

2026 HOLLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Hollis Brookline Cooperative High School, Hollis, NH

17 March 2026

Hollis Elementary Schools

Paula Izbicki, Principal Hollis Primary
Candice Fowler, Principal Hollis Upper Elementary

SAU 41 Administration

Gina Bergskaug, Superintendent
Lance Flamino, Business Administrator

Hollis School Board

Carryl Roy, Chair
Raphael Zack, Vice Chair
Anne Wake-de Pasquale, Secretary
Jonathan Fontaine
Jessica Lahens
Claudia Dufresne, Treasurer

Hollis School Budget Committee

Tom Gehan, Chair
Mike Harris, Vice Chair
Mike Leavitt, Secretary
Christopher Hyde
Mark Kost
Darlene Mann

Meeting Officials

Elizabeth Brown, Moderator
Alison Minutelli, School District Counsel
Diane Leavitt, School District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator, Elizabeth Brown. The meeting took place at the Hollis Brookline Cooperative High School. The Pledge of Allegiance lead by the Tom Gehan. The 6th grade HUES Band played The Star-Spangled Banner lead by their Band Teacher, Adam Wallace.

Moderator recognized all Veterans and serving members of our Armed Forces.

Carryl Roy, School Board chair, introduced the School Board. Tom Gehan, Budget Committee Chair, introduced the Budget Committee. Superintendent of Schools, Gina Bergskaug, introduced SAU #41 and the School Administration. Moderator introduced Attorney Alison Minutelli, School District Counsel and School District Clerk, Diane Leavitt. Moderator also recognized and thanked the assistant moderators, Melinda Willis and Erika Cross MacDonald, Drew Mason, Supervisors of the Checklist, assistants and volunteer counters.

Moderator went over administrative announcements. Moderator went over the Rules of the Meeting found on page 213 in the Town Report.

Mike Harris motioned to adopt the rules of the meeting. Seconded by Chris Hyde.

Moderator did not see Joe Garruba at the podium because of the crowd in line. Moderator had the line to the Checklist moved to one side. Moderator allowed person at the podium to make an amendment to motion to adopt the Rules of the Meeting.

Joe Garruba motioned to amend the Rule #26 to allow all voters in line, time to speak for 1 minute each, when a motion to end debate has been voted on. Seconded by Lillian Garruba.

Joe Garruba spoke to his amendment. Joe Garruba questioned if it is allowable to vote when folks are still in line waiting to get cards to vote. Joe Garruba stressed strongly, that we should wait until all have checked in to allow them time to vote. Moderator wanted to vote now because of the timing of the meeting. Crowd was disrespectful and a bit unruly over the Moderator's decision to vote before the crowd finished checking in. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to amend the rules to a counted card vote. **YES – 184 NO – 146**
CARRIED by a counted card vote.

It was determined by the Moderator, to permit a 10-minute recess until 7:45pm to allow all voters to check in with the Supervisors of the Checklist in order to allow everyone to vote.

Joe Garruba motioned again, to amend the Rules of the Meeting to allow all voters in line to speak for 1 minute, when a motion to end debate has been voted on. Seconded by Lillian Garruba.

Moderator brought motion to amend the Rules to a vote. **YES – 287 NO – 241 CARRIED** by a counted card vote.

Moderator brought motion to adopt the amended Rules of the Meeting to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Dave Parry motioned to move Article 8 after Article 1. Seconded by Jonathan Fontaine. Dave Parry spoke to his motion. Drew Mason made a comment. Chris Hyde commented.

Moderator brought motion to move Article 8 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Chris Hyde motioned to move Article 8 at the first available opportunity after the Bond vote is counted. Seconded by Drew Mason. Jim Belanger made a comment.

Moderator brought motion to move Article 8 to a vote. **YES – 409 NO – 59 CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Tom Gehan, Budget Committee Chair, presented the Financial Overview of Articles.

Article 1. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,384,375 (gross budget) to finance the design, demolition, construction, permitting, and equipping of renovations and additions to the Hollis Primary School to include improvements and renovations of the building interior and surrounding exterior site areas (the “Project”); to authorize \$19,384,375 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; 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 be applied toward the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$484,609 to make the first debt service payment due in the upcoming fiscal year. (3/5 ballot vote required.) **The school board recommends the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 5-3-0.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 1 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.

Anne Wake-de Pasquale, School Board, gave a presentation and showed a video. Discussion ensued. Point of order to bring discussion back to Article 1. More discussion ensued.

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to move the question. Seconded by Chelsea Lennartz.

Moderator brought the motion to move the question to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote. Discussion continued with the remaining voters in line giving them each 1 minute to speak. Moderator brought Article 1 to a secret ballot vote. Polls opened at 9:08pm. Polls closed at 10:09pm. Article 1 needed 525 votes to pass. **YES – 285 NO – 590 NOT CARRIED** by 3/5 ballot vote. Total of 887 voters.

Article 2. Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$827,498** as the Hollis School District's portion of the SAU budget of **\$2,560,328** for the forthcoming fiscal year? This year's adjusted budget of **\$2,540,642** with **\$821,135** 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 the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 7-1-0.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 2 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.
Raphael Zack gave a presentation. No discussion.

Moderator brought Article 2 to a secret ballot vote. Requires simple majority of all three districts combined. No extended voting; polls open only until all voters attending have voted. **YES – 217 NO – 198** 407 voters

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 2. Seconded by Mike Harris.
Moderator brought Article 2 to restrict reconsideration to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 3. To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in year two of the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hollis School Board and the Hollis Education Support Staff Association for the 2026-27 school year, which calls for the following increases in support staff salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2026-27	\$198,801

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$198,801** for the second year (2026-27 school year), such sum representing the negotiated increase over the 2025-26 salaries and fringe benefits. Majority Vote Required. **The school board recommends the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 8-0-0.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 3 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.
Jessica Lahens gave a presentation. No discussion.

Moderator brought Article 3 to a vote. **YES – 270 NO – 62 CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 4. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$23,970** to be added to the previously established Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for Administrative and Associated Structures at 4 Lund Lane in Hollis, Map 56, Lot 2. This sum to come from the Hollis School District's June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised by additional taxation. Majority Vote Required. **The school board recommends the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 8-0-0.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 4 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.

Jonathan Fontaine gave a presentation. Kris Opalka asked a question. Carryl Roy spoke to the question.

Moderator brought Article 4 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 5. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$125,000** to be added to the previously established School Buildings Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund. This sum to come from the Hollis School District's June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised by additional taxation. Majority Vote Required. **The school board**

recommends the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 8-0-0.

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 5 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.
Raphael Zack gave a presentation. No discussion.

Moderator brought Article 5 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 6. 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 the sum of **\$95,000** to put into the fund. This sum to be raised by taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. **The school board recommends the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 8-0-0.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 6 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.
Jessica Lahens gave a presentation. Discussion ensued. Tom Gehan answered a question.

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

Article 7. Shall the Hollis School District vote to adopt an open enrollment school program, designating both Hollis Primary School (HPS) and Hollis Upper Elementary School (HUES) as open enrollment schools pursuant to NH RSA 194-D, for the purpose of enabling the district to admit up to one (1) non-resident student to HPS or HUES under the provisions of RSA 194-D, with one hundred percent (100%) of its eligible resident pupils permitted to attend HPS and HUES and zero percent (0%) of its resident pupils permitted to attend open enrollment schools located outside of the District.
The school board recommends this article 5-0-0.

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 7 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.

Carryl Roy gave a presentation. Sue Homola made a comment. Matt Murdock made a motion that resident students with cause will not be allowed to attend open enrollment schools located outside the district. Seconded by someone in line.

Moderator deemed that this is not a legal amendment because no percentage was given. Point of order by Joe Garruba wanted to hear this motion.

Joe Garruba motioned to amend Article 7 to increase from (0%) to (1%).

Mike Julian motioned to Table Article 7. Seconded by Victor Orlando.

Moderator brought motion to Table Article 7 to the floor. Point of Order from the floor that we need to vote on the amendment. Discussion ensued regarding the amendment of Article 7. Brandon Buteau wanted to know if the percentage has to be a whole number. Alison Minutelli, District Council, answered a question.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 7 to increase percentage from (0%) to (1%) to a vote.

NOT CARRIED by a card vote.

Mike Julian motioned to Table Article 7. Seconded by Victor Orlando

Moderator brought motion to Table Article 7 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Discussion ensued. Alison Minutelli, District Council, answered questions.

James Piccirillo motioned to increase percentage from (0%) to (.25%). Seconded by Joe Garruba. Discussion ensued. Brandon Buteau showed that the percentage is not correct.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 7 and increase percentage to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

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

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration on Articles 3-7. Seconded by Mike Harris. Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to Articles 3-7 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 8. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$18,417,466** 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. **The school board recommends the appropriation 5-0-0. The budget committee recommends this appropriation 7-1-0.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 8 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack. Carryl Roy gave a presentation. Discussion ensued.

Victor Orlando motioned amend Article 8 to reduce the budget from \$18,417,466 to \$17,357,120. Seconded by Dave Parry.

Carryl Roy spoke to this amendment. Tom Gehan spoke to this amendment. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 8 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to amend Article 8 to increase the sum from \$18,417,466 to 18,577,466. Seconded by Amy Kellner.

Holly Deurloo Babcock spoke to the amendment.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 8 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Kris Opalka asked a question. Carryl Roy answered the question. Discussion ensued.

Hillary Kuzdeba motioned to end debate. Seconded by Dave Parry. Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Moderator brought Article 8 as written to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 8 to a vote. Seconded by Carryl Roy. Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 8 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 9. Petition Warrant Article: To see if the School District will vote to require the Hollis School Board to prominently display current and previous year state assessment scores and state rankings on the school district website header, visible on every page, with said information to be updated within thirty (30)

days of the official release of scores by the New Hampshire Department of Education. **The school board does not recommend this article 3-1-1.**

Carryl Roy motioned to bring Article 9 to the floor. Seconded by Raphael Zack.

Victor Orlando spoke to his petition warrant article. Discussion ensued.

Brandon Buteau motioned to Table Article 9. Seconded by Holly Deurloo Babcock.

Moderator brought motion to table Article 9 to a vote. **YES – 87 NO – 104 NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Carryl Roy spoke to Article. Discussion ensued. Joe Garruba asked a question of legal regarding if this is advisory. Alison Minutelli, District Council answered a question. Discussion ensued.

Michael Julian motioned to end debate after giving a speech. Point of order that he cannot end debate after giving a speech. Motion to end debate denied. Discussion ensued.

Lynnae Day motioned to move the question and end debate. Seconded by Amy Kellner. Moderator brought Article 9 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 10. To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

Tom Gehan motioned to end the meeting. Seconded by Mike Harris.

Meeting ended at 11:50 PM. 889 voters in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Diane Leavitt, School District Clerk