

**JOINT MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD
AND BROOKLINE FINANCE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 11, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

A Joint Meeting of the Brookline School Board and Brookline Finance Committee was conducted on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6:20 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Kenneth Haag, Chairman, presided:

Members of the School Board Present: Karen Jew, Vice Chairman
 Colleen Micavich, Secretary
 Alison Marsano
 Kelly Zakar

Members of the School Board Absent:

Members of the Finance Cmte. Present: Brian Rater, Chairman
 Tracy Perry, Secretary
 Cindy LaCroix

Members of the Finance Cmte. Absent:

Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
 Gina Bergskaug, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
 Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator
 Lauren DiGennaro, Director of Student Services
 Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator
 Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School
 Patricia Bouley, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

The Board and Committee were provided with copies of three Citizen Petition Warrant Articles for review (copies attached).

Also provided was information on the Climate Survey chosen by the sub-committee formed to review available options. The desire is for the Board to review the selection and set aside a period for discussion on a future agenda.

A request was made to amend the agenda by adding a period for public comment during the regular meeting.

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED AS REQUESTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0

CORRESPONDENCE / RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / NOMINATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brookline School Board [December 21, 2022](#)

The following amendment was offered:

Page 2, Line 44; replace “even” with “event”

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-1

Member Zakar Abstained

PUBLIC INPUT

The intent of the public comment period is for the Board to receive input from the public. It is not to be a back and forth discussion. The Board will consider the input provided during the deliberations portion of the agenda.

Chairman Haag opened the floor for public input at 6:22 p.m.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the tentative agreement reached with the Brookline Teachers Association

Member Micavich stated after several negotiating sessions between the Administration, Board, and the Teachers union both sides agreed to mediation, which occurred on January 3, 2023. An agreement was reached. All parties believe the agreement to be fair, reasonable, competitive, and a good balance of the need for teachers, the need to retain teachers, and taxpayers.

There were no major language changes although some language was clarified making it easier to hire qualified and talented personnel. They were able to keep the school day relatively the same as it has been. Member Micavich stated her belief, although through mediation, the teachers felt heard.

It is a three-year sanbornized contract. For both on and off step, increases include 5% in the first year, 4.5% in the second year, and 4% in the third year. Health insurance stayed relatively the same with caps being maintained.

Chairman Haag noted language around sick leave; having 5 consecutive days with doctor’s notice, was new to the contract. Most of the other areas were language adjustments. The Administration/Board were striving to balance the tax impact and being competitive in the market both in the southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts area.

Through this negotiation process and the discussions surrounding the budget process, the desire has been to ensure teachers were heard, paid competitively, and we are supporting our school system.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RATIFY THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE
BROOKLINE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MICAVICH**

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Jew thanked all involved in this process.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

- Climate Survey

Member Zakar remarked the Climate Survey Sub-committee met several times and reviewed available options through the School Climate Survey Compendium, which can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website. The desire was to identify a climate tool that was validated with reliability data. One that did not require a great deal of time for staff to complete, could be completed anonymously, was free to use and reproduce, and has scoring tools that will enable the district to compare our results to some standardized scores as well as, if found to be beneficial in this district, could be expanded to other districts within the SAU.

The tool selected (copy attached) is brief, validated, and believed will provide the opportunity to, in health terms, take a pulse of our district without doing a complete physical exam.

**MOTION BY MEMBER MICAVICH TO AUTHORIZE THE CLIMATE SURVEY SUB-
COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A STATEMENT TO GO ALONG WITH THE SURVEY TO BE
REVIEWED BY THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ZAKAR**

ON THE QUESTION

Member Zakar remarked the thought was that the sub-committee would draft a short paragraph of the sentiments for why the Board is looking for the district to participate in this survey. The survey would be presented to faculty and staff with that statement to provide clarity it is the Board that is requesting this be completed and why.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

RECESS

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECESS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC
HEARING ON THE 2023-2024 WARRANT ARTICLES
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO
MOTION CARRIED**

5-0-0

The School Board recessed at 7:33 p.m.

The Finance Committee was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

The public input period was declared closed at 6:58 p.m.

The Joint Meeting of the School Board and Finance Committee reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the School Board will take regarding the proposed warrant articles

Article 1 – Election of Officers

To elect all necessary School District officers for the ensuing terms by official ballot vote on March 14, 2023, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

- To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.
- To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- To choose two (2) members of the School Board for the ensuing three (3) years.

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 1, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Article 2 – Professional Staff Contract

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to approve the cost of items included in a three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Teachers Association for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, which calls for the following increase in professional staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2023-2024	\$241,337
2024-2025	\$287,648
2025-2026	\$289,609

Total: **\$818,594**

and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$241,337** for the first fiscal year (2023-2024 school year), such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in support staff salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.34/\$1,000

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 2, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW

ON THE QUESTION

Member Micavich questioned if the language in the last paragraph should state increase in “professional staff salaries”. Ms. Seeley stated the slide will be changed to accurately reflect that it is professional staff salaries.

MOTION BY MEMBER MICAVICH TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 BY REPLACING “SUPPORT STAFF SALARIES” WITH “PROFESSIONAL STAFF SALARIES”

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Vote on the main motion to recommend article 2, as amended

Finance Committee Member LaCroix requested clarification on the two-person health insurance; it was noted it would remain the same in years 1 and 2; however, there is a \$10 difference. Ms. Seeley stated the \$1,580 identified on the slide is correct.

Asked why there is a change in health insurance in year 1, Ms. Seeley responded, for the single plan, there will be a 4% increase in year 1 towards the employer. Although there is a cap, it is not currently up to the cap.

Finance Committee Chair Rater commented it is a tough contract. The increases are higher than we normally see, but this has also been a tough year with inflation having increased much higher than seen before. It is a really tough job market, and we need to stay competitive. While this gives him some heartburn, he believes it is the proper solution for the economic situation we are in. He appreciates the time and effort that went into the negotiations and will support the article.

Chairman Haag responded this is an expensive contract. He spoke of the desire to reach a balance between remaining competitive, inflation, and concerns of taxpayers.

Member Micavich spoke of the amount of data reviewed in comparing the district to surrounding districts. Our teachers were well behind other districts in many ways; some could go to neighboring districts even in New Hampshire and automatically receive an increase. They could have also gone to Massachusetts where there are different retirement benefits. It is an increase and not one that you see all the time, but in the current market, given the staff that we have and the increasing issues in the education environment that teachers are having to deal with, it is a contract that needs to happen if we want our students to continue to have a good education.

Vice Chairman Jew echoed the remarks regarding the current environment. The Town is seeing big increases for the same reason. It is probably the single most valuable thing our Town has to offer, and a reason people move here. It is only valuable because of the people that work here.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The Finance Committee recommends: 3-0-0

Article 3 – Operating Budget

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the

budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$11,283,450**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$11,125,877** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$10.40/\$1,000

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 3, AS PRESENTED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Haag noted the proposed operating budget represents a \$758,000 increase over FY23 and the default budget a \$157,000 increase or 1.4%. When you look at the special education increases of roughly \$300,000 that is double the increase of the default budget, and certainly a driver. The large driver in new items is the position of Curriculum Coordinator. If having to move to the default budget special education and the Curriculum Coordinator position are where the most notable impacts would be seen. The Curriculum Coordinator position came up over the summer as feedback from multiple members of the public. The Board and Administration have been interested in this position for several years and hearing the public feedback it was put forward.

Vice Chairman Jew commented it was the result of listening to feedback and providing a potential solution. It is important for taxpayers to support that solution at the Deliberative Session.

Member Micavich echoed the remarks adding the special education costs are mandated by law and have already been determined by teams. The Curriculum Coordinator position could get lost in the shuffle. In her mind, with this position, we are actually preventing more students from going out of district. This position has been discussed for a long time, seems to be supported by teachers and administrators, and as we see increasing behaviors, social emotional needs, and special education needs, it is clear it is not a one-person job in each building. It helps create a safe more supportive school community for everyone.

Member Zakar commented she has discussed this with community members and has used the term Vice Principal or shared Vice Principal that would assist the Principals at both RMMS and CSDA. Perhaps using that language helps people understand what the need is in each building. She spoke of the shortages experienced and how the building administrators have been filling in for multiple roles. A lot of the work is mandated in terms of evaluating students and preparing 504s or IEPs for students with special education needs or necessary medical accommodations we are required by law to provide. This is an important support system not only for our administrators and teachers, but also for our students and families. These are things we will end up paying for even if we do not budget for them.

Finance Committee Chair Rater spoke of the budgeting process stating he was impressed when the budget was first presented that it was really already cut back to just the essentials. It is a significant increase in overall spending, but a lot of the costs are outside of anyone's control. We are also dealing with a lot of new or increased issues in just the technical aspects of doing education, and you have a lot of students who have been through the COVID years and the impacts of that. In addition, the regulatory environment keeps getting a bit more onerous requiring more administrative support. He stated his support of the budget believing it is comprised of essential items.

Finance Committee Member LaCroix questioned if there are identified items that would be looked to as a way of addressing the shortfall should the article be defeated, and the default budget come into play. Superintendent Corey responded the first thing that would occur is a serious discussion with the Board around the Curriculum Coordinator position as that has an associated cost of \$110,000. There are not too many other areas where we could have one position capture that much as a shortfall. From there, they would look at all requests and try to balance them based on what would have the least educational impact to the students.

Asked if there was anything left on the table due to the tax cap that should be in the budget, Superintendent Corey stated there are some pieces around curriculum/enhancement of instruction, e.g., flat panel boards, professional development around the literacy and math initiatives occurring.

Finance Committee Member Perry thanked all involved in the contract negotiations and the formation of the proposed budget.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The Finance Committee recommends: 3-0-0

Article 4 – SAU Budget

Shall the voters of the Brookline School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$2,264,374 for the forthcoming fiscal year in which **\$446,191** is assigned to the school budget of this school district? This year's adjusted budget of \$2,247,208 with \$442,809 assigned to the school budget of this school district, will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit.

Estimated Net Tax Impact - \$0.63/\$1,000

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 4, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO

ON THE QUESTION

Member Zakar remarked we have SAU staff who work very hard. The Governing Board sought to make market adjustments to retain dedicated staff and avoid turnover. It is a hard vote for her wanting to keep things tight, but salaries really do drive the increase in the SAU budget. She does support the budget.

Member Marsano noted the presentation and the numbers on the article differ. Ms. Kelly stated they differ by the revenue (\$4,000). We take the budget and subtract the revenue and that is what each district's assessment is determined by.

Noted was that the budget passed 15-0 at the SAU Governing Board meeting following the public hearing.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The Finance Committee recommends: 3-0-0

- To see what action the School Board will take regarding including warrant articles for the Maintenance Trust and Special Education Trust

Article 5 – Special Education Reserve Trust

Option 1 (UFB):

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$25,000** to be added to the previously established Special Education Trust Fund from the June 30th unassigned fund balance (surplus).

Estimated Tax Impact: Foregoing a potential rate reduction: \$0.04/\$1,000.

Option 2 (Taxation):

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$25,000** to be added to the previously established Special Education Trust Fund, with this sum to be raised by taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.04/\$1,000.

Option 3 (Hybrid):

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$25,000** to be added to the previously established Special Education Trust Fund, with \$XXXX of this sum to be raised by taxation, and the remaining balance of up to \$XXXX to come from the June 30th unassigned fund balance (surplus) that is not raised by taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.XX/\$1,000.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented with option 3, the Board would have to identify an amount to be taxed versus the amount to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance (UFB). As it is not yet understood what the UFB would be, this does not seem like a viable option.

Member Marsano questioned if the Board could identify “up to” and “remainder” amounts. Ms. Seeley stated what would have to be identified first is the amount to be raised through taxation and the remainder to come from the UFB.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented by taxation, you are protecting the trust fund. If there were to be additional monies remaining at year end, they would be returned to the taxbase to reduce the tax effort. If the Board chooses option 1 and there is a balance that can go towards that, that is fine, but that also then reduces the available money to go back. At the end of the day, it is the same amount of money that is being asked for, it is the methodology and order of operations that is slightly different. She noted, when the articles are voted on, they are funded in the order in which they appear on the warrant. If there is a desire to have a Retained Fund Balance that comes after any of these other articles are funded. Article 5 would fund, then Article 6 and then the Retained Fund Balance option if there are monies remaining. That would decrease our ability to have emergency reserve should an instance occur such as a boiler failing.

Chairman Haag commented there are a fair amount of facility projects this year that are second to this. He asked if there is one that is needed more than others.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated an important item slated for the Maintenance Trust is the \$100,000 fire panel. We will need one in the other building in the following year. It is important to protect the funding that is available to do that over the summer.

Member Marsano noted the district no longer has a contingency fund. If all of the UFB is utilized there would be nothing to go to the following year. Superintendent Corey stated that to be correct. As you get further down the road into the petition warrant articles, if we do away with the Retained Fund Balance, that in itself will be a problem.

Member Zakar noted the meeting minutes from November when reviewing round 1 of the budget for facilities and maintenance, which went from \$527,960 worth of needs/requests for maintenance and facilities upgrades to \$8,000 in rounds 2 and 3 of the budget review. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted although many items were cut, some were moved over to the Maintenance Expendable Trust.

Superintendent Corey spoke of the safety concern over the fire panel and suggested the Board may want to make that a taxable article and let the voters decide on that. If we end up with an UFB and the voters approve that as a taxable item, then the funds remaining are returned to offset the tax rate after we do the fund balance calculation. You could have one of these articles be funded through the UFB and one through taxation.

Noted was that the Board dictates the order of the articles.

Member Marsano questioned where it would leave the district in terms of what needs to be done should any of the articles proposed to be funded through taxation fail to pass. Superintendent Corey stated, in either case, no means no. Whether the identified funding source is the UFB or through taxation, if voted down it will not happen. The Brookline budget does not include a lot of areas to look to for unanticipated expenses. It would be very difficult to identify \$100,000 to do the fire panel. The first thing we would do is send the Facilities Director back to see if we can get through another year. We have two to be addressed in the next couple of years.

Chairman Haag stated his initial thought was utilization of the UFB for the special education trust and taxation for the maintenance trust.

Member Marsano remarked she agrees in terms of the funding mechanisms. When looking at what we will expend and the anticipated ending balance for the Special Education Trust, if we approve the \$25,000 it is nowhere close to where we started four years ago. The small allocation was decided upon this year as part of the process of reducing the proposed budget.

Finance Committee Chair Rater commented because the fire panel itself seems to be in a different category than the items in the other articles, he would suggest utilizing the hybrid approach for the Maintenance Trust Fund indicating \$100,000 through taxation specifically to cover the fire panel and the remainder from the UFB. He would also suggest the funding mechanism for the Special Education trust be the UFB.

Finance Committee Member LaCroix asked if the Legislative body could change the funding mechanism during the Deliberative Session. Superintendent Corey stated his belief what could be altered is the dollar amount. He will look for verification on that.

Finance Committee Member Perry asked if last year's voting results are reviewed to see how these articles have been supported. Chairman Haag stated it to typically be 4-1. Superintendent Corey stated there to be

significant support. He is of the belief when the voters know that \$100,000 is for a fire panel, they will rise to the occasion.

Vice Chairman Jew questioned, if moving in the direction of the hybrid funding approach, would the Board be supportive of bumping this article up to be funded prior to the special education article. It did not appear as though a move would be supported.

Finance Committee Chair Rater stated he would be a little concerned about the special education allocation. If the Board is already anticipating expending \$150,000 out of the existing balance, getting down below \$100,000 concerns him.

Member Micavich spoke of the potential for a single student to move into the district requiring a placement. Were there not sufficient funds to cover the unanticipated expense, the cost would have to come from somewhere within the operating budget. She is leaning towards ensuring there is funding available for all of the requests. It seems she is hearing the best approach for Article 6 is to utilize the funding mechanism of taxation.

Finance Committee Chair Rater commented it is typically the case that there is a greater amount of UFB than is needed to fund the approved articles. He questioned the last time the situation arose where an approved article was unable to be funded and was told it has been several years. That could have been the situation last year had the district been fully staffed.

Member Marsano commented, because it has occurred at previous Deliberative Sessions, consideration has to be given to the possibility of the requested amount being increased by the Legislative Body. She is supportive of the hybrid option of the taxation mechanism for the maintenance trust.

Chairman Haag commented another option is utilizing the UFB for the Special Education Trust and taxation for the entire requested amount for the Maintenance Trust.

Asked what the projected UFB is, at this time, Ms. Seeley stated the budget is currently projecting a negative \$35,000 balance. She anticipates that number will improve. Vice Chairman Jew remarked if going with option 1 (UFB) and there are no funds available, the articles would not be funded.

Superintendent Corey stated another option to be the addition of an article specifically around the fire panel so that it is a standalone article funded through taxation.

Member Marsano questioned if the language of the articles could indicate, if UFB is unavailable, the articles would be funded through taxation. Superintendent Corey stated that could occur, but where it becomes difficult is the voter is going to the polls and may or may not have participated in the discussion that has occurred. He suggested it to be an easy explanation of why \$100,000 would be raised through taxes and \$55,000 through the UFB. He clarified the fire panel is functioning as it should (tested monthly). It is reaching end of life and is an item the district looks to replace within the parameters of useful life.

Finance Committee Chair Rater noted the items that were on the maintenance trust proposed use, aside from the fire panel, were the cafeteria tables, burglar alarm, access points, IT wiring, exterior doors, and exterior lighting. If those things were pushed off another year, it is not quite the same impact as the fire panel.

Regarding the Special Education Trust, Member Zakar stated her opinion the allocation should be raised through taxation. The district is vulnerable to not being able to fund federally mandated services for our students. Looking for a windfall that may not exist to fund it is a mistake.

Vice Chairman Jew stated the responsibility, as Board members, is to ensure the best educational outcome for the students. Were we to have to take funding from regular education areas or a staff member to pay something that is mandated, that is not really in the best interest of the student population. She leans more towards the idea of the funding source being through taxation.

Finance Committee Chair Rater asked what the approved amount was for the Retained Fund Balance. Ms. Seeley stated her recollection it was \$128,000. Finance Committee Chair Rater remarked that is also a funding source that could be utilized for emergency situations. Ms. Seeley stated that to be the case at this time, but if the district does not have the UFB to fund that, it would not be available. Finance Committee Chair Rater reiterated his concerns with the Special Education Trust and spoke of the volatility with expenses in that area.

MOTION BY MEMBER ZAKAR THAT THE LANGUAGE OF ARTICLE 5 READ “TO SEE IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE A SUM OF UP TO \$25,000 TO BE ADDED TO THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND, WITH THIS SUM TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION”
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MARSANO

ON THE QUESTION

Finance Committee Chair rater noted the language must identify a specific amount not an “up to” amount.

AMENDED MOTION BY MEMBER MARSANO THAT THE LANGUAGE OF ARTICLE 5 READ “TO SEE IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$25,000 TO BE ADDED TO THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND, WITH THIS SUM TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION”
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ZAKAR
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0

Vote on the main motion to recommend Article 5, option 2 in the amount of \$25,000 to be raised by taxation

MOTION CARRIED
3-2-0
Members Haag and Marsano voted in opposition

The Finance Committee recommends: 3-0-0

Article 6 – Maintenance Trust

Option 1 (UFB):

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$155,000 to be added to the previously established School Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund from the June 30th unassigned fund balance (surplus).

Estimated Tax Impact: Foregoing a potential rate reduction: \$0.22/\$1,000.

Option 2 (Taxation):

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$155,000** to be added to the previously established School Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund, with this sum to be raised by taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.22/\$1,000.

Option 3 (Hybrid):

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$155,000** to be added to the previously established School Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund, with \$100,000 of this sum to be raised by taxation, and the remaining balance of up to \$55,000 to come from the June 30th unassigned fund balance (surplus) that is not raised by taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.XX/\$1,000.

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 6, OPTION 3
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

ON THE QUESTION

The language will read: “To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$155,000** to be added to the previously established School Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund, with \$100,000 of this sum to be raised by taxation, and the remaining balance of up to \$55,000 to come from the June 30th unassigned fund balance (surplus) that is not raised by taxation.”

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The Finance Committee recommends: 3-0-0

Article 7 (by Petition)

“To reflect the growth of Brookline and to help distribute the workload of the Brookline School Board, shall the Brookline School District change the number of members of the Brookline School Board from five members to seven members per RSA 671:4?”

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 7
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Haag stated a review of membership numbers in Milford, Bedford, Hollis, Hudson, Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Merrimack identified them all at 5. To him, it feels as if the article uses growth to get to a means to an end, and he is concerned that the language is serving a purpose as opposed to what the intent is. If you look at the ballots, we typically do not have a lot of competition for Board members. Adding two additional

positions concerns him that it may not necessarily represent the interest of the Town. He is very strongly opposed to the article.

Member Marsano stated agreement noting in the past 6 years she ran unopposed twice. She can see that within the Town structure they are always looking for people to serve. Increasing membership by 2 seems unnecessary and like we would be trying to alter things nefariously.

Vice Chairman Jew commented there is work to be done on the School Board and it is important for those running to recognize you do have to do work. It is not so much work that 5 members cannot handle, however.

Chairman Haag remarked were enrollment to increase by 100 the same number of policies would come through, the same budget would come through, etc. The committees that we are serving on would not change. He likes the idea of competition at the ballot box and having members that are represented via the community's votes as opposed to diluting and allowing for someone you may not know until they show up to vote for school board policies or budgets. That is his rationale.

MOTION FAILED

0-5-0

Article 8 (by Petition)

“To prevent taxpayer dollars from funding lobbying against the interests of parents and citizens, shall the Brookline School District zero out budget line item “Dues” 10.2310.810.00.0?”

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 8

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Haag stated the concern with language around lobbying and then pointing to a specific line item.

Vice Chairman Jew asked if it is referring to the New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA), which has a small lobbying wing, and was told that is the case. She stated the NHSBA is a very valuable resource to help guide the Board on policies, e.g., ensuring we are adopting the required policies and the legalities behind the language, etc. That is a resource we need to maintain.

Member Marsano commented having sat through some of their deliberative meetings pre-COVID, because it is all school boards in the State that come together it is not directed one way or the other. It is not liberal or conservative. It seems that the legal resources, the policy language provided, etc. would all be taken away as a simple resource.

Member Micavich commented on her belief there are other organizations that are trying to do the work of the NHSBA almost pretending to be them. She received emails from that group. It can become very confusing. This is the official organization, is very neutral, based on State law, and very helpful.

Chairman Haag commented on the helpfulness of the resources provided. The language concerns him with these articles as they are worded in a way that may stray people from understanding what the true intent is.

Member Zakar questioned what other dues are encumbered in the line item that would be removed. Ms. Seeley stated, for this discussion, it is just the NHSBA.

Superintendent Corey stated the petitions were sent to legal counsel for review. Legal counsel wished for the Board to realize the question about “against the interest of parents and citizens” is also very subjective because we represent all citizens not just one group. He was concerned about that. It is something that is very difficult to determine from a legal standpoint. It is a legal article, but it is very difficult to determine. The other piece is that ultimately the voters pass a budget and then the Board decides how the budget is implemented.

Member Zakar stated concern with a precedent being set for line item vetoes by warrant articles for the school budget. By supporting an article like this it would set an unfortunate precedent.

Finance Committee Chair Rater stated his personal opinion this is more of a policy issue than a financial one. The Finance Committee will not take a position on it.

MOTION FAILED

0-5-0

Article 9 (by Petition)

“To reduce the Brookline property tax burden, shall the Brookline School District rescind authorization under RSA 198:4-b II so that the Brookline School District no longer retains any unassigned general funds under RSA 198:4-b II?”

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 9

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Haag commented this has come up every year that this has been in place and every year it has failed to pass the voters. He struggles with why we continue to do this every year.

Member Marsano stated appreciation for those who wish to keep the tax burden down. She believes the simple act of doing this does not change your tax burden. If we do not cover it this year, it will move to next year.

Chairman Haag stated the Unreserved Fund Balance was passed with a vote of roughly 4-1 a few years ago. Ever since that time this petition article has come up. If we do not do it this way, we are still going to look for a means of contingency. The idea of having a safety net that is deferring is important, and we just talked about why for the last 20 minutes when discussing articles 5 and 6.

Member Marsano remarked what would be seen is those articles funded through taxation. That is how it will go up and down rather than trying to utilize an UFB. She feels the need to continually remind people that with the UFB, taxpayers do not receive a check in the mail if that is not utilized, it simply goes to help pay for the taxes for the next year.

Member Zakar stated her understanding were there no funds available through a mechanism such as the Maintenance Trust Fund, if an item such as a boiler had to be replaced, the Board would have to conduct an emergency meeting (at a cost to taxpayers of several thousand dollars to conduct) to then have to purchase

something at probably an increased cost because we would be doing it in an emergent situation. There are consequences to not having a reserve of funds and that consequence may result in the school closing for a time.

Finance Committee Chair Rater stated his belief this one is very clearly a fiscal issue that the Committee should take a position on. He is personally opposed to the article as he feels there is an important need for contingencies, which is essentially what this is.

Finance Committee Member Perry remarked the budget is currently essentially in the negative. A majority of residents moved here because we want our children to be in a good school system. To keep not having funds in a good school system she does not see the point of.

MOTION FAILED

0-5-0

The Finance Committee recommends: 0-3-0

The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO ADJOURN

SECONDED BY MEMBER JEW

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The January 11, 2023 Joint meeting of the Brookline School Board and Brookline Finance Committee was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____

OCI

Directions: The following are statements about your school, Please indicate the extent to which each statement characterizes your school from **rarely occurs** to **very frequently occurs**.

	Rarely Occurs	Sometimes Occurs	Often Occurs	Very Frequently Occurs
1. The principal explores all sides of topics and admits that other opinions exist.	1	2	3	4
2. A few vocal parents can change school policy.	1	2	3	4
3. The principal treats all faculty members as his or her equal.	1	2	3	4
4. The learning environment is orderly and serious.	1	2	3	4
5. The principal is friendly and approachable.	1	2	3	4
6. Select citizens groups are influential with the board.	1	2	3	4
7. The school sets high standards for academic performance.	1	2	3	4
8. Teachers help and support each other.	1	2	3	4
9. The principal responds to pressure from parents.	1	2	3	4
10. The principal lets faculty know what is expected of them.	1	2	3	4
11. Students respect others who get good grades.	1	2	3	4
12. Teachers feel pressure from the community.	1	2	3	4
13. The principal maintains definite standards of performance.	1	2	3	4
14. Teachers in this school believe that their students have the ability to achieve academically.	1	2	3	4
15. Students seek extra work so they can get good grades.	1	2	3	4
16. Parents exert pressure to maintain high standards.	1	2	3	4
17. Students try hard to improve on previous work.	1	2	3	4
18. Teachers accomplish their jobs with enthusiasm.	1	2	3	4
19. Academic achievement is recognized and acknowledged by the school.	1	2	3	4
20. The principal puts suggestions made by the faculty into operation.	1	2	3	4
21. Teachers respect the professional competence of their colleagues.	1	2	3	4
22. Parents press for school improvement.	1	2	3	4
23. The interactions between faculty members are cooperative.	1	2	3	4
24. Students in this school can achieve the goals that have been set for them.	1	2	3	4
25. Teachers in this school exercise professional judgment.	1	2	3	4
26. The school is vulnerable to outside pressures.	1	2	3	4
27. The principal is willing to make changes.	1	2	3	4
28. Teachers "go the extra mile" with their students.	1	2	3	4
29. Teachers provide strong social support for colleagues.	1	2	3	4
30. Teachers are committed to their students.	1	2	3	4

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JAN 05 2023

SAU #41

Return Unassigned General Funds to Taxpayers

Petition Warrant Article

2023 Brookline School District Meeting

To reduce the Brookline property tax burden, shall the Brookline School District rescind authorization under RSA 198:4-b II so that the Brookline School District no longer retains any unassigned general funds under RSA 198:4-b II? (Submitted by petition)

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	
1.	<i>John Listka</i>	John LISTKA	197 RT13	Brookline
2.	<i>Peter W. Walker</i>	PETER W. WALKER	57 NARDINER RD.	Brookline
3.	<i>Thomas Humphreys</i>	Thomas Humphreys	PO BOX 175	Brookline
4.	<i>Eric Pauer</i>	Eric Pauer	12 Westview Rd	Brookline
5.	<i>Ryan Pauer</i>	Ryan Pauer	12 Westview Rd	Brookline
6.	<i>Janice C Sandford</i>	Janice C Sandford	83 Old Millford Rd	Brookline
7.	<i>Calvin Sandford</i>	CALVIN SANDFORD	83 Old Millford Rd	Brookline
8.	<i>Raymond F. Ross</i>	Raymond F. Ross	16 Powers Ln	Brookline
9.	<i>Patricia Ross</i>	Patricia Ross	16 Powers Ln.	Brookline
10.	<i>Veronica V. Thomas</i>	V. THOMAS	27 WESTVIEW RD.	Brookline
11.	<i>JOSEPH THOMAS</i>	Joseph Thomas	27 WESTVIEW RD	Brookline
12.	<i>Candice J. Cunha</i>	Candice Kello Cunha	One Baldwin Dr.	Brookline
13.	<i>Richard Cunha</i>	RICHARD CUNHA	1 BALDWIN DR	Brookline
14.	<i>Normand Bleau</i>	NORMAND BLEAU	48 LAUREL CREST DR	Brookline
15.	<i>Mindy Sue Bleau</i>	MINDY SUE BLEAU	48 LAUREL CREST DR	Brookline
16.	<i>Joe Etlinger</i>	JOE ETLINGER	17 WESTVIEW RD	Brookline
17.	<i>Alan Etlinger</i>	ALAN ETLINGER	17 WESTVIEW RD	Brookline
18.	<i>Jennifer Poullet</i>	Jennifer Poullet	11 Hollis Lane	Brookline
19.	<i>Jeffrey Poullet</i>	Jeffrey Poullet	11 Hollis Lane	Brookline
20.	<i>Hyle Eichorst</i>	Hyle Eichorst	8 Blueberry Lane	Brookline
21.	<i>Jore S. Mitchell</i>	Jore S. Mitchell	41 COLBURN RD.	Brookline

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SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	
1. <u>Susan A. Mitchell</u>	SUSAN A. MITCHELL	4 Colburn Rd	Brookline
2. <u>Nancy Dulac</u>	Nancy Dulac	151 Old Milford Rd	Brookline
3. <u>Willie Dulac</u>	Willie Dulac		Brookline
4. <u>Sherry Edson</u>	3 HERITAGE CIR,	DOVER MEDSON	Brookline
5. <u>Sherry Edson</u>	3 Heritage Circle	SHERRY EDSON	Brookline
6. <u>Eric Lindberg</u>	3 Heritage Circle	Eric Lindberg	Brookline
7. <u>Maria Bechis</u>	Maria Bechis	39 Pepperell Rd	Brookline
8. <u>Dennis J. Bechis</u>	Dennis J. Bechis	39 Pepperell Rd	Brookline
9. <u>Alexandrea Carr</u>	Alexandrea Carr	8 Barber Way	Brookline
10. <u>Margaret V. Carr</u>	Margaret Vazquez-Carr	8 Barber Way	Brookline
11. <u>John J. Carr</u>	John J. Carr	8 Barber Way	Brookline
12. <u>Eric Lindberg</u>	Eric Lindberg	3 Ben Farnsworth Rd	Brookline
13. <u>Susan Lindberg</u>	SUSAN LINDBERG	3 Ben Farnsworth Rd	Brookline
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SAU #41

Prevent Use of Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbying
Petition Warrant Article
2023 Brookline School District Meeting

To prevent taxpayer dollars from funding lobbying against the interests of parents and citizens, shall the Brookline School District zero out budget line item "Dues" 10.2310.810.00.0? (Submitted by petition)

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	
1.	<i>John Lista</i>	John Lista	199 #413	Brookline
2.	<i>Peter W. Walker</i>	PETER W. WALKER	57 PEPPERELL RD.	Brookline
3.	<i>Thomas Humphrey</i>	Thomas Humphrey	PO Box 175	Brookline
4.	<i>Eric Pauer</i>	Eric Pauer	12 Westview Rd	Brookline
5.	<i>Ryan Pauer</i>	Ryan Pauer	12 Westview Rd	Brookline
6.	<i>Janice C. Sandford</i>	Janice C Sandford	83 Old Milford Rd.	Brookline
7.	<i>Calvin Sandford</i>	CALVIN SANDFORD	83 Old Milford Rd	Brookline
8.	<i>Raymond F. Ross</i>	Raymond F. Ross	16 Powers Ln	Brookline
9.	<i>Patricia Ross</i>	Patricia Ross	16 Powers Ln.	Brookline
10.	<i>Veronica V. Thomas</i>	V. THOMAS	27 WESTVIEW AD.	Brookline
11.	<i>Joseph Thomas</i>	JOSPH THOMAS	27 Westview Rd	Brookline
12.	<i>Cardice & Cunha</i>	Cardice Aello-Cunha	One Baldwin Dr.	Brookline
13.	<i>Richard Cunha</i>	RICHARD CUNHA	1 Baldwin Dr.	Brookline
14.	<i>Normand Bleau</i>	NORMAND BLEAU	48 LAUREL CREST DR	Brookline
15.	<i>Mandy Sue Bleau</i>	MANDY SUE BLEAU	48 LAUREL CREST DR	Brookline
16.	<i>Joe Etlinger</i>	JOE ETLINGER	17 WESTVIEW RD	Brookline
17.	<i>Alan Etlinger</i>	ALAN ETLINGER	17 WESTVIEW RD	Brookline
18.	<i>Jennifer Pouliot</i>	Jennifer Pouliot	11 Hollis Lane	Brookline
19.	<i>Jeffrey Pouliot</i>	Jeffrey Pouliot	11 Hollis Lane	Brookline
20.	<i>Kyle Eichorst</i>	Kyle Eichorst	8 Blueberry Lane	Brookline
21.	<i>Joel S. Mitchell</i>	JOEL S. MITCHELL	4 COBURN RD.	Brookline

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	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	
1.	<i>Susan A Mitchell</i>	SUSAN A MITCHELL	4 Colburn Rd	Brookline
2.	<i>Nancy Dulac</i>	Nancy Dulac	151 Old Milford Rd	Brookline
3.	<i>William Dulac</i>	WILLIAM DULAC	" " "	Brookline
4.	<i>Donald M. Edson</i>	DONALD M. EDSON	3 HERITAGE CIR	Brookline
5.	<i>Sheri T Edson</i>	SHERI T EDSON	3 HERITAGE CIR	Brookline
6.	<i>Ronald F. Edson (Ronald F. Edson)</i>	RONALD F. EDSON	3 HERITAGE CIR	Brookline
7.	<i>Maria Bechis</i>	Maria Bechis	39 Pepperell Rd	Brookline
8.	<i>Dennis J Bechis</i>	Dennis J Bechis	39 Pepperell Rd	Brookline
9.	<i>Alexandrea Carr</i>	Alexandrea Carr	8 Barber Way	Brookline
10.	<i>Margaret V. Carr</i>	Margaret Vazquez Carr	8 Barber Way	Brookline
11.	<i>John J. Carr</i>	John J. Carr	8 Barber Way	Brookline
12.	<i>Eric Lindberg</i>	Eric Lindberg	3 Ben Farnsworth	Brookline
13.	<i>Susan Lindberg</i>	Susan Lindberg	3 Ben Farnsworth Rd	Brookline
14.				Brookline
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JAN 05 2023

SAU #41

Increase Brookline School Board to Seven Members

Petition Warrant Article

2023 Brookline School District Meeting

To reflect the growth of Brookline and to help distribute the workload of the Brookline School Board, shall the Brookline School District change the number of members of the Brookline School Board from five members to seven members per RSA 671:4? (Submitted by petition)

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	
1.	<i>John Liska</i>	John Liska	197 R+13	Brookline
2.	<i>Peter W. Walker</i>	PETER W. WALKER	57 MERRIFIELD RD	Brookline
3.	<i>Thomas Humphrey</i>	Thomas Humphrey	PO Box 175	Brookline
4.	<i>Eric Pauer</i>	Eric Pauer	12 Westview Rd	Brookline
5.	<i>Ryan Pauer</i>	Ryan Pauer	12 Westview Rd	Brookline
6.	<i>Janice C Sandford</i>	Janice C Sandford	83 Old Mill Pond Rd	Brookline
7.	<i>Carvin Sandford</i>	CARVIN SANDFORD	83 Old Mill Pond Rd	Brookline
8.	<i>Raymond F. Ross</i>	Raymond F. Ross	16 Powers Ln	Brookline
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12.	<i>Cardice A. Cunha</i>	Cardice A. Cunha	One Baldwin Dr.	Brookline
13.	<i>Richard Cunha</i>	RICHARD CUNHA	1 BALDWIN DRIVE	Brookline
14.	<i>Normand Bleau</i>	NORMAND BLEAU	48 LAURELCREST DR	Brookline
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	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS	
1.	<i>Nancy Dulac</i>	Nancy Dulac	151 Old Milford Rd	Brookline
2.	<i>Donald M. Edson</i>	DONALD M. EDSON	3 HERITAGE CIR	Brookline
3.	<i>Sherry T Edson</i>	SHERRY T EDSON	3 HERITAGE Cir.	Brookline
4.	<i>Ronald F. Edson</i>	(Ronald F. Edson)	3 Heritage Circle	Brookline
5.	<i>Maria Bechis</i>	Maria Bechis	59 Pepperell Rd	Brookline
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