

**The State of New Hampshire
Town of Hinsdale
School District Warrant**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Hinsdale qualified to vote in School District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Hinsdale Millstream Community Center on Tuesday the 12th day of March 2024, at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following subjects:

ELECTION WARRANT:

Ballot: To cast your ballot for all necessary school district officers.
2056 Registered voters; 304 votes cast; 14.79% turnout

School Board for three years. Vote for two:

Marc Sprague 259 votes **Declared Elected**

Write In Candidate(s):

Wayne Dingman	58 votes	Declared Elected
James McDonnel	26 votes	
Holly Kennedy	2 votes	
James O'Malley	2 votes	
Marilyn Strom	2 votes	
Robin Toussaint	2 votes	
Heather Barrett	1 vote	
Eva Bodman	1 vote	
Ann Diorio	1 vote	
Jay Ebbighausen	1 vote	
Jessica Green	1 vote	
Karen Johnson	1 vote	
Heather Jutras	1 vote	
Deborah Rowe	1 vote	
Derek Savory	1 vote	
Dan Seymour	1 vote	
Wayne Temmen	1 vote	

School District Moderator for one year. Vote for one:

Write In Candidate(s):

Edwin O. Smith	11 votes	Declared Elected
Richard Johnson	7 votes	
Mike Darcy	4 votes	
Wayne Dingman, Jr.	3 votes	

Jay Bean	1 vote
George Benedict	1 vote
Mike Clark	1 vote
Jared Delano	1 vote
Steve Diorio	1 vote
Matt Edson	1 vote
Rachel Gantt	1 vote
Ken Howe	1 vote
Sean Leary	1 vote
James McDonnell	1 vote
Mike McGrath	1 vote

School District Clerk for one year. Vote for one:

Write In Candidate(s):

Melissa Lowe	8 votes	Declared Elected
Ann Diorio	2 votes	
Maria Webb	2 votes	
Serena Benedict	1 vote	
Mike Clark	1 vote	
Jared Delano	1 vote	
Wayne Dingman, Jr.	1 vote	
Theresa Diorio	1 vote	
Karen Johnson	1 vote	
Kathy Johnson	1 vote	
Holly Kennedy	1 vote	
Sean Leary	1 vote	
Mike McCosker	1 vote	
Kelly Savory	1 vote	
Melinda Zavorotny	1 vote	

The following part of the School District Meeting shall be adjourned until Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, or after the Town Meeting is adjourned, whichever comes first.

The Town Checklist was available for use throughout the meeting. Present in addition to the School District Moderator, Edwin O. Smith, and School District Clerk, Maria A. Webb, was the Supervisor of the Checklist, Kelly Savory, the Deputy Town Clerk, Kim Mitchell, and the Ballot Clerks, Mary Winslow and Nancy Clem.

Also present were School Board Members: April Anderson, Holly Kennedy, Jeana Woodbury, Kendra Gardner, and Kaylah Hemlow.

Administrators present were David Ryan, Interim Superintendent, Jane Fortson, Business Administrator, and Matthew Upton, School District Attorney.

Moderator Edwin O. Smith opened the meeting at 11:05 AM. Moderator Smith thanked everyone for coming out to take part in the meeting.

William Nebelski led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Smith stated the rules of the meeting.

Moderator Smith introduced the School Board and Administrators present.

April Anderson recognized outgoing Board Members, Holly Kennedy, for 15 years of service to the district, and Jeana Woodbury, for 15 years of service to the district. A. Anderson then recognized the following retirees: Kori Leary, who was not present, for 15 years of service, most recently at the Hinsdale Elementary School as a Special Education Case Manager, and Martha Noyes, for 15 years of service, most recently as a Grade Six Teacher at the Hinsdale Middle High School. Martha Noyes spoke and thanked the Board for the gifts. The Board also recognized HES Principal, Joe Boggio, who recently announced his retirement at the end of this school year, after 33 years of service.

Moderator Smith then presented information about the Geoffrey L. Holt Fund and shared the application procedures. He encouraged everyone to take a flyer. Applications will be accepted starting April 1, 2024. He expects \$115,000 to be distributed this year in May.

ARTICLE ONE: OPERATING BUDGET

Moderator Smith then read Article One:

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the School Board's recommended amount of \$15,833,696 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The School Board recommends this appropriation by a vote of 3-1. The budget committee recommends this appropriation by a 7-1 vote. (Majority vote required).

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article One as printed.

Discussion followed. Statements from the public were received and questions were answered.

Richard Johnson, Selectboard member and representative to the Budget Committee, stated that he and the Budget Committee support the school district budget.

A question was asked regarding grants. A. Anderson explained the ESSER grants' impact on the budget. J. Fortson noted that we raise and appropriate the amount of the grants, but the amount is entirely offset by the revenues from the grants.

Discussed the amount to be raised by taxes.

Katie Savory spoke about the adequacy grant. Encouraged taxpayers to speak to state representatives about getting more money to the schools.

A question was asked about the school voucher system. D. Ryan noted that we have three students receiving vouchers.

Ken Howe discussed the average cost per pupil. Roxann Leclaire stated that there are fixed costs, such as utilities, that factor into the cost per pupil.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any other questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article One passes.

ARTICLE TWO: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT SUPPORT STAFF

Moderator Smith then read Article Two:

Shall the District vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (2024-2027) reached between the Hinsdale School Board and the Hinsdale Support Staff Association (HSSA), which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year 24-25: \$1 10,439 (8.02%)

Fiscal Year 25-26: \$ 51,838 (4.02%)

Fiscal Year 26-27: \$ 51,699 (3.85%)

And further, to raise and appropriate the operating budget adopted in Article 1 for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025 by \$110,439, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The costs for the two years of the agreement beyond the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year will be included in the operating budget proposal each of those years. School Board recommends this appropriation (Vote: 5-0) Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (Vote: 7-2) (Majority Vote Required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Two as printed.

Discussion followed. Statements from the public were received and questions were answered.

Kelly Kruse stated that she is a Para with 20 years of service and lives in Hinsdale. Noted challenges with taxes, pay, staffing shortages and student behaviors. Emphasized that she wants to do this work anyway because she likes to work with kids. Asked the voters to support the contract.

Mike Bomba on the Budget Committee shared reasons he voted no. He would like to see the salary increases spread out more evenly over the three-year contract.

Peter Ohmart shared concern that Paras are not paid enough, and it is the children who will lose.

Roxann Leclaire asked about the amount of raises for the Town employees. Kathryn Lynch gave information about the increases to the Town employees based on the salary study. Said last year employees received 6% plus up to 3% merit. This year, they will receive 2.5% and up to 2% merit.

Kathryn Lynch stated that she is in complete favor of the contract and feels Para are not paid enough. She noted that Paras and Custodians are not paid when school is closed.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any other questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Two passes.

ARTICLE THREE: SPECIAL MEETING

Moderator Smith then read Article Three:

Shall the Hinsdale school district, if warrant article 02 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address warrant article 02 cost items only? The School Board recommends this article 5-0. (Majority Vote required)

A Motion was made and seconded to pass over Article Three.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Three was passed over.

ARTICLE FOUR: REPLACE LAWN MOWER

Moderator Smith then read Article Four:

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 for the purpose of replacing the lawn mower for the district grounds and fields. The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 10 -0. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Four as printed.

Discussion followed. Statements from the public were received and questions were answered.

James McDonnell asked whether the Town and school could share a mower. It was noted that this would not work due to the needs of the school and the timing of athletic events.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any other questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Four passes.

ARTICLE FIVE: TRANSFER TO EXPEND. TRUST FUND FROM FUND BALANCE

Moderator Smith then read Article Five:

To see if the Hinsdale School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum up to \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand dollars) to be added to the School Building Maintenance expendable trust fund previously established. This sum to come from June 30, 2024, fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The budget committee recommends this appropriation by a 10-0 vote. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Five as printed.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Five passes.

ARTICLE SIX: TRANSFER TO EXPEND. TRUST FUND FROM FUND BALANCE

Moderator Smith then read Article Six:

To see if the Hinsdale School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum up to \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand dollars) to be added to the Special Education expendable trust fund previously established. This sum to come from June 30, 2024, fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The budget committee recommends this appropriation by a 10-0 vote. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Six as printed.

Discussion followed. Statements from the public were received and questions were answered.

One person asked if funds would be available from the Geoffrey L. Holt Fund. The answer to this was no.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any other questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Six passes.

ARTICLE SEVEN: SCHOOL FURNITURE PURCHASE

Moderator Smith then read Article Seven:

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 for the purpose of replacing student furniture in the classrooms. The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a vote of 10-0. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Seven as printed.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Seven passes.

ARTICLE EIGHT: FUND BALANCE RETENTION

Moderator Smith then read Article Eight:

To see if the school district will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Eight as printed.

Discussion followed. Statements from the public were received and questions were answered.

Ken Howe asked what the balance will be applied to.

Richard Johnson stated that this is to bring the school into alignment with what the Town is doing. Shared the process the school would follow to request to use the funds. Said the legislature has passed a bill that allows schools to do this and that schools still have to request to use the funds.

James McDonnell asked why the school needs to do this when the Town is doing it. Attorney Upton stated that the Town and the school are two distinct legal entities.

Some asked whether the funds would be just for emergency use. Attorney Upton answered that it would be for emergency use. The School Board would choose if the funds were needed and then hold a public hearing. It was noted that the Town would not have a vote at that time.

James McDonnell stated that if the funds were not encumbered, they would go back to the Town.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any other questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared inconclusive.

Moderator Smith then received a request for a paper ballot vote. Attorney Matthew Upton stated that Moderator Smith could call for a paper ballot. The ballot was opened for one hour.

Members of the Budget Committee counted the ballots. Upon tabulation of the ballots, the results were announced:

The vote on Article Eight as presented was in the affirmative. 163 votes cast; 86 YES and 77 NO.

ARTICLE NINE: TO FUND A BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION POSITION

Moderator Smith then read Article Nine:

To see if the school will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$89,129 for the purpose of hiring a Behavior Interventionist position at the Hinsdale Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. The Behavior Interventionist works collaboratively with the student's educational team and parents to develop and implement intervention strategies that allow the student to integrate behaviorally into the school setting successfully. The School Board Recommends this appropriation 4-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation (1-9) (Majority vote required)

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Nine as printed.

Moderator Smith stated that he received a request for a paper ballot vote.

Discussion followed. Statements from the public were received and questions were answered.

HES Principal, Joe Boggio, shared a handout and presented information regarding the need for the position. Stated that the position helps children stay in school, and when they are in school, they are learning. He stated evidence that this will positively impact teacher satisfaction, and school climate and culture, and will decrease the need for out-of-district placements. When asked, J. Boggio noted this position will work with grades K-5.

Jodie Holmquist stated that she feels it should be in the operating budget and not a warrant article. Asked if the salary would be increased if a higher-level candidate is hired. Attorney Upton stated that it could move to the operating budget in future budget cycles, and that the school is restricted to the salary in the warrant article.

Kim Mitchell asked if the school holds parents accountable for their children's behavior.

Wayne Dingman, Jr. asked if the wording should be changed so that the salary could be increased in the future if needed. Attorney Upton said it could increase in future budget cycles, so would not need to change the wording for this budget.

Karyn Hammond asked if we hired for a lower amount than in the article. Attorney Upton stated that money would be returned to the Town in that case. K. Hammond stated that she has

seen a salary much lower in other districts. She asked the Budget Committee why they did not all approve of the article. Dennis Nadeau shared that the Budget Committee wanted it in the operating budget instead of a warrant article.

Karyn Hammond also shared reasons she feels the position is needed. Stated that the behavioral challenges are not due to the parents, as most parents do deal with the issues. Thanked J. Boggio and the others in the school for their support of the children and parents.

A. Anderson shared that the reason for putting the position in a warrant article was to be transparent with the voters, since it was previously funded by a grant.

Ken Howe stated that the position was removed from the operating budget because it had been funded by a grant. The School Board wanted to put the position in a warrant article in order to give the voters a choice.

J. Fortson shared information on the budget process. Because it was stated in prior years that the position would end when the grant ended, the School Board wanted to give the voters a choice by putting it in a warrant article.

Steve Dyer asked if the position will be full time. The answer was yes.

Ashley Fitts asked about Tier II interventions. J. Boggio described how Tier II is used to provide support in order to avoid Tier III, which can be special education services, including out-of-district placements.

Paul Barnard noted it should not be full-time but scheduled on an as-needed basis.

Richard Johnson spoke of the positive relationship with the Budget Committee and the School Board. Stated his belief that the Town can't afford its own school district and that is the root of the problem. Stated that the Budget Committee didn't want this as a warrant article.

Dennis Nadeau stated that the school typically returns money back to the Town and so should be able to find the funds for the position.

Kathryn Lynch asked if the school could still find funds for the position if the warrant article is voted down. Attorney Upton stated that "no means no." Law prohibits the school from funding the position if the article is not passed.

J. Boggio noted that he could decrease the salary, but the position will be in one of the collective bargaining agreements, and that will dictate the salary.

Roxann Leclair noted that the cost for Kindle Farm is \$50k - \$60k annually.

Ashley Fitts asked for numbers of out-of-district placements. Patty Wallace requested permission to answer, and shared there are approximately up to 18 placements but could not be more specific due to confidentiality. A. Fitts asked if the position would allow students to

come back from out-of-district placements. J. Boggio shared the measures taken to only use a placement when necessary. P. Wallace noted that the goal is to always look at the least restrictive environment both in and out of the district.

J. Fortson shared how the salary amount for the warrant article was calculated.

Dennis Nadeau asked if the school and Town could meet halfway.

Kelly Kruse stated that HMHS is also losing a behavior interventionist and asked if the position could be used for both schools. D. Ryan noted that the position is just for HES.

A motion was made and seconded by the Budget Committee members to change the amount in the warrant article to \$1.00, thereby not eliminating the position but leaving it up to the School Board to find another way to fund the position.

Attorney Upton stated that “no means no.” Per RSA 32:10, if the article is defeated, it can’t be funded through the budget, but if it is zeroed out, the school can look for another way to fund it.

Katie Leonard spoke and expressed concern with funds being taken from the budget in light of the other decreases. Asked voters to vote no on the amended article.

Wayne Dingman, Jr. asked how much money the school returned to the Town last year. It was \$756,696. J. Fortson shared where the money came from that was returned, including from vacant positions that we were not able to fill. Noted that we had some unexpected revenues, so the funds returned were not all from the expenditure side.

Moderator Smith then asked for a motion on the amendment.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. The amendment to Article Nine passes.

Moderator Smith then opened the paper ballot vote.

Members of the Budget Committee counted the ballots. Upon tabulation of the ballots, the results were announced:

The vote on Article Nine as amended, to change \$89,129.00 to \$1.00, therefore not eliminating the position, but still leaving it to the School Board to fund the funds, was in the affirmative. 149 votes cast; 131 YES and 18 NO.

ARTICLE TEN: OTHER BUSINESS

Moderator Smith then read Article Ten:

To transact any other business as may lawfully come before the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Ten as printed.

Ken Howe asked if there was any discussion about tuitioning students from Winchester. D. Ryan shared the work of the Tuition Exploratory Committee over the past couple of years. Stated that it is our goal to become a choice option for other schools in order to bring our per pupil cost down.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any other questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Ten passes.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: REPORTS

Moderator Smith then read Article Eleven:

Reports Shall the Hinsdale School District receive the reports of its agents, auditors, committees and officers?

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article Eleven as printed.

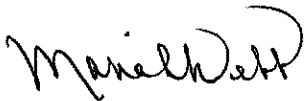
Moderator Smith asked if there were any questions. The motion was made and seconded to call the question.

By voice vote, it was declared in the affirmative. Article Eleven passes.

A motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 PM.

For the record, at this March 16, 2024, meeting, the Hinsdale School District voted to raise and appropriate a total of (\$15,833,696.00) fifteen million, eight hundred thirty-three thousand and six hundred and ninety-six dollars.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria A. Webb
School District Clerk