

**HOLLIS SCHOOL BOARD  
DECEMBER 7, 2022  
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Hollis School Board was conducted on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hollis Primary School.

Amy Kellner, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present:      Caryl Roy, Vice Chairman  
                                                 Tammy Fareed, Secretary  
                                                 Brooke Arthur  
                                                 Robert Mann

Members of the Board Absent:

Also Participating:                      Andrew Corey, Superintendent  
                                                 Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
                                                 Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator

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**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Superintendent Corey requested the agenda be amended by adding an item concerning the school calendar under Deliberations.

*There being no objection, the agenda was amended by adding the item as the first one to be addressed under Deliberations.*

**CORRESPONDENCE / RESIGNATIONS / NOMINATIONS / RETIREMENTS**

Superintendent Corey noted a new requirement for the SAU to test the water for lead (in all sinks students would drink from) on a yearly basis. The tests were performed, and the system passed.

Asked if the testing includes sinks in the bathrooms, Superintendent Corey reiterated the test involves sinks where water would be drunk from. He provided the example of the science rooms at the high school, which would not be required to be included in the testing. The testing is intended for any sinks where individuals would drink from or fill their water bottle from.

Member Arthur spoke of having seen notices posted at handwashing sinks in bathrooms in the Bow school system, which stated these sinks are not part of our ongoing testing for lead.

Superintendent Corey spoke of a long-term plan that is being formulated noting it may be that signs such as that are put in place down the road.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Hollis School Board ..... [November 2, 2022](#)

*The following amendments were offered:*

Page 3, Line 39; “fund” should be plural  
Page 4, Line 24; correct the punctuation at the end of the sentence

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

Hollis School Board – **Non-Public**. . . . . [November 2, 2022](#)

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO ACCEPT, AS PRESENTED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Although no members of the public were in attendance, with a posted start time of 6:10 p.m., Chairman Kellner stated the period would remain open until 6:40 p.m.

**PRINCIPALS’ REPORT**

Superintendent Corey highlighted items from the report provided as part of the [agenda](#) packet.

Enrollment history provided dating back to 2011 notes the Hollis Primary School (HPS) 2022 enrollment being the largest at 373. As was discussed last month, there is concern with grade 1. The district is in the process of advertising. It is not believed bringing in another teacher and shifting would be good. Being sought is a certified teacher. Principal Izbicki and Abby Diaz, Curriculum Administrator, are working on a schedule where the individual would do the pull out groups and tasks of that nature so that a class of 20 would be down to 14 and 15 for general instruction and needs of all students would be met. The hope is to have a new hire on board for the start of the new calendar year. Superintendent Corey spoke of a positive turn that is starting to be seen with applicants for hourly wage positions.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted information that came in after the report was distributed. The district was informed there are two honored students from the Hollis Upper Elementary School (HUES) (Mrs. Miller’s class). Caitlyn Randall is the first place winner for the State in the Radon Poster contest. She is receiving a \$100 Amazon gift card as well as the classroom (for classroom supplies). Max Canaway is recognized as the second place winner for the State. He will receive a \$75 Amazon gift card as will the classroom. They will be featured in the calendar that comes out and promoted on social media in January as we promote National Radon Awareness Month.

Member Roy questioned enrollment; grade 1 has 3 classrooms that are currently over the class size maximum identified in policy. All 5 of our kindergarten classrooms are at the maximum. Having heard the Administration is exploring hiring a single teacher she questioned the plan if the kindergarten class increases. Superintendent Corey stated the same plan would be followed. He would likely come before the Board noting the desire to fund the position out of the operating budget, and if not available, the Contingency Fund would be looked to. That is likely the same model that will be followed next year as a lot of the classes are going to be starting the year close to education specifications for class sizes.

Asked about the health of the student population in general, Superintendent Corey commented the schools are doing well. He would categorize where the schools are at now as something that would have been dealt with pre-COVID.

## **DISCUSSION**

- FY24 Budget – New Items Spreadsheet

Having completed Round 3 of the budget review process, the proposed budget represents an increase of \$1,342,307.14 or 8.62% over last year's approved budget. At this point, the total is \$77,292.36 over guidance provided by the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee provided zero for the percentage understanding it would be a difficult year based on construction costs, bonding, etc. The Administration was asked to come back further along in the process to have a discussion around relief to guidance. What the Business Administrator will bring forward at the next Budget Committee meeting, is the one additional teacher being requested (based on enrollment).

Bond principal and interest is increasing by \$327,622 (planned expenditure), salary increases, and associated FICA costs show an increase of \$218,208, health insurance with a Guaranteed Maximum Rate of increase of 4.1% results in an increase of \$141,676. New items (non-personnel) total \$157,135. Contracted services for special education (O.T., P.T. speech) increased by \$144,480. Those 5 items result in an approximate increase of nearly \$1 million.

Under the heading of replacement computer equipment, in a K-12 cycle, built into the budget are the new Chromebooks that will be purchased. Students will stay with those Chromebooks until 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

The increase in the SAU assessment attributed to Hollis is \$58,339. Regular increase from transportation cost is \$37,181. Energy increases for propane and electric are \$18,500. During the prior week the same presentation was provided to Brookline where the increase was \$74,000. Brookline, like the COOP, started off with a relatively small project, which will get them two new classrooms, new library, new service areas, new security entrance, elevator, LED lighting, etc. They will start to see savings. The plan would be to phase in like was done in Hollis and has started in the COOP. The COOP district is working with the Hollis Energy Committee in discussions around propane and solar.

Those drivers of the increase total \$1,179,018. Superintendent Corey spoke of continued efforts to balance educational improvements and success with facilities improvements and success. This year we are seeing that large amount taxpayers have contributed to the bonds, etc. From an educational standpoint, we have made some significant progress.

Member Fareed asked for clarification of Line Item #10.1100.128 – Salaries Substitutes; the spreadsheet shows an increase at HPS and a reduction at HUES. Superintendent Corey stated what is always looked at when adjusting in a downward trend is the prior year actuals and where we are in the budget process. The \$38,500 seemed excessive based on what our actuals would be. In addition, the decision was made that teachers could sub for each other meaning if a teacher has a free period, they could cover the classroom for another. That would be compensated at the hourly rate through the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Line Item #10.1113.320 – Environmental Sciences Contract; the line has been zeroed out. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated this line to be a small shift for the sake of transparency. There will be a change in the provider due to a natural progression of time. The district is looking to keep the Environmental

Science program at HUES, but have it potentially come from a different source. The associated cost is seen in the new items area.

Asked for clarifying information for Line Item #10.1190.114 - Salaries-504-RTI-Reg Ed-Prof. Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator stated that to be a percentage of a teacher that is a regular ed teacher that may be helping out in the special education area or the special education teacher assisting in the area of regular education.

Line Item #s 10.1200.115 and 116 – Salaries Primary Special Needs and Salaries, Spec Ed Teachers; both lines indicate reductions. Member Fareed noted there to be several line items where numbers are moving around (115 through 331). Specifically how is staff looking, and what do these reductions entail? Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated a special education intensive needs teacher was added (not budgeted) the cost of which is included in new items. There was a large increase of what we were spending, which was taken out of the budget and placed in new items. It looks like there are decreases, but in actually the intent is to pull it out to draw attention that it was based on student need. We had to hire an individual.

Line Item #10.1200.331 – Contracted Services; asked if there is a shortfall of hiring of specialists that we cannot obtain in the market or if these are the kind of situations where it is more economical to contract for the services, Superintendent Corey responded it is a little of both. A contracted school psychologist, at this time, would come at a cost of \$135/hour. We have a School Psychologist in each building, but when our ratio goes over, we have to balance out the salary position versus the contractor. There are times where if the cost of contracted services increase, we may look to add another position. If looking through the spreadsheet what is not seen is a lot of out-of-district tuition or transportation. Some of those services could be Autism Bridges who comes in as professional staff, works with children and is able to offer families wrap-around services.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug added another piece of the FY22 actual contracted services is as students were returning to in-person learning we had to increase our school psychology services for testing.

Line Item #10.1201 – ESY (Extended School Year); Member Fareed questioned if there are staff shortages or again a change in accounting lines. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted a good deal more services are being provided early on at HPS as we see more gains long-term. There is also less of a desire to participate in summer school in grades 4-6. The desire is to budget based on the students that we know and what they have accepted in prior years. There is a combination of specific students in the program and other factors. Superintendent Corey remarked in those programs most students are one-to-one or one-to-two.

Line Item #10.1290.114 – Salaries, Preschool Paraeducator; the reduction is most likely related to a transition of a student.

Line Item #10.2192.111 – Salaries BCBA; the increase is specific to student needs.

Line Item #10.24000.112 – Salary CIA Admin; the line is for the Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Administrator.

Line Item #10.2600.421 – Trash removal/recycling; relates to increased costs.

Line Item #10.2700.510 – Regular Education Transportation Contract; represents the approved transportation contract. The increase in fuel costs is noted in Line Item #10.2700.626.

Line Item #10.2900.211 – Health Insurance; shows an increase of \$141,676.48. That is simply a matter of the percentage increase.

Asked for a recap of the HESSA warrant article, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated it to be based on the contract that was already negotiated (not sanbornized).

Superintendent Corey went over the costs captured under New Items. The changes for Round 3 include, under the heading of Academics, a \$2,000 reduction in each of the schools identified under the heading of math curriculum subscription. The SAU is presently conducting a K-12 study. That cost will be delayed. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug added the delay is so that next year the focus can be on professional development for math instruction prior to throwing a new resource at teachers so that we are all on the same page and all moving together. Brookline had adopted Envision 2.0 and saw a huge increase in math scores. Hollis followed suit. When the subscription contracts were written Brookline was renewed for 3 years and Hollis was in year 1 of a four year contract. She wanted the contracts to end at the same time so that we could look at the resource at the same time. We're at that point. Her recommendation, at this point, is to continue with a one year contract while a deep dive is done in this area.

Under the heading of Personnel the new position for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher can be seen (next year's second grade). In regard to the question posed around additional growth, Superintendent Corey stated the direction would be to conduct a public hearing to utilize dollars from the Contingency Fund. Were an additional teacher needed beyond that the Unreserved Fund Balance would be available. The intent is not to overload the budget with positions which may not be necessary.

Under the heading of Special Education Personnel/Training, there is an increase in the three paraprofessionals that are RBT trained. The increase is associated with the additional days required of the position.

Superintendent Corey spoke of the transition being seen in the area of Environmental Science. That cost is taken out of the operating budget and highlighted as a new item as there will likely be new programming. Alternatives and additional updates will likely be available as we go through the spring. Member Fareed commented originally (Round 1) it appears the consideration was a full time position. Superintendent Corey stated the request came in from the building level. One of the pieces, from a classroom perspective, is where does it fit (special). There needs to be time in the schedule to accommodate that. It has always been done as a contracted service at HUES. He asked the Principal to include everything in Round 1 so that the discussions could be had. The goal is to utilize the resources we have in the community, from an environmental point of view. Asked about the difference between HPS and HUES, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated Spanish is at HUES and Environmental Science at HPS.

Member Fareed asked if there is a shift in priority and if it has been considered whether something we offer more regularly at HUES should be looked at on the science side. Member Roy stated she would be more inclined to make it a 6 special schedule then to take something away that she believes to be important.

Member Roy added while she agrees that the sciences are incredibly important, so are languages. Students who start to learn foreign languages actually start to understand the English language better.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug remarked a 6 special schedule would decrease the curriculum for each of the specials. That is something to consider. Asked if Brookline has Spanish, she stated they do not. Asked if there has been any study to show the differential, she stated there is none (no measurable advantage to the exposure).

Member Roy asked when students are getting environmental science at this point. Member Fareed stated it is embedded in the curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug spoke of the proposal noting it would be the same model. Essentially there are a couple of units that are taught for every grade level. Rather than the teacher having a prep period they are either in the classroom or may get a bonus prep period for that particular unit of environmental science, but it is not weekly. It is something along the lines of perhaps 4<sup>th</sup> grade gets the unit in September, 5<sup>th</sup> grade a different unit in October. It is more sporadic more focused/targeted individualized units.

Member Fared spoke of when the administration launched a program that revamped the curriculum in order to push more science into it through regular classroom delivery rather than a specialist, which she believes has been beneficial for the students. Superintendent Corey commented it is a great discussion. There are a couple of things that will occur in the coming years; will see enrollment (larger classes) moving up to HUES. We need to see if the forecast is correct, and those large numbers will continue at HPS. That is a great opportunity to start to focus in on what we do. When he started there were 6 specials and as enrollment dwindled and choices had to be made that is what resulted in this. It is a great discussion to have as we move into the spring. One of the things that was done that has worked well is the embedding of STEM in the classroom. Sometimes when you isolate classes kids lose the connection. The Administration will move forward with this model, which has worked well, but a larger discussion can be had starting in the spring.

Member Fareed asked, if getting into a budgetary situation such as a large bump in students requiring additional teachers, how critical is it that we roll out the new Smartboards at the same rate as planned? Superintendent Corey responded when looking at the Smartboard, there is a training component, and he thinks there is a little bit of a lag. We have some teachers who are already using it, which will provide more trainers in the building. That would have to be balanced. Were teachers needed, he would not purchase the boards. One of the things faced at HPS is physical space. We would likely have to start taking space from other areas for classrooms. If you get too large you have people on carts. One of the pieces that would be looked at long term, if the numbers continue to project like this, is perhaps a preschool facility on the field and move the three-year-old, four-year-old and kindergarten students to a facility designed to them. Would build some space so the SAU could be there to provide further supervision. When you look at the cost avoidance through preschool for those students and the rate of acceleration that we see, it is money very well spent.

Superintendent Corey noted under the heading of Special Education Personnel/Training, the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Assistant position is another person who would specialize in data collection, autism behaviors, etc. for the self-contained programs. Also listed are the 3 RBT trained paraprofessionals. RBT is a specific training on how to work with students in the programming and gather and record the data so the BCBA can come in, review the data, and make decisions based on where they are going. Asked if the BCBA would sit on IEP/504 teams, he indicated that would occur when necessary.

There is the need for a Pre-K intensive teacher, which is identified at a cost of \$62,249. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug reiterated that is the position that had to be hired based on student need but was not previously budgeted for.

The 0.5 Occupational Therapist identified for HUES may become contracted services. There may be a need in Brookline, which would allow for hiring a single individual to cover both.

A change noted during Round 3 under the heading of replacement Computer Equipment is the \$9,000 listed for iPads (kindergarten – current systems at end of life) at HPS.

Under the Heading of Safety/Compliance Issues, Round 3 shows a reduction of \$20,000 for the burglar alarm at HUES. Chairman Kellner commented on that having been a request for a number of years and questioned if there may be another funding source. Superintendent Corey stated there to have been mixed discussions on such items. He will ask the Business Administrator if perhaps the Maintenance Trust Fund could be looked to as a funding source. He commented on the frequency of the police in the area.

Member Fareed spoke of the \$90,000 that had been identified in Round 1 for Drury Lane repaving. She commented on having sat in the audience many years prior during a district meeting when it was learned there was the need for repaving the elementary school as the district had waited ten years too long to address it. At the time, she had asked if there was someone who could be blamed for that to which the response was no. She would never want to be on the Board and have to face a similar question. Superintendent Corey remarked one of the questions is who is responsible for Drury Lane. That has to be answered. Consideration has been given to whether there is another location for a bus turn, and there really isn't up at HUES (due to location of buried tanks, leach field, etc.). The Nashua Regional Planning Commission conducted a study, which did not produce a lot of suggestions.

Asked if a trust fund should be created for paving, Superintendent Corey stated funds could start to be allocated within the Maintenance Trust, which Ms. Seeley has done for other projects. What he has learned is we skipped out on seal coating for a number of years and once you do that water gets under. Once to the level of gravel there are problems. Seal coating is at a cost of approx. \$20,000 and has been on a regular three-year cycle.

Superintendent Corey commented should the Budget Committee approve relief from guidance on the teaching position, the budget, as it stands, is likely close to final.

- Hollis Water Trust

Current balance is \$26,766. There is no request for an allocation for this year and no planned expenditures.

Once the balance reaches roughly \$20,000, a warrant article for \$30,000 will be included in that year's annual meeting to bring the balance back up to the original \$50,000. The district has been spending \$4,000 - \$5,000 per year so FY25 or FY26 would be the target year for the warrant article.

The Town of Hollis is conducting a water study. The Administration has been in contact with the Town as there is the need to consider the best avenue long-term. The Town is looking to potentially get some of their facilities off of the district's water system.

- SAU 41 Budget Update

The SAU budget will be presented at the December 15<sup>th</sup> SAU 41 Governing Board meeting. The assessment for the Hollis School District is up by \$58,339. The brunt of the SAU expenses is salary and benefits. One of the pieces that cannot be controlled is two staff members who will be moving on to health benefits. That is a significant increase in a small budget.

In terms of meeting the needs of the SAU, the largest thing that needs to be done, long term, is determining what will be done with that building. He reiterated his discussion of enrollment increases and spoke of calls received concerning the self-contained preschool classrooms and the potential for it to be revenue generating.

## **DELIBERATIONS**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the school calendar

Superintendent Corey noted the current calendar has school in session on Monday, January 2, 2023. Some personal requests are being received as many of the surrounding districts are not open that day. The district had decided to observe it on Friday for all year-round staff trying to get educational continuity. Requests for personal days have been made because of daycare issues.

Each of the school boards are being asked to consider authorizing the Superintendent, if need be, to change Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> to no school based on staffing concerns. Should it become necessary another day could be added to the end of the school year. Noted were difficulties in obtaining substitutes.

Member Roy questioned and was told staff would be provided with one of the days as a day off. Superintendent Corey reiterated it is not yet determined if it would be necessary to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> off. The decision would be made before leaving school on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO AMEND THE SCHOOL CALENDAR AS NEEDED TO BEGIN SCHOOL ON JANUARY 3, 2023 INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT PLAN FOR JANUARY 2, 2023**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MANN**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the updated version of the anti-discrimination plan

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO APPROVE THE UPDATED ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PLAN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER FAREED**

## **ON THE QUESTION**

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the Plan was approved last month. Page 2, under Summary of Parent/Guardian Rights, there has been an update to IDEA 2004 and the older law was identified in the approved version. Item #1 included a second sentence that is no longer true based on the updates. That language has been removed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy **EBBD** - Indoor Air Quality and Water Quality  
*Given its 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading;*

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO AMEND BY INSERTING “OR THEIR” FOLLOWING “SUPERINTENDENT”, ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT POLICY EBBB - INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY, AS AMENDED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**



- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy **JCA** – Change of School or Assignment – Best Interests and Manifest Hardship

*Given its 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading;*

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO ACCEPT THE THIRD READING, ADOPT POLICY JCA - CHANGE OF SCHOOL OR ASSIGNMENT – BEST INTERESTS AND MANIFEST HARDSHIP AND RESCIND POLICY JEC – MANIFEST EDUCATIONAL HARDSHIP**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy **JLD** - School Guidance and Counseling Program

*Given its 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading;*

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO AMEND IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH BY REPLACING “GUIDANCE COUNSELOR” WITH “DISTRICT”, “PROGRAM OR PLAN” WITH “SCHOOL COUNSELING CURRICULUM”, AND “IDENTIFIES” WITH “PROMOTES”, ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT POLICY JLD – SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM, AS AMENDED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

ON THE QUESTION

The Board expressed pleasure with the changes made in response to the discussion that occurred during the last reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy **EBB** - School Safety Program

*Given its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading*

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY EBB - SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

ON THE QUESTION

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated this policy to be new to the district and required by law. It discusses the comprehensive safety program followed within the schools. A program has been in place, and the new requirement is to have a policy that identifies the components.

Asked if there are any changes needed to current practices based on the policy, she indicated there are not. Noted was that the policy is reviewed and updated annually in each of the individual schools and also reviewed by the full leadership team to look for consistencies, trends, needs, and training requirements.

Asked if there is any language included related to bullying, she noted there is an entirely separate policy on that matter.

Member Fareed questioned the language in #11; specifically what a school climate professional is. Superintendent Corey responded there is a committee formed across the districts that visit classrooms and can do an evaluation of the climate. In Brookline they are looking at a climate survey that could be periodically administered. Information gained from that can be brought before this Board. Asked if the RSA utilizes that language, Member Roy stated her belief it is likely generic as this will be a statewide policy. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the Policy Committee can review that.

Asked about the language in #12; specifically who determines the proper procedures for managing the behavior, Superintendent Corey stated the district uses Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), which is a de-escalation model. That is another area that can be reviewed by the Policy Committee. Asked if it would make sense to put CPI in the policy, Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug cautioned around identifying a specific program in policy.

Member Fareed wished to see the language less generalized. Member Roy suggested including a timeframe for training/frequency. Noted was that the word buses is spelled incorrectly in the last paragraph.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy **IHBAA - Special Education: Determination of a Specific Learning Disability**

*Given its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading;*

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO AMEND POLICY IHBAA - SPECIAL EDUCATION: DETERMINATION OF A SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY, IN ITS ENTIRETY, BY REPLACING IT WITH THE COPY PROVIDED WITH THE AGENDA AND ACCEPT THE FIRST READING, AS AMENDED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

ON THE QUESTION

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted updates to the law requiring a review of the policy. The district has followed the law and is updating the policy to reflect that.

Member Fareed noted the language at the start of the policy commenting if a parent with concerns that their child may have any kind of learning obstacles, that just puts the entire burden of understanding what the options and opportunities are on the parents/guardians. The question of “Where do I start” is awful. The policy language is so general and takes the entire NH Department of Education Special Education Regulations and RSAs and says here you go figure that out and then come let us know if you think that we have to do something.

“A specific learning disability is determined through professional judgment using multiple supporting evidences. All staff, students, parents and other interested persons are directed to the New Hampshire Department of Education Special Education Procedural Safeguards Handbook.” She completely understands the desire to avoid including links in policy, but again the language leaves it up to the parent/guardian to navigate their way on their own.

Member Fareed added the language “In making determinations regarding whether a student has a specific learning disability under state and federal special education rules, the District shall use” “the pattern of strengths

and weaknesses” model set forth in New Hampshire State Board of Education Rule.....” It feels like a giant brick wall. She would like the language to be changed. Even if absolutely legal and ethical it is impenetrable.

Superintendent Corey suggested an email to the Administration that could be brought to Policy Committee so that further work could be done. He does not disagree with the remarks made. Our practice aligns with the wording, but we are much more user friendly than the wording. Member Fareed remarked she could not be prouder of the work we do in this district, but that, as policy, for a parent having to first try to navigate this on their own is wrong.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted there are other policies that address the identification of a student. This is specific to Special Learning Disability and would apply once you are already in that conversation. The language can be reviewed, but this policy would not be the initial policy a parent looks to.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

- To see what action the Board will take regarding policy **JLCJA** - Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation

*Given its 1<sup>st</sup> Reading*

**MOTION BY MEMBER ARTHUR TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF POLICY JLCJA - EMERGENCY PLAN FOR SPORTS RELATED INJURIES AND ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS FOR ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

ON THE QUESTION

The policy is required for any school district that has 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Although it addresses sports that the district does not offer, the district does offer sports and athletics within the physical education program, recess options, etc. The policy is 100% in line with the RSA that recently passed. What will become a change in practice is the student medical history. We are used to having the health forms every year where you can use a specific form or whatever form the doctor’s office is looking for. This policy specifically asks for things that are not typically covered, e.g., injury or illness related to or involving any head, face, or cervical spine. The district is looking to create its own form.

Noted was that Section C, #1 should include the word “bulb” between “wet” and “globe”.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

NON-PUBLIC

**MOTION BY MEMBER FAREED THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (a) THE DISMISSAL, PROMOTION OR COMPENSATION OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE AND (c) TO DISCUSS A MATTER, WHICH IF DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, WOULD LIKELY AFFECT ADVERSELY THE REPUTATION OF A PERSON, OTHER THAN A MEMBER OF THE BODY OR AGENCY ITSELF**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER ROY**

*A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Tammy Fareed, Brooke Arthur, Robert Mann, Carryl Roy, Amy Kellner

5

Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

*The Board went into non-public session at 7:46 p.m.*

*The Board came out of non-public session at 8:18 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MEMBER ROY TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MANN**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

*The December 7, 2022, meeting of the Hollis School Board adjourned at 8:19 p.m.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_