

**Hinsdale School Board Work Session  
Hinsdale Town Hall Auditorium  
February 4, 2025  
6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** April Anderson, Wayne Dingman, Jr., Kendra Gardner, Kaylah Hemlow, and Marc Sprague

**Administration Present:** Nathan Boudreau, Facilities Director; Dr. Molly Bremner, HES Principal (online); Jane Fortson, Business Administrator; Anna Roth, HMHS Principal; Dr. David Ryan, Superintendent; Justin Therieau, Director of Technology; Karen Thompson, Director of Academics and Career Readiness; and Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Dennis Nadeau, Ken Howe, Sean Leary, Mike Bomba, Alex Duso, William Nebelski, and Dan Seymour

**Minutes Recorded for the School Board by:** Maria Webb, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order:**

The Budget Committee opened the public hearing for the proposed School District budget at 6:00 PM.

Select Board Chair, Steve Diorio, reviewed the meeting guidelines.

**Town of Hinsdale Public Budget Forum:**

Budget Committee Chair, Dennis Nadeau, reviewed the School District's summary page and the 2025 Warrant Articles.

**Article 01 Operating Budget:**

The total proposed school district operating budget is \$16,178,585. The total increase to the budget is \$255,950, which represents a 1.7% increase over last year.

After discussion, the following motions were made by the Budget Committee:

**K. Howe MOVED to approve the school district's proposed 2025-2026 operating budget. M. Bomba SECONDED. VOTE: 8-1-0, MOTION PASSED.**

*S. Leary noted that two (2) Budget Committee members had cast absentee votes.*

**Article 02 – Collective Bargaining Agreement Hinsdale Federation of Teachers (HFT):**

Members of the Budget Committee and citizens expressed that the proposed teacher salaries were excessively high. Reference was made to low test scores and the burden on the town's taxpayers. Several made comments to the effect that the school budget is not sustainable.

J. Fortson shared factors that were considered in the salary proposals. Noted that our average teacher salary is below the state average, and seventh overall for our local region. Discussed the increasing costs of insurance.

Board members expressed that we need to retain good teachers in order to provide a good education for our students. A. Anderson shared ways we are trying to increase revenue for the school district, including negotiating with Winchester to become their anchor school for high school.

Dr. David Ryan shared examples of initiatives to improve both test scores and the quality of education in our district. Noted that there are more students taking AP courses and participating in ELOs.

Dr. David Ryan shared the vision of the Strategic Plan to help us move forward. Noted that the teachers are volunteering their time to work on committees because they want to help our kids. K. Gardner stated examples of teachers purchasing items for their students with their own money.

Dr. David Ryan asked the Budget Committee to give serious consideration to the proposed budget.

Members of the Budget Committee thanked the School Board and Administration for their work decreasing expenses in this budget.

After discussion, the following motions were made by the Budget Committee:

**B. Nebelski MOVED to approve the school district's proposed 2025-2026 operating budget.**  
**A. Duso SECONDED. VOTE: 9-0-0, MOTION PASSED.**

*As noted above, two (2) Budget Committee members had cast absentee votes.*

The Budget Committee concluded the School District portion of the public hearing at 6:53 PM.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria A. Webb

approved on \_\_\_\_\_