

**MINUTES OF THE
DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
February 28, 2019**

Moderator Jonathan Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. Thursday, February 28, 2019. Present were School Board members Carey Callaghan, Tom Candon, Bruce Duncan, Kelly Hersey, Rick Johnson, Kelly McConnell, Neil Odell (Chair), Lauren Morando Rhim, Dan Rockmore and David Sobel; Administrators Jay Badams, and Jamie Teague, Michael LePene; and nine members of the public. Moderator Edwards explained that this was the discussion phase of the meeting, and that the voting phase would take place Tuesday, March 5, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Tracy Hall in Norwich for Norwich voters, and Hanover High School Gymnasium for Hanover voters. He noted that the Warrant had been duly posted By Kate O'Connor in six locations both New Hampshire and Vermont.

Jonathan recognized Jeffrey Vitt and Mary M. Jeffrey noted the superb job the Board has done, and praised retiring member Carey Callaghan.

Moderator Edwards then recognized Dresden School Board Chair Neil Odell, who introduced the Board members. Neil commented that he couldn't have worked with a better group and that all of them were incredibly hard working and served their towns well. Superintendent Badams introduced district administrators.

After Mr. Edwards reviewed the structure of the Dresden School District and reviewed the guidelines for the District meeting, he read the Warning.

ARTICLE 1: To elect by written ballot for one-year terms a Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer; an auditor for a three-year term, an auditor for a two-year term, and an auditor for a one-year term.

Moderator Edwards read the positions to be voted on, and the names of the candidates running. Rick Johnson offered to answer questions about this article but no questions were asked or public comment offered. Elections are for one year.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the district raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) for the design, construction and repair of the drainage system which runs beneath the Hanover High School turf field, replacement of the 13 year old turf-field carpet and update the surrounding athletic area? And to authorize the issuance of not more than \$900,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the NH-VT Interstate Compact (Article VII) as well as the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33:1) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The School Board recommends this article.

NOTE 1. No payments will be due in the 2019-2020 school year. All future payments will be structured to continue an even stream of debt payments as other present debt payments retire. Payoff will be structured over 6 years.

Neil Odell introduced the article. Why the turf field? Why now? The current field is three years beyond anticipated lifespan. NHIAA established requirements for field usage. The field is used by many teams. There are associated drainage issues. The main drainage pipe under the field is 30 feet below the surface, and needs to be replaced. The draining project has quotes, as does the carpet. We have already had assistance from the town of Hanover.

There is a new pipe, along the edge of the field. Replacement and repair will be scheduled for minimal impact. Payments have been scheduled to minimize impact on the taxpayers. Several debt service payments will be retiring.

Kari Assmus spoke on behalf of the Hanover Finance Committee. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal. This field has saved a lot of money for the district over the years.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the District determine and fix the salaries of School District officers as follows: School Board members \$700 per member with an additional \$300 for the School Board Chair; School District Treasurer \$2,516; School District Clerk \$200; and School District Moderator \$200 in accordance with Article V-A of the NH/VT Interstate School Compact, and further raise and appropriate the amount of Eleven Thousand, Six Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$11,616) to fund these salaries?

Bruce Duncan noted that these salaries had remained basically the same for many years. There was no public comment.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the district vote to approve the cost items in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Dresden School Board and the Hanover Education Association, NEA-NH, which calls for the following increases in teacher salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimate Increase over status quo budget
2019-2020	\$101,814
2020-2021	\$285,069
2021-2022	\$285,528

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred One Thousand, Eight Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$101,814), such sum representing the estimated increase in teacher salaries and benefits for the 2019-2020 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement? The School Board recommends this appropriation.

NOTE 1. The sum necessary to pay the so-called status quo salaries and benefits for teachers if this article is defeated is included in the operating budget in Article 6.

NOTE 2. A favorable vote on this article shall be considered the approval of the cost items in all three years of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

David Sobel presented the article, thanking the negotiating teams. Everyone was aware of the context on both sides of the river. Negotiations began in the fall and were ratified in December. The salary increase is not the only factor. Health care costs are a huge driver. Estimated increase in year one is lower. There is a change in the insurance plan, which yields savings, but also provides a high-quality plan. These numbers being discussed are for Dresden only. Teach co-pay is going up in the name of collaboration. Many other changes, including early retirement limited to three per site per year. The School Board approved this unanimously. It met all of the goals, keeping within inflationary guidelines. This includes contracted and non-contracted items. All changes are on the SAU Web Page.

Kari Assmus spoke on behalf of the Hanover Finance Committee. This article needs to pass in both Hanover and Dresden to take effect. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the article. Compared with other districts, we are very much in line. We used to be

well above. Committee approves of this trend. The two percent increase is in line with current local employment trends. Kari thanked the Board for looking at total compensation, a better practice than in the past.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the district vote to approve the cost items in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Dresden School Board and the Hanover Support Staff, NEA-NH, which calls for the following increases in teacher salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimate Increase over status quo budget
2019-2020	\$23,221
2020-2021	\$45,230
2021-2022	\$38,398

and further shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-three Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$23,221), such sum representing the estimated increase in support staff salaries and benefits for the 2019-2020 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement? The School Board recommends this article.

NOTE 1. The sum necessary to pay the so-called status quo salaries and benefits for support staff if this article is defeated is included in the operating budget in Article 6.

NOTE 2. A favorable vote on this article shall be considered the approval of the cost items in all three years of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

Jamie Teague presented the article. The information is the same as in the agreement described by David Sobel in the Hanover meeting. It was ratified in December. An MOU was signed to address several new issues. The verall goal was to secure a contract that would remain in line with expected inflation. The cost for year one is lower due to projected savings in health care insurance plan. We are moving to School Care Yellow Choice. The switch will yield year one savings. There is a step up in employee co-pay. Sick leave was adjusted, leave adjusted, vacation/leave rules were adjusted. All details are in the SAU website.

There were no further comments.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the District raise and appropriate the amount of Twenty-Six Million, Eight Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Three Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$26,817,372) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the teachers and other school employees, school district officials, and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District for the 2019-2020 fiscal year? This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

Carey Callaghan presented this article, noting the support for public education of the residents and taxpayers. He gave thanks to administrators, Jay and Jamie, and the administrative team. Carey noted that this was his sawn song. He added his thanks to those who support Board members.

Kari Assmus spoke on behalf of the Hanover Finance Committee. They voted unanimously to support the budget. The Board recognized the impact of the increased assessment in Hanover. In terms of the process, the Board asked the administrators to make additional cuts. There is a 20-year of trend of more students coming from Hanover than Norwich. There are swings which could be anticipated. Kari thanked everyone who was part of the process.

Jonathan Edwards expressed his appreciation for the hard and thorough work of the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 7: To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.

Moderator Edwards reminded everyone of the voting date on March 5, and asked audience members to exercise their right to vote. There being no other business, Kari Asmus made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Results of Australian Balloting on March 5, 2019

Article 1 (Record of Election of Officers)

Moderator:	Jonathan Edwards (1,250)
Clerk:	Deborah McLane Carter (1,283)
Treasurer:	Cheryl Lindberg (1,233)
District Auditor (three years):	18 write-ins
District Auditor (two years):	23 write-ins
District Auditor (one year):	43 write-ins

Article 2 (Repair to Turf Field)

Yes: 1,033	No: 380	Blank: 65
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Article 3 (Board and Officer salaries)

Yes: 1,263	No: 158	Blank: 57
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Article 4 (Teacher Salaries and Benefits)

Yes: 1,065	No: 324	Blank: 89
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Article 5 (Support Staff Salaries and Benefits)

Yes: 1,150	No: 240	Blank: 88
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Article 6 (Overall budget)

Yes: 1,097	No: 295	Blank: 86
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I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate report of the proceedings of the meeting of February 28, 2019, and results of voting held March 5, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Grabill
Hanover District Clerk