

A watercolor illustration featuring two stylized owls. The owl on the left is large, with brown feathers, large yellow eyes with green outlines, and red wings. The owl on the right is smaller, with similar features but a purple belly. Three white, star-like shapes are scattered across a blue background. A dark blue rectangular box is positioned in the upper right, containing the title and subtitle in white text.

Hanover | Dresden School Districts

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

HANOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE

Bernice A. Ray School

The Bernice A. Ray School welcomes all elementary-age children in Hanover and Etna, New Hampshire in kindergarten through grade 5. Our teachers and staff members are committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and trusting environment for all children. We offer a balanced and challenging academic program and a supportive atmosphere for children of all abilities and backgrounds.

HANOVER SCHOOL BOARD

Marcela Di Blasi, *Vice Chair*
marcela.diblas@hnsb.org
210-896-0765

Kimberly Hartmann
kimberlyhartmann@hnsb.org
916-505-6883

Jonathan Hunt
jonathan.hunt@hnsb.org
207-602-8079

Rick Johnson
rick.johnson@hnsb.org
603-643-4855

Benjamin Keeney, *Chair*
benjamin.keeney@hnsb.org
510-227-9208

Kevin Knuuti
kevinknuuti@hnsb.org
603-443-3770

Deborah Bacon Nelson
deborahbaconnelson@hnsb.org
603-643-0399

Hanover Meetings

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Thursday, February 24th, 5 p.m. HHS Auditorium

VIRTUAL OPTION

A Zoom link and the information will be shared via the SAU70 District website at SAU70.org.

The meeting will also be streamed on CATV.

ALL DAY VOTING

Tuesday March 1st, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
HHS Gymnasium

ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AHEAD OF THE IN-PERSON VOTING DATE.

It may not seem like it, but it has now been approximately a year and a half since the members of Hanover, Dresden, SAU 70, and Norwich School Boards (with significant support from parents, medical personnel, and the public) debated whether to reopen the schools for in-person learning in the summer of 2020. After numerous lengthy meetings, we made that choice to open the schools while retaining a remote-learning option for those that needed it. Since that critical decision, we successfully navigated the 2020-2021 school year with minimal Covid diagnoses among our population. During this current 2021-2022 academic year, it has been noticeably harder with the Delta and Omicron variants of Covid-19. However, we continue to endure. The age of the Ray School student population did not allow for student vaccinations until approximately November 2021. The school is tracking parent/guardian-reported vaccination status. For those families who have not yet done so, please report your child's vaccinations. For those children who are not yet vaccinated, we hope you will consider doing so soon.

The Hanover School Board has many groups of people to thank. First, we wish to thank our children. They are handling this unprecedented situation with aplomb; on numerous occasions, they outshone their adult peers. From the pandemic's dangers to physical, mental, and social health; upended schedules; minimal encounters with friends and family; canceled events; and masks, our children did their part to keep our schools open. Second, we want to thank the parents, guardians, and citizens of Hanover. Your vaccinations, masks, social distancing, and camaraderie made the school and town as safe as possible for our Ray School children, who had to wait so much longer for a chance to vaccinate against Covid-19. We thank our teachers, support staff, custodians, administration, and other personnel for their continuing excellence and efforts in these challenging times. Lastly, we thank everyone else who has helped our children and the school during the pandemic.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic understandably dominates the conversation, our SAU 70 and Ray School administration, personnel, and Boards continue to do other work necessary to maintain and continually improve the excellence of the Ray School and its students. Some highlights include:

- As always, the Hanover School Board and administration strive to maintain and improve the excellence of the Ray School while simultaneously balancing budgetary concerns of our taxpayers and concurrent town costs. The 2023-24 expenditure budget when compared to prior year is actually decreasing by (\$1,353,303) or (8.64%) due to last year's vote to move enrollment status of the 6th grade Hanover students to the Dresden School District. This removes a very large regu-

lar education tuition payment from the Hanover budget in the amount of (\$1,904,287). The costs of educating those students at Dresden is now a function of the Dresden Assessment, which will be increasing to Hanover accordingly. The direct operational section of the Hanover budget, not including the tuition dynamic, is increasing 3.88% or \$470,914. Please see our budget packet for more nuanced information. As percentages, our largest increases are for in-service staff development, technology improvements, special education out-of-district tuition and transportation, and building improvements.

- In addition to our standard warrant articles, this year we ask Hanover voters to approve our Board-supported and union-supported separate collective bargaining agreements with certified staff (e.g., teachers) and support staff. We also ask the voters to approve the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund to replenish monies used to fund the Technology Project this year instead of issuing new debt.
- As of January, we have not yet discussed the results of the 2020-21 NH State wide school testing, referred to as the Statewide Assessment System (SAS). Testing for the 2019-2020 school year did not occur during the early stages of the pandemic. Current SAS results will be shared at the February school board meeting. However, we do have our internal results for the Ray School. Compared to 6 metrics that were available in previous years (2018-2019 and earlier), our 2020-2021 results improved for 3 metrics, held steady for 1, and dropped slightly for 2. That year-over-year change roughly mirrors previous changes over the years. We await the results from the state for comparison to other districts, which will be discussed in future Board meetings.
- We understandably went down in student population in the 2020-2021 school year during the pre-vaccination portion of the pandemic. However, we have since bounced back to our anticipated counts. For the current school year, we have more students than initially budgeted with numbers hovering around 496.
- As of January 20th, 2022, we have parent/guardian-reported full (both shots) COVID-19 vaccination rates of 71% among Ray School students.
- Like other districts across the United States, we continue struggling to fill open positions, including substitute teachers. If your schedule and interests allow for this possibility, please contact the SAU administration.

—Benjamin Keeney, *Hanover School Board Chair*

Hanover School District

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

The total Hanover School District Budget has been shown in 2 different views, one including the 6th Grade's tuition expense for the 2021-22 school year (\$1,904,287) which represents the total amount of the prior year's approved budget and one that does not include the tuition expense, so we can see the actual increase for changes in programming that remain year over year. The one-time cost of the technology project has also been removed from the non-tuition budget comparisons. The proposed 2022-23 District Budget without tuition expenses included, increases from \$13,752,366 to \$14,303,350, a difference of \$550,984 or 4.01% which includes 2 separately voted warrant articles consisting of Board and Treasurer stipends #3 [\$7,454], and Bridgman Funds #2 [\$40,000], which also has offsetting revenue from the Bridgman Trust of \$40,000 so it's tax assessment neutral. If you compare the two budget years including the tuition expense, the 2022-23 proposed budget would be a decrease of (\$1,353,303 or 8.64%), moving from \$15,656,653 to \$14,303,350.

The cost of the program offered to students in grades K-5 at the Ray School itself is proposed to increase by \$470,914 or 3.88% over prior year's costs mainly due to changes in FTEs, a regular education sabbatical which increases the Salary line costs by 1 FTE, benefit expenses, SAU services, technology expenditures, maintenance/custodial supplies and vendor contracted services. The special ed tuition expense is projected to increase \$171,800 or 18.88%. The budget does not include any wage or step increases for any Teachers or Support Staff employees as those increases will be voted on in separate warrant articles #4 & #5. The Service Staff and Non-Union employee increases are included. For a complete overview and breakdowns of changes, please review the Hanover 2022-23 Budget Book & Exhibits which can be found on the district's website or in BoardDocs in the Hanover School District Section, specifically the Hanover Budget Hearing held on January 12, 2022.

We are budgeting a surplus from the 2021-22 fiscal year of \$300,000 which is subject to change. The projected payment from the Hanover Water Works is \$156,070, dropping by (\$20,243) due to the decrease in present tax rate which is used in the calculation. Due to the state of the economy, we are projecting a decrease in interest on investments of (\$15,000). The State of NH Department of Education made mid-year changes to the SWEPT and adequacy aid funding and we were mildly surprised in the 2021-22 fiscal year with an adequacy aid payment in the amount of \$246,325, this is pro-

jected to increase due to a one time, hold harmless payment to stabilize the change in the SWEPT tax rate of \$1,308,224, an increase of \$1,061,899. We are budgeting catastrophic aid at an increased level of \$500,000. The level of catastrophic aid—a state grant designed to offset a district's extraordinary special education expenses—is a function of a district's expenditures for special education in the prior year. While the state's support for the catastrophic aid program seems to be eroding, our cost pool for this reimbursement is not decreasing as fast. Hanover will receive \$73,653 in Building Aid for the 6th grade portion of the Dresden District's project.

Applying revenues of \$2,219,397 against the Hanover School District general fund budget of \$14,303,350 (which includes the additional warrant articles for school board/treasurer salaries and Bridgman Fund) results in an amount to be raised by taxes of \$11,783,953. When compared to the prior year's total expenditures including the 6th grade tuition to Dresden, this represents a decrease of (\$2,379,444) from the current year's assessment or (16.80%).

In order to compute a total tax rate for Hanover taxpayers, we need to include the assessment that Hanover pays to the Dresden District for the operation of Richmond Middle and Hanover High Schools. Dresden's base budget assessment is \$17,192,476 an increase of \$2,568,779 or 17.57%. Total overall, base assessments are increasing by 0.66%. **The estimated tax rate for the proposed FY23 Hanover and Dresden general fund budgets—local and state—is shown as \$10.78, an increase of eleven cents [\$0.11] or 1.03% more than the current year.**

With all articles for Dresden, except Article 2, the total Dresden assessment to Hanover is expected to be \$17,500,337 an increase of \$2,876,640 or 19.67%. Combined with the elementary assessments including all articles, this results in a projected tax rate increase for Hanover of 3.47% or 0.37 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (an increase of \$185 on a \$500,000 home). Without the SWEPT rate adjustment mentioned above, this rate would be increasing \$0.81 or 9.05%.

Details on both the Hanover District and Dresden District budgets and assessments can be found in BoardDocs under each of the school boards budget hearings held on January 11 and January 12, 2022.

K-5 ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING: Early on in the budget process, the administration develops estimates of enrollment to guide resource allocation decisions. The budget proposal is normally based on actual enrollments known today along with historical 5-year average increases/decreases figured in. Actual enrollment in grades K-5 for the current year as of October 1 was 497 students which is up 24 from the projection. For 2022-23, we are projecting 485. A 5-year projection graph can be viewed in the Hanover District Budget Book with Exhibits on the SAU70 website or BoardDocs website.

While there was much turnover for the start of the 21-22 school year, we are just now approaching full employment numbers in the classrooms. The following FTE changes have been proposed: a reduction of 0.20 in regular education instruction, a restatement of Aide's FTEs with an increase of 3.55 in regular education classroom instruction offset by a 4.46 reduction in special education instruction, and a small increase of 0.09 in health/library program Aides. This represents overall a reduction of 1.02 FTEs. Class sizes and sections will be determined over the summer as enrollments are updated. The Staffing numbers do not include the addition of a paid teacher sabbatical representing an additional 1.0 FTE cost that is not actually onsite. A more detailed breakdown is included in the District Budget Book, Exhibit 8.

REGULAR OPERATIONS: This is the portion of the budget that should change both due to enrollment changes and to the general increase in the cost of goods and services. Some of the larger budget changes are shared here. This includes regular education teacher's salary increases and an additional 1.0 FTE to cover a teacher's sabbatical totaling \$77,421; 3.55 FTE of regular education aides moved up from the special education section totaling \$92,860; and benefit changes of \$199,056 representing changes in health insurance elections as well as insurance increases of 5% and 10.2%. Technology lines are showing both increases and decreases, most significant is an increase in purchased services like software and repairs of \$15,802 as well as equipment \$20,653 in order to meet the needs of the students. The curriculum development lines have increases due to a new math curriculum and ongoing equity work in the amount of \$37,050. There have been some election changes in the Payroll Tax & Benefit lines as well as rate changes mentioned above representing an increase of \$23,978 in the media department somewhat offset by a decrease in the administration department (\$18,915). Rounding out this section is changes in the building maintenance and custodial

services lines including property repair costs \$10,256, changes in personnel and outsourcing evening operations resulting in savings in salaries/benefits of (\$60,160); and materials/supply increases \$28,190. There are many other lines throughout this section of the budget moving up and down in varying amounts totaling \$30,197. This group of expenditures is increasing by \$503,400, or 3.22% over last year's budget.

SPECIAL EDUCATION OPERATIONS: Special education expenses are subject to variations that result from services required by special education students based on the student's individual education plans (IEP's). These costs are not related to either enrollment increases or the general rate of inflation. We are projecting an increase in Special Education Teacher salaries due to employee turnover in the amount of \$30,429. As mentioned in the "Staffing" narrative, we have redirected some FTEs to the regular education section and have reduced some FTEs representing decreases of Applied Behavior Analysis techs (\$57,250) and special ed aides (\$102,047). Reductions in the Payroll tax and benefit lines follow the reduction of salary lines in the amount of (\$131,249). Based on the current student census we are projecting increases in out of district special education tuition of \$171,800. We have also included a 0.40 FTE increase for special education assistant outreach in our area PreK's resulting in additional salary and benefit costs of \$18,063. Rounding out this group is an increase in Special Education transportation service expense \$84,200 and a net decrease of smaller changes in all other lines of (\$3,195). The special education group of accounts is increasing \$9,251, or 0.06% over last year's budget.

CAPITAL EXPENSES: We are projecting no increase in site improvements and an increase in building improvements of \$11,000. Site improvements include: playground maintenance; parking lot and walkway repairs; and tree pruning/removal. Building improvement projects will include ductwork; electrical upgrades; lighting upgrades; propane tank upgrades; classroom upgrades including audio, cabinets/countertops, flooring and painting; and outside improvements including trim and wall repair followed by painting. Our debt service will experience a small decrease of (\$1,730). The debt schedule [Exhibit 6] and all of the maintenance and custodial budget appropriations [Exhibit 12] can be found in the District Budget Book. The Capital Items group of accounts is increasing \$9,270, or 0.06% over last year's budget.

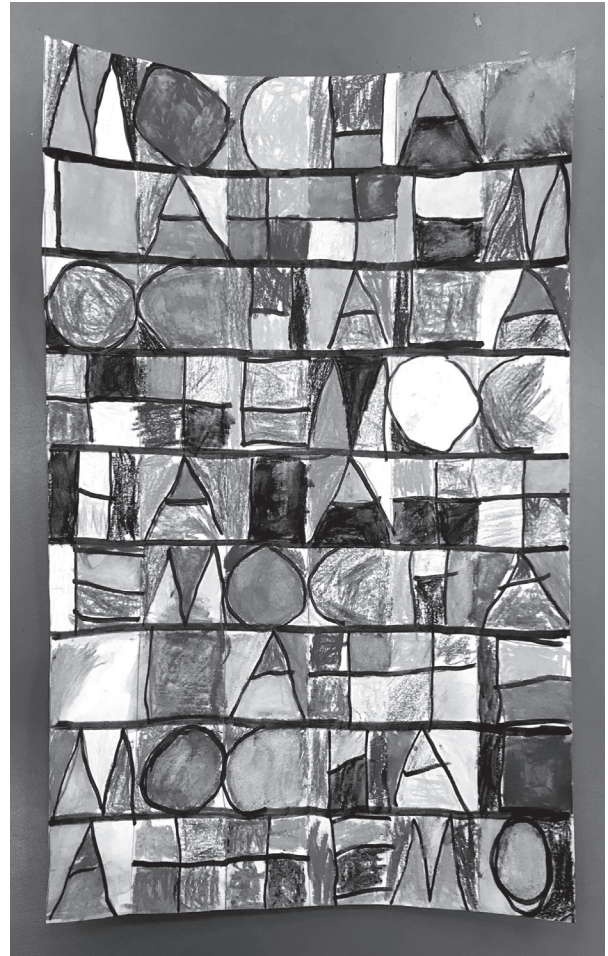
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, 6TH GRADE TUITION AND

OTHER DISTRICT EXPENSE: This group of expenditures includes the 6th grade Tuition payment to Dresden, School Board Services, Superintendent Services and Student Transportation for K-12 as well as inter-district and inter-fund transfers.

This grouping included the tuition cost of educating 6th grade students at the Richmond Middle School which now represents a very large decrease (\$1,904,287) as the 6th grade students will now become a part of the Dresden School District's student census.

The Supervisory Union's assessment will be increasing by \$17,438 due mainly to FTE changes and non-union wage increases within the SAU Budget which was ratified by the SAU Board on November 16, 2021. SAU70 provides services in the following departmental areas: superintendent's services, special education case management, technology support, accounting services, human resource services and transportation management services. Details of the SAU budget can be found at: <https://www.sau70.org/school-boards>. The Student Transportation lines are budgeting an increase of \$12,625 which includes a projected increase to extend our current contract by one additional year. The "Interfund Transfers Out" section includes special warrant article transfers. We are projecting the Food Service Fund transfer which covers the cost of free & reduced lunches to drop by (\$1,000) as fewer students are participating in the program. We have included in the budget the amount of \$40,000 (along with the offsetting revenue) for Bridgman Fund projects even though it is a separate warrant article – that is why the line is showing a \$0 increase. This group of expenditures is decreasing in total by (\$1,874,224).

FOR MORE INFORMATION: To see the Annual District Report, and for other budget information, visit the School Administrative Unit 70 website at www.sau70.org, and click the "Budgets" link or look under the Departments tab for "Business & Finance. All versions of the budget which were presented during the discussion phase can be found by visiting the Board Docs website at <https://go.boarddocs.com/nh/sau70/Board.nsf/Public> and looking at the individual budget and board meetings beginning in August 2021.



*Paul Klee inspired artwork by Ray School 5th grader
Micah Gregorio-DeSouza.*

Hanover Budget Highlights

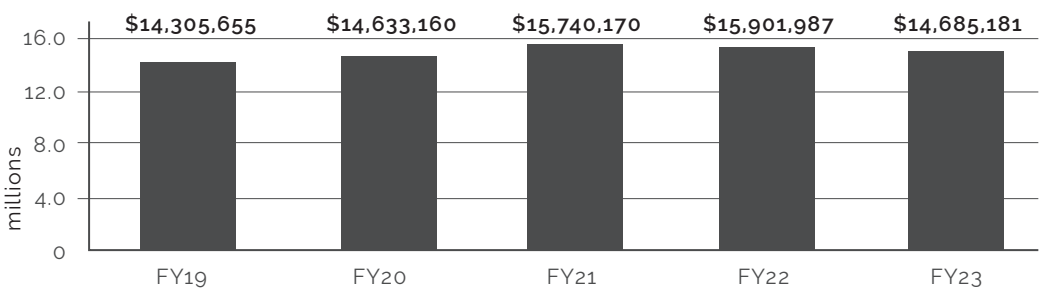
2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

The Hanover School District budget covers the following costs:

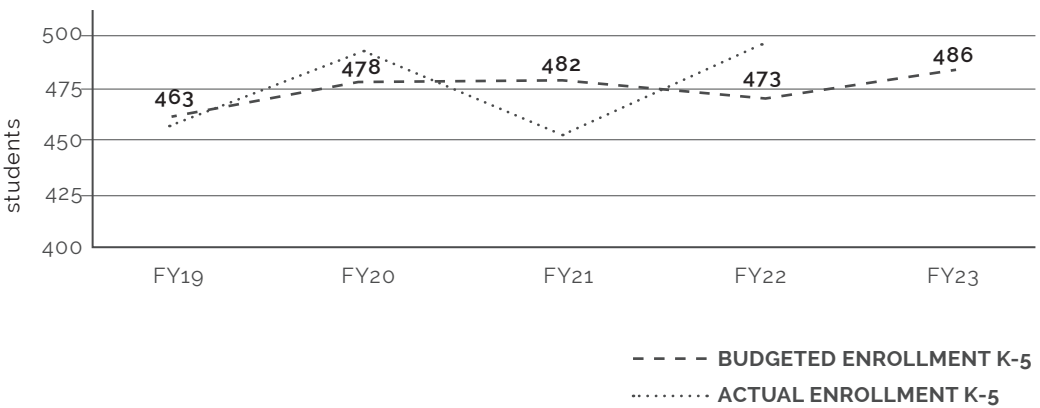
- Operation of the Ray School (pre-K thru 5) including all increases/decreases associated with settled agreements. The data on agreements can be found on the School Administrative Unit 70 website at www.sau70.org under the Departments section, Business and Finance tab. Medical rates this year are projected with a 10.2% increase net of a prior year rate discount being applied.

Recent budget history is summarized in the following charts:

TOTAL DISTRICT BUDGET: ALL ARTICLES



BUDGETED ENROLLMENT K-5



Hanover School Highlights, 2022-23 School Year Budget

ENROLLMENT & STAFFING

BUDGETED ENROLLMENT	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	%CHG
Budgeted Enrollment K-5 (Ray)	463	478	482	473	486	2.7%
Budgeted Enrollment Gr 6 (RMS)	87	61	91	79	0	-100.0%
Total Enrollment	550	539	573	552	486	-12.0%

BUDGETED STAFF (RAY SCHOOL)						
Classroom Teachers	25.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	0.0%
Art, Music, PE, Specials Teachers	10.6	11.4	11.2	11.4	11.2	-1.8%
Special Ed Certified Staff	11.6	12.8	12.7	12.8	12.8	-0.3%
Ed Assistants*	29.9	38.3	36.5	35.8	34.7	-3.0%
Other Staff	24.4	19.1	20.1	19.8	20.1	1.3%
6th Grade Ed Assistants	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
TOTAL STAFF	102.4	109.5	107.4	106.8	105.8	-1.0%

* NOTE: FTE hours for support staff aides were restated from 32 to 37.5 in FY21; please see the Hanover Narrative and Exhibit 8 on our website for a detailed explanation.

BUDGET OUTLINE	BUDGET 2018-19	BUDGET 2019-20	BUDGET 2020-21	BUDGET 2021-22	BUDGET 2022-23	\$CHG	%CHG
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RAY SCHOOL (PRE K-5 ONLY)							
Regular Instruction	\$5,041,278	\$5,471,018	\$5,600,939	\$5,748,934	\$6,195,992	\$447,058	7.78%
Special Education	2,740,585	2,824,593	2,841,742	2,950,463	2,703,714	(246,749)	-8.36%
Other Instructional Services	730,785	766,160	755,243	824,062	875,869	51,807	6.29%
Library Services	191,551	198,641	207,088	193,705	221,306	27,601	14.25%
School Administration	1,023,012	1,033,237	1,087,183	1,158,807	1,158,950	143	0.01%
Maint, Cust, Grnds	636,844	630,143	714,875	729,416	721,930	(7,486)	-1.03%
Pupil Transportation	657,488	628,523	632,074	640,815	739,355	98,540	15.38%
SUBTOTAL RAY OPTG	\$11,021,543	\$11,552,315	\$11,839,144	\$12,246,202	12,617,116	370,914	3.03%

Spec Ed Tuition Exp	844,200	819,300	863,800	909,900	1,081,700	171,800	18.88%
Site & Building Impvts	57,500	76,000	81,750	150,600	161,600	11,000	7.30%
Debt Service	392,029	392,084	391,629	395,664	393,934	(1,730)	-0.44%
Interfund Transfers Out	55,000	215,169	50,000	50,000	9,000	(41,000)	-82.00%
TOTAL IN-DISTRICT EXPENSE	11,526,072	12,235,568	12,362,523	12,842,466	13,181,650	339,184	2.64%
6th Gr Tuition to Dresden	1,935,383	1,578,292	2,513,847	1,904,287	0	(1,904,287)	-100.00%

TOTAL DISTRICT BUDGET	\$14,305,655	\$14,633,160	\$15,740,170	\$15,656,653	14,263,350	(\$1,393,303)	-8.90%
Plus Special Articles/Reserve				245,334	429,215		
Budget (incl articles)				15,901,987	14,692,565	(\$1,209,422)	-7.72%
Tax Rate (incl articles & Dresden base)	\$11.59	\$12.22	\$12.43	\$10.67	\$10.92	\$0.25	2.39%
Tax Rate (incl all articles – both Districts)					\$11.04	\$0.37	3.47%

Explanations of the Warrant Articles

FOR THE 2022 HANOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Hanover (NH) School District are hereby notified and warned that the two phases of the Annual School District Meeting will be held as follows:

DISCUSSION PHASE: Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 5:00 P.M., at the Hanover High School Auditorium, Hanover, New Hampshire. A virtual option will be available to attend via Zoom link and the information will be shared via the SAU70 District website at SAU70.org.

VOTING PHASE: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Hanover High School Gymnasium in Hanover, New Hampshire. **Absentee ballots will be available ahead of the in-person voting date.**

During the discussion phase, the voters shall have the opportunity to discuss the following Warrant Articles and to transact any non-substantive business that may legally be acted on during the discussion phase under Article 8.

ARTICLE 1: To elect by written ballot for one-year terms a moderator, a clerk, and a treasurer; and four School Board members, two for three-year terms and two for two-year terms.

The positions noted above are voted on annually. The names of the candidates are listed at the end of the Hanover section of the annual report. Information on each position is available in the Superintendent's office.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the District appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) from the Don S. Bridgman Fund during the 2022-2023 fiscal year in order to afford additional advantages to the students of the District not provided by taxes?

The School Board recommends this appropriation/bond issue.

NOTE 1. In his will dated January 20, 1917, Don S. Bridgman left a portion of his estate to what is now the Hanover School District. These monies are known as the Bridgman Fund and are currently invested to provide a stream of income for years to come. Expenditures from the fund are used for projects that would not be covered in the school's regular operating budget. Monies are taken only from the Bridgman Trust Fund, so this appropriation has no effect on the tax rate.

Informational Notes: In his will dated January 20, 1917, Don S. Bridgman left a portion of his estate to what is now the Hanover School District. These monies are known as the Bridgman Fund and are currently invested to provide a stream of income for years to come. Expenditures from the fund are used for projects that would not be covered in the school's regular operating budget. Monies are taken only from the Bridgman Trust Fund, so this appropriation has no effect on the tax rate. As of June 30, 2021, the Bridgman Trust had a market value of \$1,959,713.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the District determine and fix the salaries of School District Officers as follows: School Board members \$700 per member with additional \$300 for School Board Chair; School District Treasurer \$1,954; School District Clerk \$150; and School District Moderator \$150, in accordance with RSA 194:10, and further raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-four Dollars (\$7,454) to fund these salaries?

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

NOTE 1. This article requests \$700 as the salary for School Board members, the same stipend as last year. The salaries for School District Clerk and Moderator remain unchanged, there is a small increase for the Treasurer position. This article's effect on the tax rate is negligible.

Informational Notes: This article requests \$700 as the salary for School Board members, the same stipend as last year. The salaries for School District Clerk and Moderator remain unchanged, there is a small increase for the Treasurer position. This article's effect on the tax rate is negligible.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the District vote to approve the cost items in the two (2) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hanover Education Association and the Hanover School Board, which calls for the following increases in teacher's salaries and benefits:

Estimated Increase

Year	Over status quo budget
2022-2023	\$195,827
2023-2024	\$157,769

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and

Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$195,827), such sum representing the estimated increase in teaching staff salaries and benefits for the 2022-2023 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement (majority vote required)?

The School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

NOTE 1. The sum necessary to pay the so-called status quo salaries and benefits for teaching 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 both years (2) of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

Informational Notes: In December, the Board and Hanover Education Association (HEA) reached a tentative agreement for the next two-year period (2022-2024). The base pay increases are 2.0% per year on scale; increase top step 403b match from 3% to 3.5%; premium copays increase 1% per year to 10% and 11%; sabbatical availability is limited to one every other year and the early retirement benefit has new age parameters with regards to spousal insurance coverage. There were many language updates throughout the agreement. A complete overview can be reviewed on the sau70.org website under the budget section and in Board Docs in Section 3C of the Budget Hearing-Warrant Article Discussion. Based on current town valuations and state rates, the effect of this appropriation on the tax rate would be an additional .07 cents.

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

Estimated Increase

Year	Over status quo budget
2022-2023	\$43,388
2023-2024	\$36,004
2024-2025	\$43,250

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$43,388), such sum representing the estimated increase in support staff salaries and benefits for the 2022-2023 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement (majority vote required)?

The School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

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 both years (2) of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

Informational Notes: In December, the Board and Hanover Support Staff Association (HSSA) reached a tentative agreement for the next three-year period (2020-2022). Changes include a Medical copay increase of 1/2% per year as follows: Yr. 1 to 6.5; Yr. 2 to 7% and Yr. 3 to 7.5%; removal throughout (health, health opt out, disability and dental) of grandfather wording for employees hired before July 1, 2008 and having the ability to access coverage at a 17.5 hour weekly work threshold; medical coverage available for employees out on disability dropped from 3 years to 1 year; Removal throughout the emergency, personal and sick leave sections of grandfather wording for employees hired before July 1, 2008 and having the ability to accumulate leave at a 17.5 hour weekly threshold; the salary scale is adjusted to standardize the step increase at 2.5% in between and the following increases for each of 3 years on base: Yr. 1 – 1.0%, Yr. 2 – 2.0% and Yr. 3 – 2.50%. There were many language updates throughout the agreement. A complete overview can be reviewed on the sau70.org website under the budget section and in Board Docs in Section 3C of the Budget Hearing-Warrant Article Discussion. Based on current town valuations and state rates, the effect of this appropriation on the tax rate would be an additional .02 cents.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the District raise and appropriate the amount of Fourteen Million, Two Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$14,255,896) 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 the statutory obligations of the District for the 2022-2023 fiscal year? This sum does not include the funds appropriated in any of the other articles.

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Informational Notes: The total Hanover School District Budget has been shown in 2 different views, one including the 6th Grade's tuition expense for the 2021-22 school year (\$1,904,287) which represents the total amount of the prior year's approved budget and one that does not include the tuition expense, so we can see the actual increase for changes in programming that remain year over year. The one-time cost of the technology project has also been removed from the non-tuition budget comparisons. The proposed 2022-23 District Budget without tuition expenses included increases from \$13,752,366 to \$14,303,350, a difference of \$550,984 or 4.01% which includes 2 separately voted warrant articles consisting of Board and Treasurer stipends #3 [\$7,454], and Bridgman Funds #2 [\$40,000], which also has offsetting revenue from the Bridgman Trust of \$40,000 so it's tax assessment neutral. If you compare the two budget years including the tuition expense, the 2022-23 proposed budget would be a decrease of (\$1,353,303), moving from \$15,656,653 to \$14,303,350.

The cost of the program offered to students in grades K-5 at the Ray School itself is proposed to increase by \$470,914 or 3.88% over prior year's costs mainly due to changes in FTEs, a regular education sabbatical which increases the Salary line costs by 1 FTE, benefit expenses, SAU services, technology expenditures, maintenance/custodial supplies and vendor contracted services. The budget does not include any wage or step increases for any Teachers or Support Staff employees as those increases will be voted on in separate warrant articles #4 & #5. The Service Staff and Non-Union employee increases are included. For a complete overview and breakdowns of changes, please review the Hanover 2022-23 Budget Book & Exhibits which can be found on the district's website or in BoardDocs in the Hanover School District Section, specifically the Hanover Budget Hearing held on January 12, 2022.

While it is always hazardous to estimate the impact of the budget on the tax rate, our current estimates indicate that the Hanover tax rate—including both the Ray School and the Hanover general fund assessments to Dresden's base budget build—will increase by \$0.11 based on adjusted town valuations and projected state rate, or an increase of 1.03%.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established in 2001 to replenish monies used for the technology project instead of borrowing money in the 2021-2022 school year. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board recommends this authorization.

Informational Notes: In the 2021-22 school budget year, we embarked on a technology project for all of our District Schools. A warrant article was passed that would have allowed the School Board to issue debt to pay for the project. Once the actual cost of the project came in lower than initially projected based on current market rates and pricing, it was decided that we could save money in the cost of interest and legal fees associated with debt and instead withdraw money out of the Maintenance Trust Fund. Due to the one time changes in the projected state tax rate which will be helping to keep the 2022-23 tax rate lower than expected, we would like to refund this trust with a one-time additional appropriation. Based on current town valuations and state rates, the effect of this appropriation on the tax rate would be an additional 0.06 cents.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.

Given under our hands and seals at said Hanover School District School Board Meetings on the 12th and 19th day of January 2022.

Marcela Di Blasi, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Benjamin Keeney, <i>Chair</i>
Kimberly Hartmann	Kevin Knuuti
Jonathan Hunt	Deborah Bacon Nelson
Rick Johnson	

HANOVER SCHOOL BOARD

Robert L. Grabill, *Clerk, Hanover School District*

DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

MISSION STATEMENT OF

Richmond Middle School

Our mission is to inspire students to build the skills and compassion necessary to succeed in a complex world and, as they move toward greater independence, empower them to examine the impact their actions have on themselves, others, and the environment.

For this school community to thrive, teachers, staff, parents, and students will work together to:

- Communicate effectively in a variety of ways
- Think critically and creatively to identify and solve a range of problems
- Contribute positively to the classroom, school, and broader community by
 - Participating in decision making
 - Valuing diversity
 - Taking responsibility for their own actions
 - Resolving conflicts peacefully

MISSION STATEMENT OF

Hanover High School

Hanover High School is an active learning community that provides broad academic and co-curricular programs. We engage students' minds, hearts and voices so that they become educated, caring and responsible adults.

All students are given the opportunity to use their

- minds to pursue excellence, academic challenge and personal success.
- hearts to respect and care for the emotional and physical well-being of themselves and others, and for the environment.
- voices to contribute to the democratic process and the common good.

DRESDEN SCHOOL BOARD

Tom Candon
tom.candon@hnsb.org
802-649-5292

Lisa Christie
lisa.christie@hnsb.org
802-649-2580

Marcela Di Blasi
marcela.dibiasi@hnsb.org
210-896-0765

Kimberly Hartmann
kimberlyhartmann@hnsb.org
916-505-6883

Jonathan Hunt
jonathan.hunt@hnsb.org
207-602-8079

Rick Johnson, *Chair*
rick.johnson@hnsb.org
802-578-4855

Benjamin Keeney
benjamin.keeney@hnsb.org
510-227-9208

Kevin Knuuti, *Secretary*
kevinknuuti@hnsb.org
603-443-3770

Deborah Bacon Nelson
deborahbaconnelson@hnsb.org
603-643-0399

Neil Odell, *Vice Chair*
neil.odell@hnsb.org
802-649-7287

Garrett Palm
garrett.palm@hnsb.org
617-251-4612

Lily Trajman
lilytrajman@hnsb.org
617-501-7795

Hard to believe we are now approaching the third year of the pandemic. Time sure flies . . . ! And yet, thanks to the steadfast and tireless work of our students, their families, our community, and the Dresden staff, our focus on teaching and learning has continued to sharpen. It has not been easy, but everyone has shown an unwavering commitment to ensuring we kept our schools open and our students had as normal a school year as was possible.

This past year, Dresden saw Julie Stevenson pick up the reins at HHS and admirably serve as the Interim Principal. Julie jumped right into her new role and in partnership with RMS's Principal Tim Boyle and their administrative teams they worked with the teachers and staff to stabilize and strengthen the Dresden School District. In the buildings, our custodians, staff, administrators, and teachers worked tirelessly to ensure Dresden offered safe and healthy campuses where our students could learn and grow. We recognize that none of this has been easy. Our staff and students have truly achieved the impossible through determination, collaboration, and daily appreciation for the support of this exceptional community.

This past year, teachers, staff, administrators, and community members have continued the work on our essential equity initiative. The Dresden School District, in conjunction with SAU-70 and our two elementary school is also undertaking its strategic planning effort. We will keep you updated on the progress in developing the plan and make you aware of opportunities to contribute.

Even as we have responded to the many changes brought on by COVID-19, many things have remained the same. Over the past five months, Dresden's principals and their teams have worked closely with the SAU-70 staff and the Dresden School Board to develop a budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Because the events over the past two years have reminded us how important strong, equitable ties to education are for our students; how passionate and talented our teachers, staff and administration are; and how public schools are the backbone of our community and economy, I would like to highlight several items in this year's district budget:

- In September, the Dresden School Board set corridor increase guidance at 2.5%. At the time the corridor was voted in mid-September there were a few unknown factors including the number of election changes for health and retirement from changes in personnel and non-union wages increases. The Budget Committee allowed for the administration to continue building the budget with a 4.0% guideline due to the increased costs of the unknown variables. The proposed 2022-2023 Dresden District Budget comes in 4.04% higher than last year's approved budget and Dresden District's portion of the net assessment is 15.77% higher than last year. This increase in the net assessment is primarily driven by the 2022-2023 budget being the first year that the Hanover sixth graders will be considered part of the Dresden student enrollment as ratified by both Dresden and Hanover voters in March 2021. Therefore, the nearly \$2 million revenue associated with the historical tuition arrangement between the Hanover and Dresden School Districts will be removed from revenue in Dresden and its matching expense in Hanover. Therefore, as expected, Dresden will see a large one-time change in its revenue line in the 2022-2023 budget compared to the prior year.
- RMS enrollments based on actuals are projected to increase by 14, predominantly in the 6th grade cohort, so teacher FTE

adjustments are necessary to equalize programming. RMS will be adding 1.28 in regular educational programming some of which is an unbudgeted adjustment from the current year. All other FTEs are holding steady other than 2 FTE adjustments in Regular Ed and Special Ed Assistants, 0.64 and 0.80 respectively. Total RMS staff recap is an overall increase of 2.72 FTEs.

- HHS enrollments based on actuals are projected to decrease by 29 students. We have been reviewing class sizes and sections to efficiently deliver the excellent programming we have available. Due to some smaller class sizes, we will be making consolidations which results in a reduction in teaching FTE of (1.27). There is a small reduction in regular education aide FTEs due to a change in scheduled hours (0.30). Special education needs are always changing, and you'll see we have a 0.45 increase in FTEs which represents the inclusion of the 0.40 Psychologist. We will be restoring and increasing the number of special education assistants by 5 FTEs due to the changes in population and their needs; 1 of these FTEs is being redirected from the School's Admin offices. Presently we have over 80% of our student's participating in sports teams and to better manage all of them and provide proper oversight along with expanded guidance and non-competitive athletic program opportunities, we have added a 1.0 FTE for an Assistant Athletic Director. There is also a restoration of 0.50 FTE in the Guidance department which was a shared position in prior years. While there are no FTE changes planned for the School Administration Office there are extra days added to the Dean of Students/Assistant Principal's position for planning and curriculum work during breaks. Total HHS staff recap shows an overall increase of 4.38 FTEs.
- Finally, the Dresden School Board supports several Warrant Articles (#2, #4, #5, and #7) on this year's ballot. The board recognizes the need to mitigate the Dresden Fields baseball field's poor natural turf and drainage problems that have arisen in the last few years. The board also recognizes that the high school track has degraded to a point where it risks being decertified for competitive use. Warrant Article 2 will allow us to make these necessary repairs to the diamond and to build a new track at the high school. Any tax implications of Article 2 will not be felt until the 2023-2024 school year budget. Articles 4 and 5 cover the new contract agreements with the Hanover Education Association (2-year agreement) and the Hanover Support Staff (3-year agreement). Passage of the articles for both agreements will have an impact on the 2023 tax assessment. Finally, the Dresden School Board supports Article 7's authorization to retain up to 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment of the year-end unassigned general funds. Such an authorization would permit the district to address unforeseen expenditures during the year.

While the changing needs of our student population presents the need for budgetary and logistical adjustments. The Dresden School Board and school administration know that the excellence of our schools depends on the support and involvement of our community, and we are grateful for the confidence that you have placed in us and your tremendous support of our schools. We will continue to refine and evaluate our programs to meet the high standards we demand for our children's education, while being mindful of the financial costs to our community.

— Rick Johnson, *Chair, Dresden School Board*

Dresden School District

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

The Dresden School Board is recommending a school district budget totaling \$29,795,508 (including all articles except the capital athletic projects in Article #2) for the support of the Richmond Middle and Hanover High Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. As of December 2021, the consumer price index for the New England Region was 5.9%.

The amounts in all the articles combined, except the capital project article 2, represent an expenditure increase of \$1,590,847 or 5.64% budget-to-budget compared to the current year (without inclusion of the technology project bond). Due to large decreases in projected revenue of (\$2,321,790), the budget assessment overall is increasing \$3,912,637 or 17.84%, if articles #4 and #5 pass. When combined with the proposed elementary school budgets, the total budget-to-budget assessment changes result in a 3.08% increase for Hanover (includes all articles for both districts, except Article 2) and a 10.71% increase for Norwich (includes all articles for both districts, except Article 2).

Since Dresden does not have its own tax rate, the tax rate impact of the Dresden budget is included within the tax rate estimates for the Hanover and Norwich districts. The Average Daily Membership appropriation percentage calculation between the two districts has shifted 0.944% more to Hanover than the prior year predominantly due to the addition of Hanover's 6th graders as Dresden students.

Hanover's share: With all articles except Article 2, the total Dresden assessment to Hanover is expected to be \$17,500,337 an increase of \$2,876,640 or 19.67%. Combined with the elementary assessments including all articles, this results in a projected tax rate increase for Hanover of 3.47% or 0.37 cents

per \$1,000 of assessed property value (an increase of \$185 on a \$500,000 home).

Norwich's share: With all articles except Article 2 and the above mentioned ADM percentage shift, the total Dresden assessment to Norwich is expected to be \$8,348,531, an increase of \$1,035,998 or 14.17%. To complicate matters, the Common Level of Appraisal has again dropped considerably from 90.28% down to 84.39%, a 6% decline which has caused an additional increase of 0.1279 cents on the rate. Additionally, Norwich's current projected equalized pupil count has dropped (20.38) as of the January 13th report. The other wild card here is whether or not the State will set the Homestead Property yield at a low of \$12,937 or a high of \$13,846. The higher the yield, the lower the tax rates. As of January 13th with the information provided so far, we can project the following: Dresden with all articles when combined with the elementary assessments and a lower yield of \$12,937 may result in a tax rate of \$1.9908 or an increase of 6.89% or 0.1283 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$641 on a \$500,000 home); if we project it with a middle yield of \$13,391 it may result in a tax rate of \$1.9232 or an increase of 3.26% or 0.0607 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$303 on a \$500,000 home); and when using the highest of potential yields of \$13,846 it may result in a tax rate of \$1.8601 or a decrease of (0.13%) or (0.0024) cents per \$100 of assessed property value (a reduction of \$12 on a \$500,000 home). Without such a drastic drop in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), all of the scenarios shared above would have resulted in a tax rate decrease except the lowest yield which would have netted an increase of 0.0004.

ENROLLMENT: When compared to current year's actual enrollments, enrollment next year—middle school and high school—would be projected to decrease by 15 students; mostly driven by a decline in high school students of 29 somewhat offset by an increase in middle schoolers of 14. The COVID-19 pandemic appears to be negatively impacting tuition student numbers as some made alternative arrangements in the prior year and have not rejoined us. There is also a very large 12th grade class graduating this year and the average size classes behind this one average the mid 160's. The projections below are based on October 1, 2021 adjusted actual enrollees moved forward. Based on 5-year historical trends, we have made an assumption of 8 additional students joining 7th grade, some of which are usually tuition paying. Recent trends have 33 tuition students being added in 9th grade. Projected sixth grade is solely made up of Hanover students and you can see the cohort for 22-23 is projected to be 12 students larger than this year's actual class. The next five years of incoming Norwich

7th graders are projected at 45, 49, 40, 43, and 42; although Norwich has been enrolling more students every month to their elementary. There may be a level of uncertainty with some of our Vermont tuition students as our sending towns are still working on their consolidations and resulting choices. We currently have 45 (3 are part-time) Vermont tuition students enrolled at HHS and 4 at RMS. Actual tuition student numbers for 2021-22 are lower than originally projected from 139 to 134 of which 10 FTEs are part time.

STAFFING: RICHMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL: Middle school enrollments based on actuals are projected to increase by 14, predominantly in the 6th grade cohort, so Teacher FTE adjustments are necessary to equalize programming. Due to changes mentioned above, we will be adding 1.28 in regular educational programming some of which is an unbudgeted adjustment from the current year. All other FTEs are holding steady other than 2 FTE adjustments in Regular Ed and Spe-

cial Ed Assistants, 0.64 and 0.80 respectively. Total RMS staff recap is an overall increase of 2.72 FTEs.

STAFFING: HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL: High school enrollments based on actuals are projected to decrease by 29 students. We have been reviewing class sizes and sections in order to efficiently deliver the excellent programming we have available. Due to some smaller class sizes we will be making consolidations which results in a reduction in teaching FTE of (1.27). There is a small reduction in regular education aide FTEs due to a change in scheduled hours (0.30). Special education needs are always changing and you'll see we have a 0.45 increase in FTEs which represents the inclusion of the 0.40 Psychologist. We will be restoring and increasing the number of special education assistants by 5 FTEs due to the changes in population and their needs; 1 of these FTEs is being redirected from the School's Admin offices. Presently we have over 80% of our student's participating in sports teams and in an effort to better manage all of them and provide proper oversight and expanded guidance, we have added a 1.0 FTE for an Assistant Athletic Director (please refer to the report on this need in the Budget Book supplementary data. There is also a restoration of 0.50 FTE in the Guidance department which was a shared position in prior years. While there are no FTE changes planned for the School Administration Office there are extra days added to the Dean of Students/Assistant Principal's position for planning and curriculum work during breaks. Total HHS staff recap shows an overall increase of 4.38 FTEs.

For more enrollment and staffing information, please see the Enrollment (Exhibit 10) and Staffing Summaries (Exhibit 11, A & B) for RMS & HHS details in Section V: Supporting Documentation in the Dresden Budget Book & Exhibits which can be found on the SAU70 District website or School Board website in BoardDocs.

TUITION INCOME: The district forecasted 139 tuition students for the 2021-22 school year. As of December 2021 we actually have 134 enrolled tuition students (10 are part time resulting in total tuition payments of 129 student FTEs). We are projecting 130 tuition students for 2022-23, representing a (\$86,726) decrease in budget to budget tuition revenue. The Hanover 6th Graders are no longer being tuitioned into the Dresden District as the students were voted to join the Dresden School District effective July 1, 2022. This results in a large decrease in 6th grade tuition due Dresden in the amount of (\$1,904,287).

REGULAR PROGRAM MAINTENANCE: The "program maintenance" section of expenses in the budget list those increases/decreases that arise largely from the changes in cost of goods and services that make up the district budget. Any change in this section of the budget should track the general trend of

prices, as expressed by CPI or other appropriate cost index, enrollment and/or curriculum changes. Some items come in with increases much higher than CPI due to local economic strength, industry trends and contractual agreements. No new programming is included in this budget. In total, this section shows a budget-to-budget increase of \$593,851 or 2.11% budget to budget. This means, if these items were the only items of the Dresden budget showing a change, the budget as a whole would be increasing by 2.11%. It is important to note that the 2 union agreement warrant articles (#4 & #5) would add \$363,010 or 1.29% to this section. The line item Significant Changes can be reviewed in Exhibit 1 in the Dresden Budget Book and Exhibits. The overview parameters of the Tentative Union Agreements can be viewed on BoardDocs at the Dresden Budget Hearing and Adoption Meeting, Section 3.C. Warrant Articles held January 11, 2022.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM MAINTENANCE: The total estimated budget cost for Special Education at the middle school and high schools (including special education transportation) is projected to increase by \$383,740 or 1.36%. It is important to note that the 2 union agreement warrant articles (#4 & #5) would add \$89,243 or 0.32% to this section.

The account lines for Special Education teacher salaries at RMS are decreasing (\$13,613) due to changes in personnel. There is a projected increase in HHS special education assistants of \$112,856 due to an increase in FTEs of 5.0. There are no base wage increases included for teachers or support staff union employees as they have reached tentative agreements that are to be voted separately in Warrant Articles #4 & #5, along with the associated increases in taxes and benefits.

The consolidated account lines for Special Education Payroll Taxes & Benefits are increasing in both locations by \$117,740 RMS and \$155,869 HHS. The major factors for the increases are changes in FTEs, health insurance elections/rates and retirement election changes (state). Some of these changes were discussed prior and can be seen in Exhibit 1B. Unknown Variables in the Dresden Budget Book and Exhibits.

Changes in the HHS special education supply lines are projected to increase \$11,750 for general, occupational therapy and physical therapy supplies along with textbooks and software needs.

CAPITAL & DEBT SERVICE: The district has five outstanding bond issues with a total balance of \$9,066,960. Each year we make payments on that debt in the form of principal and interest. The debt payments this year are increasing by \$44,885 and includes our newest debt payment for the technology project. Please see Exhibit 7 in the Budget Book for a breakdown.

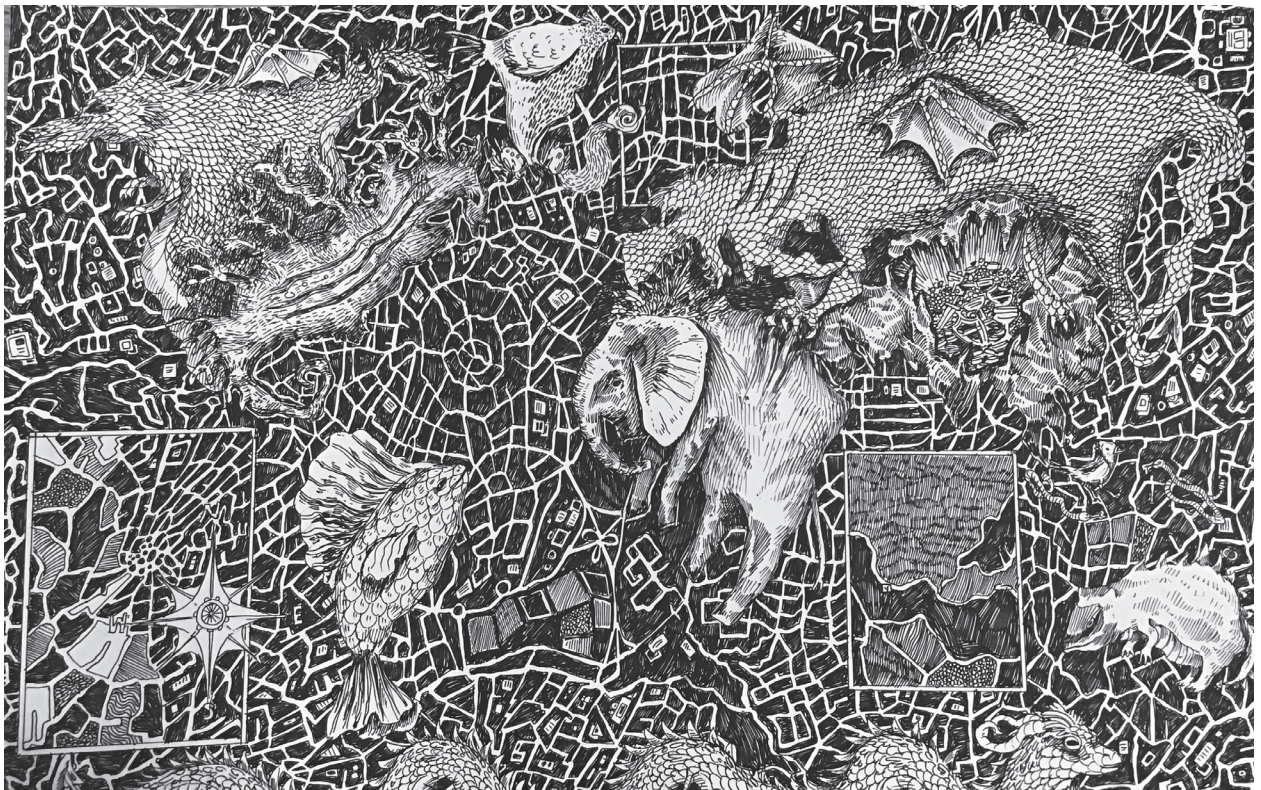
The HHS Site & Building Improvement accounts have changes as well. The accounts are increasing by \$17,500 and \$66,500 to \$41,000 and \$93,500 respectively. While there are always more projects to do than funds usually available we have prioritized ones this year that specifically have to do with safety and maintaining building conditions to help keep the budget increases manageable. Included in this budget for site improvements is parking lot and landing updates, ongoing fencing and safety bollard updates, additional athletic ropes course repairs, ongoing tree pruning and drainage repairs. Included in this budget for building maintenance is updating flooring, interior/exterior painting, updating electrical receptacles and lighting, installing A/C in the HHS band room for instrument preservation, adding a dishwasher in the chemical lab, additional access controls/cameras and ventilation for the server room.

The RMS Site & Building Improvement accounts are basically remaining steady with the Site funds reducing by (\$8,000) to \$16,000 and the Building funds increasing by \$8,000 to \$25,000. Projects at the middle school include park-

ing lot and walkway replacement & repairs; tree pruning and removal; exhaust fan installation in the living arts classroom; office carpeting and ongoing interior painting.

Not included in the regular, general fund budget is a proposed bond article for rebuilding the Hanover High School Track along with the specialty areas in the middle grass field and rebuilding the Dresden fields/Hanover High School Baseball infield with appropriate drainage upgrades as necessary in conjunction with the Hanover High School athletics programs. We hope to fund the project with a 15-year bond/note in the amount of \$1,837,000. Our present track is approximately 15 years old and the baseball field is approximately 17 years old. There have been multiple discussions and presentations regarding both facilities over the past few years, but the most recent can be viewed on the SAU70 website and/or BoardDocs under the Dresden Budget Hearing on January 11, 2022 or the Bond Hearing on January 25, 2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit the School Administrative Unit 70 website at www.sau70.org.



Artwork by Lauren Hall, 11th grade

Dresden Budget Highlights

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

The Dresden School District budget covers the following costs:

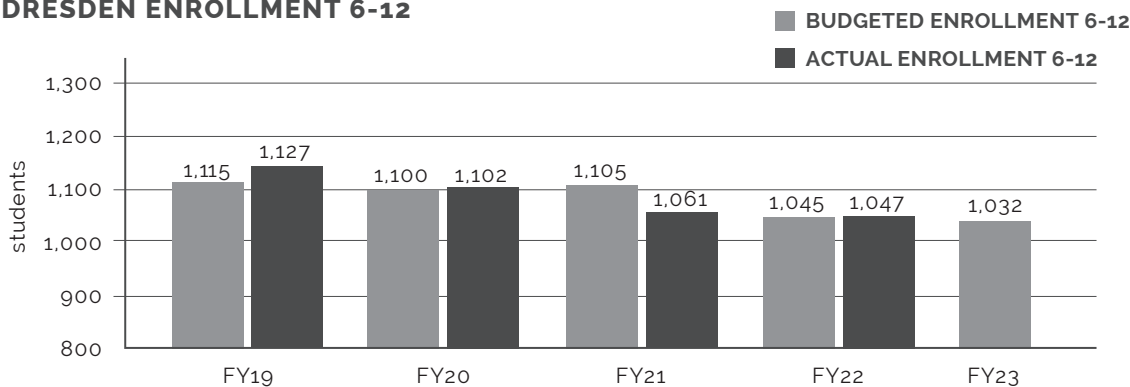
- Operation of the Richmond Middle School providing educational instruction to Hanover students in grades 6-8 and Norwich students in grades 7-8
- Operation of the Hanover High School providing educational instruction to Hanover and Norwich students in grades 9-12 as well as tuition students from neighboring towns including Lyme, Hartland (VT), West Windsor (VT) and Strafford (VT)
- Total Dresden Expenditure Budget, if all Articles pass, is increasing by \$1,590,847 or 5.64% when compared to the prior budget (without Technology Bond cost included)
- District Assessment increases are as follows and are dependent upon which Articles pass. Base budget increases of \$1,138,594 along with large expected decreases (\$2,321,790) in revenue result in an assessment increase of 15.77% or \$3,460,384; Hanover share of Dresden is up 17.57% and Norwich is up 12.19%. There are 2 other warrant articles totaling \$452,253, which if passed would increase the assessments to 17.84% or \$3,912,637 resulting in an increase of \$2,876,640 or 19.67% to Hanover and \$1,035,998 or 14.17% to Norwich. Change in assessment percentage share for this fiscal year shifted 0.944% with Hanover's share increasing and Norwich's share decreasing due in part to the addition of Hanover's 6th grade class to the Dresden student body count. Absent of this change, Norwich's share would be increasing. The two largest decreases in revenue are the loss of the 6th grade tuition (\$1,904,287) and the fund balance carryover (\$300,000)
- The total K-12 projected Hanover tax rate (including all local articles and the Dresden assessment with all articles

except #2 for the athletic bond) is expected to increase by 3.47% or \$0.37 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (\$185 on a \$500,000 home). The total PreK-12 projected Norwich tax rate (including all local articles and the Dresden assessment with all articles except #2 for the athletic bond) has a range of projected increases due to the uncertainty of which homestead property yield rate will be used. The tax rate may increase as much as \$0.1283 a 6.89% increase (\$641 on a \$500,000 home) or a decrease of (0.13%) or (0.0024) cents per \$100 of assessed property value (a reduction of \$12 on a \$500,000 home). The middle of the yield estimate would result in an increase of 3.26% or 0.0607 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$303 on a \$500,000 home).

- More detailed budget information can be obtained by visiting www.sau70.org and following the School Board Budgets link or by calling the SAU office at 603-643-6050.
- The Dresden School District Discussion Phase of the annual meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 24 at the Hanover High School Auditorium.
- Voting takes place between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 1, at the High School Gymnasium for Hanover resident voters and at Tracy Hall for Norwich resident voters.
- Information on obtaining Absentee Ballots can be found at the end of the Warrant Article Explanation section. You may also call the Superintendent of Schools Office at 603-643-6050 or the Hanover Town Clerk's Office at 603-640-3201.

Recent budget history is summarized in the following charts:

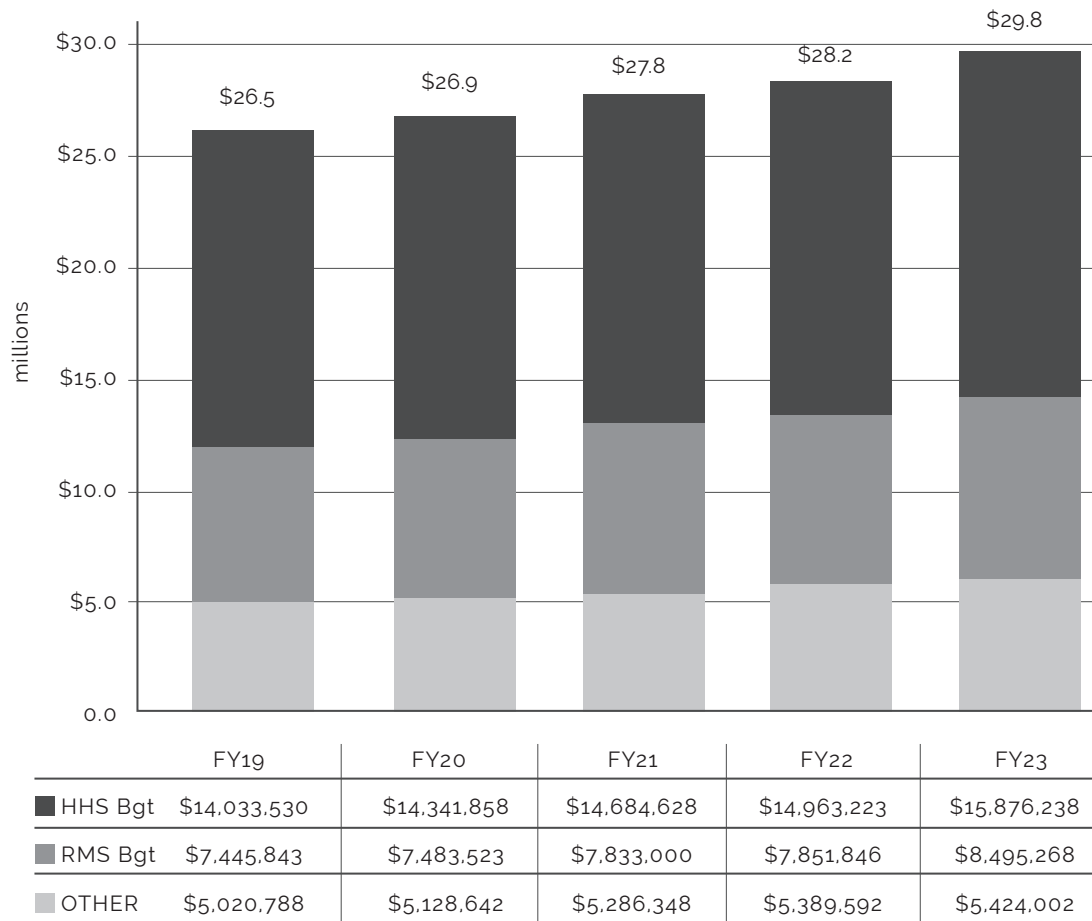
DRESDEN ENROLLMENT 6-12



ENROLLMENT & STAFFING

	RICHMOND MIDDLE		HANOVER HIGH	
	FY23	CHANGE	FY23	CHANGE
BUDGETED ENROLLMENTS	371	9.11%	661	-6.2%
TEACHERS FTEs	45.70	2.88%	75.41	-1.6%
OTHER STAFF FTEs	30.98	4.87%	50.59	12.4%
TOTAL STAFF FTEs	76.68	3.68%	126.00	3.6%

DRESDEN BUDGET HISTORY



Adjusted to actual based on budgets as reported to the State education agencies which included all voted Warrant Articles, except FY20 and FY22 where the special project articles of \$900,000 and \$842,764 has been removed to represent actual operating costs comparison from year to year.

Warrant Article #4 & #5 if ratified for 2022-23 would add another \$452,253 which has been included and reflected in the numbers above. The additional bond article #2 in the amount of \$1,837,000 being considered for the athletic projects is not included or reflected above and would not affect the 2022-23 projected tax rate as the amount is projected to be financed over a period of 15 years, beginning payment in FY2024.

EXPENSES	RICHMOND MIDDLE		HANOVER HIGH	
	FY23 BGT	INCR (DECR)	FY23 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Regular Instruction	\$4,146,823	\$264,356	\$7,086,578	(\$160,752)
Technology	282,546	35,401	543,833	120,888
Special Education	1,841,573	95,707	1,824,364	270,920
Vocational Education	n/a	n/a	120,000	-
Co-Curricular	44,891	4,872	1,049,145	96,120
Student Support Services	420,458	14,999	1,164,151	(6,433)
Staff Support Services	295,679	(1,993)	531,744	136,201
School Administration	600,279	2,072	1,712,102	28,114
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	603,557	29,546	1,135,279	31,251
Transportation	30,000	28,000	231,551	9,715
Site & Bldg Improvements	41,000	-	134,500	84,000
Interfund Transfer Out	21,600	3,600	57,600	17,600
TOTALS	\$8,328,406	\$476,560	\$15,590,847	\$627,624
Percent of Change		6.07%		4.19%

Adjusted to actual based on budgets as ratified and reported to the State education agencies which may include budgetary transfers.

EXPENSES	DISTRICT WIDE	
	FY23 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Coord of Volunteers	\$12,663	\$451
Comp Techn	11,250	(5,250)
School Board Services	65,718	(781)
Supt Services	1,197,593	9,695
Bldg Maintenance	516,991	(14,590)
Debt Service	3,619,787	44,885
TOTALS	\$5,424,002	\$34,410
Percent of Change		0.64%

RECAP	FY23 BGT	
	FY23 BGT	INCR (DECR)
District Wide	\$5,424,002	\$34,410
Richmond Middle	\$8,328,406	\$476,560
Hanover High	\$15,590,847	\$627,624
TOTALS	\$29,343,255	\$1,138,594
Percent of Change		4.04%
Article 4: Hanover Education Agreement	\$394,007	\$394,007
Article 5: Hanover Support Agreement	\$58,246	\$58,246
TOTALS	\$29,795,508	\$1,590,847
Percent of Change		5.72%

Prior year comparison numbers have been adjusted to actual based on budgets as ratified and reported to the State education agencies which may include budgetary transfers. Warrant Article #2 regarding the proposed athletic projects bond in the amount of \$1,837,000 and Warrant Articles #4 & #5 regarding the teacher and support staff union agreements in the amount of \$394,007 and \$58,246 respectively have not been included in the above proposed budget amounts or percentages of increase; Articles #4 & #5 are reflected if passed in the Totals Recap section. Article #2 will be financed and the following year's budget would have expenditures included in the District Wide section.

Explanations of the Warrant Articles

FOR THE 2022 DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The following warrant articles apply to the operation of the Dresden School District, which includes the operation of the Frances C. Richmond School and Hanover High School, grades 7-12, and sixth grade students from Hanover.

The legal voters of the Norwich (Vermont) Town School District and the legal voters of the Hanover (New Hampshire) School District are hereby notified and warned that the two phases of the Annual School District Meeting will be held as follows:

DISCUSSION PHASE: Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., at the Hanover High School Auditorium, Hanover, New Hampshire. A virtual option will be available to attend via Zoom link and the information will be shared via the SAU70 District website at SAU70.org.

VOTING PHASE: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Hanover High School Gymnasium in Hanover, New Hampshire (for Hanover voters) and in Tracy Hall in Norwich, Vermont (for Norwich voters). **Absentee ballots will be available ahead of the in-person voting date.**

During the discussion phase, the voters shall have the opportunity to discuss the following Warrant Articles and to transact any non-substantive business that may legally be acted on during the discussion phase under Article 8..

All voting on Warrant Articles 1 through 7 shall be conducted by secret written ballot during the voting phase, as provided in the Dresden School District Procedures for Australian Ballot.

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

Informational Notes: The positions noted above are voted on annually. Information on each position is available at the Superintendent's office.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$1,837,000) for rebuilding the Hanover High School Track along with the specialty areas in the middle grass field and rebuilding the Dresden fields/Hanover High School Baseball field with appropriate drainage upgrades as necessary in conjunction with the Hanover High School athletics programming? And further authorize the School Board to issue bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the NH-VT Interstate School Compact (Article VII) 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 payment will be due in the 2022-23 school year. The Board may accept public donations to offset a portion of the cost of the project(s) and any unused funds will be returned in the 2023-24 school year in order to offset tax assessments.

Informational Notes: The athletic facilities upgrades for the Ha-

nover High School would include rebuilding the HHS track and specialty areas which is 15 years old and rebuilding the HHS baseball field to include appropriate drainage. The HHS baseball field is approximately 17 years old. The project will be discussed in depth at the Annual District Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 pm. Information regarding the projects can be reviewed on the Districts BoardDocs website or SAU70 website. The public Bond Hearing was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the beginning of the regularly scheduled meeting. Based on current parameters including net assessed valuations for Hanover and in Norwich - NAV, Eq Pupil Count, CLA, State Yields, etc. (all subject to change from year to year), the increase to the tax rate for the first year's payment would be \$0.05 for Hanover and \$0.0078 for Norwich.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the District determine and fix the salaries of School District officers as follows: School Board members \$700 per member with additional \$300 for School Board Chair; School District Treasurer \$2,567; School District Clerk \$500; 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, Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$11,967) to fund these salaries?

The School Board recommends this article.

Informational Notes: This article requests \$700 for the salary for School Board members, the same stipend as the last several years and an additional \$300 for the Board Chair. The salaries of the School District Clerk and Moderator are unchanged; there is

a small increase for the Treasurer. This article's effect on the tax rate is negligible.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the District vote to approve the cost items in the two (2) 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:

Estimated Increase

Year	Over status quo budget
2022-2023	\$394,007
2023-2024	\$283,957

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand, Seven Dollars (\$394,007), such sum representing the estimated increase in teacher salaries and benefits for the 2022-2023 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement?

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 two years of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

Informational Notes: In December, the Board and Hanover Education Association (HEA) reached a tentative agreement for the next two-year period (2022-2024). The base pay increases are 2.0% per year on scale; increase top step 403b match from 3% to 3.5%; premium copays increase 1% per year to 10% and 11%; sabbatical availability is limited to one every other year and the early retirement benefit has new age parameters with regards to spousal insurance coverage. There were many language updates throughout the agreement. A complete overview can be reviewed on the sau70.org website under the budget section and in Board Docs in Section 3C of the Budget Hearing-Warrant Article Discussion.

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 support-staff salaries and benefits:

Estimated Increase

Year	Over status quo budget
2022-2023	\$58,246
2023-2024	\$47,920
2024-2025	\$59,299

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$58,246), such sum representing the estimated increase in support staff salaries and benefits for the 2022-2023 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement?

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.

Informational Notes: In December, the Board and Hanover Support Staff Association (HSSA) reached a tentative agreement for the next three-year period (2022-2025). Changes include a Medical co-pay increase of 1/2% per year as follows: Yr. 1 to 6.5; Yr. 2 to 7% and Yr. 3 to 7.5%; removal throughout (health, health opt out, disability and dental) of grandfather wording for employees hired before July 1, 2008 and having the ability to access coverage at a 17.5 hour weekly work threshold; medical coverage available for employees out on disability dropped from 3 years to 1 year; Removal throughout the emergency, personal and sick leave sections of grandfather wording for employees hired before July 1, 2008 and having the ability to accumulate leave at a 17.5 hour weekly threshold; the salary scale is adjusted to standardize the step increase at 2.5% in between and the following increases for each of 3 years on base: Yr. 1 – 1.0%, Yr. 2 – 2.0% and Yr. 3 – 2.50%. There were many language updates throughout the agreement. A complete overview can be reviewed on the sau70.org website under the budget section and in Board Docs in Section 3C of the Budget Hearing-Warrant Article Discussion.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the District raise and appropriate the amount of Twenty-Nine Million, Three Hundred Thirty-One Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$29,331,288), 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 2022-23 fiscal year? This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

The School Board recommends this article.

Informational Notes: As currently built, the Dresden School District Budget will increase from \$28,204,661 to \$29,331,288, an increase of \$1,126,627, or 4.00% (compared to last year's budget without the cost of the bond article included or Article 3). For consistency or reporting, we will include the \$11,967 from Article 3 in the balance of our discussion here. After accounting for a projected decrease in 7-12th grade tuition (\$86,726) and a decrease in 6th grade tuition as well in the amount of (\$1,904,287) and a lower projected June 30, 2022 surplus available of \$400,000, the amount to be assessed to

the Hanover and Norwich districts for the 2022-23 budget as currently built is estimated to increase by \$3,460,384 or 15.77%.

Since Dresden does not have its own tax rate, the tax rate impact of the Dresden budget is included within the tax rate estimates for the Hanover and Norwich districts. The Average Daily Membership appropriation percentage calculation between the two districts has shifted 0.944% more to Hanover than the prior year predominantly due to the addition of Hanover's 6th graders as Dresden students.

The Dresden assessment to Hanover for the **base budget build** (with Article 3) is expected to be \$17,192,476 an increase of \$2,568,779 or 17.57%. Combined with the elementary assessments for the Hanover base budget build (with Article #2 and #3) and after revenues and fund balance, this results in an increase of education spending of \$189,335 or 0.66%. This results in a projected tax rate increase for Hanover of 1.03% or 0.11 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (an increase of \$55 on a \$500,000 home).

The total Dresden assessment to Norwich for the **base budget build** (with Article 3) is expected to be \$7,312,533, an increase of \$891,606 or 12.19%. Combined with the elementary assessments for the Norwich budget build and after revenues and fund balance, this results in an increase of education spending of \$1,066,814 or 8.86%. Projecting the Norwich tax rate can be problematic due to parts of the calculation which are set by the State and have not yet been finalized. Other changes we know include: the Common Level of Appraisal has again dropped considerably from 90.28% down to 84.39%, a 6% decline which has caused a significant increase on the proposed rate and our current projected equalized pupil count has dropped by 20.38 FTEs as of the January 13th report. The other wild card mentioned above is the Homestead Property yield which may be set as low as \$12,937 or as high as \$13,846. The higher the yield, the lower the tax rates. As of January 13th with the information provided so far, we can project the following: Dresden combined with the elementary assessments and a lower yield of \$12,937 may result in a tax rate of \$1.9605 or an increase of 5.26% or .0980 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$490 on a \$500,000 home); if we project it with a middle yield of \$13,391 it may result in a tax rate of \$1.8939 or an increase of 1.69% or 0.0314 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$157 on a \$500,000 home); and when using the highest of potential yields of \$13,846 it may result in a tax rate of \$1.8318 or a decrease of 1.65% or (0.0307) cents per \$100 of assessed property value (a reduction of \$153 on a \$500,000 home).

To review projected tax rates with all Warrant Articles included, please refer to the main 2022-2023 School Year Budget write up in the brochure. All these amounts are estimates. Actual revenue

and assessment information will not be finalized until the state of Vermont sets various budgetary parameters as late as the spring of 2021, and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration finalizes assessment and tax rates for the districts in October of 2021.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the school district will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 5% percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4- b, II. (Majority vote required)?

The School Board recommends this authorization.

Informational Notes: The Dresden School District already has the authority to retain year-end funds up to 2.5%. This article would allow the District to retain up to 5% which is a current change in the law. As of now, Dresden is not allowed to hold reserve funds and this is the only way to set aside any money in case of emergency situations that may arise. RSA 198:4-b provides for the retention of any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds to be carried into the next fiscal year as a reserve for emergency purposes. Funds not designated for retention in the contingency fund remain general funds until the close of the fiscal year, at which time such funds are effectively returned to the taxpayers when they are utilized by the Department of Revenue Administration in calculating the local tax rate. The amount allowed is figured on the NH net assessment after revenue offsets have been applied and is required to be voted on by the School Board annually.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.

Given under our hands and the seal of the District this 11th and 25th day of January 2022.

Tom Candon	Benjamin Keeney
Lisa Christie	Kevin Knuuti, <i>Secretary</i>
Marcela Di Blasi	Deborah Bacon Nelson
Kimberly Hartmann	Neil Odell, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Jonathan Hunt	Garrett Palm
Rick Johnson, <i>Chair</i>	Lily Trajman

DRESDEN SCHOOL BOARD
DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Carole Bibeau, Clerk, Dresden School District

Dresden Meetings

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Thursday, February 24th, 7 p.m. HHS Auditorium

VIRTUAL OPTION

A Zoom link and the information will be shared via the SAU70 District website at SAU70.org.

The meeting will also be streamed on CATV.

ALL DAY VOTING

Tuesday March 1st, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

HHS Gymnasium (*for Hanover voters*)

Tracy Hall (*for Norwich voters*)

ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AHEAD OF THE IN-PERSON VOTING DATE.

ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCEDURE

Voters who will be unable to vote on Election Day due to absence from town, religious commitments, or physical disability (COVID-19 concerns/risk qualify under this section) may vote by absentee ballot. Voters desiring to vote by absentee ballot need to submit a signed request form to obtain a ballot. Voters may request an absentee ballot from the Superintendent of Schools office, 41 Lebanon St, Suite 2, Hanover (603-643-6050), or from the Hanover Town Clerk's office. Forms may be returned by mail, by fax (603-643-3073), or in person. A separate request form is necessary for the Hanover ballot. If you are requesting a ballot for another person, you may pick up or download a request form, take the form to the absentee voter, obtain that person's signature, and return the request form to the Superintendent/Town Clerk's office. The absentee ballot will then be mailed to the absentee voter.



Cover art by June Lovejoy, Kindergarten

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Dresden School District Deliberative Session • Thursday, February 24, 2022 • 7:00 p.m. • Hanover High School Auditorium
Hanover District Deliberative Session • Thursday, February 24, 2022 • 5:00 p.m. • Hanover High School Auditorium
All Day Voting • Tuesday, March 1, 2022 • 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. • Hanover High School Gymnasium