

## **APPROVED**

**Hanover Finance Committee**

**Monday, July 16, 2012**

**Town Hall**

**Hanover, NH**

Members present: Kristi Fenner (chairman), Kevin Cotter, John Ruth, Daryl Press, Heidi Postupack

Members absent: Peter Christie, Michael Gerling

Also present: No community members were present

The chairman called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

### **Agenda Items Discussed**

1. Review/amendment of the agenda  
The chairman asked for comments on the agenda. There were none.
2. Public comments on items not on the agenda  
There were no public comments.
3. Minutes of HFC meeting of June 12, 2012 – Discussion/action  
A motion was made by D. Press to table the minutes until the next meeting; second by J. Ruth.
4. Discussion of Budget Reports and information requests for SAU office – Discussion/action – J. Ruth and D. Press

At the request of K. Fenner, D. Press and J. Ruth collected information in preparation for school budget season. The HFC discussed creating 2 metrics (or more) that can be applied consistently going forward to help HFC give guidance to the school board and the town about the Hanover school budget. In the short-term, these metrics may also help the HFC give guidance on the teachers' contract negotiations. Suggested metrics:

(1) Hanover's spending per pupil, if possible excluding special education costs, relative to a group of top performing peer schools. We'd like to look at the last year's spending, 5 years ago, and 10 years ago;

(2) Ray School's average teacher salary, compared to the same top peer schools as above, looking at last year, 5 years ago, and 10 years ago. Total compensation would be better than salary, but that data might be too hard to find.

Two lists were assembled by D. Press and J. Ruth that reflect the leading NH public elementary schools on the basis of NECAP scores. 2 categories of schools were identified:

\* Primary list includes the 10 leading public elementary schools with 300+ students (Ray School is in this group, with approx. 500 students). It was suggested this group should be our primary comparison group. This list includes (not in order) Riddle Brook, Peter Woodbury, Memorial Schools, Strafford, Oyster River Moharimet, Symonds Elementary, Rye Elementary, Stratham, Bow Elementary, Ray School.

\* A second list, for comparison purposes, includes the leading small public elementary schools on the basis of NECAP scores. (Small schools may not be directly comparable to the large schools because, for example, in very small schools the test scores are highly sensitive to a single student moving in or out of the district.) This list includes Canterbury, Linwood, Lyme, Newfield's Elementary, Lafayette Regional, Exeter.

A suggestion was made to ask Kari Asmus whether this list of schools accords with her sense of the leading public elementary schools in NH. Are there other schools we should add to this list? Is there a good reason to not include one or more?

It was suggested that the following data for each of these schools be gathered for 3 years: 2001-02, 2006-7, and 2011-12:

- a) Grades served (e.g., k-4)
- b) Total enrollment
- c) Students per teacher
- d) NECAP scores for grades 3-4 combined and broken out by reading and math
- e) Spending per pupil for the elementary school
- f) Average teacher compensation -- if compensation is not available, then average teacher salary would be used -- compensation /salary data for elementary teachers is preferable, otherwise district-wide data would be used
- g) cost of living adjustor in the district in question

The committee discussed and decided to collect the aforementioned data and share with John Aubin for comparison to Hanover data. The HFC will request that John provide analysis such as cost/pupil once he has "Quick Model" in October. The HFC would like to give guidelines to the Hanover school board in August. HFC members are eager to learn the 2012-13 enrollment figures as soon as they're available.

5. Other items arising after the posting of the agenda – Discussion/action

K. Fenner distributed the following handouts: Hanover School Board Agenda Topic Template: 2012-13; Hanover Budget Highlights 2012-13; Ray School operating budget to actual for years 2008 through 2013; charts of average class size and teacher/student ratios from 2006 through 2012.

K. Cotter informed the committee that negotiations begin anew between teachers and school board on August 23

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by K. Cotter; second by D. Press. The HFC adjourned at 6:04 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13 at 5 p.m., Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Minutes were prepared by  
Heidi Postupack

Submitted 08/14/2012  
Michael Gerling  
Secretary