

**HOLLIS SCHOOL BOARD
JUNE 7, 2023
PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Hollis School Board on Wednesday, June 7, 2022, at 6:26 p.m. at the Hollis Primary School.

Amy Kellner, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Board Present: Carryl Roy, Vice Chairman
 Tammy Fareed, Secretary
 Anne Wake-De Pasquale

Members of the Board Absent: Andrea Levesque

Also Participating: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
 Gina Bergskaug, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
 Donna Smith, Assistant Business Administrator
 Candice Fowler, Principal, Hollis Upper Elementary School
 Paula Izbicki, Principal, Hollis Primary School

**PUBLIC HEARING
HOLLIS SCHOOL BUILDINGS EXPENDABLE TRUST
SAU BUILDING EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

In accordance with [RSA 198:20-c](#), Superintendent Corey provided an explanation of proposed expenditure(s) from the Hollis School Buildings Expendable Trust and SAU Building Expendable Trust as well as information pertaining to the status of the Hollis School District Water System Expendable Trust and Hollis School District Special Education Expendable Trust.

HOLLIS SCHOOL BUILDINGS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Principals Izbicki and Fowler identified several needed repairs/improvements for their respective buildings during the budget process. At the Budget Hearing for FY24, the Hollis Budget Committee recommended along with the Hollis School Board, that the funding source for these particular items be the Hollis School Building Expendable Trust.

FY24 Requested Items and Estimated Cost

HUES	Transfer Switch-Rocky Pond	\$ 10,000
	Hot Water Pump-1st Floor	10,000
	Classroom Flooring	<u>30,000</u>
HUES Sub-Total		\$ 50,000
HPS	Univents Rebuild-Phase I	\$ 25,000
	Exterior Doors	15,000
	Classroom Flooring	<u>30,000</u>
HPS Sub-Total		\$ 70,000
Total		\$120,000

Current Available Balance:	\$247,771
To be added in FY24:	95,000
FY24 Expenditures	<u>120,000</u>
FY24 Ending Balance:	\$222,771 (Anticipated)

SAU BUILDING EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

The SAU building is at capacity and the tiny room we use as a conference room is extremely limiting. We, therefore, are looking into a cost effective portable unit as a solution. The ideal solution will be the purchase of a portable but we will also look at an annual lease if the cost is a better solution. Our research has just begun so we will bring this forward when more information is available.

Future FY24 Request: Portable Conference Room to Replace Small Storage Portable

Current Balance:	\$ 91,450
To be added in FY24:	23,970
FY24 Expenditures:	<u>37,000</u>
FY24 Ending Balance:	\$ 78,420 (Anticipated)

The SAU Building Expendable Trust Fund is overseen by the Hollis School District as the owners of the building. The \$23,970 is the rental payment from the 3 districts and is utilized to maintain the SAU building.

HOLLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT WATER SYSTEM EXPENDABLE TRUST

The Hollis School District is the owner of the water system that services both of the school buildings, most of the historic district, and the Hollis Brookline Middle School.

There are no plans, at this time, to use any of these funds in FY24.

Current Balance:	\$41,255
To be added in FY24:	0
FY24 Expenditures	<u>0</u>
FY24 Ending Balance	\$41,255

The Trust is typically utilized for periodic review of the system.

HOLLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDABLE TRUST

There are no plans, at this time, To use any of these funds in FY24.

Current Balance:	\$ 77,154
To be added in FY24	25,000
FY24 Expenditures	<u>\$ 0</u>
FY24 Ending Balance	\$103,079

The fund is intended to be utilized for expenses that were unforeseen when the budget is prepared, which is done approximately 18 months in advance. Should a student having significant needs move in over the summer months, the administration would look to the operating budget to cover those expenses, then the contingency fund and any other avenues of funding, and if necessary, would come back to the Board for an expenditure from the Trust.

Asked if any of the Special Education Expendable Trust has been utilized, Superintendent Corey stated his belief it has not. Chairman Kellner stated her recollection allocations to the fund were in \$25,000 increments, and her surprise the beginning balance did not reflect that.

Member Fareed suggested it may be that interest is being accrued. Superintendent Corey responded he did not have the opportunity to pose the question of the Business Administrator noting the allocations have been in increments of \$25,000.

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug commented on the possibility that there may have been a year where the “up to \$25,000” approved did not achieve the total amount possible. Member Fareed noted this to be the 4th year of the trust.

Chairman Kellner opened the floor for public comment at 6:33 p.m.

No public comment was offered.

Member Fareed commented when the Trust was created, \$25,000 sounded like a small but meaningful amount of money. Costs have escalated over the past 4 years. She is hopeful the Board will consider a large allocation request to the fund as part of the next warrant.

Superintendent Corey commented on one difference between the Hollis School District and the other districts in the SAU being that Hollis has a Contingency Fund and the others do not. The balances of the other districts in their special education trust funds are closer to \$250,000. If combining the two funds available in the Hollis District the balance is not that different. He suggested, if having an Unreserved Fund Balance, perhaps consideration be given to a request for an amount up to \$40,000 or \$50,000 next year, and that it be listed last on the warrant, which will likely allow for an allocation of at least \$25,000.

Member Fareed remarked were the district to have a student with a catastrophic illness that resulted in a special education designation, it could be that \$100,000 would not be sufficient.

Member Wake-De Pasquale asked, in such an instance, could the district not apply for grant or other assistance from the State. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted there is special education aid. The problem with that is that application is made after the funds have been expended and then you see the reimbursement 18 months later. It crushes the existing budget. There are some reimbursements, but it is a small percentage. That is why this avenue and the contingency fund have been created to avoid overrunning the budget and having to conduct a special meeting to request additional funds.

Superintendent Corey added it has almost become the rule that an out-of-district placement is going to be about \$200,000 and could be as costly as \$500,000 depending on the student’s needs.

Asked if that has occurred, Superintendent Corey stated we have students who are placed, it is when someone shows up that we were not able to budget for. When we do the budget, from a special education standpoint, we specifically go student by student and produce what is believed to be a cost for all of their services. We can capture that. To the point made by the Assistant Superintendent, the district has to survive until we can get to that next budgeting season. That is where the Special Education Trust and Contingency Fund come into play.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 6:36 p.m.

Date _____

Signed _____