

**MINUTES OF THE  
DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
MARCH 1, 2018**

Moderator Jonathan Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Thursday, March 1, 2018. Present were School Board members Carey Callaghan, Jona Roberts, Tom Candon, Bruce Duncan, Kelly Hersey, Rick Johnson, Kelly McConnell, Neil Odell, and David Sobel; Administrators Jay Badams, Jamie Teague, Justin Campbell, and Michael Lepene; and six 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 6, 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 in both New Hampshire and Vermont.

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 Bass 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.

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the District determine and fix the salaries of School District officers as follows: School Board members \$700 per member; School District Treasurer \$2,436; 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, Two Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$11,236) to fund these salaries?

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

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the District raise and appropriate the amount of Twenty-Six Million, Four Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$26,488,925) 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 2018-2019 fiscal year? This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

Carey Callaghan presented this article, noting that administrators and the Board begin work on the budgets in August of each year.

**Overview:** The Board decided on a budget guideline calling for an increase of 2% or less over last year's budget. The proposed budget increase is 1.9% (\$26,004,777 to \$26,500,161),

which includes all of the Warrant Articles This results in a Dresden net assessment increase of .43% (\$88,579).

In reviewing the Budget Summary, Mr. Callaghan mentioned the increase in revenues from both the sixth grade tuition and the high school tuition. He also noted the slight decrease in state funding from both NH and VT. The overall revenue amount is up by 8.5% (\$426,046), which is driven mainly by the number of tuition students coming to Dresden Schools.

Due to the proportional number of students in the schools, the net assessment will go up 1.7% for Hanover and down 2.1% for Norwich. The estimate for the tax rate impact is a 2.75% increase in Hanover and a 4.98% increase for Norwich. These rates include both the Dresden and the local elementary school assessments for each town, though it does not include the additional Norwich warrant article amount of \$100,000.

**Detailed View:** Mr. Callaghan continued the presentation with a closer look at the budgets of each school and the district. Significant differences include an increase for an additional tech support person for the district, a J.V. Hockey coach, and a .6 FTE position to oversee the new Innovation Lab. There will also be decreases for the final installment of the loan paying for the girls' softball field at the Dresden Fields as well as cuts made to educational assistant positions to offset the new positions.

The Richmond School budget includes new positions for a part-time Spanish teacher and 1-on-1 Special Education support staff. There is also a 1.75% negotiated increase in teacher salaries. The overall RMS budget is up by 2.36%.

Hanover High School budget includes a 2.6 increase in teacher FTEs and a decrease of 2.16 regular education assistants, resulting in an overall increase of .44 staff FTEs at the High School. The budget has decreased spending in special education and vocational education due to the smaller student population needing these services. A media assistant position was cut for another decrease to the budget. The overall HHS budget is up by 2.29%

**Long-Term View:** Mr. Callaghan noted that we have great schools and the board values the community support. In FY08, RMS was the 5th highest middle school in the state in per-pupil costs, and in FY17 ranked 11th. In FY08, HHS was ranked the 14th highest high school in the state in per-pupil costs, and in FY17 was 23th. Mr. Callaghan said that it is not the district's goal to be average but that the board is mindful of the costs to taxpayers. The RMS students performed well on the third year of the new SBAC state assessments and they have been scoring well above the state averages. HHS students continue to do well on SAT exams and their scores are above both NH and national averages. Mr. Callaghan noted that scores are not the only indicators but they are easily quantified and they do show the success of our students. He noted that as important are what the students do after graduation. Over 90% of the Class of 2017 went on to college. He commented that we do send many to high academic liberal arts schools, but we also send students to art schools, engineering schools, and a variety of other schools that fit with each individual student.

Kari Asmus spoke on behalf of the Hanover Finance Committee. She thanked the staff and board for their due diligence keeping in mind the needs of the school and the tax impact. She said that the Committee appreciated that the Board had a good budget process. She noted that members of her committee attended Dresden budget meetings, and the committee voted unanimously to support the Dresden budget for 2018-2019. She did suggest that the Board should work diligently in the next year when working on salaries, keeping school need and tax

impact in mind. The Finance Committee was pleased to see that the tuition rate had been increased and they encouraged the Board to think about other revenue sources that might be available.

**ARTICLE 5:** 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, 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 7:47 p.m.

### **Results of Australian Balloting on March 6, 2018**

#### **Article 1 (Record of Election of Officers)**

Moderator:	Jonathan Edwards (1,233)
Clerk:	Deborah McLane Carter (1274)
Treasurer:	Cheryl Lindberg (1,207)
District Auditor (three years):	18 write-ins
District Auditor (two years):	25 write-ins
District Auditor (one year):	40 write-ins

#### **Article 2 (Board and Officer salaries)**

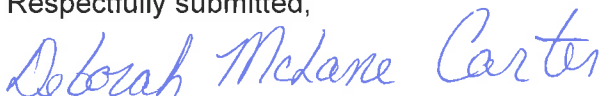
Yes: 1,273	No: 142	Blank: 55
------------	---------	-----------

#### **Article 3 (Overall budget)**

Yes: 1,078	No: 345	Blank: 47
------------	---------	-----------

I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate report of the proceedings of the meeting of March 1, 2018, and results of voting held March 6, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah McLane Carter

