

Hanover Finance Committee (HFC)

Summary Minutes of January 24, 2008 Meeting - Final

Attending:

Members:

Podolec, Gerling, Christie, Carpenter, Hochreiter, Blinkhorn and Garrity

Guests:

Wayne Gerson, John Aubin

1. The Hanover Finance Committee (HFC) met on Thursday, January 24, 2008 to discuss the proposed Hanover school district budget for 2008-09 along with the proposed new three-year **proposed contract** agreement for the Hanover teachers and support staff.
2. The focus of the committee's discussion was a set of summary budget tables presented by Mr. Aubin along with summary talking points or key highlights regarding the tentative teachers' and support staff agreements. The budget tables showed a proposed 2008-09 **District** budget of \$10,616,982, estimated to be \$764,149 or 7.76% higher than in 2007-08. When estimated revenues are subtracted from projected expenditures, the net assessment for 2008-09 is estimated at 8.08%.
3. The ensuing **discussion focused on so-called mandated expenditures** such as the cost of special education, the transfers to reserve funds, impact on the tax rate. With respect to the **budget alone** (separate from the teachers' and support staff tentative agreements) Mr. Gerling proposed a motion that it be approved; Mr. Garrity seconded the motion. The motion was supported by a vote of 6 to 1. In his objection, Mr. Podolec explained that the proposed budget increase perpetuated a troubling long-term financial sustainability problem for the school district and that greater effort needed to be taken to contain costs.

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4. **With respect to the proposed three-year contract for teachers, Mr. Garrity offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Gerling, that it be approved. Mr. Podolec, in explaining his opposition, stated that the contract was excessively expensive and largely accounts for the continued growing per pupil costs in Hanover, which are much greater than the state of New Hampshire average. Mr. Hochreiter also expressed disappointment about the contract negotiations, noting that teachers behaved more like members of a labor union rather than professionals doing a public service. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 to 1.**

5. **With reference to the proposed three-year contract for support staff, Mr. Hochreiter offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Blinkhorn, that it be approved. In the discussion, Mr. Podolec expressed concern about the health insurance features of the tentative agreement, which he felt are excessive. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 7 to 0.**