

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON **TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016** AT 7:30 PM IN THE JAMES F. WALSH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: Mr. Pollak (Vice Chairman), Mr. Chang, Mr. Glover, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Scotto, and Ms. Stram (by phone). School Committee Members Absent: Ms. Charlupski, Ms. Ditkoff (Chairman), and Ms. Stone. Also present: Dr. Connelly, Ms. Dunn, and Ms. Coyne.

Mr. Pollak called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Pollak announced that Ms. Stram will be participating remotely, by phone, because he has determined that geographic distance makes Ms. Stram's physical attendance unreasonably difficult.

1. SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTIONS

a. Proposed vote to approve and execute a contract in the amount of \$185,316 with Jonathan Levi Architects for the Brookline 9th School Site Study and Brookline High School Site Selection and Feasibility Study

Mr. Pollak explained that the Committee of Seven selected Jonathan Levi Architects as the designer for the 9th School Site Study. We expect the study to be completed by September 2016.

ACTION 16-41

On a motion of Mr. Pollak and seconded by Dr. Jackson, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, to approve and execute a contract in the amount of \$185,316 with Jonathan Levi Architects for the Brookline 9th School Site Study and Brookline High School Site Selection and Feasibility Study, as shown in Attachment A.

b. Proposed vote to authorize the Town Administrator to sign and execute a license agreement with Eversource Energy to install, repair, renew and maintain a pole at the Edward Devotion School, 345 Harvard Street, Brookline

Mr. Pollak explained that the new pole is required to accommodate changes to the Devotion site that result from the additions and renovations. Town Counsel reviewed the proposed agreement.

ACTION 16-42

On a motion of Mr. Pollak and seconded by Mr. Chang, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign and execute a license agreement with Eversource Energy to install, repair, renew and maintain a pole at the Edward Devotion School, 345 Harvard Street, Brookline, as shown in Attachment B.

c. Proposed Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) Policy on Student Fees, Fines and Charges (1st Reading)

Dr. Jackson presented the proposed PSB Policy on Student Fees, Fines and Charges (Attachment C). The preamble of the draft policy is as follows:

Educational Equity is a core value of the PSB:

The Public Schools of Brookline are committed to identifying and eliminating barriers to educational achievement in our schools. To this end, we create policies and practices that are fair and just and provide educational opportunities to ensure that every student, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, disability, or economic status, meets our standards for achievement, participation, and growth.

In fulfillment of this value, this policy on student fees, fines, and charges commits the PSB to the following:

- *Regardless of financial means, all PSB students shall have access to all educational books, materials, and other education-related opportunities;*
- *The PSB will engage in responsible financial management and practices to ensure the above can be made possible; and*
- *The financial operations of the district will be transparent in order to ensure accountability to these commitments.*

The School Policy Review Subcommittee voted to move the proposed policy to 1st Reading. The draft policy has been posted and circulated for public comment. The Subcommittee will be presenting an accompanying policy on Financial Assistance. School Committee members noted that some fees, e.g., field trip fees, cannot easily be set in advance, and suggested adding wording to this effect. The School Committee agreed to delay the 2nd Reading/Vote on this policy so that it can be reviewed in conjunction with the proposed policy on Financial Assistance.

d. Proposed Votes to 1) waive Public Schools of Brookline Policy F2.Naming Spaces (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) and 2) approve a Naming Request

Dr. Connelly referred to a letter requesting that the Driscoll Library be named in honor of Amy Neale (Attachment D). The letter, in part, states the following:

[Ms. Neale] has been a Librarian at Driscoll for 17 of her 37 years of service to the Public Schools of Brookline. Amy Neale is an outstanding educator who models for us what is best in humankind and elevates the dignity of all mankind. She gets students to love to read for a lifetime. Amy has made the Driscoll School Library come alive at Driscoll School. Ensuring that each and every child appreciates the importance of books

and fully integrating a school library into day-to-day student learning is at the heart of her work, along with ensuring that every child finds him or herself as a reader. Amy is an exceptional leader who has created one of the best school libraries in the state. She is a well-respected colleague, mentor and leader among her peers. Amy has served on our Educational Leadership Team, a leadership team that works together to grapple with some of the most difficult issues facing our school. Amy has also served on our data team, trying to gather and use data in meaningful ways to make a difference in the academic achievement and overall education of Driscoll students. Amy's overall dedication to truly getting to the root of educational needs is impressive. Her passion for reading and digital literacy is embedded in her daily work. Whether she is planning a wide-reaching oral history project for our school's centennial year, organizing a writing festival for over 500 children, or ensuring that students can meet the authors that will inspire them the most, Amy Neale pulls upon all of her resources in order to serve our students.

Dr. Connelly stated that he responded to the request by going to the School to speak with this group of Driscoll teachers and staff on two occasions. He asked the Principal and Interim Principal to share their views. He subsequently received a letter from the Principal and Interim Principal supporting the request (Attachment E). Dr. Connelly noted that the staff members followed the process outlined in the Naming Policy. He stated that he is recommending that the School Committee waive the two-year waiting period requirement and take immediate action on this request (Attachment F). Mr. Pollak reported that the School Capital Improvements Subcommittee plans to review the Naming Policy (Attachment G) in the fall. School Committee members spoke in support of the request.

ACTION 16-43

On a motion of Ms. Scotto and seconded by Mr. Pollak, the School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, to waive the following section of Public Schools of Brookline Policy F2. Naming Spaces: 2: ... *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.*

ACTION 16-44

On a motion of Ms. Scotto and seconded by Mr. Pollak, the School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the request to name the Driscoll Library after retiring Librarian Amy Neale.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pollak adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin E. Coyne, Executive Assistant
Brookline School Committee