

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON **THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016** AT 6:00 PM IN THE JAMES F. WALSH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Ditkoff (Chairman), Mr. Chang, Ms. Charlupski, Mr. Glover, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Scotto, Ms. Stone, and Ms. Stram. School Committee Members Absent: Mr. Pollak (Vice Chairman). Also present: Dr. Connelly, Dr. Fischer-Mueller, Dr. Shmukler, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Lummis, Mr. Kahn, and Ms. Coyne.

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**a. Calendar**

Ms. Ditkoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She noted upcoming events on the calendar.

**b. Consent Agenda**

**ACTION 16-35**

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Mr. Chang, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (7 in favor; Ms. Stram arrived later in the meeting) to approve the items included in the Consent Agenda.

- i. Past Record: May 5, 2016 School Committee Meeting
- ii. Establishment of Alternative Choices in Education (ACE) Scholarships - ACE Leadership Award, ACE Community-minded Award, and ACE Academic Achievement Award (Attachment A)
- iii. Establishment of Brookline High School Class of 1943 "100<sup>th</sup> Class" Scholarship (Attachment B)

**2. STAFF RECOGNITIONS**

**a. Caverly Award Winners**

Ms. Ditkoff introduced Executive Director of the Brookline Education Foundation (BEF) Kathleen Sheehy. Ms. Sheehy made the following remarks:

*The BEF raises private funds to support the public schools of Brookline through a robust grants and awards program. One of our awards is The Ernest R. Caverly, given in recognition of professional achievements and contributions to the Brookline Public Schools. Two awards are presented annually: one to a high school educator and one to an elementary school educator. It is my pleasure to present to you this year's Caverly Award recipients.*

*Janice Gaudette has spent 31 years working with Devotion School students with a history of emotional issues in what is now known as the Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC). Her ability to find creative solutions to the complicated cases presented by the TLC population is widely praised, as is her willingness to share her expertise with colleagues, student teachers, and aides. Janice invests countless hours working with students inside*

*and outside the school, doing whatever is needed to help them succeed. And they do succeed. It's no wonder that she is known to parents as "goddess," and a "miracle worker."*

*Jill Sifantus is a master teacher, creative collaborator, supportive colleague, and caring mentor. Over the past fourteen years at Brookline High School, her many contributions to the science department have made an immense difference in the lives of both her students and fellow teachers. She has pioneered new biology courses, helped revamp existing ones, and selflessly mentored and advised other educators. In the classroom, Jill's passion for biology, paired with her deep curiosity, wit and life-long love of learning, are infectious. At Celebrating Teachers, Jill described herself as just an ordinary teacher. I want to say how lucky we are in Brookline to have "ordinary" teachers like Jill.*

Ms. Gaudette and Ms. Sifantus made remarks in which they thanked the Brookline Education Foundation and their colleagues for their support over the years. They described the experiences and people who helped shaped their careers and inspired them. Ms. Ditkoff and the School Committee members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Gaudette and Ms. Sifantus for sharing their experiences and for all they do for our students. Their deep commitment, the richness of their instruction and their connection with students exemplify what makes the Public Schools of Brookline a wonderful school system. Ms. Ditkoff thanked Ms. Sheehy and the BEF for their support of our schools and noted how much we will miss Ms. Sheehy.

### **3. SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **a. Finance**

Ms. Ditkoff reported that Town Meeting will be convening next week and will be voting on the FY 2017 proposed budget. The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will take place on June 13, 2016.

#### **b. Capital Improvements**

##### **i. Proposed Vote to Approve Amendments 15, 16 and 17 to the Contract between the Town of Brookline and HMFH Architects for Added Design and Construction Administration Services**

Ms. Charlupski explained that proposed Amendment #15 to the contract between HMFH Architects and the Town of Brookline, in the amount of \$157,500.00, is for added geotechnical services for construction administration. It includes submittals and soil disposal profiles, compaction testing, monitoring of vibration, underpinning, excavation and soil segregation and disposal, observation of perimeter drainage system, footing subgrades and preparation and submittal of field reports and other documentation. Proposed Amendment #16, in the amount of \$32,450.00, is for added geoenvironmental services for construction administration related to petroleum impacted soils management and disposal. It includes the preparation and submittal of a Release Abatement Measure Plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), RAM status report, Underground Storage Tank (UST) removal specification, RAM and UST limit sampling

and reporting and record keeping. Proposed Amendment #17, in the amount of \$990.00 is for LEED Registration for the project. All of the above have been approved by the Building Commission. Earlier testing indicated that the need for additional testing.

**ACTION 16-36**

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Ms. Scotto, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (7 in favor; Ms. Stram arrived later in the meeting) to approve Amendment 15 to the contract between the Town of Brookline and HMFH Architects for added design and construction administration services, as shown in Attachment C.

**ACTION 16-37**

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Ms. Scotto, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (7 in favor; Ms. Stram arrived later in the meeting) to approve Amendment 16 to the contract between the Town of Brookline and HMFH Architects for added design and construction administration services, as shown in Attachment C.

**ACTION 16-38**

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Ms. Scotto, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (7 in favor; Ms. Stram arrived later in the meeting) to approve Amendment 17 to the contract between the Town of Brookline and HMFH Architects for added design and construction administration services, as shown in Attachment C.

Ms. Charlupski reported that more than 100 parents, guardians, and residents attended the May 18, 2016 community meeting at Pierce School on building a 9th elementary school. The meeting informed people of three sites needing further study over the spring and summer in order to come up with a decision in October on one site to move into a feasibility study phase. All community members are invited to attend a meeting on June 8, 2016 for an update on the project schedule and construction by HMFH Architects and Shawmut Construction. The Brookline High School (BHS) Expansion Working Group will hold a meeting at BHS on June 13, 2016 to update the community on the work they have been doing to develop an educational plan that will guide BHS expansion.

The Capital Improvements Subcommittee met on May 13, 2016. The agenda included a 9<sup>th</sup> School Project update (Committee of 7 selected Jonathan Levi Architects; discussed the timeline and agenda for community meeting); Brookline High School Expansion Project update (discussed role of the Working Group and SMMA and the agenda for the community meeting); 111 Cypress Advisory Committee update (Mr. Pollak will represent the School Committee); proposed Project Building Committee composition (see Interim Superintendent's Report); School capital projects update (reviewed classroom capacity alternations, furniture orders, 30 Webster Street

alterations); FY 2018 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) planning and process (Ms. Dunn is developing a capital planning schedule).

Under New Business, the Subcommittee discussed a naming request. The School Committee's Policy on Naming Spaces, amended in 2012, is as follows:

**2. Naming Spaces:** (*Voted 9/24/98, #98-93; 11/29/12, #12-71*)

*The School Committee may desire to dedicate a space or to place a plaque in a school building to recognize:*

- 1. a national (public) figure who represents a core value of the system;*
- 2. an individual who has demonstrated lengthy and/or exemplary service to the students of Brookline, provided the named honoree has not served in the PSB for a minimum of two years prior to his/her nomination to be honored with the naming of a space.*
- 3. an individual or group that has donated significant funds in order to recognize, memorialize, or honor that individual or group;*
- 4. a person or person(s) who have made exceptional grants or gifts to the Public Schools of Brookline.*

*Recommendations/requests for such recognition may come from the BSC or from members of the public or school community.*

*a. For recommendations from a member, members, or group of a specific school community, the principal/headmaster of the school shall first seek the approval of the Superintendent, who will present recommendations for such recognition to the School Committee. Proposals for such recognition should include, but are not limited to the following information:*

- how/whether the purpose of the recognition reflects the core values of the system;*
- how/whether the recognition is in appropriate proportion to past awards and recognitions; and*
- how/whether the proposed recognition is proportionate to the honoree's contribution to the PSB.*

*In order to avoid confusion of such recognitions with advertising or other commercial purpose, the School Committee will not ordinarily consider naming or dedication of public school real property to a corporation or corporate entity.*

*Selection and placement of any long-lasting object (e.g. a plaque, tree, bench, or monument) is subject to BSC Policy, Section D7(iii): Grants and Gifts from Private Sources, and may be subject to local by-laws and/or approval by relevant Town boards, agencies, and staff.*

*The Superintendent shall develop and maintain guidelines for school leaders to facilitate compliance with this policy.*

Ms. Charlupski noted that the petitioners may not have been aware of the process included in the policy. The Subcommittee voted to adhere to the School Committee's Policy, which has a waiting period of at least two years before a person can be nominated to be honored with the naming of a space. Ms. Stone noted that the Subcommittee voted to defer the request in accordance with the Policy; the Subcommittee did not vote to deny the request.

[Ms. Stram arrived at 7:00 PM.]

**c. Curriculum**

Ms. Charlupski reported that that Curriculum Subcommittee met earlier this evening to review the Pierce and Driscoll School Improvement Plans. The Subcommittee will be meeting on May 25, 2016 to hear an update from the Office of Teaching and Learning.

**d. Government Relations**

Ms. Stone had nothing to report at this time.

**e. Policy Review**

**i. Preview of Proposed Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) Financial Policies (Student Fees, Fines and Charges; Financial Assistance)**

Dr. Jackson presented a preview of proposed PSB Financial Policies-Student Fees, Fines and Charges and Financial Assistance (Attachment D). The policies presented for a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading will have some edits and will include preambles that clarify the underlying principles (create a robust financial system with a centralized mechanism to collect and document funds; put in place procedures and mechanisms to communicate expectations and status of fees and opportunities for assistance; ensure that all students have access to the various programs and services; create a program to ensure that financial assistance is available and centrally administered). Dr. Jackson invited School Committee members to submit feedback and/or attend the June 2, 2016 Policy Review Subcommittee meeting. The agenda will include review and possible votes on proposed Public Schools of Brookline Financial Policies (Student Fees, Fines and Charges; Financial Assistance; and Meal Charges) and continuation of review of PSB Anti-Bullying, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policies.

**f. Additional Liaisons and Updates**

Ms. Scotto reported that she attended meetings of the Council on Aging, the Brookline Education Foundation Board, and the Enrichment Challenge Support Program. She also attended the Superintendent's METCO Open Forum and the Asian Family Network presentation. Dr. Jackson attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund Event on Racial Equity and Education, where she made the following remarks.

*My name is Lisa Jackson. I am a parent of a freshman at Brookline High and a 5<sup>th</sup> grader now at the Winsor School. My children have also attended the Heath School and the Pierce School. I am a School Committee member, first term, second year. I am an*

*educator – former assistant professor of education at Boston College – educated at Howard University (no, not Harvard), and Stanford University. I am currently the co-founder and managing director of a nonprofit called College for Social Innovation. I want to thank the 21st Century Fund for developing this series in response to parent requests for engagement on the topic of race. Thank you for the invitation to join you. I have not attended any of the earlier events. While for some of you this may be the first time or maybe the third time you've engaged on the topic of race, I cannot count the number of times I have been invited to do so, required to do, or assumed to do so. I do not take this topic lightly – as the topic is not a “topic” to me, but rather a part of my identity and how I, my children, my husband, my family am/are in the world. So therefore I am intentional about when and how I engage with others to discuss it and mindful about the amount of energy I put to it with others.*

*Today I have been asked to do an introduction to the main event of the evening on the topic of racial equity in education in the Brookline context. To be clear, in order to talk about racial equity and how we achieve it, we first need to talk about white privilege, power, structural racism in the context of how resources are allocated and decisions are made.*

*As I pondered whether to accept the invitation to join you tonight, a friend of mine asked if I thought it necessary for people to get comfortable talking about race and about their own issues regarding race in order for us to be able to act on racial equity. My response is while it is probably helpful, frankly it's a luxury we don't have time for in isolation of action. As we wait for white people, mostly, to get comfortable talking about race, the achievement gap continues, Brookline continues to fail to hire principals, education leaders, teachers and staff of color, my son continues to be the “only” Black male student in many of his honors classes, students continue to experience the regular onslaught of aggressions – ranging from pure ignorance, to good old fashioned hate, based on their race, and failed attempts at addressing “diversity” set us back instead of move us forward.*

*Racial equity is not about equality. While not easy to find a definition about racial equity, as most people want to talk about equality, here is a definition I find useful from the Racial Equity Tools website:*

***Racial equity is the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.***

*On the first point, here's how far we have to go in Brookline – and no, we are not even close.*

- *In our last School Committee meeting the Headmaster and Assistant Headmaster of the high school shared the Brookline High School Competency Determination Report – basically the data related to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS requirement for graduation. Regardless of what you think about the MCAS, the data demonstrates the lack of racial equity in education in Brookline:*
  - *Since 2012, the difference between white students scoring proficient and/or advanced on the physics MCAS and African American students scoring proficient and/or advanced have ranged between 26 percentage points and 51 percentage points. In 2015 the difference was 37 percentage points.*
  - *In case you assume that this must be true for all brown students at Brookline, the range for Hispanic students is 6-24 percentage points.*
  - *And if your curious mind asks how many of those African American students are identified as SPED, the number is 36% pointing to the continued over-representation of African American students in SPED.*
  - *And if you're curious just how many students this data refers to, the number is 36.*
- *Lest you think it is only a high school issue, at School Committee in March this year we were presented the MCAS Subgroup Report for 2015. The data across all schools in Brookline demonstrates the same pattern:*
  - *55% of African American students in Brookline who took the 2015 MCAS in math received Needs Improvement or Warning/Fail compared to 17% of white students.*
- *And lest you make the assumption that the issue is economic class, not race:*
  - *On ELA, only 70% of non-low-income African American students achieved proficiency compared to 89% non-low-income white (82% Hispanic/Latino, 86% Asian)*
  - *Only 57% of non-low-income African American students scored proficient on the math MCAS compared to 85% of non-low-income white (88% Asian, 71% Hispanic)*

*This data/evidence of our current condition, rather than a condition of racial equity, speaks to the need to address...**the elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.** As for the policies and practices in our district that continue to impede our ability to get to racial equity, I have had the privilege and fortune of working with School Committee members, district leaders, teachers, and staff who are focused on how to get us to the condition of racial equity. And our students have taken up the charge in their own way, demanding conversations, demanding change, demanding adults do their part. To paraphrase my high school student colleague on the School Committee, Ethan Kahn, "the ability to talk about race is a 21<sup>st</sup> century skill and students in Brookline need to be taught it."*

*School Committee has even taken the time with a facilitator to talk about race, privilege and power. Other ways I have seen progress, is that our interim superintendent Joe Connelly now has the habit of sharing the diversity data for the candidate pools for all the searches we do in the district. And we now as a matter of course we receive truly disaggregated data at the district level by race, income, disability. All of these things are directionally positive and will hopefully evolve into more direct action that gets us closer to racial equity.*

*However, I would argue that our biggest barrier is not the work of the educators in Brookline, it is the lack of work done by the people of Brookline on the issues of white privilege, power, and structural racism. While I want you to be comforted by the knowledge that you've taken time tonight and maybe the other nights in the series, to talk about race, I want you to be discomfited by the fact that the above data remains. And it remains because what people care about in Brookline gets done – by way of pressure, protest, warrant articles, etc. So we get things done on open space, protecting trees and plastic bags, we get things done on smoking bans and, yard setbacks, trash pickup, and being an age-friendly community.*

*What we, the entire Brookline Community, do not adequately care about yet is racial equity, whether it's in education, employment or otherwise. To get to "adequately caring" so we can make racial equity in education and elsewhere happen, the next conversation you/we have needs to be about white privilege, power, and structural racism. Ask the high school students, that's what they are talking about when they speak at the Asking for Courage Day event, again, or when they walk on Town Hall. It is only when we name, take responsibility for, and hold ourselves accountable on these uncomfortable to say and uncomfortable to hear issues, white privilege, power, and structural racism, will we make further progress toward racial equity in education.*

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Several people spoke in favor of naming the Driscoll Library after retiring Library Teacher Amy Neale and waiving the following clause of the Public Schools of Brookline Policy F2: *An individual who has demonstrated lengthy and/or exemplary service to the students of Brookline, provided the named honoree has not served in the PSB for a minimum of two years prior to his/her nomination to be honored with the naming of a space.* Speakers included Elaine Eivers, Bob Thomas, Francesca Stark, Marianne Taylor, Padmaja Raman, President of the Brookline Educators Union Jessica Wender-Shubow, and Jennifer Kilson-Page. Speakers echoed the comments in the petition presented to the School Committee.

*We, the undersigned, believe the Driscoll Library should be named to honor the extraordinary Driscoll Library Teacher, Amy Neale, in the year of her retirement, June 2016. In past years, there have been many excellent Brookline educators who've had spaces, at their respective schools, dedicated to them on the year of their retirement. These include the Driscoll theatre named in honor of Carol Schraft, the Runkle library named in honor of Marty Sleeper, the Lincoln library named in honor of Barbara Shea,*

*the Baker library named in honor of Tom Cavanagh, the Brookline High School Atrium named in honor of Bob Weintraub, and, this year, the Pierce Auditorium named in honor of Piper Smith-Mumford. Amy Neale sits in the highest ranks alongside these educators. She has been a Driscoll Teacher for 37 years. She was also a learning center teacher and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher before becoming the Driscoll library teacher. She was the 2009 Caverly Award winner, and has not only created one of the best public school libraries in the state, but, more importantly, her work has been an unyielding force to turn reluctant readers into book enthusiasts. In her nearly four decades of work in the Brookline public schools, no one has done more to get students to read and read passionately. Amy Neale pays attention and gathers books for teachers that match their curriculum and interests and somehow knows what each student in the entire school is reading and what might strike their fancy. Great teachers are the heart and soul of great student learning and Amy Neale has transformed thousands of students during her 37 years in the Brookline schools. Due to these past precedents and Amy's outstanding educational career in the Public Schools of Brookline, we, the undersigned, urge the Brookline School Committee to act now to create an exemption so the Driscoll Library can be named after the one and only Amy Neale.*

## **5. STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Kahn reported that the Student Legislature developed a new policy that an N on a student's transcript will not be included in the student's grade point average. The Headmaster signed off on the change. The Student Legislature is in the process of surveying students about homework and stress. Advanced Placement (AP) exams are done. Progressions, the Brookline High School annual dance showcase, was a big success. The Student Directed Festival will be on May 20-21, 2016. The Senior Prom and After the Prom Party will take place on May 31, 2016. The Annual Sports Banquet is this evening. The Alternative Choices in Education (ACE) Graduation is June 1, 2016; the School Within a School (SWS) Graduation is June 3, 2016; and the Brookline High School Graduation will be June 5, 2016. Next year's School Committee Student Representative will be Alice Jennings.

School Committee members and Dr. Connelly wished Mr. Kahn well in his future endeavors and expressed their deep gratitude to him for his contributions. He represented the Brookline students, particularly the Brookline High School students, very well, and did so with incredible intelligence, enthusiasm, humor, creativity, and insight. Mr. Kahn engaged and challenged the Committee on important and sometimes difficult issues. He elevated the role of Student Representative and set the bar. His input was incredibly valuable and he will be greatly missed.

**6. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Connelly provided the following report:

**1. 9<sup>th</sup> School and Brookline High School (BHS) Expansion Building Committee Composition**

*Due to the fact these school construction projects will not partner with Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), the make-up of their building committees will not be dictated by MSBA. After meeting with Dan Bennett, Ray Masak, Tony Guigli and David Pollak, I recommend the following Building Committee composition for each project. A School Committee vote endorsing this composition will be shared with the Board of Selectmen.*

***Building Committee Composition – BHS Expansion***

*Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Building Commission Representative  
Building Department (2)  
Neighborhood Representative  
School Committee  
Superintendent  
Deputy Superintendent / Administration and Finance  
Deputy Superintendent / Teaching and Learning  
Headmaster  
Parent from School Council or PTO  
Academic Dean (High School only)*

***Building Committee Composition - 9th School***

*Board of Selectmen  
Town Administrator  
Building Commission Representative  
Building Department (2)  
Neighborhood Representative  
School Committee  
Superintendent  
Deputy Superintendent / Administration and Finance  
Deputy Superintendent / Teaching and Learning  
Principal  
Parent from School Council or PTO*

**2. Administrative Search Update**

**Lincoln School Principal**

*After reviewing 47 applications, the Search Committee interviewed 8 candidates and selected 3 finalists for second round interviews and in-depth reference checks. Second round interviews conducted by the Senior Staff took place during the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by in-depth reference checks that allowed me to identify Brian Denitzio as the preferred candidate. Brian brings to Lincoln School 10 years as an*

*elementary teacher, Teacher Leader / Coach and school administrator. During the past two years he has served as Vice Principal of the Lincoln School where he has had an opportunity to team with Andrew Bott as a very effective school leadership team. Once again, the process was very inclusive with the Search Committee of administrators, teachers and parents fully endorsing the finalists. The School staff and Search Committee were informed of my hiring decision today at the close of school, and the Lincoln School community will be informed on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.*

**Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning**

*Again, 47 applications were received for this position. A very inclusive Search Committee reviewed all applications and selected eight candidates to interview. Before all eight were interviewed, one candidate accepted a similar position in another district. Two candidates were selected as finalists with second round interviews scheduled for the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>. It is possible a preferred candidate will be selected in time for the May 19<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. If not, it is expected the search process will be completed within a few days.*

**Deputy Superintendent for Student Services**

*Applications for this position closed on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Search Committee of 13 received 30 applications to read and deliberate. At a meeting held on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> the Search Committee identified five candidates to be interviewed over the next two weeks. The timeline for this search calls for second round interviews to take place the first two weeks in June with a preferred candidate being announced at the June 16<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.*

**Math Coordinator K – 8**

*During the past few weeks, Dr. Fischer-Mueller and I have been in consultation with Karen Wolfson concerning her continued employment in Brookline as our K-8 Math Coordinator. Karen has just informed us this week she has decided, for family reasons, to resign her position of K – 8 Math Coordinator. Karen has been a true asset to the Public Schools of Brookline and we very much understand and respect her decision to resign. We will post this position immediately, but due to the lateness in the school year and the leadership transition, we will consider an interim assignment for school year 2016-2017.*

**3. Superintendent Forums Update**

*Since our last School Committee meeting, we have conducted 2 more successful and well attended “Open Forums” for the Lincoln School and METCO. Our last Superintendent Forum with the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is scheduled for this Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the School Committee Room.*

**4. French Student Announcement**

*Please join me in congratulating sophomore Nathaniel Liberman for his outstanding performance on the 2016 National French contest. Nathaniel is a Platinum award*

winner, the highest category of awards. He earned the top score in the nation for his division! We're very proud of him and his dedication to French. Submitted by Laura Gurry, French Teacher, BHS

**5. Superintendent Transition Plan May / June**

During the past several weeks, Andrew Bott and I have consulted on many Public Schools of Brookline issues. Andrew has attended all of the 12 Superintendent Open Forums and has as a result had a chance to interact and meet each school community or organization's membership. The Q and A portion of these "forums" has allowed Andrew to become aware of the issues and concerns of each school community. Andrew has also been a participant on four administrative search committees: Pierce School Principal, Lincoln School Principal, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Deputy Superintendent for Student Services. This Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Bott will join Deputy Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller and me at the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) state-wide spring meeting in Marlborough, Massachusetts. Andrew is also scheduled to attend the M.A.S.S. Executive Institute this July at Mashpee High School.

The following is a list of transition efforts that have already begun or will over the final weeks of this school year:

1. Series of meetings with Mary Ellen Dunn to discuss school budget and related issues, including Public Schools of Brookline Capital Plan.
2. Weekly Friday morning meetings between Andrew and me to discuss general administrative issues, including staffing, summer projects, and budget close-out.
3. Andrew will begin to attend School committee meetings (June 1 and June 16).
4. Andrew will be invited to participate in weekly School Committee Leadership / Superintendent Docket Preview meetings and Leadership Update meetings.
5. Meetings will be scheduled with organizations closely aligned to the PSB to allow Andrew to fully understand their purpose and mission as well as provide Andrew with an opportunity to meet and interact with representatives of each organization:
  - a. Steps to Success
  - b. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund (2 – 1 hour meetings)
  - c. Brookline Education Foundation
6. Participate in BHS Visionary Sessions as part of our SMMA High School Expansion Study.
7. Effective the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Andrew will be invited to participate in our weekly Senior Staff meetings (Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Fridays 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.)
8. Arrangements have been made that will allow out-going Deputy Superintendents Jennifer Fischer-Mueller and Karen Shmukler to be available to Andrew in the months of July and August to address transition issues.

**IMPORTANT:** All of the above transition plans are contingent on Andrew's availability over the next several weeks. It is recognized Andrew's continued first priority is to his responsibilities as Principal of the Lincoln School.

The Committee discussed the proposed make-up of the Building Committees. The Building Department has recommended a committee that is smaller than a committee for an MSBA funded project. Mechanisms for community engagement and communications will be put in place. There was general support for the proposed composition.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**8. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By unanimous roll call vote at 8:55 PM, the School Committee entered into Executive Session for Purpose 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (principals) and for Purpose 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Brookline Educators Union-Units A, B, and Paras) because the Chairman has declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position. By unanimous roll call vote at 11:00 PM, the School Committee reconvened in public session.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ditkoff adjourned the meeting at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin E. Coyne, Executive Assistant  
Brookline School Committee