APPROVED Minutes

Dresden Finance Committee **Monday, February 11, 2013**
Tracy Hall **Norwich, VT**

Members present: James Dwinell (Chair), Daryl Press, Kevin Cotter, John Ruth, Kristi Fenner, Cheryl Lindberg, Nate Stearns, Mary Fowler, Heidi Postupack

Community members present: Lynn McDonald, Suzanne Sylvester, Adina Desaulniers, Kurt Feuer, Don Buck, David Callaway, John LaCross

Members absent: Michael Gerling, Joshua Durst, Peter Christie

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

Agenda Items Discussed

1. Review/amendment of Agenda:

   The Chair asked for comments on the agenda and there were none.

2. Public Comments on items not on the agenda:

   The Chair asked for public comments. Adina Desaulniers asked that the DFC refrain from submitting an opinion to the local listserv immediately before the vote. Members of the DFC commented that the committee will provide a formal opinion in the form of a letter to the editor of the *Valley News* a week before the vote, adding that members of the committee are free to share their own personal opinions on the listservs in the area, but will not speak for the DFC when doing so.

3. Minutes of previous DFC meeting:

   Discussion of minutes from Jan. 14, 2013. Motion by K. Fenner and second by H. Postupack to approved minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Hanover High School class size and curriculum offerings – Principal Justin Campbell:

   Justin Campbell was not able to attend, and there is no time to reschedule before the March 5 vote unless the committee can hold a special session.

5. Draft of letter to the editor on DFC opinion on budget and teacher contract:

   Committee members discussed the draft letter and made several modifications including adding the date of the DFC vote on Dresden budget, proposed teachers' contract, and support staff contracts. D. Press took notes and edited the draft as decisions were made. Members decided to include a statement indicating that the full DFC opinion is available on the SAU website, that a sentence be included about the new contract resulting in a reduction of the "Dresden premium," and reduction in overall compensation. Members who voted in the majority think the contract makes progress

addressing cost containment for “total compensation,” as indicated in guidance proposed by the DFC for the last two years. Members who voted in the minority discussed changes to include use of the phrase “minority opinion.”

Community member A. Desaulniers asked if the full statement was on the website yet, and stated that when the term “comparable” is used in the statement, it is misleading because there are no schools in NH or VT in our cohort. K. Fenner clarified that when using that term we are referring to school districts with which we compete for teachers.

K. Feuer asked if the decline in enrollment is definite or projected. J. Dwinell said that the forecast conducted for the school administration projected a decline in enrollment. Discussion ensued about including a claim that the Dresden district ranked among the top 50 in the nation, with members of the public and the committee speaking against making such a claim.

J. Dwinell asked D. Press to distribute final draft of the letter to the editor, and for committee members to scrutinize the final draft before submission to the *Valley News*.

Motion by C. Lindberg with second by N. Stearns to support the final draft of the letter to the editor as modified during the DFC meeting on Feb 11, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Nominations elections of officers for 2013-14, chairperson, vice chair, and secretary:

   J. Dwinell informed the committee that he is moving out of the area in a few months. Election of officers was moved to the April agenda.

7. Agenda items for March 11 meeting:

   Next DFC meeting to be held in the Hanover Town Office Boardroom on March 11, 2013.

8. Adjournment -

   Motion to adjourn by C. Lindberg with second by N. Stearns. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Postupack

3/9/13