



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TRI-BOARD MEETING
(SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN)
MEETING MINUTES
PINECREST GOLF COURSE
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

A majority of the Finance Committee was not present, but representatives of the Finance Committee attended the meeting between the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Board of Selectmen: Kevin Conley, Chairman; Mark Ahronian, Clerk

School Committee: Anne Louise Hanstad, Chair; Stacy Raffi, Vice Chair; Cynthia Listewnik; Martha Devoe; and Lisa Kocian

Finance Committee: Ken Szajda, Chairman; and Benjamin Sparrell

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator; and Brad Jackson Superintendent of Schools

K. Conley called the Holliston Board of Selectmen to order at 7:27p.m.

Areas of Mutual Interest and Concerns:

Substance Abuse: K. Conley stated the Town is working on a FY19 projects list to be submitted to State Representative Carolyn Dykema and State Senator Karen Spilka. On the projects list the Board is focused on seeking funding to assist the Town in addressing substance abuse. A discussion followed and it was agreed that there is a problem in Town and more education program directed at the entire community is needed.

It was noted that even though substance abuse is identified as a top priority the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness (HDAT) was designated to receive \$50,000 from the Commonwealth those funds have yet to be released.

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Procurement: J. Ritter stated that he is interested in working more closely with the School Department in developing stronger shared procurement process such as copier paper so the Town can take advantage of the pricing the schools current receive.

School Lunch: B. Jackson explained the school lunch program and the federal poverty guidelines.

Time and Resources: It was noted that both the School Department and the town both have limited staffing and resources to complete their missions. It is important to recognize these facts.

At 7:56p.m. Jay Marsden, Vice Chairman, of the Board of Selectmen joined the meeting.

Remote Participation: The question was asked about what it would take to adopt remote participation at posted meetings. A discussion followed about the possible advantages and disadvantages of adopting the program and an opinion would be secured from Town Counsel and this item would be placed on a future meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Contracts: It was highlighted that both the teachers and the police both have open contract and both should be signed within a reasonable timeframe to maintain financial stability.

Non-Union Personnel: The group discussed the possible impact of a 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 percent cost of living increase for the Town, non-union personnel. It was suggested that a better use of various newsletters in Town would be helpful in explaining the message.

5 Town Board of Selectmen: K. Conley briefed the Board regarding the topics of discussion last week with several area towns. Among the topics, affordable housing (40B); stormwater management, and utilities.

Library: The participants discussed the advantage and disadvantages of the current Library, its location and use.

Feasibility Study (Schools): It was noted, regarding the possibility of constructing a new High School that a feasibility study would be needed. However, the first step is to consult with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to determine eligibility.

Adjourn: At 8:52p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Jeffrey Ritter", is written above the printed name.

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator