Norwich | Dresden School Districts

2025-26 VOTER INFORMATION

TOWN DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Monday, March 3, 2024 7:00 P.M. Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Norwich School District

MARION CROSS SCHOOL

Marion Cross School is a nurturing pre-K through 6th 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

Michael Costa Lisa Christie Neil Odell, *Vice Chair* Garrett Palm, *Chair* Lily Trajman

Want more in depth information?

Visit the SAU70 website Budgets page for the most up to date information and FY2025 Budget Books with Exhibits. All Districts are listed, just look up the District you'd like to review.



Warrant for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Norwich School District

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

The moderator is voted upon annually and presides over the combined town and school district meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2025.

This year there is one seat coming up for election in March for a 3-year term.

ARTICLE 3: 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 4: 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 5: Shall the voters of the Norwich School District approve the school board to expend \$ 8,274,079, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

The Norwich School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$18,097 which is 3.81% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year."

[Note: The per pupil education spending number has been updated from the original ratification with new LTWADM information as of Jan. 27, 2025 and this includes the Dresden base assessment amount]

The gross expenditure amount of the Marion Cross School's direct budget including wage and benefit changes bargained with the Norwich Teacher's Association and the Norwich Education Association Support Staff is \$8,274,079, this is an increase of \$327,244 or 4.12%. Norwich's assessment portion of the Dresden base budget is \$8,443,690, an increase of \$191,986 or 2.33%. Adding together both of these base budget amounts is a total of \$16,717,769 a total increase for the education of Norwich students of \$519,230 or 3.21%. Applying offsetting projected revenues, brings this increase down to \$323,174 or 2.24%.

Using the VT State AOE's definition of net "Education Spending per pupil" (that is, net education spending, after the application of appropriate income, divided by the number of long term weighted average daily membership "LTW ADM") we will be increasing by 3.81%. As of January 27, our LTW ADM had dropped from prior year by 1.51% from 828.89 to 816.35.

Dresden has three other articles that could impact the Norwich assessment including: Article 3 a collective bargaining agreement with the Support Staff [Norwich assessment portion \$69,917], Article #4 a collective bargaining agreement with the Service Staff [Norwich assessment portion \$29,886] and Article #6 an addition of Middle School Sports and Co-Curricular Coordination [Norwich assessment portion \$61,487]. If all of these articles pass, these changes would increase the year over year Dresden assessment by an additional \$161,290 or 1.95%.

Assuming all Dresden articles pass and adding the total assessment to the Norwich elementary budget, total expenditures would be \$16,879,059 or 4.20%. Total education spending after offsetting revenues is \$14,935,099 or 3.35%. Applying the updated LTW ADM to the adjusted equalized spending, our per pupil figure is \$861 higher than last year or a 4.94% increase.

Projecting the Norwich tax rate is always speculative as one of the most important data points – the Base Yield – is not ratified by the State Legislature until well into May, sometimes June. As of today, we are using a yield amount of \$8,553 issued in the VT Education Tax Rate Letter from the VT Tax Commissioner dated Dec. 2, 2024 and can be viewed here: https://go.boarddocs.com/nh/sau7o/Board.nsf/files/DB-M7PE1A916B/\$file/2024%20VT%20Education%20 Tax%20Rate%20Letter.pdf

Based on current projected revenues, current yield, our LTWADM of 816.35, a Common Level Appraisal [CLA] of 85.42% that includes state adjustments and finally a state adjusted Yr. 2 discount of \$0.21, our projected tax rate will be \$2.2583. This would be a (\$0.0685)or (2.94%) decrease from prior year, keeping in mind the current rate increased in 2024-25 by 16.57%.

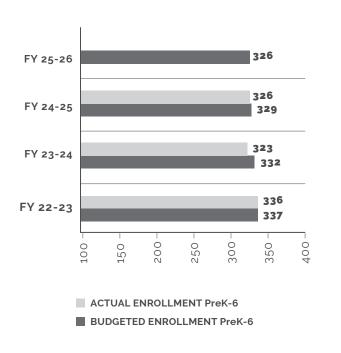
The Teachers Union and Board came to a one-year agreement totaling 2.93% of new money at a projected total increased cost with steps of \$92,892 plus additional money for professional development. The Support Staff Union and Board also came to a one-year agreement totaling 8.55% of new money at a projected total increased cost with steps of \$32,741. Non-union wage increases were budgeted at 2.0% for administration and 2.5% for non-union support. Medical insurance has experienced another large increase for the current "mandated" driver for the 25-26 school year of II.9% over last year's rates. The increase has been partially offset by an increase of 1% in the support staff co-pay rate

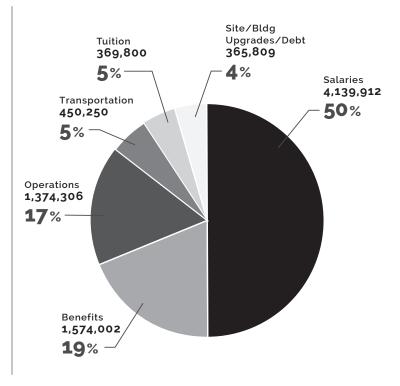
and election changes; the net effect is an increase of \$27,49I. Other wage associated benefit increases total \$56,556. The Supervisory Union's assessment will be increasing by \$66,520 due to many changes within the SAU Budget. This year we will bring on our construction lease payment boiler/heating system updates in the amount of \$140,466.39. We have accomplished 4 great projects over the past 2 years including an updated septic system, inclusive new playground, updated heating system, updated kitchen and recycling shed. We will be awaiting the results of an expanded CIP report before moving forward on any other large building improvements. We have adjusted the Building & Site Improvements down by \$83,380 but will still be working on smaller updates including painting, door replacements and some roofing/envelope insulating.

The most up to date details for the 2025-26 proposed budget can be reviewed in the Norwich Budget Book with Exhibits on the SAU 70 District website at www.sau70.org on the Business & Finance Department tab in the Budgets section.

BY MAJOR FUNCTION	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	\$CHG	%CHG
Regular Education	\$3,369,165	\$3,627,442	\$3,620,746	(\$6,696)	-0.2%
Technology	142,923	226,329	263,552	37,223	16.4%
Special Education	1,320,491	1,258,905	1,407,320	148,415	11.8%
Guidance	124,374	133,622	112,529	(21,093)	-15.8%
Health Services	101,845	111,657	115,543	3,886	3.5%
Staff Development	89,036	84,894	84,758	(136)	-0.2%
Media (Library)	106,662	120,257	124,603	4,346	3.6%
School Board	32,446	52,194	50,076	(2,118)	-4.1%
SAU Assessment	317,575	396,406	462,926	66,520	16.8%
School Administration	555,113	605,764	631,452	25,688	4.2%
Op & Maintenance of Plant	556,904	562,799	584,516	21,717	3.9%
Transportation	399,936	450,540	450,250	(290)	-0.1%
Site & Bldg Improvements	117,000	187,380	104,000	(83,380)	-44.5%
Debt Service	-	115,646	256,809	141,163	122.1%
Interfund Transfers Out	13,000	13,000	5,000	(8,000)	-61.5%
TOTALS	\$7,246,470	\$7,946,835	\$8,274,079	\$327,244	4.12%

Norwich FY26 Budget





FY24	FY25	FY26	% CHG
22	22	21	-4.5%
6.8	6.8	7.0	2.9%
4.0	5.4	5.4	0.0%
21.3	20.8	21.5	3.6%
	6.8	6.8 6.8 4.0 5.4	6.8 6.8 7.0 4.0 5.4 5.4



By Kristina Hluchyj, MCS 6th grader.

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.

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

Dresden School District

DRESDEN SCHOOL BOARD

Antonia Barry Lisa Christie Michael Costa Marcela DiBlasi Kimberly Hartmann, *Chair* Benjamin Keeney Kelly McConnell Deborah Bacon Nelson Neil Odell, *Vice Chair* Garrett Palm Lily Trajman Tara Velozo

Warrant for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Dresden School District

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.

The positions noted above are voted on annually. The auditor positions are no longer required as the State of NH requires formal audits to be conducted annually.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Dresden School 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 \$2,723; School District Clerk \$500; and School District Moderator \$300 in accordance with Article V-A of the NH/VT Interstate School Compact, and further raise and appropriate the amount of Fifteen Thousand, Eight Hundred, Twenty-Three Dollars (\$15,823) to fund these salaries?

The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

All salary amounts are status quo other than the Treasurer, whose amount is adjusted each year by 2%. This article's effect on the tax rate is negligible.

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

	Estimated Increase
Year	over status quo budget
2025-2026	\$228,889
2026-2027	\$121,142
2027-2028	\$119,724

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred, Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$228,889), such sum representing the estimated increase in support staff salaries and benefits for the 2025-26 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement (majority vote required)?

The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

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

The details of the 3-year agreement can be reviewed on Board Docs in the January 28, 2025 Dresden School Board Meeting under Item 9.B. The agreement includes the following language clarifications: grievance steps, insurance co-pay upon separation, leave time calculations and in-service days. Changes on wage scale placement include recognition of all years of experience and relevant college attainment, limitation on placement at step 4 has been removed. Equalization of compensation over 22 pay periods has been restored. Longevity payment intervals have been expanded now beginning at the completion of year 5 and a 4th tier added at the completion of year 20; the two middle tiers received increases of 20 and 33%. Mentoring parameters have been better defined and mentors will receive a \$250 per semester stipend when completing the duties. Compensation changes on the base wage rates include 10% for 2025-26, 4.5% for 2026-27, and 4.5% for 2027-28. The effect of this article on the projected tax rates is as follows: Hanover \$0.06 (per 1,000) and Norwich \$0.0118 (per 100).

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Dresden School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hanover-Dresden Service Staff AFSCME, Local #1348 and the Dresden School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

	Estimated Increase
Year	over status quo budget
2025-2026	\$97,838

and further, shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$97,838), such sum representing the estimated increase in service staff salaries and benefits for the 2025-2026 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement (majority vote required)?

The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

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 5.

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

The details of the I-year agreement can be reviewed on Board Docs in the January 28, 2025 Dresden School Board Meeting under Item 9.B. The agreement includes the following language clarifications: timing of step and wage increases to July 1st, appropriate time for wearing shorts on the job, promoting from within and transfers, and posting job position openings in-house 5 days prior to posting externally. The longevity incentive payments have all been increased by an average of \$200, there are 6 levels. The differential pay for 2nd shift workers has been increased by \$0.30 from \$0.70 to \$1.00. The cost of living adjustment on the base hourly wage scale is 4%. The effects of this article on the tax rates is as follows: Hanover \$0.03 (per 1,000) and Norwich \$0.0050 (per 100).

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Dresden School District raise and appropriate the amount of <u>Thirty-One Million</u>, <u>Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand</u>, <u>Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$31,239,668)</u>, 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 2025-26 fiscal year? This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

The exhibits report the three categories of expenditures in the proposed Dresden budget. The three budget categories are Hanover High School, Richmond Middle School and District Wide [administrative, support and debt services]. The Dresden District's base budget expenditures are planned to increase 0.58%. When combined with all of the other warrant articles discussed here, the increase is projected to be 2.34%. The result on the projected tax rates are as follows: Hanover\$0.08 (per 1,000) and Norwich \$0.0319 (per 100). The Dresden budget was ratified at the Dresden School Board Budget Hearing on January 7, 2025. The most up to date details for the 2025-26 proposed budget can be reviewed in the Dresden Budget Book with Exhibits on the SAU70 District website at www.sau70.org on the Business & Finance Department page under the Budgets section.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Dresden School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred One Thousand, Two Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$201,291) for the purpose of funding a middle school athletics program at Frances C. Richmond Middle School for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; said sum representing an appropriation for the creation of a middle school athletics program, plus the hiring of a Middle School Director of Athletics and Co-Curricular Activity Coordination (I position). Funding for subsequent years may be added to the regular Operating Budget. This is a special warrant article per NH RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V.

The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.

The Dresden Board tasked a new committee with: "developing a proposal for a middle school sports/co-curricular program that will be managed (at least in part) by the Dresden School District and make recommendations for a board decision by January 2025." The Dresden Middle School Sports Committee, consisting of representatives from the Dresden School Board, Richmond Middle School, Hanover High School, SAU 70, Hanover Parks and Recreation, and Norwich Recreation Department, made a recommendation to the Board for a pilot program that will include hiring an Athletic/Co-Curricular Director and funding related operations and transportation costs. This single position will direct and coordinate Richmond Middle School athletics and other existing after school activities. This change is consistent with other middle schools in the Upper Valley, promotes school spirit, and coordinates coaching, scheduling, and transportation. The transition will begin with select 7th-8th grade Hanover Recreation sports programs for winter and spring sports in the 2025-26 school year, followed by fall sports in the 2026-27 school year. Assuming the program changes are successful, the ongoing costs will be added to the operating budget for subsequent years. Additional information can be found in Board Docs under the Dresden Middle School Sports Committee tab. This Article was ratified at the Dresden School Board Budget Hearing on January 7th, 2025. The effect of this article on the projected tax rates are as follows: Hanover \$0.06 (per 1,000) and Norwich \$0.0103 (per 100).

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Dresden School District vote to designate the Trustees of Trust Funds for the Town of Hanover as the trustees to hold the McCarthy-Bean Award Fund in accordance with NH RSA 31:31.

The Dresden School Board recommends this article.

The details of the McCarthy-Bean Award Fund can be reviewed on Board Docs in the December 17, 2024 Dresden School Board Meeting under Item 5.B.

RSA 31:31 Trust Funds for Districts. – "Except where otherwise specifically provided in the charter of a city or by special act of the legislature whenever a gift, legacy or devise shall be made in trust to a school district, village district or any subdivision of a town and accepted by it, the same shall be held in custody and administered by the trustees of trust funds of such town or in case of districts embracing 2 or more towns by the trustees of trust funds of that town which the voters of said district may elect."

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



By Bella Jenney, RMS 8th grader.

ENROLLMENT & STAFFING		IMOND DDLE		
	FY26	%CHG	FY26	%CHG
Budgeted			_	
Enrollments	366	-1.35%	694	2.51%
Teachers FTEs	47.15	0.86%	78.30	0.26%
Other Staff FTEs	27.6	3.45%	49.92	-1.38%
Total Staff FTEs	74.77	1.80%	128.22	-0.39%

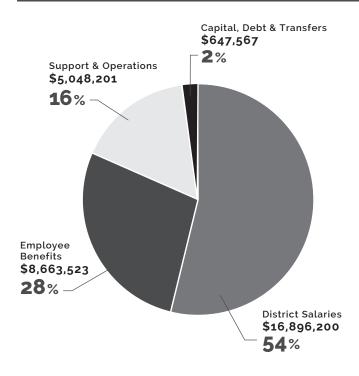
EXPENSES	RICHMO	ND MIDDLE	HANO	VER HIGH
	FY26 BGT	INCR (DECR)	FY26 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Regular Instruction	\$5,305,474	\$401,895	\$8,620,868	\$275,470
Technology	330,259	5,282	543,890	19,126
Special Education	1,916,722	91,756	2,290,910	200,795
Vocational Education	n/a	n/a	135,000	_
Co-Curricular/Athletics	37,380	(4,411)	1,150,648	18,513
Student Support Services	506,464	43,958	1,542,122	94,194
Staff Support Services	329,158	10,979	588,159	(7,039)
School Administration	799,475	39,314	1,837,420	(38,063)
Operation & Maint of Plant	698,723	20,184	1,205,232	(33,300)
Transportation	56,400	(7,500)	282,961	70,845
Site & Bldg Improvements	71,000	(97,400)	127,100	(25,200)
Interfund Transfer Out	21,600	_	82,000	24,400
TOTALS	\$10,072,655	\$504,057	\$18,406,310	\$599,741
Percent of Change		5.27%		3.37%

THE HANOVER FINANCE COMMITTEE (HTC)

The Hanover Finance Committee voted unanimously to support the proposed FY26 Dresden School District Budget of \$31,239,668 (Article 5), the collective bargaining agreement with the support staff (Article 3, at a cost of \$228,889) and the agreement with the service staff (Article 4, at a cost of \$97,838). The Committee took no position on Article 6 regarding the inclusion of Middle School Sports and Co-curricular management.

The Committee's full letter of support can be found in the District's Annual Report on the district's website at www. sau70.org.

Dresden FY26 Budget



	DISTR	ICT WIDE	
EXPENSES	FY26 BGT	INCR (DECR)	
Coord of Volunteers	\$12,092	\$0	
Comp Tech	5,000	-	
School Board Services	60,507	(8,045	
Supt Services	1,624,722	318,957	
Bldg Maintenance	712,515	31,228	
Debt Service	345,867	(1,264,529	
TOTALS	\$2,760,703	(\$922,389	
Percent of Change		-25.04%	
TOTALS RECAP			
District Wide	\$2,760,703	(\$922,389	
Richmond Middle	\$10,072,655	\$504,057	
Hanover High	\$18,406,310	\$599,741	
TOTALS	\$31,239,668	\$181,409	
Percent of Change		0.58%	
Article 2: Board/Officers Sal	\$15,823	\$15,823	
Article 3: Hanover Support	\$228,889	\$228,889	
Article 4: Hanover Service	\$97,838	\$97,838	
Article 6: MS Sports/Co-Curr	\$201,291	\$201,291	
ALL DISTRICT TOTALS	\$31,783,509	\$725,250	
Percent of Change		2.34%	

SAU 70 FY26 Budget Information

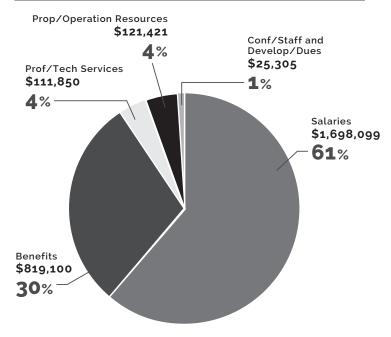
Taken together, the Hanover, Norwich and Dresden School Districts receive services from School Administrative Unit #70, an umbrella organization formed under New Hampshire state law.

SAU 70 provides services in the following departmental areas: superintendent's service, special education case management, technology support, accounting services, grants management including writing and oversight, human resource services, transportation and food service coordination. The Supervisory Union's expenditure budget is increasing by \$280,081 or 11.22%. Offsetting fund balance carryover is no longer available as we have filled all of our positions and some of the current expenditures are trending higher than expected due to market rates and health insurance elections. Next year's health insurance rate increase is projected at 10% and we will be finishing our Capital Improvement Plan Project. With all of the changes in projected revenues of (\$136,617) and the additional expenditures of \$280,081, the assessment is increasing by \$425,593 or 18.6%.

The assessments are shared by all 3 districts via a predetermined formula including student and staff counts and are already included in the Hanover, Norwich and Dresden budgets as built. The SAU 70 Budget was ratified by the SAU Board on November 19, 2024. Details of the SAU budget can be found at: https://www.sau70.org/school-booards. The SAU budget is not voted on separately by the district voters.

DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	2024-25	2025-26	B-B Inc/Dec
Dresden School District	\$1,303,140	\$1,621,722	\$318,582
Hanover School District	587,580	620,798	33,218
Norwich School District	396,406	470,199	73,793
SUBTOTAL	\$2,287,126	\$2,712,719	\$425,593

SAU 70 FY26 Budget



SAU 70 FTEs	FY	FY25		Diff
Superintendent's Office	Budget	Actual		
Certified	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
Other	1.00	2.65	2.65	0.00
Business/Finance Office				
Certified	1.65	1.84	2.00	0.16
Other	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.00
Technology Dept	5.00	4.00	4.00	0.00
Student Services Dept				
Certified	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.0
Other	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.0
Human Resources Dept	3.00	2.35	2.35	0.0
TOTAL FTEs	17.65	17.84	19.00	1.16



By Maeve Puleo, RMS 8th grader.



NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PD. PERMIT #48 HANOVER, NH 03755

*****ECRWSSEDDM****

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Tuesday, March 4th 7am—7pm Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT **Residential Customer**

Meet Your School Districts

JOIN US!

Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 5:00 and 7:00 P.M., Hanover High School Auditorium for the Discussion Phase of the Hanover and Dresden School Districts Annual Meetings. 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!

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Richmond Middle School Gymnasium in Hanover, NH (for Hanover voters) and in Tracy Hall in Norwich, VT (for Norwich voters).

Absentee ballots will be available ahead of the in-person voting date.

The Hanover and Dresden School District Budget proposals support the strategic plan of SAU 70 with the following overarching goals:

ACADEMIC GOAL

To provide curriculum, instruction, and assessments that are rigorous, engaging, and equitable for all learners across the SAU70 School Districts.

STUDENT SUPPORT GOAL

To provide instruction, co- and extra-curricular programs, professional development and other forms of support, that include social emotional learning, mental and physical health and wellness, and community-building.

FACILITIES GOAL

To provide facilities, grounds, and environment that are sustainable, fiscally responsible, and that enhance our curricular and extracurricular goals for each student to achieve success.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL

To ensure that the leadership, governance, financial, and administrative functions of the organization support the attainment of the academic, student support, and facility goals established in this Plan.