

Minutes of the Hanover School District Annual Meeting
Hanover High School Auditorium
Thursday, March 1, 2018

Moderator Jonathan Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018, in the Hanover High School Auditorium. Present were School Board members Kelly McConnell (Chair), David Sobel (Vice Chair), Carey Callaghan, Bruce Duncan, Rick Johnson, and Jona Roberts; Administrators Jay Badams, Jamie Teague; Ray School Principal Lisa Sjostrom, School District Clerk Robert Grabill, and four members of the public.

The Moderator introduced School Board Chair Kelly McConnell who introduced the members of the School Board and Administration.

Moderator Edwards reviewed the structure of the Hanover School District Meeting process, explaining that the meeting consists of two phases: the discussion phase (this meeting), and the voting phase, which will take place Tuesday, March 6 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Hanover High School Gymnasium in Hanover, New Hampshire. He read the meeting guidelines, and began the business of the meeting by reading the first article. He then described the structure of the Hanover and Dresden School Districts. Moderator Edwards outlined the procedure for the discussion phase

Article 1: To elect by written ballot for one year terms a moderator, clerk, and a treasurer; and three School Board members, two for a three-year term and one for a two-year term. Moderator Edwards read the positions up for election and the names of the candidates running for each position. No public comment was offered.

Article 2: Shall the District appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) from the Don S. Bridgman Fund during the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year in order to fund additional advantages to the students of the District not provided by taxes? (The School Board recommends this appropriation). Jona Roberts presented this article. There is no cost

to the taxpayers, and no impact on the tax rate. No public comment was offered.

Article 3: Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to establish a contingency fund, under the provision of RSA 198:4-b, to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arrive during the 2018-2019 school year? (The School Board recommends this appropriation.) David Sobel presented this article. The fund covers unanticipated expenses in any part of the budget. The Board did not use the funds appropriated last year and they reverted to reduce the tax burden. No public comment was offered.

Article 4: Shall the District determine and fix the salaries of the School District Officers as follows: School Board members \$700 per member; School District Treasurer \$1,847; School District Clerk \$150; School District Moderator \$150, in accordance with RSA 194:10, and further raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Forty-Seven Dollars (\$7,047) to fund these salaries? Bruce Duncan presented this article. These numbers have not changed in recent memory; expect that the Treasurer is receiving a 1.7 percent raise. No public comment was offered.

Article 5: Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Million, Two Hundred Twenty-three Thousand, Six Hundred Eight Dollars (\$14,223,608) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for teachers and other school employees, and School District officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District for the 2018-2019 fiscal year? This sum does not include the funds appropriated in any of the other articles. (The School Board recommends this appropriation.) Carey Callaghan presented this article. Carey offered his thanks for the strong community support for public education, and thanked all those involved in the process of budget preparation. The process begins in August. The target was to maintain the overall budget to budget increase to between 2.0% and 3.0% This budget proposal represents a 2.9% increase of \$400,669 when compared budget to budget. With all recommended articles is an increase of 3.44% or \$475,669. ESOL expenses this year and next created this increase. The number of students and the intensity of the effort has increased. We had not been fully meeting the need. The Board

added .6 fte this year, and will add .8 next year, at a cost of \$164,000. Thus, the 3.44% percent increase.

Carey then turned to enrolment history and forecast. The enrollment figures are relatively flat, from 462 actual to 463 anticipated in K-5. Next year's projected sixth grade is 87. And may fluctuate from 58 in 2019 to 89 in 2020. Fluctuation is a challenge. District staffing is 102.2 in fiscal 2018, and next year will be 102.4. Digging deeper, 6th grade ed assistants are dropping to 1, offset by the increase in ESOL.

Carey described changes in the summary of Operating Expense by Category. The NECC category was switched from special education to the K5 budget. New England Center for Children, which helped develop a program for children on the autism spectrum, allowed us to keep children in the district. The staff is now internalized into the program of the school, so the item now appears in K-5. This makes the apparent 7.31 percent increase closer to 3.45 percent. The out of district placements through the age of 21 encompass a \$40,000 increase. It was decided not to fund the Special Ed Reserve Fund, so there is an offset. Sixth grade tuition is up \$148,187.

Revenues other than taxes were reviewed, including the balance carried forward, local sources, state sources, and other financing sources. Total current year revenues and from fund balance is \$1,074,747, 10.03 % lower this year. The lower amount makes the net assessment higher: 4.71%. Business Administrator Jamie Teague pointed out that these are all revenue estimates. We hear from the State of NH in the fall, giving figures for Catastrophic Aid. Medicaid is often tied to special education costs. That figure is variable. The current numbers are conservative, and will be set in stone in September. The Estimated Tax Rate Summary results from the combined Hanover assessment and the Hanover share of the Dresden assessment. The proposed total is \$27,196,209. The bottom line is a 2.75 percent increase in the total school tax rate.

Carey concluded with a discussion of the per pupil cost data. The Board takes seriously the need to balance costs and quality. He compared fiscal years 2008 and 2017. The Ray School ranked 26th in 2008, and 36th in 2017. We do not have the ambition to be average, but there have

been efforts made to be disciplined. Carey displayed the SBAC test scores. Hanover results are very high relative to the state of NH. It's a wonderful reflection of the efforts of the staff, support of the parents, and the students. Finance Committee member Bill Fischel asked a question about the tests, and who takes them? Do international students? Is there a filtering process? Ray School Principal Lisa Sjostrom replied that almost all students take the math tests. Three students were not proficient in English and did not take ELA test.

Finance Committee Chair Kari Assmus thanked the administrators and school board for a productive conversation and budget process, especially with many new members. She explained that the Town appoints the Finance Committee members. There are five at large members, a member of the school board, and one member of the Board of Selectmen. She introduced the other members. She noted that at the last meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to support the budget. They look at the overall assessment, and the challenges of ESOL were a significant factor, challenges that could not be overcome by cutting elsewhere. A note of concern was the continuing increase in assessments. The greatest cost component is human resources. Salary negotiations are looming this fall. Staffing levels need to be monitored continually. Jamie Teague offered her appreciation for the long hours contributed by the Finance Committee as part of the process. Moderator Jonathan Edwards urged to public to consider serving on the Finance Committee.

There were no further questions.

Article 6: To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting. There was no business.

Kari Assmus moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Fischel seconded the motion. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Results of Australian Balloting on March 6, 2018

Article 1 (Record of Election of Officers)

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| Moderator: Jonathan Edwards (353) | Two seats available, each for 3-year terms: Kelly Fender McConnell (332) |
| Clerk: Robert L. Grabill (363) | Daniel Rockmore (336) |
| Treasurer: Dan Stannard (Write-in 44) | One seat available for a 2-year term: Richard A. Johnson, Jr. (349) |

Article 2 (Use \$40,000 of the Bridgman Fund)

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| Yes: 369 | No: 39 | Blanks: 7 |
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Article 3 (Raise \$35,000 for a contingency fund)

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| Yes: 354 | No: 55 | Blanks: 6 |
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Article 4 (Salaries of school district officers)

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| Yes: 373 | No: 32 | Blanks: 10 |
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Article 5 (Raise \$14,223,608 for school budget)

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| Yes: 349 | No: 60 | Blanks: 6 |
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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 on March 6, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert L. Grabill, District Clerk

