



**HOLLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

**School Committee Meeting
July 9, 2020**

Present: Mrs. Raffi (Chair); Ms. Hanstad (Vice Chair) (arrived at 7:05 p.m.); Ms. Kocian; Mrs. Listewnik; Mr. Morton; Ms. Neborsky; Ms. Savard; Dr. Kustka, Interim 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 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: Mrs. Listewnik, present; Mr. Morton, present; Ms. Neborsky, present; Ms. Kocian, present; Ms. Savard, present; Ms. Kocian, present; Mrs. Raffi, present, Ms. Hanstad, Absent

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mrs. Listewnik and seconded by Mr. Morton, the Committee voted to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2020, Regular Session as presented.

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

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

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Ms. Kocian, the Committee voted to accept and release the minutes of the June 25, 2020, Executive Session as presented.

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

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

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Ms. Kocian, the Committee voted to accept and release the minutes of the June 29, 2020, Executive Session as presented.

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

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

School Committee Individual Comments

Ms. Kocian offered her thanks and congratulations for a successful opening day for the ESY program.

Mrs. Listewnik thanked Food Services Director Susan Palefsky and Mr. Buday, who are continuing the meals program for Holliston families in need.

Mrs. Raffi thanked those involved in getting the bus fee and athletic fee reimbursement checks to Holliston families.

Mrs. Raffi then introduced Dr. Susan Kustka, who was recently appointed as Interim Superintendent of Schools for 2020/2021 school year. Dr. Kustka greeted the Committee and stated she will have an update during Central Office Administrators' Comments.

Central Office Administrators' Comments

Mr. Buday offered his thanks to the people involved with a successful opening of the ESY program, including Debbie Holleran, Lynne Bowler, the school nursing staff, and Meg Camire.

Mr. Buday then reported that since Ashland does not have a food assistance program through their district, the Holliston Public Schools has reached out to Ashland and invited their community members in need to come to Holliston to participate in our food assistance program.

Opportunity for the Community to Address the School Committee

None

Personnel

Dr. Kustka thanked the Committee and gave a brief outline of her background in education and expressed her excitement about working in Holliston and leading the district through these challenging times.

COVID-19 School Closure Update

Dr. Kustka reported that she and Dr. Botelho have been participating in daily and weekly calls regarding the school closures and subsequent fall reopening. She is optimistic that school will reopen, and we are working to make sure we have systems in place to move us in that direction. As of today, the Commissioner informed districts that no decision will be made about opening until at least the beginning of August. She added that all four schools are working on their reopening plans, and each plan will be a three-pronged approach: Fully in, fully remote, or a hybrid model. We are also putting together

subcommittees focused on fine-tuning each of the reopening plans. The subcommittees will include parents, teachers, and administrators. Additionally, there will be two brief surveys sent out - one to parents and one to faculty - asking for their input. The five subcommittees will be as follows:

- Teaching and Learning – led by Peter Botelho and Dan MacLeod
- Student Support – led by Lynne Bowler
- Special Education and ELL – led by Kelly Camp
- Personnel and Staffing – led by Dr. Kustka and Jaime Cutone
- Facilities and Transportation – led by Keith Buday

Dr. Botelho then reported on the progress that has been made over the last few weeks since the Commissioner's preliminary guidelines came out on June 25th, examining each of the 3 models and discussing how they would be successfully implemented at each school. He added that the most recent guidance calls for 3 feet of distance between students rather than 6 feet.

Dr. Kustka and Dr. Botelho took questions from the Committee, and a discussion followed.

Dr. Botelho then reported that he visited the first week of the Extended School Year program held at the Miller School. He stated that both students and staff were excited to be there, with 42 students present and 102 others participating remotely. Safety protocols were being followed, including completing a health and safety questionnaire upon entering school each day; hand sanitizing; following directional arrows to control foot traffic; individual bins for materials and toys; cleaning protocols followed in classrooms; and students dismissed directly with parents. He commended students for wearing masks in school and practicing social distancing.

Mrs. Raffi then referenced a draft of a letter she shared with the Committee today that the Select Board would like to send to our Congressional leaders jointly from the Finance Committee, the Select Board, and the School Committee, requesting federal financial assistance as it relates to COVID-19. She took comments from the Committee, and a discussion followed.

On a motion made by Ms. Neborsky and seconded by Mrs. Listewnik, the Committee voted to approve the letter from the Finance Committee, the Select Board, and the School Committee to Congressional Leaders requesting federal financial assistance as it relates to COVID-19 as amended, and authorizing Mrs. Raffi to sign on behalf of the School Committee.

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

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

FY21 Budget Update

Ms. Hanstad updated the Committee on the most recent Budget Subcommittee meeting, where Dr. Kustka was introduced to the Budget Subcommittee and to the Finance Committee Liaisons. She then reported that the Finance Committee recently voted to support the recommended FY21 budget of \$35,139,715, consisting of level services plus 0.55%. It will now go into the warrant for Town Meeting. Town Meeting is scheduled for July 20th at the Miller/Placentino Cafetorium.

Ms. Hanstad then stated that this week she reached out to Select Board Liaison Tina Hein, Finance Committee Chair Ken Szajda, and Chief Cassidy regarding clarification on federal resources. She will send out a memo to the Committee with the details on the different programs.

2020/2021 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Raffi presented the 2020/2021 School Committee meeting schedule and offered the Committee an opportunity to ask questions.

On a motion made by Mrs. Listewnik and seconded by Ms. Neborsky, the Committee voted to approve the 2020/2021 School Committee meeting schedule as presented.

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

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

Review and Approve Newsletter Content

On a motion made by Ms. Hanstad, seconded by Ms. Neborsky, the Committee voted to approve the Newsletter as presented.

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

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

Warrants

Mrs. Raffi then presented the following warrants, which she recently signed on behalf of the Committee:

- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$122,424.71
- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$106,434.68
- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$150,037.95
- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$227,458.07
- A school bill warrant in the amount of \$137,553.16
- A cafeteria bill warrant in the amount of \$2,424.35
- A payroll warrant in the amount of \$780,890.97

Next Meeting

Mrs. Raffi stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on July 23, 2020. Items on that agenda are expected to include:

- COVID-19 School Closure Update
- Town Meeting Recap
- Diversity Curriculum Update from Dr. Botelho
- Gender Equity Policy reading

Adjournment of Open Session

On a motion made by Mrs. Ms. Hanstad, seconded by Mrs. Listewnik the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ahronian