

**DRAFT**  
**Dresden Finance Committee**  
**Town Hall**

**Thursday August 3, 2006**  
**Hanover, NH**

Present: Athos Rassias, Henry Scheier, Irv Thomae, Karen Kayen, Kari Asmus, Cheryl Lindberg, Paul Tierney, Al Converse and John Hochreiter.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM. by Chairman Rassias. There were additional copies of the minutes of July 14 passed out at the meeting with the addition of Tom Blinkhorn's name to Karen's subcommittee working on Budget Guidelines. A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Kari to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Athos picked up on a statement made at the last meeting in that Kari suggested that the Finance Committee meet with the budget committee of the School Board. Kari invited any members of the Finance Committee to the next School Board Budget Committee meeting in the Superintendents offices on Monday August 7 at 8:30 AM for Dresden and 9:30 for Hanover. There were a number of Finance Committee members who expressed interest in attending.

The chairman asked for reports from other sub committees: there is a meeting of the Quality of Education sub committee on August 17 at 3:00 PM in the Superintendents office.

Karen Kayen's committee presented their draft of the proposed budget guidelines. Karen had sent an electronic version to all members in advance of the meeting and asked for comments, she received a few. Henry asked that Karen read those comments from members who could not be present today. She read those aloud.

Chairman Rassias noted that he was very pleased with the form and nature of the presentation. The committee had made special effort to present a one page succinctly presented document. Those present agreed with that assessment.

It was noted by Irv and acknowledged by everyone else that it was quite special that the committee had taken a substantial amount of time, talent and energy to present the draft and were then willing to allow the entire committee the opportunity to change it. There was general agreement and appreciation.

The committee then began to take each item one paragraph at a time and discuss in great detail philosophy, economics, language, feelings, and opinions of each and every word. There was a great deal of time spent trying to relay the committee's desire for a strong if not exceptional educational product, our expectation for control and accountability throughout the school district, and our support for good teachers and their well being.

There was significant discussion about our role in representing the will of the voters as expressed at last year's district meeting and on our ability to affect the negotiations. There was considerable feeling among members of the committee that we needed to promote an immediate elimination or at least a substantial reduction in the premium amount we pay teachers relative to other New Hampshire and Vermont districts.

Other topics included:

Beginning teacher pay and increases relative to the overall schedule.

Special Education and its relationship to the entire District.

Concept of Total Budget.

Relativity of CPI to the budget guidelines.

Accountability and transparency to the community.

Product output.

Valuation of employees.

Market economics.

Expectation of quality education.

At a few minutes past six o'clock after dynamic discussion on each of the points presented by Karen's sub committee a motion was made by John and seconded by Cheryl to support the concepts presented in the reworked document and to thank the members of the sub committee for their significant work and infinite patience with the Finance Committee's alterations to their product. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Karen will rework the document and distribute it electronically. We should then note our favor or not of the document directly to Athos. He will present it to the School Board Budget Committee on Monday.

The next meeting of the Dresden Finance Committee will be August 21 at 4:00 PM in Norwich. We will try to then meet regularly on the third Monday of the month at 4:00 PM, September 18 being the next in the series of scheduled gatherings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.