

HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
4 MARCH 2025

**Hollis Brookline Coop School Board**

Holly Deurloo Babcock, Chair  
Kate Stoll, Vice Chair  
Beth Williams, Secretary  
Rob Mann  
Tom Solon  
Krista Whalen  
Cindy Van Coughnett

**Hollis Brookline Coop Budget Committee**

Darlene Mann, Chair  
Raul Blanche, Vice Chair  
Brian Rater  
David Blinn  
Tom Enright  
Tom Whalen  
Matt Maguire  
Tom Solon, School Board Representative

**SAU Administration**

Andrew Corey, Superintendent  
Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent  
Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator

**Hollis Brookline Middle School**

Patrick West, Principal  
Allie Buschmann, Assistant Principal  
Kathryn Ransom, Assistant Principal

**Meeting Officials**

Drew Mason, Moderator  
James O'Shaughnessy, District Counsel  
Diane Leavitt, School District Clerk

**Hollis Brookline Coop High School**

Timothy Girzone, Principal  
Yolanda Flamino, Assistant Principal  
Amanda Zeller, Assistant Principal  
Traci Lane, Coordinator of Student Services

The Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by the Moderator, Drew Mason at the Hollis Brookline High School Gymnasium. The meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Star-Spangled Banner was sung by the HBHS Unified Arts Department, directed by Chair, Matt Barbosa. Moderator introduced all Veterans and serving members of our Armed Forces.

Holly Deurloo Babcock, School Board Chair, introduced members of the School Board. Recognized and thanked Krista Whalen. This is Krista's last year as a Coop School Board member, she will be missed. Holly Deurloo Babcock also recognized Andy Corey's 11 yrs of service. Andy is retiring as Superintendent of Schools; Andy was also recognized for his leadership.

Darlene Mann, Budget Committee Chair, introduced the Budget Committee. Superintendent of Schools, Andy Corey introduced SAU 41. Moderator, Drew Mason introduced the District Counsel, Jim O'Shaughnessy and School District Clerk, Diane Leavitt. Moderator introduced Supervisors of the Checklist from Hollis and Brookline, Ballot Clerks, Assistant Moderators and Counters.

Moderator went over administrative announcements, and upcoming meetings. Moderator, Drew Mason went over the Rules of the Meeting proposed by the Moderator. Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to adopt the Rules as presented. Seconded by Darlene Mann.

Eric Pauer motioned to amend to change the Rules for tabling to require a 2/3 majority vote to table an article and a 2/3 majority vote to remove it off the table. Seconded by Peter Walker. No discussion. Moderator brought motion to amend the rules to a vote. **NO – 106 YES – 90 NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Eric Pauer motioned to amend the rules to allow proposers to petition warrant articles 5 minutes instead of 2 minutes. Seconded by John Liska. No discussion. Moderator brought motion to amend the rules to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Eric Pauer motioned to change the rules to read: Shall the Hollis Brookline school district conduct all day voting on a date and time to be determined after the end of the debate on Warrant Articles 1, 2, 9 10, 11 only? Seconded by Peter Walker. Eric Pauer spoke to his motion. Discussion ensued.  
Moderator brought motion to amend the rules to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Moderator brought motion to adopt the rules as written to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.  
Moderator Drew Mason, took a moment to thank Elizabeth Brown for standing in for him at the Special Coop School District meeting last month. Liz did a fabulous job.

Budget Committee Chair, Darlene Mann presented the Financial Overview of Articles.

**Article 1.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,291,200 (gross budget) for the design, acquisition, and installation of energy conservation equipment (HBMS boilers, controls, LED lighting and other end of life rooftop units) and related building improvements at Hollis Brookline Middle School (the "Project"); to authorize \$5,291,200 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Ch. 33); to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the School Board to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds that may become available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$132,280** for the first year's principal and interest payment on the bonds or notes issued. 3/5 ballot vote required. **The school board recommends the appropriation 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 8-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 1 to the floor. Seconded by Krista Whalen.  
Rob Mann, Coop School Board, gave a presentation with a Mike Davey Show video.  
Darlene Mann, Budget Committee, gave a presentation. Discussion ensued. Peter Stauble motioned to end debate. Seconded by Jim Belanger.  
Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 majority card vote.

Moderator brought Article 1 to a vote. Voting will be by secret ballot, polls will remain open for at least one hour, requires a 3/5 majority to pass.  
**YES – 230 No – 91 CARRIED** by a 3/5 majority secret ballot vote.

Charles Wingate motioned to bring Article 9 before Article 2. Seconded by Ryan Osenkowski.  
Discussion ensued.  
Moderator brought motion to move Article 9 before Article 2 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

**Article 2.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 2,216,155 (gross budget) for the design, acquisition, and installation of energy conservation equipment (solar panels) and related building improvements at Hollis Brookline Middle School and Hollis Brookline High School (the "Project"); to authorize \$ 2,216,155 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Ch. 33); to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the School Board to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds that may become available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,404** for the first year's principal and interest payment on the bonds or notes issued. 3/5 ballot vote required. **The school board recommends the appropriation 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 8-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 2 to the floor. Seconded by Krista Whalen. Rob Mann-School Board, gave a presentation. Darlene Mann-Budget Committee, gave a presentation. Discussion ensued. Brandon Buteau motioned to end debate. Seconded by Chris Hyde. Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 majority card vote.

Moderator brought Article 2 to a vote. Voting will be by secret ballot, polls will remain open for at least one hour, requires a 3/5 majority to pass. **YES – 208 NO – 102 CARRIED** by 3/5 majority secret ballot vote.

**Article 3.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$31,160,427** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. Majority vote required. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 8-0-0.**

Darlene Mann motioned to bring Article 3 to the floor. Seconded by Holly Deurloo Babcock. Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to table Article 3 until the voting results of Article 1 are in. Seconded by Darlene Mann. Moderator brought motion to table Article 3 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to take Article 3 off the table. Seconded by Darlene Mann. Moderator brought motion to take Article 3 off the table to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to change Article 3 operating budget to **\$30,245,428**. Seconded by Rob Mann. Moderator brought motion to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Darlene Mann gave a presentation. Discussion ensued. Pauer motioned to amend the operating budget to **\$27,533,468**. Seconded by Paul Stabile.

Moderator brought motion to amend the operating budget to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Joe Garuba motioned to amend Article 1 to reduce by \$16,000, changing the operating budget to **\$30,229,427**. Seconded by Eric Pauer.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 1 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Discussion ensued. Chris Hyde motioned to end debate. Seconded by Jim Belanger. Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 majority card vote.

Moderator brought Article 3 to a vote. **YES – 182 NO – 66 CARRIED** by a counted card vote.

**Article 4.** To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items for the first year of a three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board and the Hollis Education Support Staff Association for the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years, which calls for the following increases in support staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Estimated Increase</b>
<b>2025-26</b>	<b>\$133,419</b>

and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$133,419** for the first fiscal year (2025-26 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. Majority vote required. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 7-0-1.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 4 to the floor. Seconded by Krista Whalen.

Krista Whalen gave a presentation. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought Article 4 to a vote. **YES – 193 NO – 52 CARRIED** by a card vote.

Brandon Buteau motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 1 and Article 4. Seconded by Rob Mann. Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 1 and Article 4 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

**Article 5.** Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,171,278** as the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District's portion of the SAU budget of **\$2,438,355** for the forthcoming fiscal year? This year's adjusted budget of **\$2,389,654** with **\$1,147,885** 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. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 8-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 4 to the floor. Seconded by Krista Whalen.

Rob Mann gave a presentation. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought Article 5 to a vote. Voting will be by secret ballot. **YES – 166 NO – 67 CARRIED** by secret ballot vote.

Brandon Buteau motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. Seconded by Eric Pauer.

Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 3 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

**Article 6.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$300,000** to be added to the previously established School Building and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. The sum to come from the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District's June 30, 2025 unassigned fund balance, available on July 1, 2025. Majority vote required. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 8-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 6 to the floor. Seconded by Krista Whalen.

Holly Deurloo Babcock gave a presentation. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought Article 6 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

**Article 7.** To see if the school district will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate up to **\$125,000** to go into the fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance available on July 1, 2025, and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 8-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 7 to the floor. Seconded by Krista Whalen.

Holly Deurloo Babcock gave a presentation. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought Article 7 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

**Article 8. Petition Warrant Article.** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5 V-b, requiring that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the school board, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article? The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body. **The school board DOES NOT recommend this article 6-0-0. The budget committee DOES NOT recommend this article 7-1-0.**

Eric Pauer motioned to bring Article 8 to the floor. Seconded by Clarence Skidmore.

Eric Pauer gave a presentation. Jean Cook motioned to pass over Article 8. Seconded by Rob Ruston. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to pass over Article 8 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 super majority card vote.

**Article 9. Petition Warrant Article.** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District on the second Tuesday of March? 60% majority vote required. **The school board DOES NOT recommend this article 6-0-0. The budget committee DOES NOT recommend this article 8-0-0.**

Eric Pauer motioned to bring Article 9 to the floor. Seconded by Clarence Skidmore.

Tom Enright motioned to pass over Article 9. Seconded by Chris Hyde. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to pass over Article 9 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 majority card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Articles 2, 6 and 7. Seconded by Rob Mann.

Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 2,6, and 7 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

**Article 10. Petition Warrant Article.** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-d, and implement a budget cap whereby the school board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than 27,000 dollars per pupil cost times the average daily membership in residence of the school district as of October 1 of the year immediately preceding the proposed budget year plus an annual increase for inflation using CPI-U for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton MA-NH area published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as of January 1. Requires a 3/5ths majority of the school district. **The school board DOES NOT recommend this article 6-0-0. The budget committee DOES NOT recommend this article 8-0-0.**

Eric Pauer motioned to bring Article 10 to the floor. Seconded by someone from the floor.

Eric Pauer motioned to amend Article 10 to RSA 32:5-e.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 10 to a vote. **NO – 102 YES – 45 NOT CARRIED** by a card vote. Eric Pauer gave an explanation.

Jeanne Cook motioned to pass over Article 10. Seconded by Chris Hyde. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to pass over Article 10 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 majority card vote.

**Article 11. Petition Warrant Article.** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes (this year's base), that is higher than the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised (last year's base), adjusted for inflation using the inflation index CPI-U for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton MA-NH area published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the change in attendance, in accordance with RSA 32:5-b 1-b? **The school board DOES NOT recommend this article 6-0-0. The budget committee DOES NOT recommend this article 8-0-0.**

Chris Hyde motioned to pass over Article 11. Seconded by Judy Cook. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to pass over Article 11 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 majority card vote.

**Article 12.** To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

Darlene Mann motioned to dissolve the meeting. Seconded by Rob Mann.  
Moderator brought motion to dissolve the meeting to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

We had 101 voters from Brookline, and 234 voters from Hollis, meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane T. Leavitt".

Diane T. Leavitt  
Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District Clerk