

**MINUTES OF THE  
DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

Moderator Tom Csatari called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 27, 2020. Present were School Board members: Tom Candon, Kimberly Hartmann, Kelly Hersey, Jonathan Hunt, Rick Johnson, Benjamin Keeney, Kelly McConnell, and Neil Odell; Administrators: Superintendent Jay Badams, Business Administrator Jamie Teague, Richmond School Principal Tim Boyle, Richmond School Associate Principal Anissa Morrison, HHS Principal Justin Campbell; and twelve members of the Finance Committee and the public. Moderator Csatari explained that this was the discussion phase of the meeting, and that the voting phase would take place Tuesday, March 3, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Tracy Hall in Norwich for Norwich voters, and Hanover High School Cafeteria for Hanover voters. He noted that the Warrant had been duly posted in both New Hampshire and Vermont.

Moderator Csatari then recognized Dresden School Board Chair Neil Odell, who introduced the Board members. He thanked the retiring board members (David Sobel, Jim Mackall, and Lauren Morando Rhim) for their time and service to the board and the schools. Superintendent Bass introduced district administrators who were in attendance (Richmond School Principal Tim Boyle, Richmond School Associate Principal Anissa Morrison, HHS Principal Justin Campbell, Business Administrator Jamie Teague).

After Mr. Csatari 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 Csatari read the positions to be voted on, and the names of the candidates running. Debbie Carter spoke to say that after 25 years serving as Dresden Clerk, she is attempting to retire. Although a replacement was not found in time to file this year, she hopes that she can work with someone next year to carry on the duties of clerk.

**ARTICLE 2:** 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 \$2,566; 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 Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$11,667) to fund these salaries?

The School Board recommends this article.

Benjamin Keeney noted that other than the treasurer 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-Seven Million, Seven Hundred Ninety-two Thousand, Three Hundred and Nine Dollars (\$27,792,309) 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 2020-2021 fiscal year? This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

The School Board recommends this article.

Rick Johnson presented this article and went over the proposed budget with a slide show presentation.

**Overview:** Last August the Board decided on a budget guideline calling for an increase not to exceed 2.35% over last year's budget. The proposed budget increase is 2.04% which includes all of the Warrant Articles. Due to the proportional number of students in the schools, this results in a Dresden net assessment increase of 1.08% increase for Hanover and 4.17% increase for Norwich.

**Detailed View:** Mr. Johnson continued the presentation with a closer look at the budgets of each school and the district.

The Richmond School budget includes added 6<sup>th</sup> grade staff to accommodate the increased number of students. Other staff is cut by 1.00 FTE. He noted a number of items that were originally proposed but cut from the final RMS budget proposal. The overall RMS budget is up by 4.67%

Hanover High School budget includes a 1.90 decrease in budgeted teacher FTEs. He also noted a number of items that were originally proposed but cut from the final HHS budget proposal. The overall HHS budget is up by 2.39%

The District wide expenses are up by 3.08% to include the Dresden share of an addition of an Assistant Superintendent and Administrative Assistant.

**Long-Term View:** Mr Johnson talked about the Strategic Planning Initiatives that have been proposed, including a Curriculum Audit, a Facilities Condition Audit, a Portrait of a Graduate overview, and a Smarter School Spending review. He also went into the cost per pupil at each school and the extracurricular activities and clubs which make the school more than just a financial statistic.

Kari Asmus spoke on behalf of the Hanover Finance Committee. She commended the budget process that includes greater transparency and public involvement. She noted that members of her committee attended Dresden budget meetings, and the committee voted unanimously to support the Dresden budget for 2020-2021.

Kim Perez asked a question about the budget history and why the high school budget seems to be growing faster than the RMS budget. Members of the staff and board addressed the question and noted that they would look into it further for a more complete answer.

There was no other public comment.

**ARTICLE 4 (by Petition):** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$275,000 for the purpose of repairing the Dresden Baseball field to improve drainage and playability.

The School Board does not recommend this article.

School board member Jonathan Hunt talked about why this proposal was not put into the budget. The board felt it needed further review and prioritization within the rest of the school budget. Member of the public Evan Pierce spoke to say that the baseball team could only use their field seven times last year and noted that it is difficult to have a good team without a field.

The group putting forth this petitioned article felt that they had to start the process now in order to get a good usable field in two years. Kari Asmus spoke for the Finance Committee saying that they had decided not to take a position as they had not had enough time to work on the proposal and they had a number of questions and concerns. Another member of the Finance Committee and another board member spoke to the article.

**ARTICLE 5:** To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.

Chair Neil Odell noted the death of Moderator Jonathan Edwards and recognized the work that he had done over the years for the school district. Kari Asmus noted the retirement of Debbie Carter and thanked her for her service as Clerk with a round of applause.

Moderator Csatari reminded everyone of the voting date and locations. There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

### **Results of Australian Balloting on March 3, 2020**

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

Moderator:	Thomas Csatari (1,646)
Clerk:	51 write-ins
Treasurer:	Cheryl Lindberg (1,718)
District Auditor (three years):	33 write-ins
District Auditor (two years):	33 write-ins
District Auditor (one year):	18 write-ins

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

Yes: 1756	No: 236	Blank: 132
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#### **Article 3 (Overall budget)**

Yes: 1,583	No: 440	Blank: 101
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#### **Article 4 (Petitioned article on baseball field)**

Yes: 728	No: 1262	Blank: 134
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I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate report of the proceedings of the meeting of February 27, 2020, and results of voting held March 3, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah McLane Carter