

Dresden School District Fields Questionnaire

The Dresden School Board is seeking community opinion about the best way to provide fields for our high school athletes. Following the defeat of two recent bond proposals, we conducted public discussions and solicited opinions via e-mail and mail. From that feedback, we created this questionnaire to gauge the sentiments and priorities of ALL community members, not just those with children in the school district.

Many of Hanover High School's current athletic teams have three levels: varsity, junior varsity and reserve. Each team practices or competes five afternoons a week with some games scheduled on Saturdays. Currently, the high school uses fields located on its campus and on an array of sites offered by the towns of Hanover and Norwich, Dartmouth College, and a private individual. Because the continued availability of these off-campus fields is not assured, the Dresden School Board must find additional field space off the Lebanon Street campus.

Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire and return it by January 28 to the main office of a local school or mail it to the SAU Office, 45 Lyme Road, Hanover NH 03755. If there is more than one voter in your household, you may copy the questionnaire, obtain a second copy from a local school, or download a copy from the SAU 70 web site: www.SAU70.org.

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|---|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|
| 1. How familiar are you with the Hanover High School athletic program? | Very familiar | [] | | 5 |
| | Somewhat familiar | [] | | |
| | Not at all familiar | [] | | |
| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | | |
| 2. Do you have a child or children currently enrolled in the Dresden, Norwich, or Hanover schools, or one who was enrolled during the last 10 years? | [] | [] | | 6 |
| 3. IF YES, do they or did they participate in the athletic program? | [] | [] | | 7 |
| 4. Here are some statements reflecting different perspectives about high school athletics and competition. Please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree with each one. | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | |
| a. Team sports develop character and skills useful in later adult life. | [] | [] | [] | 8 |
| b. A primary purpose of the HHS athletic program should be to encourage physical fitness as a life value. | [] | [] | [] | 9 |
| c. HHS places too much emphasis on competitive interscholastic sports. | [] | [] | [] | 10 |
| d. Non-varsity athletes should continue to have the opportunity to participate in team sports. | [] | [] | [] | 11 |
| e. Winning championships should not be the main goal of varsity high school sports. | [] | [] | [] | 12 |
| f. HHS should encourage more athletic activities that do not require fields. | [] | [] | [] | 13 |
| g. The time commitment required to play team sports should be less at the junior varsity and reserve levels. | [] | [] | [] | 14 |
| h. There should be increased support for other high school extra-curricular activities by diminishing some parts of the current athletic program. | [] | [] | [] | 15 |

5. Please indicate below why you voted YES or NO on the **previous** athletic fields bond.
 If you DID NOT vote on the bond, check here and **proceed to Question 6** ----->> [] 16

***I VOTED 'YES' BECAUSE I BELIEVE:* Check as many as apply.**

- a. The plan allowed the District to maintain the athletic program. [] 17
- b. The plan was the best value. [] 18
- c. The plan was useful to the community at large. [] 19
- d. I supported the artificial turf. [] 20
- e. The plan improved student safety by providing a centralized location. [] 21
- f. The plan would relieve traffic problems. [] 22
- g. I was determined to vote YES. [] 23
- h. Other _____ [] 24

***I VOTED 'NO' BECAUSE:* Check as many as apply.**

- a. The plan was too expensive. [] 25
- b. The plan was too elaborate. [] 26
- c. The plan was not useful to the community at large. [] 27
- d. I opposed artificial turf. [] 28
- e. It placed too many sports fields in Norwich. [] 29
- f. The plan would create more traffic problems. [] 30
- f. I was determined to vote NO. [] 31
- g. Other _____ [] 32

6. From your point of view, which of the following statements should be the most important element in a plan for the Dresden athletic fields? Assign a value to each statement, using a five-point scale ranging from:

“1” (VERY IMPORTANT) to 5 (UNIMPORTANT).

- a. Complete the field renovations at the high school site. [] 33
- b. Prepare a Dresden fields plan that is less expensive than the previous bond proposals. [] 34
- c. Prepare a long-range fields plan that meets the needs of the Dresden District and the two towns' recreation programs. [] 35
- d. Have the communities and/or the schools acquire more land for sports fields. [] 36
- e. Prepare a Dresden fields plan providing enough fields to maintain the current HHS athletic program. [] 37
- f. Other: PLEASE SPECIFY _____ [] 38

7. The next statements represent different viewpoints regarding athletic fields, their locations, and the responsibility for them. Please check your agreement or disagreement with each of them.

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	
a. Each soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey team should have its own field for the season.	[]	[]	[]	39
b. When possible, teams should share fields and stagger practices to minimize the need for new fields.	[]	[]	[]	40
c. The Dresden District should own and control the fields used in its athletic program.	[]	[]	[]	41
d. When not in use by the district, the Dresden fields should be available to the Norwich and Hanover communities.	[]	[]	[]	42
e. The Towns of Hanover and Norwich should make town-owned recreational facilities more available for Hanover High School use.	[]	[]	[]	43
f. The high school should be the primary site for game fields with other fields spread throughout both Norwich and Hanover.	[]	[]	[]	44
g. All athletic fields should be located at either the high school or the Route 5 site in Norwich.	[]	[]	[]	45
h. The Dresden District should provide student transportation to practice fields away from the high school site.	[]	[]	[]	46
i. The track should be relocated from the high school campus if that made it possible to create more field space.	[]	[]	[]	47
j. Artificial turf is less expensive in the long run and safer for students.	[]	[]	[]	48
k. I would favor using lights on at least one field at the high school to increase playing and practice time.	[]	[]	[]	49

8. Which of the following statements most closely reflects your views on the use of land owned by the Dresden School District in Norwich? Please check ONLY ONE of these statements. 50

1. The Norwich site should be fully developed with several playing fields, tennis courts, bathrooms, and changing rooms to provide one central facility to supplement the game fields at the high school. []
2. The Norwich site should be fully developed with playing fields designated for specific sports but with no facilities. []
3. The Norwich site should be developed as a large multi-purpose field. []
4. The Norwich land should not be used for Dresden fields at all. []
5. Undecided, don't know, or too complicated. []

PLEASE TURN OVER TO LAST PAGE

9. In the next Dresden District fields bond, what would be the highest amount you would be willing to support?
The most recent athletic fields bond requested \$ 4,557,884. 51

- 1. I would not support any cost. []
- 2. I would support up to \$1 million. []
- 3. I would support up to \$2 million. []
- 4. I would support up to \$3 million. []
- 5. I would support up to \$4 million. []
- 6. I would support more than \$4 million. []

- 7. I really do not know; uncertain; too complicated. []

10. I would support a higher amount if it addressed the greater community needs, and enhanced greater recreational opportunities for everyone rather than just the Dresden District students. 52

- Yes []
- No []
- I do not know []

11. How do you think the Dresden School Board could help voters become more informed about the issues and problems facing the Dresden District? 53

12. If you have other comments or suggestions please write them here. 54

THANK YOU

Should other registered voters in your household desire to complete the questionnaire, you may copy it, obtain another copy at the main office of a local school, or download it from the www.SAU70.org web site.

Please return completed questionnaires to any school's main office or mail them to:
SAU 70 Superintendent of Schools, 45 Lyme Road, Hanover, NH 03755

Completed questionnaires are needed by January 28, 2005