

HANOVER FINANCE COMMITTEE

Statement on the Proposed Hanover School District Warrants for FY17

The Hanover Finance Committee (HFC) is an appointed Town committee composed of Hanover residents¹ charged with reviewing financial matters of the Town, and offering guidance on those matters to the Hanover School Board (HSB), Town officials, and residents. As part of its deliberations on the proposed Hanover School District budget for FY17 (2016-17), members of the HFC reviewed projected revenue and expenditure data, attended all public meetings of the HSB, attended HSB Budget Committee meetings as appropriate, and discussed the details of the budget with HSB members and school administrators.

At the start of the FY17 budget development process, the Hanover Finance Committee supported the guideline established by the Hanover School Board to adopt a budget that provides for an increase in Pre-K through 5 operating expenditures between 0.5% to 1.5% for FY17.

During a public meeting on January 11, 2016, the Hanover Finance Committee voted unanimously to support the proposed Hanover School District budget of \$13,393,498 for FY17 (Warrant Article 12). The proposed budget reflects a *decrease* in Pre-K through Grade 5 operating expenses of 0.85%, and a *decrease* in total district expenditures of 1.26%. Three factors contributed significantly to this budget-to-budget decrease: (1) a drop in enrollment at the Ray School from 486 to 466; (2) a *decrease* in special education tuition expenses of 5.25%; and (3) a *decrease* in 6th grade regular education tuition expenses of 3.85%.

During a public meeting on January 11, 2016, the HFC voted unanimously to support the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the Hanover School Board and the Hanover Education Association for FY17 through FY20 (Warrant Article 9). The proposed contract represents the culmination of months of thoughtful deliberations among negotiation participants, consideration of all factors of total compensation, and a mutually beneficial outcome for certified teaching staff and the Hanover School District.

— *Hanover Finance Committee*

¹ The members of the Hanover Finance Committee are Heidi Postupack (Chair), Daryl Press, John Ruth, Kari Asmus, Bill Geraghty (Board of Selectmen representative), and Dan Rockmore (Hanover School Board representative).