

DRAFT Minutes

**Dresden Finance Committee
Black Community Center**

**Friday January 24, 2014
Hanover, NH**

Members present: Kristi Fenner (Chair), Heidi Postupack, Jona Roberts, Cheryl Lindberg, Mike Gerling, Jay Buckey, John Ruth, Daryl Press

Members absent: Mary Fowler (there are 5 vacancies on the Norwich Committee)

Community members present: Gordon Spaeth, Kevin Cotter (representing the Dresden school board)

Chair K. Fenner called the meeting to order at 5:05PM

Agenda Items Addressed

1. Review/admendments of agenda

The Chair asked for comments on the agenda. There were none.

2. Public comments on items not on the agenda

There were none

3. Approval of minutes of the December

Postponed until next meeting

4. Article 5 Budget Discussion

The Finance Committee's guideline was to keep the expenditures increase at no more than 3.5%. The proposed budget is 2.74% an increase in expenditures. M. Gerling made a motion to support the budget as presented as it falls within our guidelines. Seconded by H. Postupack. There was a discussion regarding the fact the playing field cost of approximately \$225,000 and what the impact would be on the budget. The plan is to take this out of the Fund Balance that will impact the tax rate although not included in the budget. It will be presented to the public as a separate warrant article for approval. The plan is to have a 5-year note so the annual cost will be approximately \$40,000 per year. There was a discussion regarding the technology budget line item and the fact that there has been a reclassification of items from the media budget to the technology budget that makes budget-to-budget comparisons difficult. There was a discussion regarding the practice of budget-to-budget rather than actual-to-budget budget development and the inclusion of "one-time" items that appear to continue from year to year. Motion passed: 7 yeas 1 nay

Article 2 Field improvements of \$225,000

Motion made by J. Roberts to support warrant article 2. Seconded by J. Ruth. There was a discussion that it was felt that it is important to support the safety of the students in terms of the shelter. There was a discussion that this should be included in the budget and not presented as a separate warrant article. Motion passed: 7 yeas 1 nay

Article (7?) to authorize indefinitely, until rescinded, the retention of year-end undesignated general funds not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5% of the current year's net assessment.

It was felt that this was a good method to reserve funds and may help in moving the school administration more to an actual-to-budget budgeting process. It also allows for the creation of reserves for unplanned items that may allow for a better budget process. Motion to support the article by C. Lindberg seconded by H Postupack. Motion passed: 8 yea 0 nay

Article 1, 3, 4, 6 M. M. Gerling made a motion to support the remaining articles seconded by H. Postupack Motion passed: 8 yea 0 nay

Various members will provide comments and wording to K. Fenner by Sunday who will prepare the complete statement and circulate to members on Monday for approval

Next meeting dates

No meeting planned for February

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by J. Ruth, seconded by H. Postupack. Approved

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Gerling 1/24/2014