

Members present: Kristi Fenner (Chair), John Ruth, Heidi Postupack, Peter Christie, Kevin Cotter, Daryl Press

Absent: Michael Gerling

Also present: Katherine Bradley

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

Agenda Items Discussed

1. Review/amendment of agenda
The Chair asked for comments on the agenda. There were none.
2. Public comments on items not on the agenda
There were no public comments.
3. Membership Update
The moderator has approved the candidate Daryl Press as a new member of the HFC.
4. Minutes of HFC meeting of November 14, 2011
J. Ruth made a motion to approve the minutes as amended by P. Christie, second by P. Christie. The minutes passed.
5. Hanover Budget
 - Drop in enrollment at Ray School and the impact it has on the budget
 - Due to a drop in enrollment, the average class size at the Ray School is 17 students, while the guidance number is 20 students.
 - The current budget set forth by the principals reduces the teacher number by one, so that there are 24 teachers and an average class size of 18.1. This is still below the recommended number.
 - Proposed Budget Sheet
 - The Ray School Operating Expense of Pre-K to 5th grade has 1.45% change, which is in the corridor of the HFC's guidance of between 4-5%. The Chair asked if the HFC would like to change its guidance and give feedback at the next board meeting.
 - \$60,000 will be transferred into the Special Ed reserve fund
 - Necessary for times of significant need i.e. one out of district Special Ed student will deplete the funds.
 - \$25,000 will be transferred into the Building Maintenance Reserve fund.
 - K. Cotter reported that the teacher contract negotiations have reached an impasse. Therefore outside help has been called in for mediation.

6. Other items arising after the posting of the agenda

There was a motion by H. Postupack to support the 3.5% guideline adopted by the select board, second by K. Cotter. The motion passes.

7. Adjournment

J. Ruth entertained a motion to adjourn, second by K. Cotter. The HFC adjourned at 5:30PM.

Recorded

Katherine Bradley