



**Captain
Samuel
Douglass
Academy**

**Richard
Maghakian
Memorial
School**



2017

**BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
VOTER'S GUIDE**

**Brookline School District Voting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7am-7:30pm
Captain Samuel Douglass Academy**

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Brookline Voters:

This Voter's Guide contains pertinent information regarding the items that will appear on the Brookline School District Ballot on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Voting will take place at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy located at 24 Townsend Hill Road in Brookline. The polls open at 7:00 am and close no earlier than 7:30 pm. You can register to vote onsite at the polling center. This secret ballot session will occur alongside the town/district elections and voting.

Information in the Voter's Guide includes the exact wording of the Warrant Articles along with a more detailed explanation of the Warrant Article. Paper copies of this Voter's Guide will be available at the Town Hall, the Town Library, and the SAU office located at 4 Lund Lane in Hollis.

Matthew Maguire

Chair, Brookline School Board

BROOKLINE SCHOOL OFFICIALS 2016-2017

Lauren DiGennaro	School Board	Term Expires 2018
Kenneth Haag	School Board	Term Expires 2018
Patricia Lynch	Vice Chair, Board	Term Expires 2017
Matthew Maguire	Chair, Board	Term Expires 2017
Erin Sarris	Secretary, Board	Term Expires 2019

BROOKLINE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2016-2017

Linda Chomiak	Member
Brian Rater	Member
Gale Taylor	Member

<http://www.sau41.org/brookline-school-board>

2017 BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BALLOT SUMMARY

WARRANT ARTICLE 1

Election of Officers: To elect all necessary School District officers for the ensuing terms by official ballot vote on March 14, 2017, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, 7:00 am to 7:30 pm:

- To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year
- To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year
- To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year
- Two choose two (2) members of the School Board for the ensuing three (3) years.

WARRANT ARTICLE 2

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$8,833,998**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$8,759,757**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Majority vote required to pass. **The School Board recommends this article 4-1-0. The Finance Committee recommends this article 3-0-0.**

EXPLANATION:

New features to the FY18 proposed budget are driven by both the strategic plan and the desire of the school board. These have little to no impact on the budget. The budget includes the reallocation of three staff members to classroom teachers to alleviate the concerns regarding class size. The school board authorized the addition of one classroom teacher in FY17 to Grade 3. The other two teachers are reallocations of personnel from Grade 6 and from special education. This is level funded as this is a reallocation of existing staff. The budget includes \$5500 of spending for academics. The CSDA library will be migrating to a Learning Commons model and will be utilizing some new Chromebooks to make this transition possible. The Science Department at CSDA has a program rich with opportunity with the addition of computer devices fully integrated into learning. To support the Strategic Plan, RMMS will require additional wireless access points to better support the infrastructure. Finally, the budget includes some minor upgrades to the safety and security of our buildings. Specifically, additional cameras and door sensors are needed to fully monitor those entering and exiting the building.

The FY18 budget sees a decline in revenues and grants. A reduction is noted in the Retained Education Tax (\$29,100), in the Adequate Aid Grant (\$79,900) and in the Catastrophic Aid and other revenues (\$96,500). In total, the estimated **decrease in revenue** is estimated to be **(\$205,500)**.

The FY18 budget is significantly impacted by three driving forces. Health Insurance will be seeing up to a 15.9% increase, causing an increase of **\$77,869** to the budget. Special Education will incur new costs: \$42,466 for tuition and \$45,000 for transportation totaling **\$87,466** for FY18. The NH Retirement System will be seeing a 10.8% increase in cost, causing a budgetary impact of **\$44,905**.

WARRANT ARTICLE 3

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **\$40,000** from the June 30 unreserved fund balance (surplus) available to transfer on July 1 of this year to be added to this previously established SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND. **The School Board recommends this article 5-0-0. The Finance Committee recommends this article 3-0-0.**

EXPLANATION:

The School Facilities Maintenance Fund was established previously to help defray the costs of big ticket maintenance items. This fund alleviates the existence of major spikes due to non-routine maintenance costs. The funding source of this article is the unreserved fund balance, or surplus, that may exist at the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2017. If surplus funds are not available, this article will not be funded.

The purpose of this fund is to carry forward funds for major building maintenance. Major expenditures are proposed by administration to the school board. The school board then evaluates and approves the expenditure after holding a public hearing. The fund currently has \$55,616 and the passage of this article will bring the total to \$95,616.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Bldg	Category	Description	Est Cost	Projected Year
RMMS	Parking Lot	Reseal/Repair	\$12,000	FY18
CSDA	Parking Lot	Reseal/Repair	\$11,000	FY18
CSDA	Systems	Telephone System Replacement	\$25,000	FY19
CSDA	Systems	Fire Panel	\$40,000	FY19

CSDA	Mechanical	Upgrade Energy Management System	\$30,000	FY19
RMMS	Building	Office Renovation	\$30,000	FY19
CSDA	Site	Underground Drainage System and Rear Play Fields	\$40,000	FY19

WARRANT ARTICLE 4

To see if the Brookline School District will vote to establish a SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND per RSA 198:20-c, to be used for special education expenses and to raise and appropriate up to **\$100,000** to put in the fund, with this amount to come from fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation, further to name the school board as agents to expend from the fund. **The School Board recommends this article 5-0-0. The Finance Committee voted 1-1-0 on this article.**

EXPLANATION:

The Brookline School District is looking to establish a Special Education Expendable Trust Fund similar to the already established School Facilities Maintenance Fund. The purpose of this fund would be to help defray the cost of sudden, unanticipated significant costs that were unknown at the time of the development of the budget. The funding source of this article is the unreserved fund balance, or surplus, that may exist at the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2017. If surplus funds are not available, this article will not be funded. All voter approved articles will fund in order of their appearance on the ballot.

Expenditures are proposed by administration to the school board. The school board then evaluates and approves the expenditure. If

the money is not expended, any funds are maintained in the trust until they are needed.

The article as originally recommended by the Board and Finance Committee was for \$10,000. The voters amended that figure to \$100,000 at the deliberative session. The Board did not hold an additional meeting to change their recommendations; while, the Finance Committee did.

WARRANT ARTICLE 5

Shall the voters of the Brookline School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$1,498,630 for the forthcoming fiscal year in which **\$271,051** is assigned to the school budget of this school district? This year's adjusted budget of \$1,485,787 with \$268,679 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 5-0-0. The Finance Committee recommends this article 3-0-0.**

EXPLANATION:

The School Administrative Unit budget is developed by the SAU41 Budget Subcommittee, and it includes administration from the SAU, member of each School Board, a member of the SAU Governing Board, a member of the Hollis Budget Committee, a member of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative Budget Committee, and a member of the Brookline Finance Committee. The budget includes salaries, benefits, equipment & software, operations & maintenance, professional development, rent, and services. The employees of the SAU are fundamental to the day-to-day operation of each of the schools. The

rent will see the first increase in many years. The Brookline share of this proposed budget sees a slight decrease from FY17.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6

To see if the school district voters will authorize the Brookline School District to access future year state and federal catastrophic aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations.

EXPLANATION:

The Brookline School District is required to obtain authorization from the voters to access state and catastrophic aid funds. This article has zero impact on the budget.

WARRANT ARTICLE 7

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

CANDIDATES

SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER FOR ONE YEAR:

- Robert Rochford

SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK FOR ONE YEAR:

SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR FOR ONE YEAR:

TWO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FOR THREE YEARS:

- Matthew Maguire
- Alison Marsano