Dresden Budget Committee/Hanover Finance Committee  
*Minutes*  
November 25, 2019  
*Location:* SAU Office  
Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Hanover Finance Committee Attendees:** Kari Asmus, Carey Callaghan, Bill Fischel, Bill Geraghty, Mary Hakken-Phillips, Kimberly Hartmann (as School Board Representative), and Jeff Ives.

**Dresden School District Budget Committee and Staff Attendees:** Kimberly Hartmann (as Chair of Dresden Budget Committee), Richard Johnson, Jr., Tom Candon, Dan Rockmore, Jay Badams, Anissa Morrison, Tim Boyle, Justin Campbell, Jamie Teague, Janice Starkey.

1) C. Callahan, HFC Vice Chair for Educational Matters, and K. Hartmann, DSD Budget Committee Chair, simultaneously called the special meeting to order.

2) There was no reordering of the Agenda upon review.

3) There were no comments from the Public.

4) The attendees reviewed the pagination of the meeting materials. The document marked Exhibit 1 Enrollment Projections was renamed Exhibit A.

5) K. Hartmann presented the goals for this meeting, which were to review the previously recommended budget cap, to understand the proposed tax rate impact for Hanover & Norwich residents, to review the highlights of the second drafts of budget proposals, and to determine whether there is a need for another DSD Budget Committee meeting to prepare for the Board budget presentation.

6) **Budget Process Recap** - The HFC was advised the proposed budget presented is the second version (known as “V1 adjusted”) prepared by the DSD after initial proposed increases were reduced.

7) J. Teague presented an overview of enrollment projections for Richmond Middle School (RMS) and Hanover High School (HHS) actual vs. projections in Exhibits A, B (for RMS and HHS), and B.2. Attendees noted enrollment for RMS students for FY2020-2021 is projected to increase by 18, while enrollment for HHS students is projected to decrease by 15. Attendees reviewed RMS Class Size/Sections possibilities in Exhibits B and B.2, and HHS Class Sizes/Sections in Exhibit B, while noting all were within the Class Size Guidelines. Attendees discussed HHS foreign language sections with multiple small population classes, and RMS staffing options.

8) J. Teague presented the Draft Tax Rate Analysis and Hanover/Dresden Allocation Overview in Exhibits I & J. The DSD Proposed Budget for FY20-21 at
$21,286,937.00, an increase of 494,877 or 2.38% from FY19-20. After current year revenues and fund balances are applied, the net assessment for Dresden is projected at an increase of 2.38% as shown in Exhibit I. Attendees reviewed the original budget cap for FY 20-21 of 2.35% for Dresden and proposed allocations in Exhibit J. Attendees were advised the Hanover numbers may be revised again because of the possible incoming adequacy Aid (SWEPT), increases in projected revenue, and Hanover building aid.

9) K. Hartmann invited DSD Administration and Staff to present the proposed budget highlights and signification changes for RMS, HHS, and Districtwide as shown in Exhibits C, D, G, and H. J. Teague noted DSD Districtwide Budget has been affected by significant legal fees and J. Badams noted the top priority request to restore the Assistant Superintendent, which would support the Central Office with curriculum coordination. Attendees discussed existing administrative burdens with staff. RMS Budget highlights included acknowledgements that: a) the 6th grade needs would supersede other RMS needs this year; and b) scheduling difficulties for the sections of 7th and 8th grade equalizations. HHS Budget overview included an acknowledgement that this was a fairly lean budget given smaller enrollment size. HHS highlights included: a) an administrative restructuring to include a new 2d Associate Vice Principal; b) important technology changes and upgrades; and c) athletic budget needs, including implementing a uniform replacement cycle. Attendees discussed the analysis of “cost per student” at RMS vs. HHS.

K. Hartmann asked if the HFC had any questions or concerns for the DSD Budget Committee or DSD Staff. C. Callaghan discussed the context of the upcoming budget year, including the Town’s Proposed Budget increase of 3% rate increase plus other increases due to the replenishing of the Undesignated Fund Balance, tax abatements, and other unknowns; and the combined environment of the CPI, Median Family Income Rates. The Norwich Chair, T. Candon, added that the Town of Norwich was entering budget season with an 8% increase guideline. Attendees noted this year is not one for any extra budget increases given the anticipated burden on taxpayers. No further questions or concerns were discussed.

10) K. Hartmann asked if the DSD Budget Committee whether there was consensus to meet on December 9, 2019 to prepare for the Board Budget Presentations? After discussion the DSD Budget Committee members agreed to meet on Dec. 9th and invited the HFC to join if they were available. HFC will tentatively participate if a 3rd draft proposed budget should be developed and presented at that time. J. Teague expects to have updated budget documents ready for distribution the week after Thanksgiving.

11) The HFC and DSD Budget Committee special meeting was simultaneously adjourned at 6:54pm.