to serve as the foundation for all of the changes we've seen in our schools during these past 16 years.
- He has led the transformation of our district from a place where technology was used sparingly to a district where technology serves as an integral instructional tool for all teachers. Along the way, he made Holliston High School one of the first Bring Your Own Device schools in Massachusetts, while today we are a 1:1 district initiative in grades 6-12 and 1:2 initiative district in grades K-5.
- Brad has been building on Holliston's history as an innovative school district. He captured that community pride through the district theme of Holliston Innovates and, after removing the handcuffs of MCAS holding back our teachers' desire to introduce more creative and innovative teaching methods into their classroom, re-established the Holliston Public Schools as a district recognized across the state as one that embraces and encourages innovation in its classrooms.
- He has presented budgets to School Committee with intent of improving upon education models by further supporting with staff, technology, and curriculum materials and needed professional development. He's served as a strong advocate for our students and the resources our teachers and schools need to serve those students.
- Among his proudest accomplishments, he told me, was his success in selecting talented educational leaders to lead our schools and serve in key central office positions; and one of his very talented is now running her own district.
- He has attended countless activities, performances, athletic events etc., any milestone that our students have experienced in their time in our district.
- He just completed his term as President of Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) and was named Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year for 2020.
- He did all of this while enduring a torturous 75-minute (one-way) commute on 128 every day for the past 16 years.

We are grateful for his dedication and service and wish him the very best at Shawsheen and beyond.

Moving forward, the School Committee will be hiring an interim Superintendent for one year. We will open a search for a permanent Superintendent (using a Search Committee that will include a team of community members and school employees) during the SY2020-2021 with the goal of having a new permanent Superintendent on-board by July 1, 2021.

Please take a moment in joining me in thanking Dr. Brad Jackson for 16 great years in Holliston.”

Dr. Jackson thanked the School Committee for their collaboration moving forward. He offered his assistance in any way needed during the transition period.

Committee members offered their thanks to Dr. Jackson for his knowledge, leadership, and dedication to the district and our students.

Superintendent Succession Plan

Mrs. Raffi stated included in the packet for tonight's meeting was a memorandum and draft job description for an Interim Superintendent. She then recommended that the Committee review and approve the job description so that the position could be posted on Friday, May 29th. She suggested a screening committee of 2 Committee members. A discussion followed.

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Ms. Hanstad, The Committee voted to approve the job description for Interim Superintendent as presented.

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

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

Hardship Fund

Mrs. Raffi began a discussion about whether or not to review and/or alter the language in a communication that will go out to the Community regarding the Kindergarten Refund Fee Hardship Fund. It was then decided that Dr. Jackson would send out the letter via email to the select group of recipients who should receive it.

Mrs. Listewnik then reminded the community that town elections will be held on June 23rd and for those who want mail-in ballots, the information is available on the town website.

Graduation Update

Ms. Hanstad reported that there will be a car parade on June 7th. It is expected to begin around 1:00 p.m. at the Woodland Street complex. Details are still being worked out by Chief Cassidy and Chief Stone. No details are available yet regarding the July 25th graduation. Dr. Jackson added that on Friday, May 29th at 2:03 p.m. will be the last bell for the senior class. Church bells around town will be rung at that time, and the "No School" horn will be blown from the Fire House. If people have bells in their homes, they are encouraged to ring them at the same time.

Next Meeting

Mrs. Raffi stated that the next meeting will be on June 4th. Items on that agenda are expected to include:

- COVID-19 Update
- Establish the FY21 School Committee Meeting Schedule – first draft
- Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosures
- Appointment of Attendance Officer
- School Start Times Update
- Extended School Year Report
- Policies for Amendment

Extended Day Program Update

Dr. Jackson reported that regretfully, after discussions with Chief Cassidy and Ms. White, the decision was made that the district would not be able to run the Summer Oasis program this year due to the restrictions related to COVID-19. We are still hopeful we will be able to do a 4-week program beginning the last week of July.

On a motion made by Mr. Morton and seconded by Ms. Shaughnessy, The Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ahronian