

**HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2026**

Hollis Brookline Coop School Board

Holly Deurloo Babcock, Chair
Kate Stoll, Vice Chair
Amy Kellner, Secretary
Rob Mann
Tom Solon
Krista Whalen
Cindy VanCoughnett
Beth Williams

Hollis Brookline Coop Budget Committee

Darlene Mann, Chair
Raul Blanche, Vice Chair
Brian Rater
David Blinn
Tom Enright
Anthony Stanizzi
Melanie Levesque

SAU Administration

Gina Bergskaug, Superintendent
Dorothy Flaherty, Assistant Superintendent
Lance Flamino, Business Administrator

Hollis Brookline Middle School

Patrick West, Principal
Allie Buschmann, Assistant Principal

Meeting Officials

Drew Mason, Moderator
Alison Minutelli, District Counsel
Diane Leavitt, School District Clerk

Hollis Brookline Coop High School

Jacob Hess, Principal
Yolanda Flamino, Assistant Principal
Cole Etten, Assistant Principal

The Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Annual District meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by the Moderator, Drew Mason, at the Hollis Brookline Cooperative High School gymnasium.

The meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Star-Spangled Banner was performed by volunteer members of the HBHS Flute Ensemble, directed by HBSH Band Director, Chazz Rogers.

Moderator then recognized all veterans and serving members of our Armed Forces.

Holly Deurloo Babcock, School Board Chair, introduced members of the School Board.

Darlene Mann, Budget Committee Chair, introduced the Budget Committee.

Gina Bergskaug, Superintendent, introduced SAU 41, and school staff. Moderator, Drew Mason introduced District Counsel, Alison Minutelli and School District Clerk, Diane Leavitt. Moderator introduced Supervisors of the Checklist, ballot clerks, assistant moderators and counters.

Moderator went over administrative announcements and election results of the local Town election.

Moderator also mentioned when the State elections will be, and directions on how to change party affiliations. Deadline to change party affiliation before the primary is June 2nd.

Moderator went over the Rules of the Meeting. Copy of rules can be found in the Town Report on page 213.

Moderator brought motion to adopt the Rules of the Meeting as proposed by the Moderator. Seconded by Darlene Mann.

Pam Hicks made a motion to change from a simple majority vote to a 2/3 vote in order to table an article. She immediately went back to her seat and Carla Ramirez made the motion. Seconded by Dave Parry.

Brandon Buteau questioned the presenter of the motion as to whether this is to table on and table off an article? Carla Ramirez answered that the motion was to change the rule to table on and table off an article from a simple majority vote to require a 2/3 vote. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to amend the rules from a simple majority vote to a 2/3 vote. Hand count was necessary. **YES – 159 NO – 160 NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Eric Pauer made a motion to challenge the vote (RSA 40:4-b) and had 5 people stand in the audience, Diane Pauer, Mike Julian, Joe Park, Ryan Pauer, and Dennis Bechis, to ask for a recount of the counted card vote to be done by a secret ballot vote.

Moderator brought motion to table an article on and table an article off from a simple majority vote to a 2/3 vote.

This will be by a secret ballot vote. **YES – 159 NO – 207 NOT CARRIED** by a secret ballot vote.

Mike Julian motioned to change the moving of an article out of order from 2/3 majority vote to a simple majority vote. Seconded by Eric Pauer. Discussion ensued.

Joe Park made a motion to end debate. Seconded by Darlene Mann.

Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator brought motion to change order of the articles by a simple majority vote to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a majority card vote.

Crowd became unhappy with the Moderator's decision and wanted a counted card vote.

Point of Order by Joe Garruba wondering if this was going to be a counted card vote or a secret ballot vote.

Moderator decided on a counted card vote, unless it is too close, then a secret ballot vote.

YES – 180 NO – 187 NOT CARRIED by a counted card vote.

Eric Pauer made a motion to challenge the vote (90:4-b) and requested a secret ballot vote.

Point of Order by Joe Garruba wanting to overrule the Moderator on whether or not a secret ballot is allowed. The following voters requested the motion with Eric Pauer are Dennis Bechis, Liz Barbour, Aaron Penkacik, Margo Lawson, Kris Opalka, Diane Pauer, Sue Homola and Ryan Pauer.

Bryan Fontaine asked a question on the procedure for the secret ballot vote. Alison Minutelli, District Counsel, answered the question.

Moderator brought the motion to change the order of the articles to a secret ballot vote.

YES – 189 NO – 211 NOT CARRIED by a secret ballot vote.

Charity Bell made a motion to amend the rules. After a motion to end debate passes, all voters already in line will be allowed up to one minute each to speak. Seconded by Victor Orlando. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to amend the rules to allow voters in line 1 minute to speak after a motion to end debate passes. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Brandon Buteau made a motion to end debate on the rules. Seconded by Holly Deurloo Babcock.

Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Moderator brought motion to adopt the Rules of the Meeting as written to a vote. Seconded by Darlene Mann.

CARRIED by a card vote.

Superintendent, Gina Bergskaug gave a presentation. Remarks from HBHS School Board member, Tom Solon.

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

Aaron Penkacik made a comment and wanted to make a motion. Moderator was not allowing motions at this moment, still hearing from the Budget Committee to go over the Articles before taking motions.

Darlene Mann, Budget Committee gave a presentation.

Carla Ramarez made a motion to move Article 8 before Article 1. Seconded by Mike Julian. Discussion ensued.

Moderator brought motion to move Article 8 before Article 1 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a 2/3 vote.

Article 1. Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,230,494** as the Hollis Brookline Cooperative 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 **\$1,221,033** 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 5-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock motioned to bring Article 1 to the floor. Seconded by Kate Stoll.

Rob Mann, School Board, gave a presentation.

Moderator made a motion to bring Article 1 to a secret ballot vote. Requires a simple majority of all three districts combined. No extended voting; polls open only until voters attending have voted. Discussion ensued.

Joseph Hartmond made a motion to end debate. Seconded by Bryan Loveland. Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator opened the polls for secret ballot vote on Article 1. YES – 202 NO – 240 Co-op
YES – 217 NO – 190 Hollis
YES – 476 NO – 596 Brookline

Total votes for all three districts combined. **Yes – 895 NO – 1026 NOT CARRIED** by ballot vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 1. Seconded by Jonathan Fontaine. Moderator brought motion to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 1 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 2. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$31,716,292** 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 5-0-0.**

Darlene Mann made a motion to bring Article 2 to the floor. Seconded by Holly Deurloo Babcock.

Darlene Mann, Budget Committee, gave a presentation. Discussion ensued.

Eric Pauer made a motion to amend the school operating budget from \$31,716,292 to \$31,391,827. Eric Pauer wanted to zero out two-line item numbers 1.2400.810.03.00, and 1.2400.810.04.00 in the schools detailed budget. Moderator stated that in order to zero out a line item it needs to be a line in the MS27. Alison Minutelli, District Counsel, agreed with the Moderator. Darlene Mann, Budget Committee, stated that the account code is not allowed to zero out. Eric Pauer stayed with his motion to amend the school operating budget from \$31,716,292 to \$31,391,827. Seconded by Steve Sacotio.

Eric Pauer spoke to the motion. Discussion ensued. Darlene Mann, Budget Committee answered a question.

Victor Orlando made a motion to end debate. Seconded by Amy Kellner. Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator brought the motion to amend the Operating Budget in Article 2 to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Discussion ensued. Darlene Mann, Budget Committee, answered a question.

Victor Orlando made a motion to end debate. Seconded by Marsha Cone. Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator brought Article 2 as written \$31,716,292 to a counted card vote. **YES – 221 NO - 212 CARRIED** by a card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 2. Seconded by Judy Cook. Discussion ensued.

Eric Pauer motioned to challenge the moderator regarding the counted card vote on Article 2. Moderator said that because the person who motioned to Restrict Reconsideration had already restricted reconsideration, the motion to challenge the card vote was not allowed.

Point of Order that the person who made the motion to Restrict Reconsideration of the Article 1 and 2 did not approach the podium. Moderator ruled that the motion to restrict reconsideration was allowed, and anyone can restrict to reconsider from their seat.

Eric Pauer motioned to challenge the moderator on his decision to allow people to restrict reconsideration without approaching the podium. Discussion ensued.

Brian Loveland made a motion to end debate on challenging of the Moderator's ruling. Seconded by Raul Blanche.

Moderator brought motion to end debate on the motion to overrule the Moderator's ruling. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Moderator explained his decision on why his ruling to recognize the person from the floor to restrict reconsideration was in order.

Moderator brought the motion to sustain his ruling to a vote. **YES – 217 NO – 209 CARRIED** by a card vote.

Moderator brought the motion to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 2 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 3. To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items for the second 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:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2026-27	\$131,512

and further to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$131,512** for the second fiscal year (2026-27 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 4-0-1.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock brought Article 3 to the floor. Seconded by Kate Stoll. Presentation by Kate Stoll. No discussion.

Moderator brought Article 3 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. Seconded by Judy2 Cook.
Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 4. 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, 2026 unassigned fund balance, available for transfer on July 1, 2026, and no amount to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 5-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock brought Article 4 to the floor. Seconded by Kate Stoll.

Presentation by Kate Stoll. Discussion ensued.

Victor Orlando made a motion to end debate. Seconded by Dave Parry.
Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

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

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. Seconded by Raul Blanche.
Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Article 5. 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 for transfer on July 1, 2026, 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 5-0-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock brought Article 5 to the floor. Seconded by Kate Stoll.

Presentation by Holly Deurloo Babcock. Discussion ensued.

Victor Orlando made a motion to end debate. Seconded by David Blinn.
Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

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

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 5. Seconded by Raul Blanche.
Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 5 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote

Article 6. Shall the Hollis-Brookline Cooperative School District vote to adopt an open enrollment school program, designating the Hollis-Brookline Cooperative High School (HBHS) as open enrollment school pursuant to NH RSA 194-D, for the purpose of enabling the district to admit non-resident students to HBHS, with one hundred percent (100%) of its eligible resident pupils permitted to attend HBHS and zero percent (0%) of its resident pupils in grades 7-12 permitted to attend open enrollment schools located outside of the District, and further, to limit the number of non-resident pupils who may attend HBHS under the provisions of RSA 194-D to no more than 4 students total, with no more than 1 non-resident students being admitted to each grade (9-12), with zero (0) non-resident students permitted to attend Hollis Brookline Cooperative Middle School. **The school board recommends this article 6-0-0. The budget committee recommends this article 4-1-0.**

Holly Deurloo Babcock brought Article 6 to the floor. Seconded by Kate Stoll.

Presentation by Holly Deurloo Babcock.

Joe Garruba made a motion to amend Article 6 to further limit the number of non-resident students who may attend HBHS to no more than 1. Change the wording from student(s) to student. Changing the wording from 4 to 1. Seconded by Gabriel Son. Joe Garruba spoke to his motion. Discussion ensued.

Victor Orlando motioned to end debate on the amendment. Seconded by David Blinn.
Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator brought motion to amend Article 6 from 4 to 1 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Discussion ensued.

Victor Orlando made a motion to end debate on the article as amended. Seconded by Tony Stanizzi.
Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

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

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 6. Seconded by Raul Blanche.
Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote

Article 7. Petition Warrant Article: To see if the Cooperative School District will vote to require the Hollis Brookline 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 6-0-0.

Victor Orlando motioned to bring Article 7 to the floor. Seconded by Eric Pauer.

Presentation by Victor Orlando. Discussion ensued.

Bonnie Burno made a motion to have a card vote on Article 7. Moderator had and recognized 5 voters from the floor who stood to be seen. Moderator will allow a card vote. Discussion ensued.

Mike Julian made a motion to end debate. Seconded by Victor Orlando.
Moderator brought motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator brought Petition Warrant Article 7 to a vote. **YES - 182 NO – 227 NOT CARRIED** by a counted card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 7. Seconded by Raul Blanche.
Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote

Article 8. Petition Warrant Article: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District on the second Tuesday of March? **The school board does not recommend this article 6-0-0. The budget committee does not recommend this article 5-0-0.**

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

Presentation by Eric Pauer. Discussion ensued.

Bryan Loveland made a motion to table Article 8. Seconded by Judy Cook.
Moderator brought motion to table Article 8 to a vote. **YES - 197 NO - 208 NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Moderator made a recommendation that because of the late hour, to discuss Article 9, Article 10 and Article 11 and then vote on all of them together.

Jonathan Wilson challenged the Moderator to take the Articles up and vote them sequentially. Seconded by several vocal voters from the floor.

Moderator brought the challenge of sustaining the Moderator's proposal to a vote. **NOT CARRIED** by a card vote.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification on what the voting status is.

Moderator brought Article 8 to a secret ballot vote.

Polls opened at 11:01 PM

Polls closed at 12:01 AM **YES - 216 NO - 234 NOT CARRIED** by a 3/5 supermajority secret ballot vote.

Tyler Frediani motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 8. Seconded by Rob Mann.

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

Article 9. Petition Warrant Article: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-e, and implement a budget cap whereby the school board (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that is higher than 27,500 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 October 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 5-0-0.**

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

Presentation by Eric Pauer. Discussion ensued.

Susan Cook motioned to pass over Article 9. Seconded by Bryan Loveland. No discussion.

Moderator brought motion to pass over to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration to pass over Article 9. Seconded by David Blinn.

Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to pass over Article 9 to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote

Article 10. 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 4-1-0.**

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

Presentation by Eric Pauer. Discussion ensued.

Tyler Frediani motioned to pass over Article 10. Seconded by Susan Cook. No discussion.

Moderator brought motion to pass over to a vote. **YES - 169 NO - 136 CARRIED** by a card vote.

Darlene Mann motioned to restrict reconsideration to pass over Article 10. Seconded by Raul Blanche.

Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to pass over to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 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 5-0-0.**

Eric Pauer motioned to bring Article 11 to the floor. Seconded by Diane Pauer.

Presentation by Eric Pauer. Discussion ensued. Darlene Mann spoke to Article 11.

Kimber Harmon made a motion to end debate on Article 11. Seconded by Judy Cook. Moderator brought a motion to end debate to a vote. **CARRIED** by a 2/3 card vote.

Moderator brought Article 11 to a secret ballot vote.

Polls open at 12:02 PM

Polls close at 1:02 PM **YES - 106 NO - 210 NOT CARRIED** by a 3/5 supermajority secret ballot vote.

Brady Allen motioned to restrict reconsideration of Article 11. Seconded by Carryl Roy. Moderator brought motion to restrict reconsideration to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote

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

Tyler Frediani motioned to dissolve the meeting. Seconded by Carryl Roy.

Moderator brought motion to dissolve the meeting to a vote. **CARRIED** by a card vote.

Meeting ended at 1:30 AM. 115 voters from Brookline 401 voters from Hollis

Respectfully submitted,



Diane T. Leavitt
School District Clerk