



Norwich | Dresden School Districts

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE

Marion Cross School

Marion Cross School is a nurturing pre-K through sixth-grade public school that:

- Promotes educational excellence and fosters a lifelong love of learning.
- Empowers all students to realize their intellectual, physical, emotional, creative, and social potential.
- Partners with families and the community to develop responsible local and global citizens who can adapt to a changing world.

NORWICH SCHOOL BOARD

Tom Candon, *Chair*
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Lisa Christie
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For more detailed budget information see the Annual Town and School District Report, available at Town Hall, or visit the website for School Administrative Unit #70, www.sau70.org and click on the School Boards link and Budgets option.

Norwich Meetings

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Monday, March 6th, 7 p.m.
Tracy Hall

The meeting will also be streamed on JAM.

ALL DAY VOTING

Tuesday March 7th, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tracy Hall

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

The start of the 2022-23 academic year at the Marion Cross School began with a look and feel that was distinctively pre-pandemic. Open Houses, Teacher Conferences, and Holiday Concerts welcomed families back into the building. Students gathered again for full school Reps and field trips. Silver linings of the pandemic are visible around the MCS campus grounds as well. Upgraded HVAC systems have raised air quality levels and efforts to expand outdoor education opportunities have provided greater access to the Milt Frye Nature Area (MFNA). Soon an ABA compliant trail will span the length of the MFNA, for students and community members alike to enjoy, year-round.

The traditional work of a school is evident as well. Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic and the resulting herculean efforts by school staff to provide an in-person education, while so many others across the country continued with remote learning, our educators continued work to improve curriculum and fine tune schedules. Last year, a Scheduling Committee was formed. Teacher and staff representatives from all grade levels and special programs came together to redesign the day-to-day school schedule. In the end, the Committee unanimously approved of a 7-day rotational schedule that built in more time for the core classes of Math, English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

The school district also heard the call for increased Pre-K and after-school options. Last year, the budget you approved added a second Pre-K classroom, welcoming an additional 17 three and four-year olds into the building. While not a school sponsored program, the school now also serves as a location for after-school programming for up to 60 children from the end of the school day until the evening hours. Finding Pre-K and after-school options remains a struggle for many families, but these are steps in the right direction.

Though all children in need always received free and reduced meals, this year MCS joined the National School Lunch Program. In doing so, we worked to upgrade our food choices and expanded our kitchen. The lunch program at MCS has seen a tremendous jump in participation among all students. We anticipate further growth in our meal options as we resolve our longstanding septic issues. More on this later.

While the school days themselves seem to indicate a return to some level of normalcy, the normally complex education financing system plods on and results in some of the typical uncertainty on the projected tax rate. This year, the board is proposing a budget increase of 9.44%. While student enrollment is projected to increase by five students, to a total of 341 (including Pre-K), and staff numbers are down by 1.19FTEs, overall salaries are up, special education costs are increasing, and healthcare costs are affected by a 12.6% rate increase. These increases are further impacted by another precipitous drop in our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). The CLA is Vermont's method of equalizing the assessed value of all property across the State for purposes of the Education Funding formula—and towns like Norwich that are not current on their town-wide appraisals are subject to larger CLA adjustments. Norwich's CLA dropped from last year's 84.39% to 74.48%. Any percentage below 100 negatively affects a town's tax rates. With the new CLA factored in, including all Dresden articles, the estimated tax rate increase is 3.83%; projected to be a \$368 increase on a \$500,000 home.

There are a couple of outstanding factors that will have an impact on the tax rate and budget, but they won't be resolved until after Town Meeting; one internal and one external. The internal factor being that negotiations are ongoing and settlements with the teachers' and support staff unions have yet to be determined and will eventually, likely, add to the budget. The external factor is the base level amount that the Legislature sets as part of the funding calculation. It is widely believed that the current base rate provided for projections will take a downward turn before finalized, which also will have a negative impact on the tax rate.

The board is also bringing two large warrant articles to the ballot. The first is the long-anticipated resolution to the school's septic issues. After four-and-a-half years of study, multiple options considered, and a standing agenda item at every regular meeting, the board is asking

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for approval of a new pretreatment system that comes in at a cost of \$768,414 and will be sited on the school grounds.

The other warrant article addresses another long-standing need – a playground to replace the one in serious disrepair. Assuming the septic upgrade is approved, the playground in the front of the school will be demolished to make way for the new pre-treatment system. Following the recommendations of the school Playground Committee – which included school staff, administrators, and members of the community – the board is submitting an article that requests \$307,752 in funding for a playground that will be developed on the back side of the school and will be accessible to all.

Should these articles be approved, the tax impact would first be realized in the FY25 budget. On a \$500,000 house, based on current tax drivers, the septic would add \$50.50 in taxes and the playground would add \$20.50.

The much discussed new weighting system (how students are counted across Vermont's school districts) will be implemented next fiscal year. As noted in communications of the board over the past year plus, Norwich stands to be the most negatively affected in the State by the new system, which gives more "weight" to districts with lower population density and more students with special needs, higher levels of poverty, and English as a second language. Current calculations suggest that Norwich tax rates may increase 26%, spread out over the course of five years, beginning in FY25.

We have been incredibly fortunate and an anomaly among schools in the State. For many years now we have seen level, to increased student populations, while most other towns have seen significant drops. Throughout the pandemic, we have seen level, to increased, student achievement, as measured by test scores, while most other towns have seen significant drops. This success, I believe, can be attributed to the tireless work of our school community; the administrators, teachers, and staff who work with and for our children every day and through the support of the schools that you provide.

The road ahead will not be easy. The tax burdens that will be imposed by the new weighting system will create even greater challenges in funding our school district. Your board and administration understand this and are working hard to think creatively about the future and are working with teachers, staff, and the community to define a way ahead. We are in the midst of a strategic planning effort across the entire district (the first in many years) that will create this vision. Core committees have been meeting for six months and hundreds responded to a wide-ranging survey. Opportunities will arise in the months ahead for you to weigh in on this work. We hope you take the opportunity to do so.

With these challenges ahead, it is with mixed emotions that I step aside. As my term winds down, this is my last report as board chair. It has been my honor to have served you these past 10 years. I have learned a great deal from you, from our students, from my colleagues on the Norwich, Dresden and SAU70 boards, and from the administrators across our district and those who work in our schools. I am grateful for the board members I have served alongside and for the administrators and the teachers and staff members with whom I have worked. The level of dedication to the mission of providing our students with the best education possible is nothing short of extraordinary. Our town's children are in good hands.

As always, thank you for your support.

—Tom Candon, *Chair, Norwich School Board*

Norwich School District

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

The Norwich School Board is recommending a Norwich School District budget totaling \$7,246,470 (which includes the \$2,500 for board salaries in Article 5) for the support of the Marion Cross School for 2023-2024. This represents an increase of \$625,290 or 9.44% in the expenditure budget compared to the current year. 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 1.81% more to Hanover than the prior year predominantly due to changes in student enrollment levels. When combined with the proposed Dresden base expenditure budget assessment (including article #2), the total budget-to-budget expenditure comparison will result in a total assessment increase of \$551,007 or 3.69%. Due to variations in revenue in both districts, the Education Spending (on the base budget assessments) will recognize an increase of 3.39% or \$447,886. At this writing, the projected equalized pupil number is 595.26 down (17.80) or (2.90%) from last year resulting in a per-pupil spending increase of \$1,397 or 6.48% and the the Common Level of Appraisal has again dropped considerably from 84.39% down to 74.48%, a 9.91% decline which causes a significant increase on the proposed rate. Projecting the Norwich tax rate can be

problematic due to parts of the calculation [yields] which are set by the State of Vermont and are subject to change until they are voted on as late as May. Currently the Homestead Property Yield is set at an all-time high of \$15,479. The higher the yield, the lower the tax rates; so, if the yield is lowered the tax rate will increase. There are also variables caused by potential additional warrant articles.

As of January 17th with the information provided so far, we can project the following: the rate with just the base budgets (including school board salary articles) would be \$1.9902 an increase of \$0.0724 or 3.78% (an increase of \$362 on a \$500,000 home). The rate increases slightly if the Dresden Service Staff Union Agreement article #3 passes resulting in an additional \$8,129 of assessment which may result in a tax rate of \$1.9913 or an increase of 3.83% or 0.0735 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$368 on a \$500,000 home).

We are proposing 2 additional articles in Norwich, one is for the septic system upgrades and the other is for upgrades to the rear playground. The tax affect for those articles [if they pass] would not be recognized until the funding was secured and the payments would be added to the next year's budget beginning in 2024-2025.

NEGOTIATIONS: The School Board entered into negotiations with the Teacher's union in January of 2022 and met multiple times through May of 2022 in hopes of settling a contract for this present year of 2022-23. Discussions then stalled and began again in October/November of 2022; we are currently in Fact Finding status awaiting the Fact Finders recommendations. The 2022-23 and 2023-24 budgets have been built carrying only the cost of step and track increases at the 2021-2022 wage levels and insurance rate increases based on the employee census updated to actual. Negotiations with the Support Staff for the 2023-24 school year are beginning now and the 2023-24 budget is built carrying only the cost of step/track increases at the current year wage levels. Assuming we reach agreements in the near future, we will have to fund unbudgeted costs which may cause significant changes in other funding areas.

ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING: Projecting future enrollments is always challenging and often affected by the local economy and housing availability. Last year, our projected enrollment was 299 in K-6 and 18 for our onsite Pre-K program. As of October 1, we had 301 students enrolled in K-6 with another 35 enrolled in our Pre-K program as we expanded it with another

class. We have projected the enrollment using a simple projection method taking into account historical changes along with actual enrollment at October 1. We expect to have 306 students in K-6 with another 35 in Pre-K. This is 5 students more than our present actual October 2022 count.

A summary of Marion Cross School staffing, shown in the Budget Book as Exhibit 11 can be found on the District website with the updated Budget Narrative. This summary indicates that total staffing for the 2023-24 budget is proposed at 53.79 FTEs, a (1.19) decrease from the current year's original budgeted total of 54.98. We began the budgeting process with a proposal of 56.73, but this was adjusted during the Budget Hearing. Overall Budget-to-Budget we will be up 0.50 in Regular Ed teaching FTEs after adding a Math Coach/ Interventionist and reducing a .50 in French which has been an open position for many years. We have an increase of 0.30 for the English as Second Language instruction due to student needs, an addition of 0.40 in speech & language instruction and an addition of 0.40 in early essential education instruction with some offsetting reductions of 0.50 in special education instruction and 0.20 in technology. Other adjustments include reductions in regular and special ed assistants of 1.81 and

a small increase in LEEEP programming of 0.12. Budgeted salary expenditures in total will be increasing in the teaching lines by \$161,902 and decreasing in all others by (\$6,734).

MEDICAL INSURANCE: Our medical insurance is budgeted with a rate increase for the current Public School Employee Health benefits bargaining agreement driver for the 2023-24 school year of 12.6%. After personnel adjustments discussed earlier and based on current budgeted census, this represents a budget increase of \$122,582.

PRE-K PROGRAMMING: The budget includes an appropriation to accommodate the placement of three and four-year-olds in local programs for instruction. We are showing an increase of \$13,560 in this projection due to the number of students we are not able to accommodate and the increase in the state's allowed rate. The budget of \$68,400 will cover 18 students. Vermont State law provides public funding for at least ten hours of instruction for three and four-year-olds whose parents opt for it.

REGULAR ED PROGRAMMING: Technology Equipment purchases are increasing by \$30,700 as we continue to complete our Chromebook purchasing for classroom use (35), cycle of replacing teacher devices (15), document cameras (9), projectors/mounts (3), interactive display boards and other miscellaneous items. Building utilities and custodial supplies are budgeting an increase of \$42,200 with 65% of the increase budgeted for heating oil and the remainder for electricity rate increases as well as custodial supplies. Custodial equipment is budgeting a one-year increase of \$20,100 to purchase a new auto scrubber and carpet extractor. Regular pupil transportation for PreK-12 is projected to increase \$53,300 for route expansion due to increasing ridership. Transportation fuel costs are projecting an increase of \$11,600 due to inflationary pressures on the oil markets. Pupil transportation for field trips is projecting an increase of \$10,636 to reduce parent funding for Grade 6 trips to the Ocean and Hulbert.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: In total, the amount budgeted for special education will be increasing by \$104,339. The State of Vermont partially reimburses the District's special education expenses – historically - with four different grant programs: the special education block grant and special education expense reimbursement, extraordinary reimbursement and the Early Essential Education grant (EEE). The new Act 173 Funding estimates reimbursement for 2024 at \$1,008,961. Vermont's special education grant assistance is designed to offset special education expenses both for students at Marion Cross School, and also for Norwich residents who attend the Dresden District schools. In addition, the federal government offsets

some special education expense with various grant funds. The actual amounts of federal grants are never known at this time but we estimate them for budget preparation purposes.

The amount we are budgeting for special education teachers is increasing by \$6,029 due to overall changes in FTEs for Learning Specialists, EEE and Speech. The special education aide's projection is also declining (\$42,183) due to a decrease of 1.74 FTEs and there's a slight increase in the special ed communication facilitator's salary of \$3,289. As a result of the changes in personnel levels and the increase in the projected health rates, the Payroll Tax and Benefit lines will be decreasing overall by (\$20,046). The amount for specialized therapies including testing, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy are netting an increased projection of \$14,750. The amount for specialized contracted instructional services offsite are projecting an increase of \$52,300. Special Ed Tuition will be experiencing a significant increase of \$89,500 due to a projected change in the student population in out of district needs and placement. Special Ed Transportation for out of district students is being projected at \$27,000 and was not budgeted in the 2022-23 school year. All other special education service changes amount to \$3,692.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS: The Supervisory Union's assessment will be increasing by \$10,880 due to many changes within the SAU Budget. The budget was ratified by the SAU Board on November 15, 2022. The School Advisory Union #70 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>

We are proposing "routine" site improvements totaling \$13,750, this is a decrease of (\$16,250). This budget will cover the costs of our reoccurring needs such as playground maintenance, fencing repair/replacement, and pruning/ tree removal. We are awaiting completion of a facilities condition audit to inform any future capital expenditures. The septic project will be discussed and warned separately; it is not included in the general fund budget.

We are proposing building improvements totaling \$103,250 this is an increase of \$10,250. Most significant projects include the installation of a 2nd floor bathroom, new carpeting/tile, new windows in the music room, replacement of classroom and hallway doors, bathroom updates and interior painting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND ARTICLES: There are 2 special warning articles included on the ballot for this year's consideration.



Artwork by Marion Cross School 2nd grader.

After much investigation and discussion, the administration is pleased to bring forward an innovative alternative design to mitigate the long standing issues with the septic system's leach fields under the green. Assuming the articles passage, we will be partnering with Aqua Point to install a Bioclere pretreatment system. The total projected cost of the project is \$768,414 and we would look to fund the project over a 20-year period. The first payment for the project would not come due until the 2024-25 budget year.

The Marion Cross Elementary School's playground committee worked through many different options for updates and expansion of the rear playground. It was imperative the new design both fit aesthetically into the natural landscape and be easily accessible for children of all abilities. Working with designer Sashie Misner, the Committee is excited to

bring forth an all-inclusive design. The total projected cost of the project is \$307,752 and we would look to fund the project over a 20-year period. The first payment for the project would not come due until the 2024-25 budget year.

Expanded information on both projects can be found on the BoardDocs website for Norwich School District, specifically the January 17, 2023 Meeting Report where the Budget Hearing and warning article ratification occurred.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For more budget information see the Annual Town and School District Report, mailed to all residents, or visit the School Administrative Unit #70 website at www.sau70.org, and click on the School Boards tab and then the "Budgets" link.

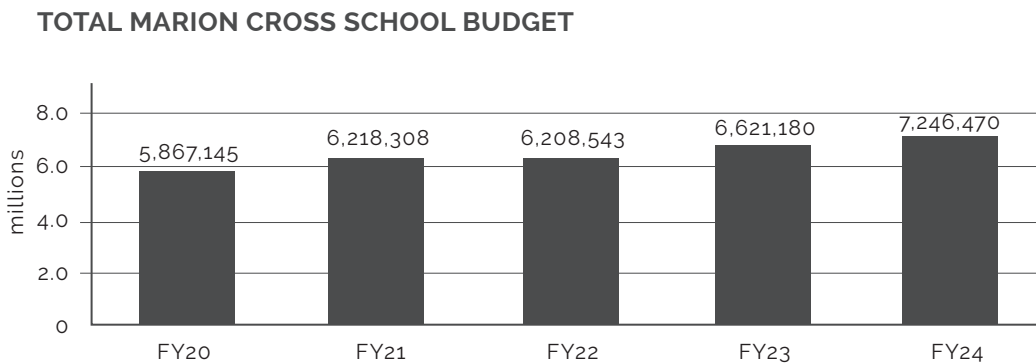
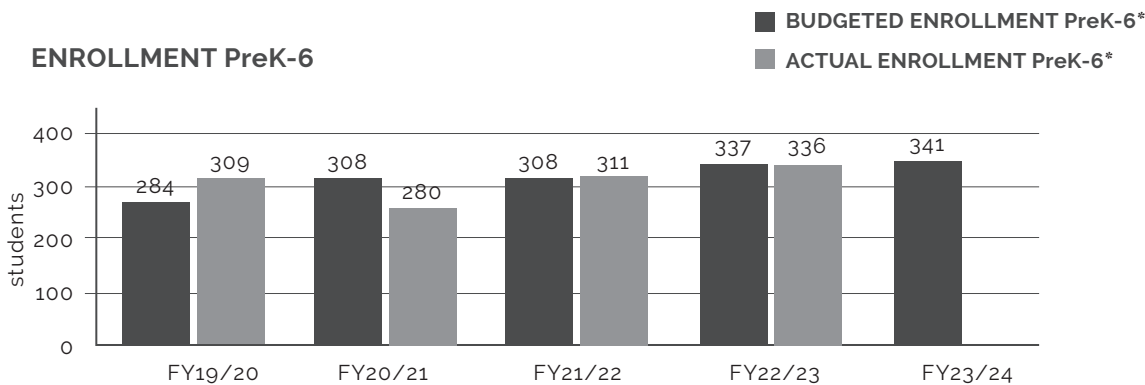
Norwich Budget Highlights

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

The Norwich School District budget covers the following costs:

- Operation of the Marion Cross School (Pre-K through 6th Grade)
- Extraordinary special education services for Norwich students (Pre-K through age 21)
- Bus Transportation for all Norwich students (Kindergarten through 12th Grade)

Recent budget history is summarized in the following charts:



ENROLLMENT & STAFFING

BUDGETED ENROLLMENT	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	% Chg
Budgeted Enrollment PreK-6	284	308	308	337*	341*	1.2%
BUDGETED STAFF			Adj.	Adj.		
Classroom Teachers	17.5	19	19	22	22	0.0%
Art, Music, PE, Specials Teachers	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.3	6.8	23.8%
Special Ed Certified Staff	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.0	-9.1%
Other Staff	31.2	26.7	26.8	22.3	21.0	-10.0%
TOTAL STAFF	58.0	55.0	55.1	55.0	53.8	-2.2%

*Budgeted Enrollment includes Pre-K class attendees.

NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY

BY MAJOR FUNCTION	BUDGET 2019-20	BUDGET 2020-21	BUDGET 2021-22	BUDGET 2022-23	BUDGET 2023-24	%CHG
Regular Education	\$2,445,343	\$2,650,660	\$2,689,326	\$3,050,838	\$3,369,165	10.4%
Technology	159,184	135,638	122,825	134,131	142,924	6.6%
Special Education	1,227,312	1,318,949	1,228,181	1,216,152	1,320,490	8.6%
Guidance	104,271	109,994	114,082	118,976	124,374	4.5%
Health Services	109,193	116,080	120,411	88,239	101,845	15.4%
Staff Development	80,300	75,700	71,852	88,336	89,036	0.8%
Media (Library)	111,039	113,285	113,379	105,847	106,662	0.8%
School Board	29,316	32,082	32,287	32,352	32,446	0.3%
SAU Assessment	254,402	288,729	295,405	306,695	317,575	3.5%
School Administration	459,842	484,546	479,377	531,635	555,113	4.4%
Op & Maintenance of Plant	365,124	409,798	444,427	468,855	556,904	18.8%
Transportation	311,743	313,987	297,000	297,400	399,936	34.5%
Student Lunch	2,000	-	-	-	-	n/a
Site & Bldg Improvements	90,450	106,200	138,300	123,000	117,000	-4.9%
Debt Service	48,626	47,660	46,691	45,724	-	-100.0%
Interfund Transfers Out	69,000	15,000	15,000	13,000	13,000	0.0%
TOTALS	\$5,867,145	\$6,218,308	\$6,208,543	\$6,621,180	\$7,246,470	9.44%

*Adjusted to actual based on budgets as reported to the State education agencies which included budgetary transfers.

Explanations of the Warrant Articles

FOR THE 2023 NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

ARTICLE 1: Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

The moderator is voted upon annually and presides over town meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2023.

This year there are 2 seats coming up for election in March, both seats are for a 3-year term. Lisa Christie is running for another term. Tom Candon is not running for another term after 11 years and we thank him for his amazing years of service. Michael Costa is running for the open seat.

ARTICLE 3: Hear and act on the reports of the officers of the Town and Town School District.

Each year the Norwich School District presents the proposed budget to the voters at Town Meeting. In odd numbered years the School District presents first, in even numbered years the Town presents first.

ARTICLE 4: To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

In the event that school district tax revenues are not received in a timely manner, the school district requests authorization from the electorate to borrow money to cover necessary expenditures.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year for a total of \$2,500 in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

The salary for school board members is voted upon annually. This figure is unchanged from last year.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District approve the school board to expend \$7,243,970 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing 2023-24 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$22,958 per equalized pupil (this includes the current proposed Dresden assessment and articles for 7-12th

grade). This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.55% higher than spending for the current year.

While the gross expenditure amount of the Marion Cross School direct budget is due to increase \$625,290 or 9.44%, using the state's definition of net "Education Spending per pupil" (that is, net education spending, after the application of appropriate income, divided by the number of equalized pupils) we will be increasing by 6.55% (which includes the Dresden Assessment due to decrease by 2.41% or \$202,996 [Oct. 2022 updated assessment]). Combined with the elementary assessments for the Norwich budget build and after revenues and fund balance, this results in a total increase of education spending of \$456,015 or 3.45%. 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 84.39% down to 74.48%, a 9.91% decline which has caused a significant increase on the proposed rate and our current projected equalized pupil count has dropped by 17.80 FTEs as of the January 28th report. The other unknown is whether or not the State will keep the Homestead Property yield at an all-time high of \$15,479 or lower. The higher the yield, the lower the tax rates. As of January 17th with the information provided so far, we can project the following: Dresden with all articles when combined with the elementary assessments may result in a tax rate of \$1.9913 or an increase of 3.83% or 0.0735 cents per \$100 of assessed property value (an increase of \$367 on a \$500,000 home). Estimation of tax rates in Norwich can be difficult given the state's education funding formula and timelines for ratifying data used in the calculation.

ARTICLE 7: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Norwich Town School District in an amount not to exceed \$768,414 subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making school grounds and infrastructure upgrades, namely, the installation of a pre-treatment septic module, removal and replacement of 2 septic tanks and 1 oil tank, and repair and reinstallation of asphalt and surrounding walkway areas?

State and/or federal funds may not be available at the time the project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid and/or state/federal infrastructure aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of receipt of State/Federal aid.

After much discussion and investigation over the past 5 years, the administration is pleased to bring forward an innovative, alternative design plan to update the operating process for the Marion Cross Elementary School's septic system. Working through proposals, it was decided to engage with Aqua Point and install a Bioclere system. This new design process should alleviate the need for pumping the tanks over the winter months. Please visit the SAU70 website to review the plan design documents.

ARTICLE 8: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Norwich Town School District in an amount not to exceed \$307,752 subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of the installation of a new playground including earth work and equipment at the Marion Cross Elementary School?

State and/or federal funds may not be available at the time the project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid and/or state/federal infrastructure aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of receipt of State/Federal aid.

The Marion Cross Elementary School's Playground Committee worked through many different options for updates and expansion of the rear playground. It was imperative the new design both fit aesthetically into the natural landscape and be easily accessible for children of all abilities.

ARTICLE 9: Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School District.

ARTICLES WERE ADOPTED THE 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

Tom Candon, *Chair*
Lisa Christie
Neil Odell
Garrett Palm, *Vice Chair*
Lily Trajman

Norwich Meetings

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Monday, March 6th, 7 p.m.

Tracy Hall

The meeting will also be streamed on JAM.

ALL DAY VOTING

Tuesday, March 7th, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Hall

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

DRESDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-24 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.

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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 unabated. Julie Stevenson, HHS Principal, Tim Boyle, RMS Principal, their administrative teams, and all our teachers and staff have worked determinedly to strengthen the Dresden School District and return the schools to normal operations. In the buildings, our custodians, staff, administrators, and teachers worked diligently to ensure Dresden continued to offer safe and healthy campuses where our students could learn and grow. Our staff and students should be commended for achieving these difficult objectives through determination, collaboration, and daily appreciation for the support of this exceptional community.

This past year, teachers, staff, administrators, and community members have continued work on our essential equity initiative. Moreover, the Dresden School Board, in conjunction with SAU-70, the Hanover School Board, and Norwich School Board are wrapping up our draft strategic planning efforts to prepare for public feedback. We will keep you updated on the progress in developing the plan and make you aware of opportunities to contribute.

Over the past five months, Dresden Principals and their teams have worked closely with the SAU-70 staff and the Dresden School Board to develop a budget for the 2023-2024 school year. We all recognize 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 economy. I would like to highlight several items in this year's district budget:

- The proposed 2023-2024 Dresden District Budget comes in 4.42% higher than last year's approved budget and the Dresden District's portion of the net assessment is 3.57% higher than last year. The increase in the net assessment is driven by \$1.32M in expenditures and offset by \$383,000 in revenue primarily from tuition from out-of-district students. The change in expenditures and net assessment are both significantly lower than the inflation rate of 6.9%. (12-month average CPI-Northeast October 2022).
- Over 75% of the \$1.32M expenditure increase is related to changes in salaries and benefits. Despite delivering a budget below inflation, Dresden expects to experience a significant 13% rate hike on employee health insurance plans. Health insurance is the largest single driver within the Dresden budget. We are investigating other plans for the future and have negotiated more affordable plans for both employee and Dresden in the service staff union contract proposed. Salary changes are determined by adjustments in staffing levels in Dresden (net 1.8 FTE decrease) and the implementation of the teacher and support staff union contracts approved by voters last year.
- During this past year, RMS restructured its schedule to operate more like a traditional middle school with interdisciplinary teams that will create higher performing, more meaningful learning environments. RMS enrollments are projected to decrease by 16 from FY23 budget, but with an increase of 2 tuition students based on actuals. RMS forecasts that it will need fewer Special Education resources (\$103K) but will see an increase of \$387K

for Regular Education expenditures. In addition to the health insurance increase seen district wide, RMS plans to continue with the new program change due to promising results, resulting in a 1.0 FTE teacher increase, offset by reductions of 2.8 Special Education Assistants. In total, RMS staffing would decrease by 1.8 FTEs.

- In 2023-2024, HHS enrollment is projected to increase by 6 students compared to the prior budget and HHS will add 6 tuition students based on actuals. The HHS budget will see an increase of \$705K or 4.4% growth in budget expenditures. Various FTE changes at HHS will result in a net 1.0 FTE loss in total staffing. HHS increased its minimum enrollment levels for elective courses in order to avoid the potential of having ultra-boutique class sizes once schedules were finalized. This change supported the 1.1 FTE reduction in Regular Ed teachers. The FTE changes combined with increases in salaries due to union agreements and a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for nonunion staff amounts to \$310,086. Benefits changes, driven by the 13% increase in our health insurance rate, adds an additional \$196,261 to the budget. Aside from these increases in salary and benefits, HHS will begin a much-needed replacement of classroom furniture (\$112K) and will rebuild the firebox in our woodchip plant (\$79K). The furniture replacement will create a baseline that will permit HHS to create a cycle for replacement going forward.
- Finally, the Dresden School Board supports several Warrant Articles (2, 3, 4, and 5) on this year's ballot. Warrant Article 3 covers the new contract agreement with the Hanover Service Staff (2-year agreement). Passage of this article will have an impact on the 2023 tax assessment. Warrant Article 4 concerns the 2023-2024 Dresden budget. Finally, Article 5 provides guidance to the Dresden School Board regarding a goal of increasing its renewable sources of electricity and renewable sources of heating/cooling and transportation. The Board will seek a policy to achieve effective and sustainable outcomes while being fiscally responsible. Dresden and the other districts are awaiting the results and recommendations from a recently completed facilities audit that was done as part of the SAU-70's strategic planning process. This information will be critical in helping Dresden conduct short and long-term planning to transition to renewable sources of energy.

In short, the changes to our teaching models and the needs of our student population require budgetary and logistical adjustments. The Dresden School Board appreciates 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 district. We will continue to ensure that Dresden delivers extraordinary academic results, addresses the needs of all our students, and meets the high standards we demand for our children's education, while being mindful of the financial costs to our community.

The Dresden School Board once again wants to thank our Dresden staff for caring for our students and each other. Thank you for teaching and supporting our children. Thank you for your focus and your dedication. Finally, thank you for choosing to be a Dresden staff member.

— Rick Johnson, *Chair, Dresden School Board*

Dresden School District

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

The Dresden School Board is recommending a school district budget totaling \$31,138,466 (including all articles) for the support of the Richmond Middle and Hanover High Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

The amounts in all the articles combined, represent an expenditure increase of \$1,342,959 or 4.5% budget-to-budget compared to the current year (without inclusion of the athletic updates bond from 2022-23). Due to changes in revenue, specifically tuition income, the budget assessment overall is increasing \$959,951 or 3.68%.

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 1.81% more to Hanover than the prior year due to changes in enrollment and attendance levels. As a result, Hanover's share of the FY24 Dresden assessment will proportionally increase more than Norwich. With all articles, the total Dresden assessment to Hanover is expected to be \$18,830,608 an increase of \$1,154,817 or 6.53% from prior year whereas the total Dresden assessment to Norwich is expected to be \$8,235,952, a decrease of \$194,867 or (2.31%) [based on the adjusted October 2022 revenue changes].

ENROLLMENT: As compared to 2022-23 budgeted enrollments, enrollment next year—middle school and high school—would be projected to decrease by 10 students. This includes an increase of 6 students at HHS and a decline of 16 at RMS. Projected enrollments for 2023-24 for Dresden are expected to increase 4 students compared to current year's actual enrollments, which includes an increase of 10 at HHS and a decrease of 6 at RMS. Projected sixth grade solely consists of Hanover students and you can see the cohort for 2023-24 is projected to be 6 students smaller than this year's actual class. The next five years of incoming Norwich 7th graders are projected at 48, 47, 41, 46, and 32; although Norwich has been enrolling more students every month to their elementary.

STAFFING: RICHMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL: Overall RMS will see a 1.80 full time equivalent (FTE) decline in staffing which is the net change of 2.8 less aide positions and the addition of 1.0 teaching sections spread out over 5 subject areas. Eighty percent of the 1.0 teaching change was approved in April 2022 for the current school year in order to better serve the students' needs in the middle school model (please see Exhibit 11.A in the Dresden Budget Book for a better understanding of the changes). The remaining 0.2 FTE is due to the addition of an instructional coach, which is planned to be funded mostly with grant funding. All other FTEs are holding steady.

STAFFING: HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL: Due to the nature of the staffing duties, there is a reclassification of 0.80 FTE regular education designated staff member to the school counseling department designation as it more appropriately belongs in this specialty area. In addition, HHS is reallocating 0.20 FTE from Regular Education to support English for speakers

of other languages (ESOL) due to changes in student enrollment.

To round out the movement, the remaining 0.10 FTE reduction in Regular Ed teaching is reallocated to our Special Ed Therapist section. There is a small hourly adjustment between two of our aide realms from Media Asst. to Reg Ed Educational Asst. of 0.05 FTE. The last change is a decrease of 1.0 FTE in the Special Education Assistant section. Total HHS staff recap shows an overall decrease of 1.0 FTEs (please see Exhibit 11.B in the Dresden Budget Book for details).

REGULAR PROGRAM MAINTENANCE: The "program maintenance" section of expenses in the budget list those increases/decreases that arise largely from the delivery of Dresden's Grade 6-12 regular education program. Some items increase higher than inflation due to local economic factors, industry trends and contractual agreements. In total, this section shows a budget-to-budget increase of \$1,216,026 or 4.08% of the total 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 growing by 4.08%.

Some of the main drivers in the programming section are as follows:

- All of the regular education staffing changes mentioned at the school levels and salary additions from settled agreements result in total wage increases for employees in this year's budget of \$489,471. It is important to note that the service staff union agreement warrant article #3 would add \$26,990 to this section. Service staff includes district custodians and maintenance technicians
- Payroll taxes and benefit costs including a health rate increase of 13% results in total projected increases of \$379,044

- The district wide maintenance budget section is projected to increase by \$144,583 for an additional 1.0 FTE and other employee's benefit election changes
- Changes in Retiree wages and benefit packages add another \$46,622 to the budget increase
- Supervisory Union's assessment is increasing \$42,394 due to FTE changes with insurance increases of 8% and wage increases of 2.5%.
- Other notable items at Richmond Middle School include an increase in regular education supply lines of \$17,474 including textbooks, increases in the utility lines of \$15,100 and additional funding for Grade 8 language immersion field trips of \$25,000
- Other notable items at Hanover High School include \$106,000 earmarked to replace broken and not suitable classroom furniture and fixtures, \$29,000 to replace failing classroom AV and peripheral equipment and an increase in vocational tuition projected at \$15,000. Much of this is offset by reductions in technology for equipment and services of (\$56,714) and reductions for special transportation routes of (\$36,075)

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 Agreement can be viewed on BoardDocs at the Dresden Budget Hearing and Adoption Meeting, Section 3.C. Warrant Articles held January 10, 2023.

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 decrease by (\$37,822) or (0.13%).

The account lines for Special Education teacher salaries at RMS are increasing slightly due to contractual agreement of \$8,648 while the educational assistants are decreasing (\$65,990) due to decreases in personnel of 2.80 FTEs. There is a projected increase in HHS Special Ed Teacher salaries of \$57,899 due in part to changes in personnel as well as union agreed increases to scale and steps.

The consolidated account lines for Special Education Payroll Taxes & Benefits are changing in both locations due to associated changes in salary lines. RMS is decreasing by (\$45,580) due to (2.80) FTE adjustments and HHS is increasing by \$19,826. The major factors for the increases are changes in health insurance elections/rates salary changes and retirement changes.

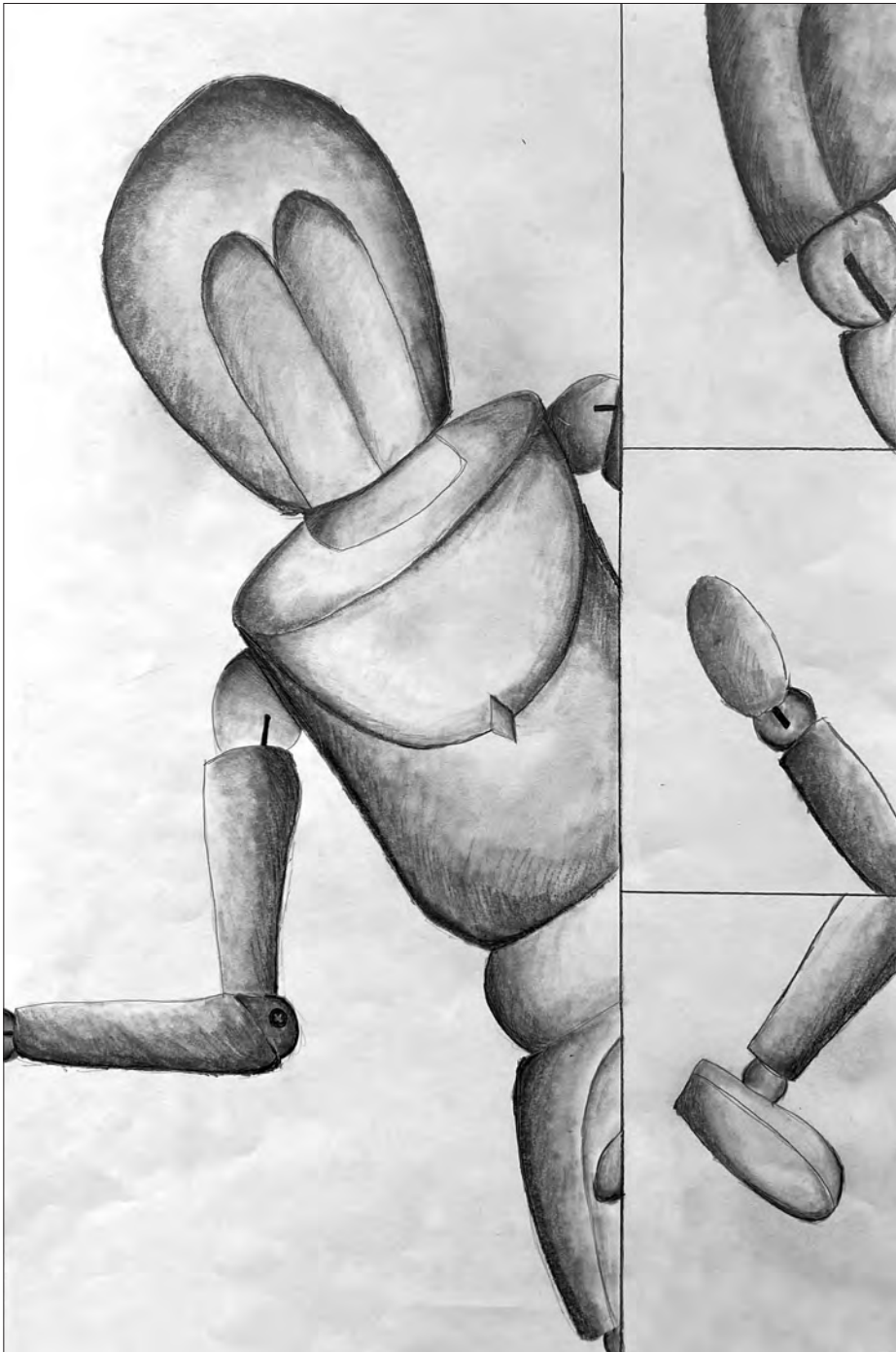
Changes in the HHS special education supply lines are projected to decrease (\$9,997) for general textbooks and software needs.

CAPITAL & DEBT SERVICE: The district has five outstanding bond issues with a total balance of \$5,447,172. Each year the district makes payments on that debt in the form of principal and interest. The debt payments this year are decreasing by \$7,099. The athletic fields updates have not been added as that is structured like a line of credit and we will not be utilizing any of the available monies most likely until July 1, 2023 when construction is scheduled to begin. Please see Exhibit 7 in the Dresden Budget Book for a breakdown.

HHS Site & Building Improvement accounts have changes as well. The HHS site improvements is decreasing by (\$17,500) as we have been able to complete many of the outside area repairs. The building improvement account is increasing by \$79,000 which is predominantly due to rebuilding the fire box in the chip plant boiler. We will also be doing the following projects including updating flooring, interior/exterior painting, security upgrades and purchase/installation of new kiln. The RMS Site & Building Improvement accounts are holding steady. Expanded building maintenance expenditures can be reviewed in Exhibits 13 A & B in the Dresden Budget Book.

TUITION INCOME: Dresden is projecting 128 tuition students for 2023-24, representing a \$399,480 increase in budget-to-budget tuition revenue. There remains a level of uncertainty with tuition students residing in both states. Dresden continues to face the impact of Vermont consolidations and the recently settled legal challenge allowing for public school funds to be used for private school tuition including religious entities. Moreover, there are several proposed bills in the New Hampshire legislature that may alter the public education landscape going forward.

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



Artwork by Olivia Gemignani, 7th grade

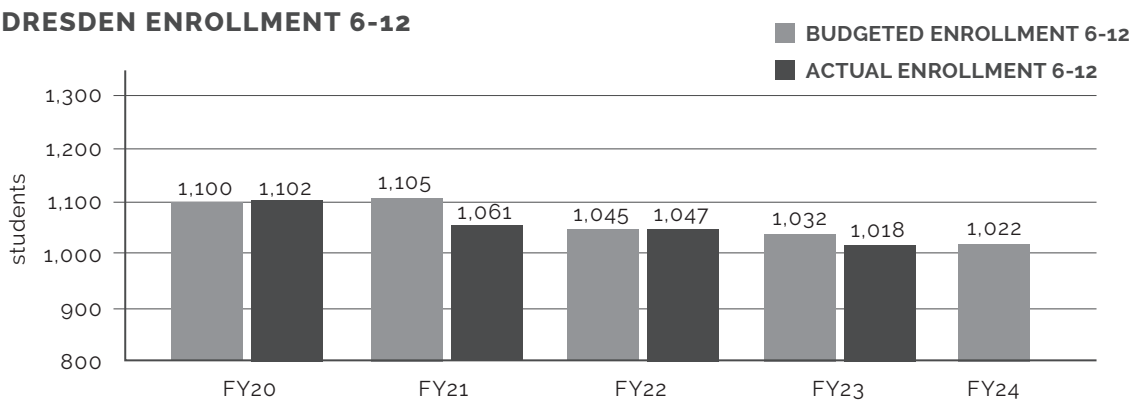
Dresden Budget Highlights

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

The Dresden School District budget covers the following costs:

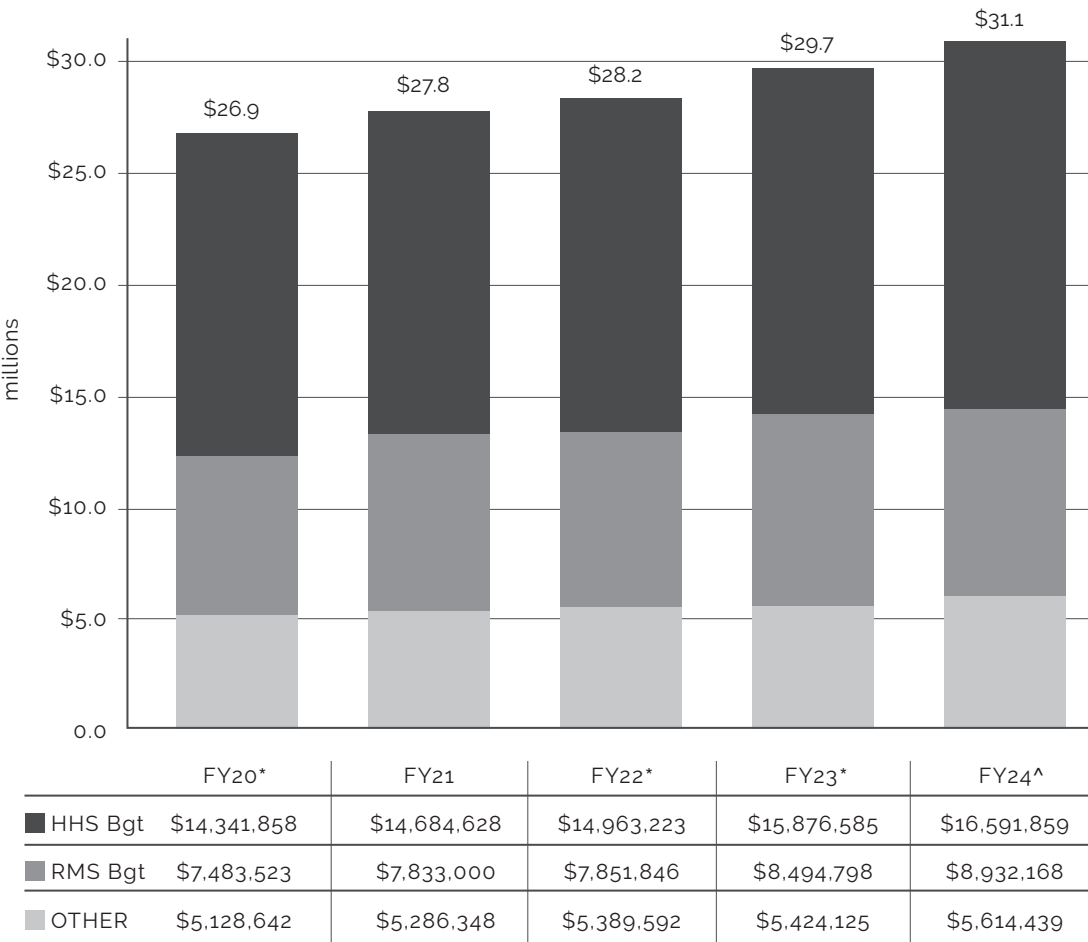
- Operation of the Richmond Middle School providing educational instruction to Hanover students in grades 6-8 and Norwich students in grades 7-8
- Operation of the Hanover High School providing educational instruction to Hanover and Norwich students in grades 9-12 as well as tuition students from neighboring towns
- Total Dresden Expenditure Budget, if all Articles pass, is increasing by \$1,342,959 or 4.5% when compared to the prior budget (without the Athletic facility upgrades included). After accounting for revenue adjustments, the assessment increase is \$959,951 or 3.68%
- 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, March 2 at the Hanover High School Auditorium. A zoom link will be available
- Voting takes place between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 7, 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, the Hanover Town Clerk's Office at 603-640-3201 or the Norwich Town Clerk's Office at 802-649-1419

Recent budget history is summarized in the following charts:



ENROLLMENT & STAFFING	RICHMOND MIDDLE		HANOVER HIGH	
	FY24	CHANGE	FY24	CHANGE
BUDGETED ENROLLMENTS	355	-4.31%	667	0.9%
TEACHERS FTEs	46.70	2.19%	75.31	-0.1%
OTHER STAFF FTEs	28.18	-9.04%	49.69	-1.8%
TOTAL STAFF FTEs	74.88	-2.35%	125.00	-0.8%

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 [\$1,837,00] has been removed to represent actual operating costs comparison from year to year.

^ Warrant Article #3 if ratified for 2023-24 would add another \$26,990 which has been included and reflected in the numbers above.

EXPENSES	RICHMOND MIDDLE		HANOVER HIGH	
	FY24 BGT	INCR (DECR)	FY24 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Regular Instruction	\$4,651,726	\$396,940	\$7,589,000	\$321,698
Technology	271,849	(10,385)	485,195	(62,369)
Special Education	1,775,256	(103,242)	1,953,869	884,485
Vocational Education	n/a	n/a	135,000	15,000
Co-Curricular	49,138	4,247	1,104,450	36,635
Student Support Services	453,359	20,564	1,340,999	148,284
Staff Support Services	309,547	10,128	584,410	47,170
School Administration	659,131	53,458	1,768,917	53,347
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	642,421	38,519	1,163,742	28,397
Transportation	55,500	25,500	202,540	(29,011)
Site & Bldg Improvements	29,500	(11,500)	196,000	61,500
Interfund Transfer Out	25,000	3,400	57,600	-
TOTALS	\$8,922,427	\$427,629	\$16,581,721	\$705,136
Percent of Change		5.03%		4.44%

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

EXPENSES	DISTRICT WIDE	
	FY24 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Coord of Volunteers	\$13,092	\$429
Comp Techn	4,500	(6,750)
School Board Services	65,769	51
Supt Services	1,240,112	42,519
Bldg Maintenance	671,167	154,053
Debt Service	3,612,6888	(7,099)
TOTALS	\$5,607.328	\$183,203
Percent of Change		3.38%

RECAP	FY24 BGT	
	FY24 BGT	INCR (DECR)
District Wide	\$5,607,328	\$183,203
Richmond Middle	\$8,922,427	\$472,629
Hanover High	\$16,581,721	\$705,136
TOTALS	\$31,111,476	\$1,315,968
Percent of Change		4.42%
Article 3: Han/Dres Service Staff Agreement	\$26,990	\$26,990
TOTALS	\$31,138,466	\$1,342,958
Percent of Change		4.51%

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 #3 regarding the Service Staff union agreement in the amount of \$26,990 has not been included in these proposed budget amounts or percentages of increase. The prior year bond article in the amount of \$1,837,000 has not been included in the FY23 comparison totals.

Explanations of the Warrant Articles

FOR THE 2023 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 6-12; grade 6 is Hanover town students only.

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, March 2, 2023, 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 7, 2023, 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 6.

All voting on Warrant Articles 1 through 5 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 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 with an additional \$300 for the Board Chair, the same stipend as the last several years. 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 3: 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 Local #1348 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 93, AFL-CIO which includes the Hanover and Dresden Service Staff, which calls for the following increases in maintenance and custodial technician salaries and benefits:

Estimated Increase

Year	Over status quo budget
2023-2024	\$26,990
2024-2025	\$34,582

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$26,990), such sum representing the estimated increase in salaries and benefits for the 2023-2024 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement?

The School Board recommends this article.

NOTE 1. The sum necessary to pay the so-called status quo salaries and benefits for service staff if this article is defeated is included in the operating budget in Article 4.

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 January 2023, the Board and Local #1348 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 93, AFL-CIO which includes the Hanover and Dresden Service Staff reached a tentative agreement for the next two-year period (2023-2025). Changes include a different plan base design and medical copay increases per year as follows from 7% this current year to 13% in 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the HMO LP \$25 plan and the 10% copay plan HMO \$15 will no longer be offered; two other plans with higher deductibles will be offered at 8% - EHO and 5% - HMO Super \$1,500. The salary scale has been redesigned to a 4 category, 12 step arrangement and no new hires with similar years of experience can be placed higher than anyone on staff with similar experience. The steps were adjusted to standardize the increases between and the following increases for each of 2 years on base: Yr. 1 – 1.0% and Yr. 2 – 2.0% +/- . There were a few language updates including updated wording for the positions that are covered, removal of grandfathering employees, clarification of using earned time and clarification of notification surrounding disciplinary action. 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 4: Shall the District raise and appropriate the amount of Thirty-One Million, Ninety-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Nine Dollars (\$31,099,509), 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 2023-24 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 proposed, the Dresden School District Budget will increase from \$29,795,508 to \$31,099,509, an increase of \$1,304,001, or 4.38% (compared to last year's budget without the cost of last year's bond article included or Article 2). For consistency of reporting, we will include the \$11,967 from Article 2 in the balance of our discussion here. After accounting for projected changes in our revenue, the amount to be assessed to the Hanover and Norwich districts for the Dresden 2023-24 budget is estimated to increase by \$932,961 or 3.57%.

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 1.81% more to Hanover than the prior year predominantly due to changes in enrollments.

To review projected tax rates with all Warrant Articles included, please refer to the main 2023-2024 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 May 2023, and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration finalizes assessment and tax rates for the districts in October 2023.

ARTICLE 5: To affirm that the Dresden School Board will establish policies to support the transitioning of school facilities and operations to renewable sources of electricity and renewable sources of heating/cooling and transportation. Strategies for moving forward will seek effective and sustainable outcomes while being fiscally responsible.

NOTE 1. The Hanover community adopted these 100% renewable energy goals by unanimous vote at the 2017 Town Meeting. Since then, the Town, many businesses and residents, Dartmouth College and other organizations have begun to transition their energy usage to reach these 100% goals by their target dates.

NOTE 2: In 2019 the Norwich community adopted a similar mandate for municipal operations: “to gradually and continually reduce the Town’s direct use of fossil fuels, beginning at a rate of no less than 5% per year starting in the 2019-20 fiscal year and continuing until they are eliminated entirely.” This would eliminate fossil fuel use by 2040.

Informational Notes: Sustainable Hanover Committee met with the School Board on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 to discuss the above article. It was brought to the Board for consideration in an effort to allow the residents of Hanover and Norwich to share their opinions on the future direction of operations via their vote.

ARTICLE 6: To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.

On January 17, 2023, the Hanover Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Articles 2, 3 & 4 including the proposed FY24 Dresden School District Budget, Service Staff contract, and salaries for School District Officers.



Artwork by Alex Stanton-Pierce, 11th grade

Dresden Meetings

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Thursday, March 2nd, 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 JAM.

ALL DAY VOTING

Tuesday March 7th, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

HHS Cafeteria (*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 here) 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 Norwich 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 Norwich/Marion Cross School 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.



Artwork by Marion Cross School kindergartner.

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Norwich School District
c/o School Admin Unit #70
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Hanover, NH 03755

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Residential Customer

Dresden School District Deliberative Session • Thursday, March 2, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. • Hanover High School Auditorium
Norwich District Deliberative Session • Monday, March 6, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. • Tracy Hall
All Day Voting • Tuesday, March 7, 2023 • 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. • Tracy Hall