

Hinsdale School Board Public Budget Forum
HMHS Gymnasium
March 6, 2024
6:30 PM

Board Members Present: April Anderson, Kendra Gardner, Kaylah Hemlow, Holly Kennedy, and Jeana Woodbury

Administration Present: John Barth, HMHS Principal; Joe Boggio, HES Principal; Jane Fortson, Business Administrator; David Ryan, Interim Superintendent; Justin Therieau, Director of Technology; Karen Thompson, Director of Personalized Learning; and Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services

Minutes Recorded by: Maria Webb, Executive Assistant

Call to Order:

A. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A. Anderson welcomed the community to the forum.

Public Budget Forum:

The School Board conducted a forum to review the proposed 2024-2025 School District Budget.

J. Fortson provided an overview of the proposed budget and shared a PowerPoint presentation to explain key points, including:

- Proposed operating budget
- Staffing decreases
- Total budget including grants
- Total warrant
- Estimated revenues
- Amount to be raised by taxes

Answered questions on the warrant articles for the Behavior Interventionist position, furniture and the lawn mower. J. Boggio shared the rationale for requesting the Behavior Interventionist position. Noted that using the grant to assess the need for the position was beneficial. Community members requested more information on the rationale for the annual meeting.

Community members also asked about the proposed staffing decreases in the counseling department, student-teacher ratios, and staffing in the facilities department.

Community members asked about the warrant articles that were not unanimous. J. Fortson noted that one member of the budget committee wanted additional decreases. K. Gardner shared that she decided to vote no on the budget because she also felt there should be additional decreases.

Discussed the increase in the cost of health benefits and the amount that the school returned to the town last year.

A. Anderson confirmed that the Superintendent position will remain part-time.

D. Ryan was asked about the possibility of tuitioning Winchester students. He shared that the Board is open to having conversations with Winchester, as well as other districts.

Community members expressed concern with low math test scores and the proposal to cut a Math teacher. One teacher expressed concern with teachers being asked to teach outside of their certification.

D. Ryan stressed that the district aims to offer a quality education at an affordable cost. Gave an example of exploring an AP rural network to offer more AP courses and how this can be done online at a cost savings.

Throughout the presentation, questions were asked and answered.

The forum concluded at 8:05 pm.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

I attest that this is a true copy of the minutes:

Maria A. Webb

approved on _____