

**Hinsdale School Board
Public Budget Forum
February 17, 2026
Robin Beauregard Gymnasium at HMHS
5:30 PM**

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

Administration Present: Nathan Boudreau, Facilities Director; Dr. Molly Bremner, HES Principal; 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; Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services

Minutes Recorded by: Maria Webb, Executive Assistant

Call to Order:

A. Anderson opened the Public Forum at 5:31 pm.

Proposed 2026-2027 Budget Overview:

Dr. Ryan opened with a presentation of this successful year:

- Portrait of a Learner
- A student who achieved 1,000 points in basketball
- Tuition agreement with Winchester
- Back-to-School Night
- Expanded AP course options
- Completion of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan with goals and priorities

Noted the focus on helping students be career-minded through the HES Career Center through the OSTCP grant, and the personal learning plans at HMHS.

J. Fortson then presented an overview of the proposed budget. Shared the proposed decrease of 2.59%. Noted proposed cost savings and increases.

Questions and Comments from the Community:

Jane Parker asked about the number of students attending next year from Winchester and how this will impact the budget. Dr. Ryan shared as of now there will be 29 freshmen and the reduction appears on the revenue side.

Lori Howe asked about the WSD cost per student, which is \$17,852. J. Fortson noted that Hinsdale's per pupil costs include grants, transportation, Special Education services, and WRCC, so ours does look higher than some others. WSD will be responsible for the cost of Special Education services for Winchester students.

Kelly Kruse asked about the change from the Chesire Career Center back to the Windham Regional Career Center. W. Dingman, Jr. and A. Anderson shared reasons for the decision.

Melissa Lowe asked about the impact of the decreases on class sizes at HES. Dr. Bremner shared the class size projections and the resulting number of classes.

Kelly Kruse asked about Paraprofessional negotiations, and J. Fortson shared they are expected to start this spring.

Lori Howe asked about the decreases to staffing. J. Fortson noted that the Budget Committee requested additional decreases to the budget overall, so the Board cut an additional \$32K. Dan Seymour noted that the Budget Committee did not request staffing decreases.

Lori Howe asked about the proposed Dean of Students position at HES. Dr. Bremner cited the increasing numbers of office referrals and behavioral incidents. Per state guidelines, a certified administrative position is needed to help address the numbers of incidents.

Jane Parker asked about grants for the position and Karyn Hammond asked about the certification needed.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Non-public:

There was no non-public business.

Adjournment:

The Public Forum concluded at 6:37 PM.

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

_____ approved on _____
Maria A. Webb