

**MINUTES OF THE  
HANOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING**

**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

Moderator Tom Csatri called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Thursday, February 29, 2024. Present were School Board members: Antonia Barry, Kimberly Hartmann, Rick Johnson, Benjamin Keeney (Chair), Marcella DiBlasi, Kelly McConnell (Vice Chair), Deborah Bacon Nelson; Administrators: Assistant Superintendent Robin Steiner, Business Administrator Jamie Teague; and seven members of the Finance Committee and the public. Moderator Csatri described the purpose of the meeting. He explained that this was the properly-warned was the discussion phase of the meeting, and that the voting phase would take place Tuesday, March 5, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Hanover High School Gymnasium. Absentee ballots will be available prior to the meeting. He noted where and when the Warrant had been duly posted in Hanover by Jamie Teague at seven locations.

Moderator Csatri then recognized Hanover School Board Chair Benjamin Keeney, who introduced the Board members. Assistant Superintendent Steiner introduced district administrators who were in attendance.

Moderator Csatri described the educational responsibilities of the Hanover and Dresden districts. He then established the meeting guidelines. He then opened the presentation of Warrant articles:

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect by written ballot for one-year terms a moderator, a clerk, and a treasurer; and three (3) School Board members for three-year terms.

Moderator Csatri read the positions to be voted on, and the names of the candidates running.

There was no discussion of the article.

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the District appropriate the sum of **Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000)** from the Don S. Bridgman Fund during the 2024-2025 fiscal year in order to afford additional advantages to the students of the District not provided by taxes?

Kelly McConnell spoke to this article. She described the history of the Fund, and how it is managed. The fund currently has a market value of \$1,865,831.

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

There were no comments on the article.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the District determine and fix the salaries of School District Officers as follows: School Board members \$1,000 per member with additional \$300 for School Board Chair; School District Treasurer \$1,994; School District Clerk \$300; and School District Moderator \$300, in accordance with RSA 194:10, and further raise and appropriate the sum of **Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Four Dollars (\$9,894)** to fund these salaries? The School Board recommends this appropriation.

NOTE 1. This article requests \$1,000 as the salary for School Board members. The stipend represents an increase of \$300 over last year. School Board member stipends have not been adjusted in over 10

years; this adjustment is commensurate with cumulative inflation. The salaries for School District Clerk and Moderator have been increased by \$150 each to \$300, and there is a small increase for the Treasurer position. This article's effect on the tax rate is negligible.

Deb Nelson spoke to this article. She described the duties of the District officers, and board members.

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Kari Assmus, Chair of the Hanover Finance Committee, noted that the Committee voted unanimously to support this article.

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the District vote to approve the cost items in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hanover Education Association and the Hanover School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated increase over status quo budget
2024 - 2025	\$408,763
2025-2026	\$405,2878
2026-2027	\$262,558

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Eight Thousand, Seven. Hundred and Sixty-three Dollars (\$408,763), such sum representing the estimated increase in teaching staff salaries and benefits for the 2024-2025 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement (majority vote required).

The School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

Ben Keeney spoke to this article, describing the negotiation process and content of the increases.

Kari Assmus, Chair of the Hanover Finance Committee, noted that the Committee voted unanimously to support this article. This will keep our salary schedule competitive with other districts. She congratulated all parties to the negotiations.

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 5.

NOTE 2. A favorable vote on this article shall be considered the approval of the cost items in all three (3) years of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the District raise and appropriate the amount of **Fifteen Million, One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand, Sixty-Five Dollars, (\$15, 147, 065)** 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 2024-2025 fiscal year? This sum does not include the funds appropriated in any of the other articles.

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Kim Hartmann spoke to the article, presenting a slide show available on the SAU Web site. She is Chair of the Budget Committee. She thanked all of those responsible for the preparation of the budget. This includes Budget Expenditures. Assuming all warrant articles pass, the FY25 Hanover District budget expenditures proposed to increase 3.1 % or \$473K. Ray School operations is the largest component, accounting for 88.8%. Special Ed Tuition is 6.8%. Investments in school buildings and administration are supported by decreases in special education tuition. Ray School enrollment is expected to be the same this year, FY24 actual budget lower than budget due to smaller Kindergarten cohort. The Ray School plans a 2.4 FTE net decrease for FY25 staffing. There are 26 classroom teachers, with no change in that number. There will be 3.1 fewer Educational Assistants. There will be a new hire in the Ray School Office and a new Instructional Coach. There will be a new hire in the SAU 70 Technology Office. The bus contract has been renewed, investigating alternative energy vehicles. Under Revenue and Net Assessment, the Net assessment is proposed to increase 4.8% or \$567K, driven by anticipated loss of state revenue and one-time infusion from prior year. Projected Tax Rates: FY24 Hanover education property tax increase was nearly 50% less than projected at the March vote. Hanover education property tax rates projected to increase 2.7%. Now at 2.5% regional inflation has fallen. The progress Report showed Ray School students achieving far above NH state averages. Many assessed at the highest proficiency levels. Hanover District achievement is top in the state and yet supported at an average cost. There is a wonderful focus on social and emotional learning.

Kari Assmus spoke on behalf of the Hanover Finance Committee, which voted to unanimously support the budget. She extended thanks to the staff for a productive budget process, which included zero based budgeting.

There were no questions or comments.

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the District vote to appropriate up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established in 2001, with said funds to come solely from any year-end unassigned general fund balance over and above \$1,351,650?

The School Board Recommends this appropriation.

Antonia Barry spoke on behalf of the article. This adds an important buffer to the current fund.

There were no comments or questions.

**ARTICLE 7:** To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.

There was no business.

Moderator Csatari reminded everyone of the voting date and locations. There being no other business, Antonia Barry made a motion to and Kelly McConnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:45.

## Results of Australian Balloting on March 5, 2024

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

Moderator: Thomas Csatari 491  
Write-in: 2

Clerk: Robert L. Grabill: 484  
Write-in: 2

Treasurer: Daniel Stannard: 472  
Write-in: 2

Hanover School Board. 3 yrs. Deborah H. Bacon Nelson. 479  
Kelly Fender McConnell 475  
Marceia Diblasi 426  
Anastasia Rodzianko 116  
Write-in 6

### Article 2 (Bridgman Fund)

Yes: 484 No: 19 Blank: 45

### Article 3 (Officer Salaries)

Yes: 511 No: 24 Blank: 13

### Article 4 (Collective Bargaining – HEA)

Yes: 499 No: 40 Blank: 9

### Article 5 (School District Budget)

Yes: 495 No: 43 Blank: 10

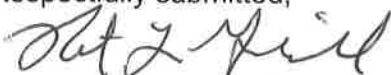
### Article 6 (Maintenance Fund)

Yes: 508 No: 31 Blank: 9

Total Ballots Cast: 548

I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate report of the proceedings of the meeting of February 29, 2024, and results of voting held March 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert Grabill  
Hanover District Clerk