

## **Hanover Finance Committee**

**August 13, 2012**

Note as the Town Hall was locked upon arrival, the committee convened in an office provided by J Ruth at White Mountain Insurance.

Members present: K. Fenner (chair), M. Gerling, H. Postupack, J. Ruth

Members absent: D. Press, K. Cotter, P. Christie

Also present: Robin Carpenter representing the school board for K. Cotter

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:12PM.

### **Agenda Items Discussed**

1. Review/amendment of agenda

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

2. Public comments on items not on the agenda

There was no public in attendance or comments regarding the agenda.

3. Minutes of HFC meeting of June 12, 2012 and July 16, 2012

There were a number of comments and modifications to the June 12, 2012, minutes. There was a motion to pass the minutes of June 12, 2012, as amended by M. Gerling seconded by H. Postupack. Approved.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2012, by J Ruth and seconded by H Postupack. Approved

4. A spreadsheet of comparative data was passed out which J Ruth had pulled from the State Education website. There was a discussion regarding comparison data as published by NH Department of Education on the website. It is the most current data, not sure if it is 2011, J Ruth will check. There are a number of discrepancies in the data that we need to continue to review. The point is to show what data is available and show some points of comparisons. There is other information available such as key component terms of teachers' contracts and NECAP scores. It was noted that Hanover teachers tend to be more "educated" regarding degrees compared to state averages and although the step and tracks are "similar" in the contracts, we tend to have higher step and track teachers. The Chair thanked John for pulling this information.

There was a discussion regarding the desire to pull data for a period of time – J Ruth noted that he did not see historical data. It was requested that for the next meeting that J Ruth pull out only the schools of interest on our list of schools. It was suggested that we try and contact the individual schools to make sure that we have good data and comparable data and get a better understanding regarding the numbers. It was also noted that we should try to get with John Aubin and get an understanding of the Hanover numbers. We should to do this through our Board Rep (K Cotter).

5. Budget Guidelines

The Budget Committee meeting is today during the HFC meeting. Robin indicated that he does not expect that the Hanover Board will adopt guidelines this month. There is no indication of what the quick model will look like at this time. Current indication is that we should expect to see a 12% increase in health care. School Board members are going to a state conference to attempt to get some more guidance regarding state items. Enrollments look like they will be down for all schools town-wide. It was recommended that we ask the school board to look at average cost per student and keep an eye on it and to watch the average class size. It was noted that if we continue to see declining student populations we should not only be aware of class size but also counts of other administrative staff (i.e., such as assistant principal). It was sense of the committee that we are not ready to give the Board any true guidance yet and that we should wait and see what comes out of the Budget Committee. As a starting point, the committee passed the following motion made by M. Gerling seconded by J Ruth and asked the that the Chair communicate it to the School Board:

Given the decline in student population we recognize that the cost per pupil for the 2012-13 year will be higher than usual. The Finance Committee's expectation is that the cost per pupil numbers for the 2013-14 year will come back more in line with historical levels.

Before the next meeting the Chair will attempt to have minutes from the Hanover Budget Committee as well as a draft of the Quick Model. J Ruth will summarize the statewide data and select only the schools on our competitive list and reduce the information to a single page.

6. The Chair pointed out two particular questions from the recent school survey. Results of survey – 38% said yes, that they listen to the finance committee endorsements; 38% said it depends on the issue; 22% said they do not pay attention to endorsements. There was a discussion that it was heartening to learn that the work of the Finance Committee was useful to a number of residents. Does the school board do a sufficient job of communicating warrant articles to the public? 45% said somewhat but the issues are complex. There was a discussion that we need to continue to work to find better ways of communicating. It was requested that communication should be a topic of a future meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting will be at 5pm to be held September 10, 2012 in Hanover

8. Adjournment

There was a motion by M. Gerling to adjourn, second by J Ruth . The HFC adjourned at 7:14PM.

Submitted 7/17/2012

Michael Gerling, Secretary