

# DRESDEN ATHLETIC FIELDS SURVEY

## COMMENTS

March 22, 2005

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY COMMENTS

The 2005 Athletic Fields Survey offered participants a number of opportunities to express additional views, concerns, or points that they wanted the Dresden School Board to consider regarding the development of athletic fields for the school district. The specific questions to which comments were made were:

Question 5: “Other” reasons for voting yes or no

Question 6: “Other” for “most important element in a plan for the Dresden athletic fields”

Question 11: How should School Board help voters become more informed about issues?

Question 12: Other comments or suggestions

A total of 990 comments were offered, and included a very wide range of thoughtful, sometimes impassioned, often specific, and at times comprehensive, attitudes and suggestions. The Athletic Fields Committee (AFC) was faced with the task of organizing these comments into some type of format that would foster an appreciation for what the community felt still needed to be communicated beyond the already extensive survey instrument. In addition, the AFC needed a way to offer a succinct summary of thematic elements that needed to inform the process of moving forward and coming up with a Fields Proposal.

To tackle this, the AFC organized the Survey Sub-committee composed of three members who had a diversity of opinion about the previous Bond vote (Parsonnet, Chamberlin, Pridgen), who would work together to come up with a consensus of what categories would be used in the coding of comments, and then review each comment and together assign a category code. If there was disagreement of how a comment should be coded, the three sub-committee members would argue their points until there was agreement. Once the comments were coded, they were able to be counted and summarized statistically. These summaries are included in the statistical analysis offered in Dr. Sokol’s report. The format that follows in this document is the result of the committee’s sorting the comments into categories and then organizing them by thematic components.

As the reader will notice, several comments addressed a number of different issues. Such comments were coded with several categories, and as a result, will appear in several places in this document. For the sake of expediency, we included the whole comment, rather than trying to edit out the part that was not relevant to that particular category.

*All* comments that were submitted in response to the four questions, above, are included in this document; even those which seemed inscrutable to the committee members. Comments that were written elsewhere on the survey questionnaire (of which we understand there were a few) were not recorded. Regarding spelling errors, syntax, and other grammatical quirks, we chose not to edit any of the comments, except in three cases, when specific individuals were named in unkind comments, at which point we removed the name and substituted a pronoun.

In the few pages that follow, we offer an overview of the meanings behind the codes, and—for the eager reader—some examples of comments that best illustrate those codes.

~KCP

# QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS CATEGORIES & ILLUSTRATIVE COMMENTS

## THEME: FISCAL

### ***Cost/tax impact***

39. Although we would strongly support new fields we can not afford an increase in taxes.
49. Too much money being spent all at once in the town (new school, senior center, Howe library, etc.). Voters are inundated.
145. Taxes are becoming burdensome. Dresden does not have to have the premier sports facility.
154. Taxes in Hanover, driven by excessive school expenditures, have become prohibitive. Facilities for recreation and school athletics should be shared and creative, cost effective solutions found. Acquiring land is not one of them. Sell the Norwich land in 2009!!!
165. MUST control school costs and stop forcing long term and lower income residents from leaving town do to inability to pay ever increasing taxes.
201. Not all people have bottomless pocket books to keep supporting the tax increases that are being imposed by the Dresden School District. Trim it all back. Just scale it back. the towns can do it, Why can't the School Districts. Way too much money to spent.

### ***Norwich vs. Hanover Tax structure (#1A)***

247. There has to be an end to the ever increasing school tax for Norwich. It would be easier to consider spending if increases were the same in Hanover and Norwich.

### ***Excessive Facilities***

3. There is absolutely no need for students to have the equivalent in playing field to what a Mercedes is to automobiles. I've taught for over 30 years in higher education and know of what I speak!
127. State of the art facilities are not required to participate, play and win competitions!

### ***No new fields***

55. Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.
62. Voters are facing enormous tax increases in renovating building schools. Let's exercise creativity and fiscal conservation dealing with the field situation as it exists now.

### ***Dresden Breakup***

116. Think ahead 10-15 years. Dresden district you will be too big. Norwich and Hanover need to think of separate schools. These can better deal with local feelings, taxes, transportation, etc.

### ***Alternative funding methods***

270. I think we need to use our fellow citizens, both towns and Dartmouth College to donate time, energy and community resources to the completion of this integral part of our community. There is no reason that this project has to be as expensive as it is. Communities have been building fields for years, through involvement. Let's mobilize the dads with tractors, the money with bake sales, the kids with brick drives. We have blown our budget on improvement for our kids, and if we want more, we need to all pitch in and get involved. Let's keep this from costing the community anything more that sweet equity. We all will appreciate what we have if we are the ones who build it.
309. ... there is plenty of money in the Upper Valley to be tapped, and the Board needs to step up to the plate on this issue, and make that fundraising campaign happen....

## THEME: PHILOSOPHICAL

### ***Valuable role of intramurals and less competitive sports***

52. Sports are important especially inter murals. Varsity sports are elitist and concentrate resources for too few students, who are usually least in need of exercise. Get the couch-potatoes up and involved. Lifetime sports are more important: tennis, bowling, sailing, etc.

226. You won't see many people at Kendall playing soccer, football or lacrosse. However, you do see elderly people canoeing on the river, skiing on the golf course and hiking on the AT. Perhaps we should de-emphasizing the competitive ball sports and encourage kids to be active (in groups/clubs) hiking, boating, orienteering cross country skiing and biking. You don't need fields for those things.

274. I would like to see the field sports program explained in the context of all sports and other extra curricular activities. I think this area is overly focused on competitive and team sports to the exclusion of other activities for students. I don't want to pay for this obsession with competitive sports!

### ***Balance between athletics, arts and academics***

135. I think we spend too much money on sports at the cost of other school activities.

281. I think athletics are an important component of a well rounded individual. However I also believe that dance, music, studio art and theater are also important in an effort to develop a multi dimensional student. Let's not forget to fund these programs as well.

### ***Re-evaluate the Athletic Program***

119. I think it is really important to work on the current phys ed curriculum. Only those students who compete in extracurricular sports are getting the exercise their mind and body needs. Perhaps if phys ed was worked into every child's weekly schedule the school demand would be reduced and maybe might result in less of a demand for after school field space.

128. Please put JV reserve & 9<sup>th</sup> grade practice/game schedules to 3 or 4 days/week (not 5) and stay away from week-ends. You are destroying the sense of balance in our children's family time, music, theater and other interests and leaving them no "down time" all in the interest of winning. How can my child possibly find time to test out other interests in your all or nothing approach to sports schedules?

240. I would like to improve strength training programs-weights etc. Like to see support of swimming program.

## **LOCATION/COMMUNITY**

### ***Sharing facilities, coordinating with the community***

59. Any program should be integrated with the rec. programs; the Dresden athletic budget does not reflect the full athletic costs. Fields are expensive, they should get optimum use by the whole community.

111. The issue of fields appears to be one of territory, I believe that it should be one of community. This discussion should be addressed by the schools, town, college, the improvement society and program outside those entities like baseball and soccer.

228. Hanover should ask the landowners who want zoning changes to massively increase their residential density (and the value of their property) to compensate the community by setting aside land for playing fields. Hanover recreation dept. could use Thompson Terrace again. Dresden should just sell (or lease, etc.) the Norwich Route 5 land. Perhaps to the College in trade for fields nearer the high school. Or use the money to buy fields from other private sources. Perhaps the high school could use more at Sagem Village. A major problem with the past plans is that they commit us to decades of driving back and forth to Vermont-a waste of time for students and a traffic mess.

### ***Use Dartmouth facilities***

46. Dartmouth is such a major factor in the Norwich/Hanover community that I believe the College as well as the school and town governments should coordinate closely to make most efficient use of recreation resources and avoid duplication of expense. As a major taxpayer the College should share our interest in efficiency.

### ***Field Locations***

241. The Norwich fields are a nice conglomeration of fields, but space is not accessible to any real neighborhood. ... Field location require constant commute of students and family and coaching staff, the majority of which have to travel over bridge to the site and back again to Hanover.

### ***No Norwich/Sell Norwich***

50. It was a community mistake to purchase the Norwich land for athletic fields.

221. Swap land in Norwich with Sagem field land or similar or sell it.

229. The Norwich land is not the answer to our field problems. remember it was voted upon by one vote only. Anything over the Ledyard bridge will be too congested for all and too far for most of Hanover to reach i.e., Etna, Hanover Center, Blueberry Hill.

### ***Transportation/Traffic Concerns***

141. Having after school activities in Norwich will create further traffic and travel nightmares. Creating more stress and frustration to both communities members. Using Norwich on weekends and summer programs wouldn't be as bad.

## PROPOSING SOLUTIONS

### *Specific suggestions*

179. Fill in the "pit" or field hockey field- put in artificial turf + lights- fully develop the Norwich site with bus service.  
235. Approach every owner of undeveloped lot in Hanover with offer to buy out for field use.  
242. Facilities are a MUST wherever the field space.

## SUPPORTIVE COMMENTS

### *Positive value/role of competitive athletics*

66. We cannot in this age of computers (less exercise), obesity, and increased stress on students, afford to cut their major outlet of exercise and street reduction (because our community wants to save some tax dollar). At what cost? Sports how students how to cooperate with all levels of players as in life...a good reason not to cut reserve teams. All teams are important are important, especially to the student's self-esteem. The schedules teach time management to the student, keeps them off the streets after school, and most import gives them pride in their school sport's program.
98. I would emphasize participation in that team sports not track, not tennis, perhaps not baseball--helps overcome social stratification among Dresden students. In a true team sport an individual's performance is contingent upon cooperation for all other members of the squad. All coaches should recognize that this is a team ethos (or attitudinal) issue. It's not winning or losing or how you play the game but whether you are a better (social) human being because you have team sports to mold your development. The more participants- active participants-the better! And team sports use fields and gyms and rink time.
180. Team activities provide a great environment for learning life lessons + staying healthy. Good friendships are formed with peers & adults in sports

### *Unqualified support for fields*

244. I think that more fields particularly help the students who are not varsity athletes helping them get involved in sports. They are the ones who lose out with facilities.
288. Sports participation for all is very important, not just for varsity athletes. Even practice time for those who want to participate is being limited because of the lack of facilities. And the condition of those facilities- track, gym lighting, locker rooms, bleachers, parking for example is shameful. No other school in the area, including Lebanon, Hartford, Windsor etc. has such poor (and sometimes dangerous) conditions.
312. The Dresden district is very luck to own land on which to develop field (or even a school one day, in another century). We should therefore use the Norwich land. Indeed, it would be grossly irresponsible for the district to sell it when land is so scarce.

### *MISCELLANEOUS (we didn't know where else to put the comment)*

129. The myopic, foolish refusal to move the high school from its current site has created multiple problems. One bad decision begets others.
34. Good luck it's complicated.
156. I am a former 4 varsity letters for 4 sports for 4 years in both high school and college as well as past college 3 sports organized teams (regional) per year. I am also a former coach and physical education teacher. Frankly, I am appalled at the plans.

## QUESTION #5: I VOTED “NO” BECAUSE....(OTHER)

*(Note that comments may appear multiple times, under different categories and themes. This is because the comment addressed a number of issues. For the sake of expediency, we didn't edit out the portions of such comments that pertained to a different category)*

### FISCAL

#### *Cost/tax impact*

1. Taxes are too high already!!!
13. Ridiculously expensive.
17. Too much money for ledge and wetland.
25. If the taxes continue to go up my kids could not afford to play there anyway. vote yes-call the Realtor!
31. With the school building project so far over budget, it did not seem fiscally responsible to incur greater debt. For example if I couldn't afford to complete an addition to my house, I don't think it would be smart to begin construction on a swimming pool! The same values should hold true for our community.
33. TOO EXPENSIVE!
50. Taxes are already too high + services too little for non-school residents.
52. Too much \$ for return to each student.
55. Too many other/more important/urgent school costs at this time.
61. Just the impact on middle-income property owners.
67. There must be a commitment to control school costs- I don't see that on the part of the school board.
69. Much too expensive.
82. Place emphasis on keeping fit that do not entail use of taxpayers money. Restrict bus use and driving to school, etc.
87. On going transportation costs for bussing students to Norwich from HHS and back.
96. Extravagant use of tax payers money and more emphasis on scholarship and arts.
100. Too much money for athletics, too little for other activities (e.g. debate)

#### *Norwich Tax Burden*

3. We have had to move out of Norwich because of increases in property taxes. As have most of the middle income acquaintances. Cost of developing fields must be balanced against the need to keep people of all income levels in our communities.
34. We are not all affluent in Norwich.
47. Norwich was to bear an unjustly higher portion of the tax burden.
97. I hate the discrepancy in costs to Norwich compared to Hanover. I hate the Dresden District tax inequities for Norwich residents.
98. Based on the facts Dresden doesn't seem to be able to lessen the tax burden despite tremendous negative impact on community make up in Norwich. Athletic fields proposal is the straw that broke the camel's back. 30 Million for construction plus 5 million over run. Pay for the fields privately you have tapped us out.

#### *Excessive facilities /Extravagance of plan*

6. The locker room was not necessary. These kids never shower on site. They go home. It was a waste.
7. Sweaty kids go home to shower. No lockers needed. But I don't think the Norwich locations is ideal- the school and the fields does not make for the best program. I felt we should have moved the High School from downtown and build a high school and fields together.
27. Too many unneeded fields. Too many fields for individual sports.
35. Each sport does not require a separate field. The athletic director needs to do a little scheduling around conflicts with different teams. Stop scheduling several events on the same day and same time.
56. Gold plated/No septic 10 by 10 changing rooms? Poorly thought out. The only thing we did by buying that land was bail the coop out of a large financial bind.
75. Too many fields compared with other schools.
83. Light pollution, too far from most schools would be like a community country club should use fields in Hanover.

#### *12 – No new fields*

104. You won't need these fields in a few years due to student population drop and less being involved in sports.

## ***Alternative funding methods to taxation***

32. Funds ought to be raised privately. We need to think out of the box; consider building team practice in to students athletes schedules even if it means offering night courses-field use is concentrated after 3 P.M. & need not be.
53. I felt the artificial turf should be fundraised by the athletic community + that the fields cost could be cut down with volunteer help.
84. The school board would not consider affordable housing on the Norwich land as part of the plan.
98. Based of the facts Dresden doesn't seem to be able to lessen the tax burden dispite tremendous negative impact on community make up in Norwich. Athletic fields proposal is the straw that broke the camel's back. 30 Million for construction plus 5 million over run. Pay for the fields privately you have tapped us out.

## **PHILOSOPHIC AL**

### ***Valuable role of intramurals/less competitive sports***

86. Extra curricular opportunities need better balance. Lets spend some more money on non-field sports and /or arts, rec; rather than such a huge amount on field sports. Also: the campaign to promote this vote was dishonest. People (board) published facts about participation and costs that were slanted.
107. The plan is not useful to other Dresden students or those not interested in team sports offered.
2. There are many ways to promote fitness. and the emphasis on dedicated facilities seems misplaced to me.
4. Too much money for too few; I would encourage non-field sports, karate. various exercise classes, other types of teams.
5. This plan would only serve to enhance competitive activities leading to emphasis on winning.
15. I think if there was more emphasis intramural or rec. level inter-town play locally money currently spend on bus travel and other varsity expenses could go to pay for fields. Also I think these should be more intramural/rec. level sports available whether it saves money or not.
36. Too focused on varsity teams.
44. Extra funds should go for physical fitness for entire student body.
48. Supported competitive sports to detriment of life fitness activities appropriate to Upper Valley- hiking, kayaking, canoeing, X-C, rock climbing etc.
57. Different uses for Norwich land needs to be considered besides traditional team sports.
62. Over emphasis on competitive team sports. Need for alternatives for students not into sports. For example, dance, yoga, rock climbing, martial arts, etc.
63. We have enough sports already.
73. Better to have all students in mandatory & daily running & calisthenics than expensive & exclusionary team sports.
79. Inappropriate emphasis on star athletes.
80. Smacks of "professional athletes" not an inclusive sports program.
82. Place emphasis on keeping fit that do not entail use of taxpayers money. Restrict bus use and driving to school, etc.
89. Less emphasis please on interscholastic sports! If the goal was intramural I would support!

### ***Balance between athletics, arts and academics***

9. Where are similar funds and energy for crew, swimming, music, drama etc.??!
18. I would like to see any money spent on athletic programs matched with money for non-athletic extra curricular i.e. art, drama, theater, clubs, programs like chess and math. Maybe paid mentors for YIA. 59. Other programs not adequately funded (arts, drama...new auditorium is import as well)
68. I have heard of no plans as extensive or expensive for theater, the arts, music, individual sports.
72. More attention should be given to academics- this tends to suffer when excessive focus + resources are given to team sports.
74. Spend time in classroom.
96. Extravagant use of tax payers money and more emphasis on scholarship and arts. 100. Too much money for athletics, too little for other activities (e.g. debate)
103. I wanted to understand the full balance of extra-curricular activities (inc. arts, etc.) before decided how to spend money.

### ***Re-evaluate the Athletic Program***

21. When the high school starts offering a 4 year physical education program for all students, I will reconsider spending money on special programs.
32. Funds ought to be raised privately. We need to think out of the box; consider building team practice in to students athletes schedules even if it means offering night courses-field use is concentrated after 3 P.M. & need not be.
35. Each sport does not require a separate field. The athletic director needs to do a little scheduling around conflicts with different

teams. Stop scheduling several events on the same day and same time.

44. Extra funds should go for physical fitness for entire student body.

73. Better to have all students in mandatory & daily running & calisthenics than expensive & exclusionary team sports.

## LOCATION/COMMUNITY

### *Sharing facilities, coordinating with community*

16. It appeared to assume with or without adequate demonstration that other town, Dartmouth, private fields would not be available.

46. There is not enough sharing of facilities between the schools and the towns.

77. I think there could be more sharing of the same fields or is often the case at other schools.

### *One Central Location for Fields*

7. I don't think the Norwich locations is ideal- the school and the fields does not make for the best program. I felt we should have moved the High School from downtown and build a high school and fields together.

12. Fields really need to be at the school location.

19. The hidden locations of fields not in view of roads. Concern for safety of kids if alone waiting for rides, etc. That puts school district facilities at five locations. That is NUTS!!

22. I voted against the purchase of the Norwich land. As with the junior high and high school construction projects. Nobody factored in the common sense realities and expenses of maintaining far playing fields for transportation to and from the ridiculous time it will add to the day, dealing with weather, injuries etc.

24. Out of town.

29. Poor location.

38. The Norwich site requires transportation and eliminates community casual use of facilities. I continue to be appalled by padlocks on fields such as Thompson Terrace.

43. Moving track for parking space cutting down tree the separate school from residential neighbors. Re-doing soccer + football fields.

83. Light pollution, too far from most schools would be like a community country club should use fields in Hanover.

85. I felt it should be located on the school grounds.

90. Disappointed that building plan did not include renovating fields by high school. I do not like to be leveraged!

91. Too far for rural Hanover athletes.

92. Too far away

93. Fields planning needs better coordination with town plans for new housing, neighborhoods to allow biking and walking access for more kids from home and school. A centralized mega-complex means everyone drives this does not promote fitness and harms environment.

102. Fields should be in Hanover.

### *Use fields in Norwich*

42. I used the field in Norwich and liked it as open space not dedicated to narrow range of sports + age group- there are few public meadows around.

57. Different uses for Norwich land needs to be considered besides traditional team sports.

### *No fields in Norwich*

22. I voted against the purchase of the Norwich land. As with the junior high and high school construction projects. Nobody factored in the common sense realities and expenses of maintaining far playing fields for transportation to and from the ridiculous time it will add to the day, dealing with weather, injuries etc.

60. Oppose the use of the beautiful field behind the Norwich farmers market for development of fields, there by ruining its athletics forever and increasing traffic forever!

8. Wrong land and paid too much. The Co-op got a deal.

17. Too much money for ledge and wetland.

19. The hidden locations of fields not in view of roads. Concern for safety of kids if alone waiting for rides, etc. That puts school district facilities at five locations. That is NUTS!!

40. Fields in Hanover.

- 56. Gold plated/No septic 10 by 10 changing rooms? Poorly thought out. The only thing we did by buying that land was bail the coop out of a large financial bind.
- 65. Didn't want my kids to have to go to Norwich to practice + play games.
- 71. Ledge in Norwich land an unwelcome + expensive shock. Choose other. Sell Norwich land.
- 76. I do not want playing fields on the Rt. 5 Norwich land- for which I also voted NO.

### ***Transportation/Traffic concerns***

- 22. I voted against the purchase of the Norwich land. As with the junior high and high school construction projects. Nobody factored in the common sense realities and expenses of maintaining far playing fields for transportation to and from the ridiculous time it will add to the day, dealing with weather, injuries etc.
- 38. The Norwich site requires transportation an eliminates community casual use of facilities. I continue to be appalled by padlocks on fields such as Thompson Terrace.
- 60. Oppose the use of the beautiful field behind the Norwich farmers market for development of fields, there by ruining its athletics forever and increasing traffic forever!
- 82. Place emphasis on keeping fit that do not entail use of taxpayers money. Restrict bus use and driving to school, etc.
- 87. On going transportation costs for bussing students to Norwich from HHS and back.

## **PROPOSING SOLUTIONS/PROCESS**

### ***Specific suggestions***

- 93. Fields planning needs better coordination with town plans for new housing, neighborhoods to allow biking and walking access for more kids from home and school. A centralized mega-complex means everyone drives this does not promote fitness and harms environment.

## **BOARD & COMMUNICATION OR PROCESS**

### ***Process: improved communication between Board & Community, representative committee structure, long-range planning important.***

- 14. Build fields in phases. Make complete plans and then build.
- 28. In addition I felt that the information presented to the public was not entirely truthful, but had a spin on it that favored the field development.!
- 30. Poor communications to public on need, cost, locations, other financial resources.
- 39. I wasn't sure that enough site engineering work had been done to show that the land was suitable for building the fields and facilities.
- 41. I felt the plan was being rammed down our throats- 2 NO votes should have gotten the message across---> simplify.
- 45. Insufficient information.
- 49. The committee was unbalanced.
- 51. Didn't consult community or include in planning too top down- too much investment by certain actors.
- 58. More community input required.
- 64. The basic plan was flawed.
- 66. It seemed poorly thought out.
- 70. Too much like the first proposal.
- 78. The board ignored citizen impact and did not seriously examine the recommendations made by the fields committee.
- 84. The school board would not consider affordable housing on the Norwich land as part of the plan.
- 86. Extra curricular opportunities need better balance. Lets spend some more money on non-field sports and /or arts, rec; rather than such a huge amount on field sports. Also: the campaign to promote this vote was dishonest. People (board) published facts about participation and costs that were slanted.
- 88. I thought that the 2004 plan was not a substantial change from the 2003 plan (which had already been rejected by voters.) I also strongly objected to the school board's attempt to get supporters (rather than the community as a whole) to come out and vote. Note; I had voted for the 2003 plan and this was a difficult choice.!
- 94. I was annoyed that the school board ignored the initial negative vote with only a small decrease in cost in the second proposal. This questionnaire is a step in the right direction.
- 101. The plan did not explain what all the costs would be on an annual basis.
- 105. It was clean the committee didn't listen to the first vote.
- 106. Not carefully thought out, No design or layout of the fields what so ever.

10. Need for more creative ways to find new facilities in Hanover and Norwich including optimizing facilities on the HHS site including Norwich site.
11. The plan was not well thought out in terms of the big picture or sports friends who the earlier Hanover/Norwich communities.
23. It just didn't seem to be the best plan.

**Miscellaneous. (*When we were unsure of the point being made, or when the comment doesn't fit into any code we'd developed*)**

26. Valuing of sports program.
54. Big objection.
81. Tearing up the current field to rebuild on school site.
95. Moving the football field because the architect could not work out the parking is just absurd.
20. It did not (the purchase of the fields) receive an over whelming majority of support from the taxpayers.
37. Very poor judgment in not taking advantage of Dartmouth's original offer.

## Q. 6F 'OTHER' ANSWERS TO:

*"From your point of view, which of the following statements should be  
The most important element in a plan for the Dresden athletic fields?"*

### ECONOMICAL CONCERNS

#### *Cost/Tax Impact*

133. Find the lowest possible cost solution to providing fields without a lot of unnecessary facilities and construction. A shocking amount of money has already been spent on the totally inefficient decision making process!
7. Look at other program costs for ways to keep rate increase low.
13. I think that the renovation of the high school is going to run over budget-over time disrupting the academic program and that the whole package should be revisited. If that is not to happen then maybe look into grant money, donated labor, lower cost to provide the minimum necessary to maintain the program and make it (keep it) inclusive.
30. Work creatively with Dartmouth and keep the cost down.
33. Let's deal with the "here and now" in a fiscally responsible way.
36. Just what we need it to spend more money!! Do you think WE ALL HAVE MONEY TREES? Put the middle school in Norwich on Rt. 5; Sell the damn high school building and put the high school where the new middle school it. Get rid of one "school" facility location!
58. NO MORE SPENDING! Come up with a more "creative" way to use the fields that we already have. i.e. "re-think" how fields are scheduled.
68. The entire school budget is too high and this is one of the only places I can let you know that. Separate vote on school renovations, new school fields and budgets. Makes one mad when I read another 7% increase because we need two of now that are middle school is separate!
81. We cannot spend money we do not have. We must live with in our tax income- we can not keep raising taxes.
86. Change athletic program. There are some of us who have lived in Hanover 35 years, had a child in school sports and really care about the essentials but are living very fixed incomes- please be more realistic in your plans- 1. what do we have now 2. what we really need now 3. what to work for (ideal).
120. Cost effectiveness.
150. Cost is overriding action. We are a middle class family being squeezed out of one town where we've lived for many years. HELP
155. Don't raise our taxes anymore!
159. Maintain current programs and try to keep cost down.
73. Complete a plan that proposed that the tax burden be equally the same for both Hanover and Norwich home owners.

#### *(Tax impact on Norwich)*

148. Equal cost to individual home owners in both towns.
170. The formula used to determine Hanover and Norwich's respective share of capital spending should be charged so that the tax impact on Norwich + Hanover households is comparable. That may mean that Hanover voters have to shoulder a higher proportion of the cost, but the current situation for Norwich tax payers is insufficient- were are out voted by our Hanover counterparts, from whom the \$ impact of capital expenditure is FAR less.

#### *Excessive Facilities*

8. Provide a plan scaled to the size of your program-your plans greatly exceeded those of the 2000 student high schools I attended-schools with 60% (unique) students participants.
31. Sell Norwich land or just not develop it for athletic program with elaborate fields and facilities.
55. C team kids should be encouraged to do some other sport or activity where they can actually end up participating. Physical activity is important, the field requirements are out of line.
131. Recognizing that this community has an entitlement complex. "We deserve the best....hogwash!"
154. Have functional but not cadillac facilities. e.g. How about just fields and porta potties in Norwich. kids can change in a shed or at school facilities and shower when they get home.

## ***No new Fields***

- 12. No more fields, make do restrict growth to hold school stat.
- 72. Use current fields.
- 112. We've had enough of excessive spending on team sports at the expense of academic programs + fitness programs for those students who are not athletically gifted ( most students!) The new proposals are worthy of those Texas districts who attack supreme importance to athletic achievement about all else. So renovate the fields we have, if you must, eliminate Jr. Varsity + Reserve teams + improve availability of intramural activities which are available to all!
- 124. Utilize space we already have such as Huntley field to it's fullest capacity.
- 144. Tailor the sports program to fit the existing available facilities,

## ***Seek Alternate Funding***

- 57. Keep in mind need for break up of Dresden district in 10-15 years.
- 7. Look at other program costs for ways to keep rate increase low.
- 13. I think that the renovation of the high school is going to run over budget-over time disrupting the academic program and that the whole package should be revisited. If that is not to happen then maybe look into grant money, donated labor, lower cost to provide the minimum necessary to maintain the program and make it (keep it) inclusive.
- 37. Don't try to do everything at once. Set priorities and do Norwich project in phases over a period of years. That will make your initial investment reasonable.
- 38. We need to look to the future w/ fiscal responsibility. The Upper Valley is growing. To plan only for immediate needs would be a waste of time and money. We need to plan in phases.
- 39. Find a donor? Alumni contributions? Gov. Grant? Find an alternate source or money?
- 44. Raise funds privately to build fields that athletic supporters desire.
- 52. Invite/Promote community participation in preparing at least one of the fields. It may only be a token gesture, but it will encourage the notion that we don't just throw money for the things we really want.
- 66. Sell portion of Norwich land that cannot be cost effectively used for level field but residential wood land or small office.
- 76. Prepare a plan that is developed in stages as the demand and opportunity are presented.
- 91. Consider non-traditional team sports uses of Norwich land walking trails, cross country running trails, passive recreation affordable housing for school faculty and staff.
- 92. Incorporate a multi-use indoor facility with separate areas for field sports, tennis, basketball courts, track. Explore private ownership with long term lease to Dresden and open to the community. This would extend out seasons as well as keeping the schedules running in poor weather.
- 97. Try once again to raise some funds privately.
- 108. Develop Norwich fields in stages as funding allows. Start with basic fields- (like Sachus) and add buildings in future.
- 151. Raise the money privately! Valley news of 1/27 has a story about an 8 million dollar donation for an aquatic center. There is plenty of money in our upper valley. If parents want this extravagance , they and other athletic program, supporters, should have a capital campaign and raise the money instead of always coming back to the taxpayers for endless requests.
- 161. Involve HHS and local boosters in a substantial fund raising effort. I do not see a lasting educational or social benefit from the competitor sports. Let those who do, pay the share of the cost. and don't force it on the taxpayers. Actually I'm prepared to believe that participation is a team effort has lasting educational and life-skills value, but it appears to me that those benefits are inversely proportional to the intensity of competitors. Now is athletics the only way that high school students can work together and bond as teammates. In my opinion we spent far too little , for example on theater arts.

## **PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES**

### ***Role of Intramurals/less competitive sports***

- 113. Our district continues to under fund academics & genuine personal physical healthy running & exercise by this continual waste of money on team sports, any area of athletics should have as its main emphasis physical healthy not ram nonsense.
- 1. Be realistic about the fields. Consider other activities (art, chorus, drama, chess, debates, etc.) as important as sports. Be fair in spending money among all extra-curricular activities. Sports is just one among many character-building activities. Too emphasis is placed on football, soccer, baseball, etc.
- 84. Review team sports value to students vs. other programs + cost of each.
- 112. We've had enough of excessive spending on team sports at the expense of academic programs + fitness programs for those students who are not athletically gifted ( most students!) The new proposals are worthy of those Texas districts who attack supreme importance to athletic achievement about all else. So renovate the fields we have, if you must, eliminate Jr. Varsity +

Reserve teams + improve availability of intramural activities which are available to all!

161. Involve HHS and local boosters in a substantial fund raising effort. I do not see a lasting educational or social benefit from the competitor sports. Let those who do, pay the share of the cost. and don't force it on the taxpayers. Actually I'm prepared to believe that participation is a team effort has lasting educational and life-skills value, but it appears to me that those benefits are inversely proportional to the intensity of competitors. Now is athletics the only way that high school students can work together and bond as teammates. In my opinion we spent far too little , for example on theater arts.

10. Come up with a revised athletic program offering a few competitive teams, other physical fitness options, and good old fashion P.E. with karate, pilates, volleyball and good fitness. This would give great options to many students for fitness and teams. But minimize need for fields and expensive budgets that support relatively few students.

71. De-emphasize the inter school athletic programs.

110. Add in-school non-competitive sports to curriculum grades 10-12. For instance, ropes courses, and other classes similar to 9th grade program.

153. Rethink the role of competitive athletics.

2. There are many ways to promote fitness and the emphasis on dedicated facilities seems misplaced to me.

3. Don't marginalize "less popular" sports such as softball, by exiling them to a site where they will be less likely to attract supportive spectators. All five sports are important. We should be teaching that physical fitness is important.

9. Encourage outdoor winter sports, the field use season being short. (Encourage hiking?) Promote community sharing of facilities.

17. Add other sports to the mix sports that doesn't rely on fields.

21. Increase sports options not requiring more fields. Swimming, crew, skiing and share more Dartmouth College facilities.

27. These last statements are difficult. To place in order of importance for people who feel strongly that sports at HHS are far too competitive and the emphasis on athletics should be cut way back.

28. Develop athletic activities with no losers.

55. C team kids should be encouraged to do some other sport or activity where they can actually end up participating. Physical activity is important, the field requirements are out of line.

75. Life fitness activities.

91. Consider non-traditional team sports uses of Norwich land walking trails, cross country running trails, passive recreation affordable housing for school faculty and staff.

95. The important element should include less emphasis on team sports which most adults don't continue with, but more emphasis on individual fitness throughout ones life and less emphasis on driving to get to a sport activity!!

138. Intramural sports!!

### ***Balance between Sports, other Extracurricular Activities, & Academics***

77. Review team sports value to students vs. other programs and cost of each.21

87. Strongly feel that no more land should be acquired for sports fields- too much emphasis is given to sports/athletic program.

99. Eliminate the non talented from all competition and encourage and motivate other activities for them such as extracurricular chess, mathematics clubs, debate teams, choral groups, art enrichment groups, etc. etc. etc. Reintroduce physical education in the class schedule for those not competing after school (not able to make varsity) or in other words, for the non talented.

5. De-emphasize sports and increase funding for musician arts.

11. Use fields in both towns. Our two children who graduated were varsity athletes for 2-3 seasons 1 year. We thoroughly support improved facilities BUT we also support extra curricular activities for those kids who are not athletes and fell more time energy and money must be devoted to support activities for non-athletes. drama, student government, ultimate frisbee, racquetball, chess and mountain biking.

94. Don't cut other things! Don't favor sports when other programs need adequate funding as well.

104. Not destroy or siphon funds from academics.

145. We bought the ideal site five years ago to solve the field issues. Now all we have to do is find the fortitude to vote the dollars to fund an ideal solution. There is no better investment in our children's lives than strong curricular (we've got them) and extra curricular actives; athletic, performing arts, music, academic!

### ***Re-Evaluate the Existing Athletic Program***

43. Sell the land in Norwich to pay for the cost overruns on the schools and consider building an interior facility (such as a pool) that could be used year-round to promote swimming and diving.

58. NO MORE SPENDING! Come up with a more "creative" way to use the fields that we already have. i.e. "re-think" how fields are scheduled.

79. Change athletic program.

86. Change athletic program. There are some of us who have lived in Hanover 35 years, had a child in school sports and really care

- about the essentials but are living very fixed incomes- please be more realistic in your plans- 1. what do we have now 2. what we really need now 3. what to work for (ideal).
93. The committee needs to look into long range plans or we'll have to maintain the current HHS athletic programs.
102. For such a small school, I doubt if we need as many varsity programs as we have.
132. Improve or change current athletic leadership or coaches personnel... they tend to be very exclusive and old boy network mentality.
144. Tailor the sports program to fit the existing available facilities,
146. Look at athletic program to see who it is really serving. Coordinate with town plans! If you have community based field plan a place, acquisition can occur for little or no cost in conjunction with new development plans ( for example Rivercrest-Dresden or projects on Route 5 or Centerra village area...) Can Norwich site be integrated into longer plan for new growth center?(As RMS anchors Hanover's new plan for Dresden Village?)
160. Getting more students to participate in more sports and require less time in all cases, varsity and non-varsity.

## LOCATION OF FIELDS

### *Share Fields with Community*

34. With help of Dartmouth + Park + recreation.
82. Secure use of Dartmouth Fields & Town
88. Maintain cooperation between Dresden, Hanover, and Dartmouth College.
114. Cooperate with Dartmouth + Town in field rentals near school, if more space is necessary.
149. Continue discussions regarding facility sharing with the college such as football stadium and practice fields. Also, fields such as the baseball field on thompson terrace should (1) not be locked and (2) be improved for multi-use athletic purpose.
70. Keep the fields on the same side of the River if possible. If necessary make more us for the Huntley Meadow Fields.
4. There seems to be a strong desire to own and control. There is a plethora of open space available. Let's encourage and support sharing of space in Norwich, Hanover and Sachem.
9. Encourage outdoor winter sports, the field use season being short. (Encourage hiking?) Promote community sharing of facilities.
11. Use fields in both towns. Our two children who graduated were varsity athletes for 2-3 seasons 1 year. We thoroughly support improved facilities BUT we also support extra curricular activities for those kids who are not athletes and fell more time energy and money must be devoted to support activities for non-athletes. drama, student government, ultimate frisbee, racquetball, chess and mountain biking.
15. Solve need in collaboration with college, town of Hanover and Norwich, rec. departments, volunteers and donors.
20. Work with both towns to develop the most efficient plan.
24. Include sharing fields, etc.
26. Utilize tennis courts in town no need to build.
49. Secure continued use of Town and Dartmouth fields.
52. Invite/Promote community participation in preparing at least one of the fields. It may only be a token gesture, but it will encourage the notion that we don't just throw money for the things we really want.
58. NO MORE SPENDING! Come up with a more "creative" way to use the fields that we already have. i.e. "re-think" how fields are scheduled.
96. More sharing of present fields, i.e. HHS at sachem. Develop field (s) at elementary schools.
101. Sell the land in Norwich and work to find land in Hanover more convenient to the high school which will ALSO serve community needs.
105. Stress on the #6 (c). Any expenditures should be for community-wide needs, not just the Dresden schools.
106. Has any thought been given to purchasing the fields on Greensboro Road which are now for sale. It seems like a perfect site for school and town athletic and recreational fields.
107. Try to make use of the Rec Dept. Fields which, after all, are tax supported. Why duplicate?
124. Utilize space we already have such as Huntley field to it's fullest capacity.
128. Use both the Norwich and Hanover town crews to help develop the Norwich land into fields that will be lit and used by both town's rec. departments as well as by the Dresden schools. Towns and school dollars should contribute to this, Continue to have sharing of town owned fields as well by the Hanover and Norwich rec. department and the schools.
143. Have towns and schools share and support each other.
146. Look at athletic program to see who it is really serving. Coordinate with town plans! If you have community based field plan a place, acquisition can occur for little or no cost in conjunction with new development plans ( for example Rivercrest-Dresden or projects on Route 5 or Centerra village area...) Can Norwich site be integrated into longer plan for new growth center?(As RMS anchors Hanover's new plan for Dresden Village?)
156. Coordinate town and school resources.
162. Use Norwich property. Maybe they should learn to share the fields and take turns using the fields.

164. As a Hanover taxpayer, I feel that the Hanover rec. department and the school's should work together more to solve some of these problems. How about using space at the Ray School for fields for the younger kids?

165. What is best for the community!!!

167. Develop Norwich rec department land-Huntley meadow.

### ***Specifically mentioning partnering with Dartmouth***

34. With help of Dartmouth + Park + recreation.

82. Secure use of Dartmouth Fields & Town

88. Maintain cooperation between Dresden, Hanover, and Dartmouth College.

114. Cooperate with Dartmouth + Town in field rentals near school, if more space is necessary.

149. Continue discussions regarding facility sharing with the college such as football stadium and practice fields.

21. Share more Dartmouth College facilities.

30. Work creatively with Dartmouth and keep the cost down.

122. Check into trading more property with Dartmouth College.

### ***One Central Location for Fields***

46. Have one central location

65. Locate fields where it requires less bus and car transportation.

70. Keep the fields on the same side of the River if possible. If necessary make more us for the Huntley Meadow Fields.

78. Concentrate fields in one place to minimize traffic.

85. Concentrate fields in one place to minimize traffic.

135. Possibly other move for non-varsity sports.

141. Centrally located for equal travel times.

152. Locate fields so kids can access them on bikes, walking , or eliminate parent driving as much as possible, Have houses or businesses close by to offer protection/security for kids.

### ***Keep Fields in Hanover***

29. The acquisition and land development has been handled so poorly that the board would never get the necessary votes to solve the athletic fields problem. Why didn't the board recognize the acquisition of the land from the Hanover Coop after it was discovered that the land was not what the board thought it was. There is also a problem with the disposal of sewage. Why should Hartford be expected to extend sewer lines for the benefit of Norwich, Hanover residents. The Board has failed or neglected to consider that additional traffic in downtown Hanover by having to provide transportation for Hanover High School and Route 5 south site. Any new fields should be built in the town of Hanover.

53. Keep the fields close to the schools.

62. Fields should largely be in Hanover- we have all the schools and should have the bulk of the green space.

74. Avoid fields in Norwich traffic -WILL BE-IS-Impossible. What about fields on Greensborough Road?

98. Use high school land.

101. Sell the land in Norwich and work to find land in Hanover more convenient to the high school which will ALSO serve community needs.

106. Has any thought been given to purchasing the fields on Greensboro Road which are now for sale. It seems like a perfect site for school and town athletic and recreational fields.

139. Norwich is too far for Etna and Blueberry Hill residents.

147. Have most of the field close to the school not in Norwich. Some can be in Norwich, but it should not be where the majority.

### ***Use Fields in Norwich***

40. Land currently owned by the district should be used (i.e. the land in Norwich).

89. Centralize sports in Norwich.

90. Major complex in Norwich.

123. Make use of current Dresden land in Norwich. DO NOT SELL THIS LAND!

129. Use the land we acquired since we already have it.

134. Use the Norwich site and have a first class sports complex. I went to Exeter high school and they have a great sports complex. Our football field is a joke. I can not believe we even have to fill out this survey! I live in Norwich and I feel it's important to use the land we have here, so we feel we are getting something for our tax dollars and to sell the plan to the town.

145. We bought the ideal site five years ago to solve the field issues. Now all we have to do is find the fortitude to vote the dollars to fund an ideal solution. There is no better investment in our children's lives than strong curricular (we've got them) and extra

curricular activities; athletic, performing arts, music, academic!

162. Use Norwich property. Maybe they should learn to share the fields and take turns using the fields.

### ***No Fields in Norwich***

29. The acquisition and land development has been handled so poorly that the board would never get the necessary votes to solve the athletic fields problem. Why didn't the board recognize the acquisition of the land from the Hanover Coop after it was discovered that the land was not what the board thought it was. There is also a problem with the disposal of sewage. Why should Hartford be expected to extend sewer lines for the benefit of Norwich, Hanover residents. The Board has failed or neglected to consider that additional traffic in downtown Hanover by having to provide transportation for Hanover High School and Route 5 south site. Any new fields should be built in the town of Hanover.

74. Avoid fields in Norwich traffic -WILL BE-IS-Impossible. What about fields on Greensborough Road?

31. Sell Norwich land or just not develop it for athletic program with elaborate fields and facilities.

42. Buy land between Gold Course and Rip Road, sell Norwich.

43. Sell the land in Norwich to pay for the cost overruns on the schools and consider building an interior facility (such as a pool) that could be used year-round to promote swimming and diving.

56. Sell the Norwich property.

61. Sell land in Norwich and buy land off Route 10 in Hanover.

64. To D. only if it is more convenient for the future when the Norwich site is sold.

100. Sell the Norwich fields.

101. Sell the land in Norwich and work to find land in Hanover more convenient to the high school which will ALSO serve community needs.

116. Dump the Rt. 5 land and acquire land in Hanover.

142. None in Norwich.

### ***Transportation/Traffic/Travel***

16. Coordination of transportation with public local transportation options (advanced transit). For example advance transit has a stop at Kendal and Creel. But could have gone the extra mile to the soccer fields and doesn't.

25. We fundamentally disagree with the decision to turn down Dartmouth's offer to purchase the entire Lebanon Street property and build a completely new school and athletic complex on Lyme Road. Now we are facing this mess the logistics of getting bus loads, vans and car loads to the Norwich fields every day seem counter productive and short sighted.

65. Locate fields where it requires less bus and car transportation.

78. Concentrate fields in one place to minimize traffic.

85. Concentrate fields in one place to minimize traffic.

109. Traffic should not get worse but better!

130. Include transportation scenarios, dealing with safety, cost, and traffic effects in long-range plans.

152. Locate fields so kids can access them on bikes, walking, or eliminate parent driving as much as possible, Have houses or businesses close by to offer protection/security for kids.

### ***Proposed Specific Solutions***

6. Use fields at school during school hours-early hours practices etc. as hockey uses rink times. Allow students to stay later at school for school work. Lets use our facilities earlier and later everyday.

42. Buy land between Gold Course and Rip Road, sell Norwich.

92. Incorporate a multi-use indoor facility with separate areas for field sports, tennis, basketball courts, track. Explore private ownership with long term lease to Dresden and open to the community. This would extend out seasons as well as keeping the schedules running in poor weather.

103. No artificial turf at high-school site (I'm a neighbor.)

111. Use fields for multiple sports. Add lighting.

119. Eliminate the student parking lot/severely restrict at HHS & use if for playing field.

125. Make better use of school time to relate after school practice for all sports if necessary limit the number of sports but plan enough space/time/money to allow all to play.

136. Install lights on the HHS fields so they can be used after dark to accommodate more sports.

137. Move the High School out of town. This bond issue should be for athletic facilities not just athletic fields.

172. Prepare a plan that is inclusive of all students & family types not just the two parent family that has a parent to provide a full-time chauffeuring while the other works

## ***General Support for the Process & Plans***

171. Need to get something done. Emphasis should be to develop as many fields as are needed to allow all student who wish to play, be able to play, i.e.. two reserve teams for soccer if numbers triple. Every child should be able to play on a team if they wish to.
35. In regards to “e” alone. The program has to grow for all sports. Current programs are being cut (soccer) and if this can happen to soccer, it may happen to football etc.
32. Make all athletic facilities in Norwich along with changing rooms and adequate parking. Bus all students to after school practices. Those students who drive to school would park at the Norwich fields and bus to Hanover. After school and practice, their car is near and no need to drive to Hanover for car.
47. It is very important that we fix the current field not the high school- And use the Norwich fields to there fullest.
48. Build high quality fields and pay to maintain them so they are safe and lasting.
67. Use of Norwich fields.
89. Centralize sports in Norwich.
90. Major complex in Norwich.
117. There is a real need for more fields and gyms.
118. Develop tennis courts + changing facilities.
121. I feel the school/town has historically relied on Dartmouth’s generous offerings of use of fields, field house. heated lacrosse field for a fee but what’s about a plan to develop our won-now that Dartmouth is cutting back due to it’s own space needs?
127. Sufficient field space should be acquired to allow full sports participation by varsity, JV and reserve teams.
134. Use the Norwich site and have a first class sports complex. I went to Exeter high school and they have a great sports complex. Our football field is a joke. I can not believe we even have to fill out this survey! I live in Norwich and I feel it’s important to use the land we have here, so we feel we are getting something for our tax dollars and to sell the plan to the town.
145. We bought the ideal site five years ago to solve the field issues. Now all we have to do is find the fortitude to vote the dollars to fund an ideal solution. There is no better investment in our children’s lives than strong curricular (we’ve got them) and extra curricular activities; athletic, performing arts, music, academic!
163. Build on plans already existing.
168. From my observation the current HHS program has out grown itself already. Surely a wealthy, growing community needs to bite the bullet and provide for a future (realistic). To postpone can only increase the needs and expenses.
169. The original plan was the best plan (except for the turf)

## ***Misc. Comments (Not easily coded)***

23. Just don’t have enough information for comment.
51. Don’t know.
59. There is un-used land in Norwich.
69. Safety equipment priority.
83. Don’t know.
115. (Reference to #6D) Does this mean in addition to the land Dresden currently owns in Norwich near Fogg’s Hardware? If in addition I assign a (5), If Norwich land is included I assign a (1).
126. Affordable housing in Norwich.
157. The high school is at a high point for population. incoming classes

## ***How the Board Processes the Plan***

18. Demonstrate that alternate plans have been considered.
19. Get a new school board who are intelligent and stop diddling around with the taxpayers.
41. This is misleading. Do we NEED many new fields or does the athletic department just WANT many new fields? You say on the front page that continued use of current field is not assured; it doesn’t mean there are NO fields available.
50. Differentiate between NEEDS and WISHES.
54. Provide a plan that achieves our goals as stated in #12 and promote it effectively.
60. Provide a plan that accomplishes our goals as stated in question #12 and promote it effectively.
63. Think outside the box/be flexible.
80. More outreach/ PR to involve older citizens in school athletics. Newsletter? Booster Club?
86. Change athletic program. There are some of us who have lived in Hanover 35 years, had a child in school sports and really care about the essentials but are living very fixed incomes- please be more realistic in your plans- 1. what do we have now 2. what we really need now 3. what to work for (ideal).
166. Help us understand how sports fits what the budget of all extra curricular activities. Help us see how it fits with non-field and sports.

**COMMENTS TO QUESTION 12:**  
“Please share any other comments or suggestions”  
Sorted by Category  
Categories Grouped by Theme

(Note that comments may appear multiple times, under different categories and themes. This is because the comment addressed a number of issues. For the sake of expediency, we didn't edit out the portions of such comments that pertained to a different category)

**FISCAL**

*Cost/tax impact*

2. Please try and reduce the cost as the property taxes are killing us!
12. What makes me fret is that the costs are so exorbitant for these sports that are outdoors and because of weather played only a few months a year.
24. The Dresden district needs to be more cost effective in programs, academics as well as athletics. Contrary to popular opinion we are not Greenwich, CT.!
25. Hanover high is a public high school! It is not a private school, that can give everything to its students with parents having alot of money at their disposal.
30. The Norwich land should be sold and the money used to help finance community fields. Beaver Meadow etc. I object to an athletic complex and its long term maintenance cost. Also it would not be used consistently. would need to be policed and fenced, bathrooms and changing rooms. Its all too much for a public school.
31. The spending is out of control. Instead of focusing on facilities and fields what about addressing teachers salaries, class sizes etc.
38. Ever increasing tax burden is not commensurate with benefit.
39. Although we would strongly support new fields we can not afford an increase in taxes.
49. Too much money being spent all at once in the town (new school, senior center, Howe library, etc.). Voters are inundated. Having fields away from school, at Norwich, doesn't make sense.
62. Voters are facing enormous tax increases in renovating building schools. Lets exercise creativity and fiscal conservation dealing with the field situation as it exists now.
71. Although we love living in Hanover, our concerns are not what is the best solution for Hanover Athletics fields but rather how are we going to pay the increases our real estate taxes. Although my husband and I both work full time, we are not anticipating salary increases this year, therefore any (real estate) tax increases are going to adversely effect our available money. Sorry, but we can't offer any solutions to your dilemma, just as we don't suspect you can offer us any easy answers (except, possible moving out of Hanover which we really don't want to Do!)
72. Given the recent projected increases in the Dresden budget of 15% for Norwich residents and the increased projected cost of the new schools construction, the expense of the athletic fields will need to be pared down dramatically. The Vermont tax situation makes large, double digit consecutive yearly increases on property taxes impossible to manage for many Norwich residents.. There are 3 registered voters in this house hold who hold the same views as expressed in the survey.
76. If a proposed expenditure would enhance recreational opportunities for all in the community, support would be much stronger. Our school taxes are very high and many taxpayers will oppose as increased expense unless it is something that would benefit all.
86. It seems that the original plans were a bit grandiose, and cost more than this community can afford.
96. Tax breaks for taxpayers/Elderly without children in school system (ever).
117. The board is completely out of touch with financial constraints of a large number of residents. Hanover is becoming too expensive and too exclusive and out children feel they are entitled to have the best.
121. It seems like the priority should be the completion of the middle school and renovation of the high school. Once folks have absorbed all the necessary costs for this then address the playing fields. How can this be as important
136. Too expensive.
143. We can not keep spending money. We must live within our tax income. Just because it is for the children we can not pass bond. Then have the children pay for them latter. In their lives.
145. Taxes are becoming burdensome. Dresden does not have to have the premier sports facility.
148. Moderate income- people who generally support school initiatives are being forced to vote against them because of the tax burden. Your expectations are too high. Inform yourself of your voter populations concerns + burdens.
154. Taxes in Hanover, driven by excessive school expenditures, have become prohibitive. Facilities for recreation and school athletics should be shared and creative, cost effective solutions found. Acquiring land is not one of them. Sell the Norwich land in 2009!!!

161. With the high price of the new school, the cost over runs + more likely to come, I am doubtful that the community is open to an ambitious plan. Also, the community has other pressing needs such as land conservation and housing that should not be pre-empted by school expending an extracurricular act.
165. MUST control school costs and stop forcing long term and lower income residents from leaving town due to inability to pay ever increasing taxes.
166. In a time of increasing tax burdens + national crisis, we should pull back + sacrifice using existing facilities.
167. Get some diverse views on the board. Currently it is little more than a rubber stamp for the schools and the superintendent's office. Get your budgets under control and stop passing every possible new expenditure on to the tax payer. Recognize that you represent all voters and not just the schools.
170. Please come up with a cheaper, more financially controlled plan. Use existing facilities in the community. Recognize that team sports are not the only way to go- explore other "life sports" like hiking, water sports on the CT river, snow sports etc.
183. Our school system exists above all to educate. I'm afraid the sports and entertainment culture has permeated our thinking about school so much that parents and students lose focus on why kids really go to school. Putting huge sums of the overtaxed taxpayers money into athletics doesn't really enhance educational facilities or opportunities!!
192. I believe that this entire discussion and the lack of implementation has taken much too long. I have lost support due to the continuous lack of decision on the part of the school board. My children will have graduated long before anything is done and therefore will not benefit from the change. I would like to be unselfish in my support of the fields, however, I have watched this unrelenting issue go on so long that I really don't want to support anything having to do with the renovation of this school and its athletic programs. I don't want to increase my property taxes to give support after so many years have passed with an unsatisfactory decision and implementation. Though I am lacking in details of this process and have not been able to participate in its discussion, I think that we are all tired of this ongoing state of everything to do with the school, fields, etc.
201. Not all people have bottomless pocket books to keep supporting the tax increases that are being imposed by the Dresden School District. Trim it all back. Just scale it back. The towns can do it, Why can't the School Districts. Way too much money to spend.
207. The costs are unreasonable: The school costs versus the field cost. The "school" should be planned in a fiscally reasonable way to provide a safe and functional building with fields for reasonable sports. We do not and cannot supply every facility for every interest, and a school and facilities therefor should be for students not for the use of the community as a country club.
214. If a plan can't be developed at a reasonable cost (between 1-2 million) then sell the Norwich land and use the money to seek out other land or expend fields at area schools and town rec. department.
216. Sports are way too expensive and taxes much too high. Make do and cut back!
222. The sports mania has to stop somewhere. Sports are good teaching tools, but so are other group activities with a common purpose (drama, debating, etc.) How do you provide some opportunity for everyone without bankrupting the schools?
249. Notes on the survey questions are listed beside each one where I could not answer due to phrasing of question. Overall, the school board/district needs to consider overall costs of all proposals (new school, increased budget and athletic fields) on the taxpayers. The funds all come out of my paycheck so I can't consider expensive bills for items as separate entities not related to each other.
256. Listen to the voters--they've told you twice that they will not spend a lot of money on fields.
262. Find a more affordable solution then present them for a field house in Norwich would be great.
264. Get with the costs. The impact of building two new schools is very high. The plan for the playing fields is way out of line with fiscal reality. You have to make choices and cutting back on the number of teams is an option that should be explored.
268. Look I don't see why this is so difficult for you to comprehend. This is all about money and cost. You can't just keep coming back to the voters with request after request for more money. You/we cannot have everything. An exorbitant price for new schools and renovations is already costing a fortune. Then an adjustment for cost overruns and insufficient reserves plus a phenomenally expensive contract with the teachers. There is a limit! Use some restraint.
270. I think we need to use our fellow citizens, both towns and Dartmouth College to donate time, energy and community resources to the completion of this integral part of our community. There is no reason that this project has to be as expensive as it is. Communities have been building fields for years, through involvement. Lets mobilize the dads with tractors, the money with bake sales, the kids with brick drives. We have blown our budget on improvement for our kids, and if we want more, we need to all pitch in and get involved. Lets keep this from costing the community anything more than sweat equity. We all will appreciate what we have if we are the ones who build it.
284. Initial school board and additional school bond, and fields bond and police/fire safety building bond equals no middle class in Norwich.
291. Frankly, I think the plan was absurd in addition to being too expensive. Why don't you move the football playing field to Norwich and keep tennis, soccer, field hockey on-site. Hanover is already too exclusive. The development of Norwich fields makes it even more so. Unless a family has a stay-at-home parent, their kids will not be able to participate in athletics due to the far flung fields. I haven't seen any creative thinking, e.g. more indoor sports in fall/spring, enhanced PE program in high school. I will not support any plan that does not consider the needs of ALL members of the community, esp. single parents w/multiple children, and children that do not enjoy field sports.
297. Question 6 (a-f) is all about planning. My present preference would be for (a) if possible. I am certainly alarmed by the bond proposals (b) which come on top of a number of other proposals for town expenditure, including massive renovations proposed

for the Hanover water system.

299. The last page, having to do with “costs”, seems to me an aspect of cloud-cuckoo land. Around here one seldom has any idea what anything is likely to cost before the work on it is finished. People on the whole have been generous, but even deep buckets can go empty.

307. My interest – and the reason for my responses herein – is in returning athletics to the point where the values inherent in games are the *raison d’être* for athletics not winning. AS a former high school athlete and even as a “golfer,” I want to win the games I play. But what is more important are the values of team work, hard work, camaraderie, and the sense of doing my best, irrespective of the outcome. I recognize this is an ideal but so much is given up when winning for winning sake is the primary goal. So I would hope for a changed and reduced emphasis in the competitive nature of high school sports, especially football and basketball. As a somewhat peripheral point, the upgrading (read artificial turf) of sports fields and a field for each sport also serves to “professionalize” the activity. Neighboring schools then believe that they must follow suit to “keep up” and the cycle continues. One can see the most disturbing effects of sports at the college level and, unfortunately, these effects are becoming as true for women as for men. Results there “trickle down” to high school athletic programs. I hope that the Dresden Board might offer leadership in refining its athletic program to ensure the values that can mean so much to the individual participant.

308. I am deeply disturbed by the entire process regarding athletic fields, inattention to equal opportunity for participation in athletics by all kids – regardless of socio-economic background, and the obvious growth of Hanover – Norwich towards being so exclusive. Whoever thought of the idea of putting fields in Norwich to begin with hasn’t a clue what it is like for families with fewer resources to live in this town. In the plan presented to voters, game fields on the school site would lie fallow while kids would have to find their way across the river just to practice. Only kids whose parents are able to transport them daily after school would get to play. Even if the district provided transportation to and from the Norwich fields (an enormous cost), practice time would be cut at least 45 minutes to allow for transportation. Basically, it would be a nightmare...and meanwhile, back at the H.S. the football “stadium” which services all sport and takes up an enormous space is reserved for the few home games that are played. What an awful use of resources. The committee that put this plan together is shortsighted. The more I think about it, the more frustrated I become. I have no confidence that the next plan will be much better. The survey asks if we should have lighted fields to allow later practices ... come on ... should kids be practicing until it gets dark in the fall? The very fact that provision of transportation isn’t assumed (Q,6h) speaks volumes as to how ignorant the writers of this plan are. There are three gyms in the district, including Ray School, and only one fall indoor sport that I know of ... none after basketball. How about some creativity? I know of at least one middle boy that school would love to see a boy’s volleyball team. Mountain biking in fall or road cycling are just as valid as “team sports”. Finally, the J.V. and sub-J.V. teams are just as entitled to field use as Varsity. Teams don’t have to practice on the field every day of the week. If fields were shared, a team could do some conditioning (no field required, folks!) on their off day. With some creativity and thinking, the Norwich fields don’t need to be used for practice at all.

316. As a member of the Hanover Food Co-op I attended the meeting which decided how we should dispose of our land in Norwich and voted to sell it to the Dresden school district because I believed that putting a school on that land with all the acreage it has for accompanying fields would be the “highest and best” use of the land. As a member of the Dresden school district, I attended the meeting at which we discussed the potential purchase of the land, and voted in favor for the same reason as before. As a member of the Dresden school district, I also attended a few of the meetings of the committee charged with sorting out and presenting to the voters of Hanover & Norwich the various choices of renovate / build new and all the possible permutations of location for each school. When public participation was permitted, I raised my hand and asked why locating at least one school on the Norwich land did not appear to be seriously considered. I was told, vaguely, that there “wasn’t much interest” in that idea. It did seem to me that it was the committee – or a patron of it – and not the public that was not interested. At a later date, I again attended an open committee meeting and asked whether the location of adjacent playing fields carried any weight in the choice of building lots. There was an uncomfortable pause, and then one committee member said, “We prefer to keep the matter of playing fields separate from the matter of school location.” This response did, and does, seem so illogical to me that I can only conclude that these are people (I do hope they are a small minority) to whom the cherished vision of a multi-million-dollar sports complex is so dear that to achieve it they are willing to sacrifice all logic in school location, bus routes, alternative uses of funding, money already spent to purchase the land – you name it. All the arguments now being so heartrendingly advanced about lack of field space, parents having to drive kids to practice etc. ad nauseam, could have been avoided early on. As a taxpayer, I have voted (twice!) for the bonds to fund our schools. If there is no money left to fund Sports Heaven on the Norwich land, I can only say to the adults who separated the playing field issue from the school location issue, “This is a problem which you created with your own hands. It is too late to ask me to pay for it. My taxes right now are all I can handle. Good Luck.”

### ***Norwich vs. Hanover Tax structure***

33. Norwich taxes are already to high. Hanover should pay larger share of school taxes. Teachers salaries (especially non-MLS libraries) are too high. Teachers get to many paid vacation days. What other profession can one get holidays ( thanksgiving, December-January etc.) winter vacation in February, spring vacation in April and summer vacations? Most professionals get 2-3 weeks per year, and no professional days.

105. I am troubled by Vermont’s tax problems affecting Hanover ability to vote in favorable programs. I wonder about the visibility of the Dresden district to focus equally on programs that are needed.

115. The different impact on Hanover verses Norwich is terribly unfair; Hanover has the votes and Norwich pays for their choices.

I think most people find it terrible frustrating that it costs so much just to figure out how much it will cost, and then with the inevitable delays, cost some more.

133. I will continue to vote against any bond issue that proposes to tax Norwich home owners higher than Hanover. Norwich student athletes don't receive any preferential treatment. Everything is equitable. Why should Hanover receive equal access to the fields at a lower tax burden than their Norwich neighbors?!

147. Norwich is a full partner in the Dresden district. I think many newcomer Hanover residents do not realize this. It is an unusual arrangement- the time in New England I believe- and many need explaining to our rapidly cycling residents. Perhaps moving the superintendents office to Norwich would better communicate this.

202. I want the best for our students and regret that our tax burden in Nourish must curtail my vote.

241. Explain who is on the fields committee and why and the selection process. Is there a 50/50 representation of Norwich and Hanover residents? Satisfy the concern of whether the committee has really explored and pushed for ALL options. I do not see evidence of any real push to further negotiate with Dartmouth re. and land. When push came to shove with the new school site controversy, it seemed that negotiations with Dartmouth finally yielded some possibilities. I do not see the committee exploring this to any sincere extent. Committee appears very biased toward Norwich fields and many same members for the last committee and new, fresh approach. The Norwich fields are a nice conglomeration of fields, but space is not accessible to any real neighborhood. The space is not in walking distance and does not serve the community well. Traffic and safety concerns are paramount given field location would necessitate bridge travel and navigating several congested intersections. Field location require constant commute of students and family and coaching staff, the majority of which have to travel over bridge t the site and back again to Hanover. This plan unwise. Hanover site makes so much more sense,

247. There has to be an end to the ever increasing school tax for Norwich. It would be easier to consider spending if increases were the same in Hanover and Norwich.

250. Thank you for working so diligently to obtain input. Every dollar related issues goes back to the Dresden district tax structure. Every time I read that Norwich residents will pay more than Hanover, I fume! Until that is addressed as long as I live in this district I will be inclined to vote down funding increases.

260. Don't keep cutting the arts while spending ever more on athletics. We love Norwich as it is, please don't turn it into a community only for wealthy by having unbearable taxes!

266. Let Hanover taxpayers help the equivalent of what Norwich taxpayers get hit with for the increases, and maybe they would appreciate the pain.

273. The tax burden on Norwich property owners is already excessive- and unwarranted. We do not need college level playing fields, If the school board felt compelled to provide these facilities, it should under take a capital campaign or major private fundraising effort. The recent \$8 million private donation for the cnac show it can be done.

308A These comments directly address the athletic field proposal. To state it simply, you are asking too much of the taxpayers to now dig ever deeper into stressed pockets for a five million dollar extravaganza for endeavors that, while important to the overall school experience, are hardly critical. For the record, I am an ex athlete. I grew up playing baseball, basketball, soccer, and played other sports in my neighborhood. I believe kids today are not nearly active enough. I played several sports in high school and college. I continue to be active physically. So, I bear no inherent hostility or intellectual arrogance towards the worth of a sports program. I do think the emphasis on sports is way overdone at Hanover, however. Ski Jumping? What sport **don't** you have? Indeed, there are small colleges that do not have the variety of sports that Hanover has, and certainly many high schools and colleges lack the kind of field system you are proposing, and succeed academically and athletically. From the comments of the athletic department officials on the record so far, what I discern is an attitude that this is the time we can get the Taj Mahal of all field systems built and we need to go for it despite the fiscal cost or effects on the residents of the two towns, particularly Norwich who always bear twice the cost of any tax proposal's burdens as compared to Hanover taxpayers.

309. Enough is enough. It does me or my wife no good to sew another pocket on our pants so you can dig in there for this athletic fields boondoggle. There simply is no more money for you, and I know a lot of Norwich taxpayers who are saying the same things. Moreover, the resentment that your appetite for money is forcing residents to make a very difficult choice to move out of the community is growing. And that resentment will not bode well for the Board in the future as previously supportive residents increasingly vote NO on issues, or move to other towns, depriving the Board of tax dollars. It is easier for folks like us to move out of Dresden than it is for you to find families with children to replace our funds. You should seriously contemplate that model as you look several years down the road at ever decreasing school enrollment figures. What the Board should do is to take responsibility for the effects of the construction bonds, the bailout bond, and your amazingly generous salary and benefits packages, and say to the taxpayers that "this time, we will find the money elsewhere". The Board and its supporters of this proposal should form a private group and conduct a capital campaign and fundraising drive for the money. I read in the paper of January 26 that a private donor has given \$8,000,000 to a local group for the development and construction of an aquatic center. This demonstrates to me what I already know: there is plenty of money in the Upper Valley to be tapped, and the Board needs to step up to the plate on this issue, and make that fundraising campaign happen. The athletic programs can survive on the existing fields arrangements during the time it takes to raise this money, and indeed, the time pressure should provide incentives to the fund raising group to get the money sooner rather than later. Do not ask the taxpayers for this money. We have told you no twice. Not because of meanness, but because we simply cannot afford any more school taxes when you already demand so much of us currently. Find the money for this project elsewhere

313. As a Norwich taxpayer, it is hard to support any further capital spending on the schools. The new middle school, the high

school renovations, and the cost overruns on the projects already pose a HUGE financial burden. I believe the need for additional athletic facilities should have been presented as part of the overall capital improvement plan for the middle and high schools so that voters could appreciate the full scope of the needs, not brought up after the building and renovation program was approved. I think it is time for Norwich to take a critical look at our participation in the Dresden district and ask if it is working for us. I think we need to consider alternatives, or we need change the formula for cost-sharing between the 2 towns to take into account the different tax structures of the 2 states and equalize the tax impact of Dresden's spending on owners of equivalent value property in the 2 towns.

### **Excessive facilities /*Extravagance of plan***

3. There is absolutely no need for students to have the equivalent in playing field to what a Mercedes is to automobiles. I've taught for over 30 years in higher education and know of what I speak!
4. Empty data
18. The tax payers should not have to provide a pre school sport world. The demands get bigger every year.
23. Cease the not invented here "posture of the school board. Abandon the gold-plated or nothing attitude of the."
30. The Norwich land should be sold and the money used to help finance community fields. Beaver Meadow etc. I object to an athletic complex and its long term maintenance cost. Also it would not be used consistently. would need to be policed and fenced, bathrooms and changing rooms. Its all too much for a public school.
53. Sharing fields is not only cost effective, but it is environmentally prudent as well. Forget Astro turf. Any new changing facilities should be good, but not elaborate.
86. It seems that the original plans were a bit grandiose, and cost more than this community can afford.
101. So I would hope for a changed and reduced emphasis in the competitive nature of high school sports, especially football and basketball. As a somewhat peripheral point, the upgrading (read artificial turf) of sports fields and a field for each sport also serves to "professionalize" the activity. Neighboring schools then believe that they must follow suit to "Keep up" and the cycle continues.
117. The board is completely out of touch with financial constraints of a large number of residents. Hanover is becoming too expensive and too exclusive and out children feel they are entitled to have the best.
127. State of the art facilities are not required to participate, play and win competitions!
144. The arrangement for sports over the last 50 years worked so keep them as they are. The culture values athletics. Let's resist that. Fancy fields aren't necessary to provide the benefits you list in question 4 answer a and b.
145. Taxes are becoming burdensome. Dresden does not have to have the premier sports facility.
176. I have lots of experience as a high school soccer ref. Most schools share 1 soccer field. Many play soccer on the football field. The proposal needs to reduce the number of fields.
182. I do believe there should be limited toilet facilities open to the public at any off campus site, but elaborate changing rooms do not seem necessary. Please campaign for an utilize and volunteer sub-contractors in the community to help lower costs.
184. Eliminate or severely restrict student parking lot at schools & recover land for fields. Charge students to park on school property. You must stop wanting Rolls Royce & start buying last year's chevy.
201. Not all people have bottomless pocket books to keep supporting the tax increases that are being imposed by the Dresden School District. Trim it all back. Just scale it back. the towns can do it, Why can't the School Districts. Way to much money to spent.
205. Share fields-less fields. no Astro turf. No locker rooms-bath rooms only. lights.
207. The costs are unreasonable: The school costs versus the field cost. The "school" should be planned in a fiscally reasonable way to provide a safe and functional building with fields for reasonable sports. We do not and cannot supply every facility for every interest, and a school and facilities therefor should be for students not for the use of the community as a country club.
217. Be honest, don't be elitist , support extra curricular opportunities for all.
248. Varsity sports esp. football and lacrosse-should not in any way be supported by the voters. If a family wants to participate, and can't afford it the ones who can afford it and who want to , should contribute. Varsity geeks always have to come up with their own funds, sports are becoming like the defense department. Any thing they want at any price.
252. Dartmouth is an essential key to this problem. They will continue to expand their program. Can we cost share? Why can't 4-5 HS games be played in the stadium per year? Sports should be available to all interested students, but Dresden does not need to be an Olympic training center. Sports should not overwhelm educational goals.
259. School district should not see itself as separate from town. We're the same taxpayers. Also, as long as fields are functional they do not need to be plush. E.g. more important to have an extra field to cycle through repair/recovery than to have changing facilities.
273. The tax burden on Norwich property owners is already excessive- and unwarranted. We do not need college level playing fields, If the school board felt compelled to provide these facilities, it should under take a capital campaign or major private fundraising effort. The recent \$8 million private donation for the cnac show it can be done.
289. Thanks for the efforts thus far. Focus on setting us second fields built are needed for all to be able to participate in sports. Don't give up. Compromise on luxurious elements, but not number + size of fields. Remember the non elite kids.
291. Frankly, I think the plan was absurd in addition to being too expensive. Why don't you move the football playing field to Norwich and keep tennis, soccer, field hockey on-site. Hanover is already too exclusive. The development of Norwich fields makes

it even more so. Unless a family has a stay-at-home parent, their kids will not be able to participate in athletics due to the far flung fields. I haven't seen any creative thinking, e.g. more indoor sports in fall/spring, enhanced PE program in high school. I will not support any plan that does not consider the needs of ALL members of the community, esp. single parents w/multiple children, and children that do not enjoy field sports.

These comments directly address the athletic field proposal. To state it simply, you are asking too much of the taxpayers to now dig ever deeper into stressed pockets for a five million dollar extravaganza for endeavors that, while important to the overall school experience, are hardly critical. For the record, I am an ex athlete. I grew up playing baseball, basketball, soccer, and played other sports in my neighborhood. I believe kids today are not nearly active enough. I played several sports in high school and college. I continue to be active physically. So, I bear no inherent hostility or intellectual arrogance towards the worth of a sports program. I do think the emphasis on sports is way overdone at Hanover, however. Ski Jumping? What sport **don't** you have? Indeed, there are small colleges that do not have the variety of sports that Hanover has, and certainly many high schools and colleges lack the kind of field system you are proposing, and succeed academically and athletically. From the comments of the athletic department officials on the record so far, what I discern is an attitude that this is the time we can get the Taj Mahal of all field systems built and we need to go for it despite the fiscal cost or effects on the residents of the two towns, particularly Norwich who always bear twice the cost of any tax proposal's burdens as compared to Hanover taxpayers.

316. As a member of the Hanover Food Co-op I attended the meeting which decided how we should dispose of our land in Norwich and voted to sell it to the Dresden school district because I believed that putting a school on that land with all the acreage it has for accompanying fields would be the "highest and best" use of the land. As a member of the Dresden school district, I attended the meeting at which we discussed the potential purchase of the land, and voted in favor for the same reason as before. As a member of the Dresden school district, I also attended a few of the meetings of the committee charged with sorting out and presenting to the voters of Hanover & Norwich the various choices of renovate / build new and all the possible permutations of location for each school. When public participation was permitted, I raised my hand and asked why locating at least one school on the Norwich land did not appear to be seriously considered. I was told, vaguely, that there "wasn't much interest" in that idea. It did seem to me that it was the committee – or a patron of it – and not the public that was not interested. At a later date, I again attended an open committee meeting and asked whether the location of adjacent playing fields carried any weight in the choice of building lots. There was an uncomfortable pause, and then one committee member said, "We prefer to keep the matter of playing fields separate from the matter of school location." This response did, and does, seem so illogical to me that I can only conclude that these are people (I do hope they are a small minority) to whom the cherished vision of a multi-million-dollar sports complex is so dear that to achieve it they are willing to sacrifice all logic in school location, bus routes, alternative uses of funding, money already spent to purchase the land – you name it. All the arguments now being so heartrendingly advanced about lack of field space, parents having to drive kids to practice etc. ad nauseam, could have been avoided early on. As a taxpayer, I have voted (twice!) for the bonds to fund our schools. If there is no money left to fund Sports Heaven on the Norwich land, I can only say to the adults who separated the playing field issue from the school location issue, "This is a problem which you created with your own hands. It is too late to ask me to pay for it. My taxes right now are all I can handle. Good Luck."

### ***No new fields***

55. Use it up, wear it out, make it do , or do without.

62. Voters are facing enormous tax increases in renovating building schools. Lets exercise creativity and fiscal conservation dealing with the field situation as it exists now.

165. MUST control school costs and stop forcing long term and lower income residents from leaving town do to inability to pay ever increasing taxes.

216. Sports are way to expensive and taxes much too high. Make do and cut back!

### ***Dresden Breakup***

116. Think ahead 10-15 years. Dresden district you will be too big. Norwich and Hanover need to think of separate schools. These can better deal with local feelings, taxes, transportation, etc.

233. Give up on Norwich land-should not have bought on 1 vote margin! Develop fields that can be split up if/when Dresden District is split again.

313. As a Norwich taxpayer, it is hard to support any further capital spending on the schools. The new middle school, the high school renovations, and the cost overruns on the projects already pose a HUGE financial burden. I believe the need for additional athletic facilities should have been presented as part of the overall capital improvement plan for the middle and high schools so that voters could appreciate the full scope of the needs, not brought up after the building and renovation program was approved. I think it is time for Norwich to take a critical look at our participation in the Dresden district and ask if it is working for us. I think we need to consider alternatives, or we need change the formula for cost-sharing between the 2 towns to take into account the different tax structures of the 2 states and equalize the tax impact of Dresden's spending on owners of equivalent value property in the 2 towns.

## *Alternative funding methods to taxation*

47. Get as much help by in kind donations fro businesses as possible to lower the cost, so the proposal will pass.

61. if there are options for private fund raising that might allow the bond request to be no more that 4 million, I think that would help. I think many voters now (introspect) wish we had approved the original building plan that would have moved both schools to the reservoir road site with sale of the current HHS site to the college. If there is any strategy that gives the feeling of recovering some of the plan's advantages, it should be developed. Is there any fragment of the in town site that could be sold to Dartmouth to gain non-tax support for the field construction?

91. Can low-income housing be part of the Norwich site, with attendant lowered costs?

123. My philosophy of team sports is participation and working together. Since it appears that being an excellent athlete helps with college admission parents as well as students should be involved with the cost. Our obligation as taxpayers is to provide sound education, not outstanding athletes. if this-parents students-type of funding for athletic programs is ever considered it could work on a sliding scale.

139. If Norwich is no longer "hedging bets" on needing to build their own high school why not sell that Norwich land and retain some rights to incorporate some playing fields in a housing development plan?

174. Contact Hanover Imp. Society re: expand tennis courts at their location as an option. Have user fees for students who participate in more than one varsity sport per year.

182. I do believe there should be limited toilet facilities open to the public at any off campus site, but elaborate changing rooms do not seem necessary. Please campaign for an utilize and volunteer sub-contractors in the community to help lower costs.

211. I feel the Norwich site should be developed into playing fields and related facilities in phases-possibly a 10 year plan. This would/could spend the cost out over time without incurring interest cost. Both towns should look for/ask for donations from residents to offset the cost.

248. Varsity sports esp. football and lacrosse-should not in any way be supported by the voters. If a family wants to participate, and can't afford it the ones who can afford it and who want to , should contribute. Varsity geeks always have to come up with their own funds, sports are becoming like the defense department. Any thing they want at any price.

258. It seems like the field development could be a long range plan as well, adding facilities or upgrades over the years to minimize budget impact. Also, why can't private money in the form of donations go toward this effort?

270. I think we need to use our fellow citizens, both towns and Dartmouth College to donate time, energy and community resources to the completion of this integral part of our community. There is no reason that this project has to be as expensive as it is. Communities have been building fields for years, through involvement. Lets mobilize the dads with tractors, the money with bake sales, the kids with brick drives. We have blown our budget on improvement for our kids, and if we want more, we need to all pitch in and get involved. Lets keep this from costing the community anything more that sweet equity. We all will appreciate what we have if we are the ones who build it.

273. The tax burden on Norwich property owners is already excessive- and unwarranted. We do not need college level playing fields, If the school board felt compelled to provide these facilities, it should under take a capital campaign or major private fundraising effort. The recent \$8 million private donation for the cnac show it can be done.

280. New school board. Try a fund-raiser!!!

282. In towns with largely well to do citizens there should be both financial and physical help by parents, students, and others. There are parents in construction, as well as unskilled students and adults who could participate. This project could be run in a way similar to Habitat for Humanity. It could become a great learning experience for the youth of Norwich and Hanover. this should become a community project rather that a huge purchase for a small number for athletes.

301. I have tried to describe in this memo a rough concept for a "smart growth" approach to Dresden's playing field planning. The following is one of many definitions of the term "Smart Growth": Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient. One (among several) of my objections to the past athletic fields proposal was that the planning and design approach to providing these facilities truly had a "suburban sprawl" theme. Sprawl, also somewhat elusive to define, in general has single land uses and large parking areas, and are often only accessible by cars. Contrast the shopping environment of Hanover with that of the Route 12A strip in West Lebanon: Hanover has multiple uses, mixed horizontally and vertically, and a parking supply that is shared among many types of uses, and therefore can provide spaces for offices, stores, restaurants, and movie theatres / performing arts venues throughout the course of the day. It is easy to walk from on destination to another in town. West Lebanon has much more uniform land uses of retail, surrounded by very large parking areas that generally only serve a narrow range of uses. It is very difficult to walk to West Lebanon from anywhere. One of the key components of smart growth planning and development is to make the most use of the existing infrastructure, rather than extending infrastructure into new areas, which are not within walking distance to existing towns and villages. I would like to propose the following concept to the playing fields committee. This is more of a brainstorm, and not something that I have tried to analyze or plan in detail, as that would best be done by the committee: [a] Rehabilitate all the fields on the HHS site with Astroturf fields with lighting. The Astroturf will allow for the continuous use in fall and spring seasons, and eliminate the need for "resting" the fields. The lighting will allow for staggering of the practices, perhaps each practice having half the time to themselves, and half shared with another team, throughout the afternoon and early evening. (This assumes that Astroturf is safe - If it is not, nor or there other comparable products that are safe, this may not be advisable.)

[b] Establish more long term arrangements for the minimum amount of remaining fields that are needed beyond the HHS site fields, such as Huntley Meadows in Norwich. [c] Sell the land on Route 5 to pay for this plan. It will probably prove to be a great investment, but putting either a school or a large playing fields complex for this location is not consistent with smart growth. It is not near any concentrated residential area of either community. Does this makes sense?

These comments directly address the athletic field proposal. To state it simply, you are asking too much of the taxpayers to now dig ever deeper into stressed pockets for a five million dollar extravaganza for endeavors that, while important to the overall school experience, are hardly critical. For the record, I am an ex athlete. I grew up playing baseball, basketball, soccer, and played other sports in my neighborhood. I believe kids today are not nearly active enough. I played several sports in high school and college. I continue to be active physically. So, I bear no inherent hostility or intellectual arrogance towards the worth of a sports program. I do think the emphasis on sports is way overdone at Hanover, however. Ski Jumping? What sport **don't** you have? Indeed, there are small colleges that do not have the variety of sports that Hanover has, and certainly many high schools and colleges lack the kind of field system you are proposing, and succeed academically and athletically. From the comments of the athletic department officials on the record so far, what I discern is an attitude that this is the time we can get the Taj Mahal of all field systems built and we need to go for it despite the fiscal cost or effects on the residents of the two towns, particularly Norwich who always bear twice the cost of any tax proposal's burdens as compared to Hanover taxpayers.

309. Enough is enough. It does me or my wife no good to sew another pocket on our pants so you can dig in there for this athletic fields boondoggle. There simply is no more money for you, and I know a lot of Norwich taxpayers who are saying the same things. Moreover, the resentment that your appetite for money is forcing residents to make a very difficult choice to move out of the community is growing. And that resentment will not bode well for the Board in the future as previously supportive residents increasingly vote NO on issues, or move to other towns, depriving the Board of tax dollars. It is easier for folks like us to move out of Dresden than it is for you to find families with children to replace our funds. You should seriously contemplate that model as you look several years down the road at ever decreasing school enrollment figures. What the Board should do is to take responsibility for the effects of the construction bonds, the bailout bond, and your amazingly generous salary and benefits packages, and say to the taxpayers that "this time, we will find the money elsewhere". The Board and its supporters of this proposal should form a private group and conduct a capital campaign and fundraising drive for the money. I read in the paper of January 26 that a private donor has given \$8,000,000 to a local group for the development and construction of an aquatic center. This demonstrates to me what I already know: there is plenty of money in the Upper Valley to be tapped, and the Board needs to step up to the plate on this issue, and make that fundraising campaign happen. The athletic programs can survive on the existing fields arrangements during the time it takes to raise this money, and indeed, the time pressure should provide incentives to the fund raising group to get the money sooner rather than later. Do not ask the taxpayers for this money. We have told you no twice. Not because of meanness, but because we simply cannot afford any more school taxes when you already demand so much of us currently. Find the money for this project elsewhere

## PHILOSOPHICAL

### *Valuable role of intramurals/less competitive sports*

308. I am deeply disturbed by the entire process regarding athletic fields, inattention to equal opportunity for participation in athletics by all kids – regardless of socio-economic background, and the obvious growth of Hanover – Norwich towards being so exclusive. Whoever thought of the idea of putting fields in Norwich to begin with hasn't a clue what it is like for families with fewer resources to live in this town. In the plan presented to voters, game fields on the school site would lie fallow while kids would have to find their way across the river just to practice. Only kids whose parents are able to transport them daily after school would get to play. Even if the district provided transportation to and from the Norwich fields (an enormous cost), practice time would be cut at least 45 minutes to allow for transportation. Basically, it would be a nightmare...and meanwhile, back at the H.S. the football "stadium" which services all sport and takes up an enormous space is reserved for the few home games that are played. What an awful use of resources. The committee that put this plan together is shortsighted. The more I think about it, the more frustrated I become. I have no confidence that the next plan will be much better. The survey asks if we should have lighted fields to allow later practices ... come on ... should kids be practicing until it gets dark in the fall? The very fact that provision of transportation isn't assumed (Q,6h) speaks volumes as to how ignorant the writers of this plan are. There are three gyms in the district, including Ray School, and only one fall indoor sport that I know of ... none after basketball. How about some creativity? I know of at least one middle boy that school would love to see a boy's volleyball team. Mountain biking in fall or road cycling are just as valid as "team sports". Finally, the J.V. and sub-J.V. teams are just as entitled to field use as Varsity. Teams don't have to practice on the field every day of the week. If fields were shared, a team could do some conditioning (no field required, folks!) on their off day. With some creativity and thinking, the Norwich fields don't need to be used for practice at all.

13. Teams and games tend to be valued at the expense of individuals and life-long maintainable experiences.

35. This questionnaire does not give us the means (except 4C) to register our basic position: that too much emphasis is placed on organized sports.

42. Thank you for doing this. It is a well designed questionnaire. I feel strongly that the emphasis of the athletic program should

shift to make intramural and rec. level sports with minimal if any travel more available to students.

48. Let's remember every child need to be encouraged to be physical fit. Varsity and J.V. athletics are only part of it. Hire people who are true physical educators. Folks interested in children from all walks of life. Encourage sports which students will love for the rest of their lives. Helping them remain fit-LESS OBESE!

52. Sports are important especially inter murals. Varsity sports are elitist and concentrate resources for too few students, who are usually least in need of exercise. Get the couch-potatoes up and involved. Lifetime sports are more important: tennis, bowling, sailing, etc.

54. Sports teams are an important experience for those students who enjoy them. In Hanover (especially at HHS w/the poor leadership of the Athletic Director there is far too much emphasis on winning and that kind of competitiveness makes for an unhealthy and negative experience. We're spending all this time and money on athletics. How about more emphasis on academic education (languages for example)?

56. Again, I'd like to urge the development of programs for physical fitness that do not rely on win/lose outcomes.

58. All students should be involved in physical activity, whether team sports, physical education or a fitness program. They should be encouraged to view fitness as a lifelong commitment. Those students who are not participating in a team sport in a specific school term should be encouraged to participate in some other type of physical activity programming during that term.

79. Sport should be undertaken by individuals for their recreation and enjoyment. Winning and especially team sports should be very secondary considerations. Coaches and soccer parents are anathema.

101. So I would hope for a changed and reduced emphasis in the competitive nature of high school sports, especially football and basketball. As a somewhat peripheral point, the upgrading (read artificial turf) of sports fields and a field for each sport also serves to "professionalize" the activity. Neighboring schools then believe that they must follow suit to "Keep up" and the cycle continues.

102. One can see the most disturbing effects of sports at the college level and, unfortunately, these effects are becoming as true for women as for men. Results there "trickle down" to high school athletic programs. I hope that the Dresden Board might offer leadership in refining its athletic program to ensure the values that can mean so much to the individual participant.

103. We enjoy a natural environment that should make us the envy of students in cities everywhere. Suggestions for physical fitness that would be continued for a lifetime include: walking, hiking, swimming, biking, xcountry skiing, kayaking, running and snow shoeing. Also trail and other landscape maintenance, low income hosing maintenance, food, gardening etc.

108. The biggest problem I had with the plan was having a "varsity only" game field. the "game fields" should be available to all tams not just varsity players. Too much emphasis is on the small varsity squad.

114. We believe strongly that Dresden student-athletes should be encouraged to play sports and be able to have team of all levels practice and play simultaneously at convenient times in proximity to each other. The value of participation is only winning is less important.

134. It was a mistake to lock in to Norwich, The traffic is already a disaster-it can only become impossible. Athletes are vital, essential for every child's health and future health. We must support it. it brings the community together. It is worth what we need to spend.

168. There is too much emphasis on organized team sports for children- junior high level. Feel that individualized physical fitness and life sports need to be the focus for pre-middle school aged children.

170. Please come up with a cheaper, more financially controlled plan. Use existing facilities in the community. Recognize that team sports are not the only way to go- explore other "life sports" like hiking, water sports on the CT river, snow sports etc.

172. Too much emphasis on after school competitive sports. Should have in-school programs for all kinds of students. More time for arts instead of athletics too.

215. Need to emphasis that athletics is important beyond being a varsity participant. Eliamate and emphasize the skills, behavior; knowledge athletics can foster.

220. To encourage life long habits of activity there should be other options besides team sports. Dance, step programs. lifting, jazzercise. etc.

225. If the goal of HHS athletics is to promote life long physical fitness, then it would be appropriate to put less emphasis on soccer, etc. And more emphasis on activities that can be enjoyed at every stage of life.

226. You won't see many people at Kendall playing soccer, football or lacrosse. However, you do see elderly people canoeing on the river, skiing on the golf course and hiking on the AT. Perhaps we should de-emphasizing the competitive ball sports and encourage kids to be active (in groups/clubs) hiking, boating, orienteering cross country skiing and biking. You don't need fields for those things.

227. I would like the committee to investigate what the economic impact would be if HHS an intramural program in lieu of the reserve teams. My assumption is that, if we provide the same excellent coaching as we do now but eliminate the cost of bus transportation and umpires/referees, we would be able to lower the athletic budget. Intramural teams can continue to help students develop their athletic skills, and some intramural participants may choose to try out for JV and Varsity teams in subsequent years. An intramural program also has the potential to reach students who are less competitive and want to play a sport just for fun. I think it is an option worth exploration. Thank you for you time and for this well-crafted survey.

240. I would like to improve strength training programs-weights etc. Like to see support of swimming program.

244. I think that more fields particularly help the students who are not varsity athletes helping them get involved in sports. They are the ones who lose out with facilities..

246. Encourage after school environmental activities have interested seniors lead and coach.

274. I would like to see the field sports program explained in the context of all sports and other extra curricular activities. I think this area is overly focused on competitive and team sports to the exclusion of other activities for students. I don't want to pay for this obsession with competitive sports!

278. Make the reserve program into an intramural program that will give more kids with less commitment (no everyday practice) and less facilities required.

290. Really important to emphasize how crucial it is to continue to encourage kids to participate in sports at all levels. Continue to promote an inclusive sports policy that enables everyone to play. The rise in levels of obesity, childhood onset diabetes and other health issues related to our increasingly sedentary lifestyles suggest that this is not the time to scrimp on athletic facilities. Make sure there are enough facilities so that everyone can play up to their skill level. Not all sports have to be high-pressure, high performance varsity level teams with a small number of skilled student athletes. Everyone needs physical activity, and organized sports are some of the best ways to stay active. We should be promoting a culture of active, athletic participation. This culture begins in school in many cases or is at least fostered & promoted there. A healthy, active lifestyle benefits individuals and the community at large. Sufficient athletic facilities are a key component to this kind of community well being.

311. Thank you for all the time you are investing to get a good solution to a very involved and complicated problem. I wanted to take this opportunity to put into words some of my thoughts about the place of sports and athletics in our lives. I support sports for all that they offer the participants for fitness, team work, value training, sociability. My concern is that as a culture we are overdoing a good thing, resulting in sacrificing much else that is good but is lost in the over emphasis of time and energy and money invested in sports. Some of these would include: family time including teaching home management skills and valued relationships, work experience providing life skills and career exploration, community service with its positive impact on server and served, developing other life long talents such as arts and music and drama, religious life, unscheduled time to breathe deeply and sort it all out ..... to mention a few. Is there anywhere a place that would dare give up the emphasis on winning to gain back the much that has been lost in that overemphasis That would be my hope

314. I voted in support of the previous two athletic field bond issues. I have two sons, one a high school sophomore, the other a fourth grader at the Ray School. They both swim and are part of NCAC. My older son has been swimming since he was seven or eight. Last spring, we appeared before the Dresden School Board to request that swimming be made a varsity sport. The amount of money we were requesting was minimal, several thousand dollars at most. We were turned down, "there is no money in the budget" at the head of a list of reasons you can recite better than I. I and fellow NCAC parents and swimmers understand the need for process, and we continue to work with the Dresden School Board to make swimming a varsity sport. Hanover is considering spending millions of dollars on athletic fields. The annual high school athletic budget is about \$470,000, not including the various private contributions for specific sports. Yet, there is no provision in either the Dresden budget, or any of the athletic field proposals, that addresses this glaring deficiency in Hanover's athletic program. There is something wrong with the picture that makes it so hard to establish swimming as a high school sport, when the amount of money needed to do so is insignificant in relation to the overall athletic budget. This state of affairs is prompting me to seriously consider voting against any athletic field proposal that does not contain a provision to include swimming under its umbrella. Other sports are in the same category, and I do think a process should be established to make it easier for non-varsity sports to get the recognition participating students deserve. Nevertheless, swimming is special in several regards. It is a lifelong activity in a way that, say, football is not. In many areas of the country it is a marquee sport. We all recognize the names of Michael Phelps, Mark Spitz, New Hampshire's Jenny Thomson, and Lyme's very own B.J. Bedford. It is not a field sport, and would appeal to students that might not be attracted to ball sports. It is a good complement to other sports. Not least important is that swimmers are among the most dedicated athletes in school. Many swimmers practice their craft 11-12 months of the year, 5 or 6 days a week, sometimes twice a day. Swimmers are high academic achievers; look at the HHS honor rolls to see the consistent presence of the vast majority of student swimmers. It is a shame that these hard working kids do not get the academic and social recognition that other, often more casual, athletes do. The presence of a high school program will make it easier for NCAC and other swimming programs to retain swimmers through middle school. The lack of swimming at the high school level is a deterrent for middle school swimmers to continue with their sport. The exciting possibility of a 50 meter swimming facility in the Upper Valley makes now a great time for Hanover to make a commitment to this wonderful activity. Neptune knows I wish I did as a youngster. Thank you for soliciting and evaluating opinions on this issue.

### ***Balance between athletics, arts and academics***

5. I would like to see less money spent on athletics and more on other team activities like debate team or engineering club, team design effort. Thank you for question 4H.

8. The whole discussion is out of context. How much is \$4.5 MM in comparison to teachers salary, music, art? How much per pupil is this compared to the above, and compared to other school districts?

27. Arts programs (e.g. theater) should get just as much attention as sports program.

31. The spending is out of control. Instead of focusing on facilities and fields what about addressing teachers salaries, class sizes etc.

54. Sports teams are an important experience for those students who enjoy them. In Hanover (especially at HHS w/the poor leadership of Mike Jackson) there is far too much emphasis on winning and that kind of competitiveness makes for an unhealthy and negative experience. We're spending all this time and money on athletics. How about more emphasis on academic education

(languages for example)?

107. Too much emphasis on sports-too much money spent on the sports.

128. Please put JV reserve & 9th grade practice/game schedules to 3 or 4 days/week (not 5) and stay away from week-ends. You are destroying the sense of balance in our children's family time, music, theater and other interests and leaving them no "down time" all in the interest of winning. How can my child possibly find time to test out other interests in your all or nothing approach to sports schedules?

135. I think we spend too much money on sports at the cost of other school activities.

150. Spend 1 million now, stagger practices, be innovative and then see how much need to spend. Team sports are over rated as part of high school experience-to many nostalgic parents, vicariously reliving childhood, pushing for these fields- not enough attention given to other non-athletic students and non-enthusiasts and more creative uses for Norwich land.

155. Athlete budget already to high. School bond should not be floated to build community facilities. Cut sports program and ass poetry, art, chemistry, drama after school programs.

172. Too much emphasis on after school competitive sports. Should have in-school programs for all kinds of students. More time for arts instead of athletics too.

183. Our school system exists above all to educate. I'm afraid the sports and entertainment culture has permeated our thinking about school so much that parents and students lose focus on why kids really go to school. Putting huge sums of the overtaxed taxpayers money into athletics doesn't really enhance educational facilities or opportunities!!

186. The prime goal of the school system should be education. Too much money goes into athletics.

203. Too many questions on this survey. I don't think you'll get clear or easily understandable results. There are other athletic and non-athletic extracurricular needs that should have equal or higher priority. e.g. crew and debate, which deserve more substantial support than they get and I'm sure there are others.

208. Focus of education.

217. Be honest, don't be elitist, support extra curricular opportunities for all.

222. The sports mania has to stop somewhere. Sports are good teaching tools, but so are other group activities with a common purpose (drama, debating, etc.) How do you provide some opportunity for everyone without bankrupting the schools?

252. Dartmouth is an essential key to this problem. They will continue to expand their program. Can we cost share? Why can't 4-5 HS games be played in the stadium per year? Sports should be available to all interested students, but Dresden does not need to be an Olympic training center. Sports should not overwhelm educational goals.

255. Consider what to do about all extra curricular activities.

260. Don't keep cutting the arts while spending ever more on athletics. We love Norwich as it is, please don't turn it into a community only for wealthy by having unbearable taxes!

274. I would like to see the field sports program explained in the context of all sports and other extra curricular activities. I think this area is overly focused on competitive and team sports to the exclusion of other activities for students. I don't want to pay for this obsession with competitive sports!

281. I think athletics are an important component of a well rounded individual. However I also believe that dance, music, studio art and theater are also important in an effort to develop a multi diversional student. Let's not forget to fund these programs as well.

293. More over, both team and individual competitive sports have positive value in and of themselves. They have their place within the larger frame of a physical education program and the still larger frame of a balanced academic and co/extracurricular offering. It is important for varsity sports teams to be competitive but not be the perennial power. It is equally important that sports teams not utilize a school's finite resources so that other school programs are wanting. It is every bit as necessary, for example, that the graphic and performing arts have the physical facilities, materials and personnel they need to be effective and a source of school pride as for a varsity football team to have a comparable level of support.

294. The school [...] presumably has articulated its mission in a fashion that is sufficiently detailed to be meaningful and speak to how the entire Hanover High School program addresses the universe of students' interests, including the arts as well as competitive athletics. In future PR materials relative to the athletic fields, it might be well to spell out their place in the school's overall program (i.e., what percentage of capital and operating costs are received by each of Hanover High School's primary program components).

### ***Re-evaluate the Athletic Program***

119. I think it is really important to work on the current phys ed curriculum. Only those students who compete in extracurricular sports are getting the exercise their mind and body needs. Perhaps if phys ed was worked into every child's weekly schedule the school demand would be reduced and maybe might result in less of a demand for after school field space.

128. Please put JV reserve & 9<sup>th</sup> grade practice/game schedules to 3 or 4 days/week (not 5) and stay away from week-ends. You are destroying the sense of balance in our children's family time, music, theater and other interests and leaving them no "down time" all in the interest of winning. How can my child possibly find time to test out other interests in your all or nothing approach to sports schedules?

138. Dresden district should show equity in other sports that doesn't require fields e.g. swimming.

155. Athlete budget already to high. School bond should not be floated to build community facilities. Cut sports program and ass poetry, art, chemistry, drama after school programs.

189. I think money should be allotted for greater aquatic opportunities for the schools + community.

191. Perhaps people would feel more compassion for athletics if the school system cared more about the staffing-coaches are allowed to intimidate and abuse without repercussions-Why care?

193. You must keep the public informed. Not all citizens of Hanover and Norwich have children in the school system. You have got to convince us that all the money in the budget is really worthwhile.

199. I do not support the development of Norwich land for athletic fields, tennis courts, lockers. I would seriously consider supporting its development for a swimming facility that would open the option for swimming/diving teams at HHS. A swimming facility, one that would be enclosed and open year-round, is sorely lacking in the Hanover/Norwich community. It would be used and enjoyed by all ages of our community. As an aside the RVC is grossly over priced. The CCBA is in convenient and unavailable for team use. The Leb. Public Pool and Storr's pond are seasonal and operate well above capacity! (PS charging community members for its use on weekends, swim lessons. Etc. would offset the cost).

206. If all this money is spent on fields it seems necessary that there be a swim team. Pools are less expensive.

210. The impact of each team on student is determined by the coach; some coaches are excellent, some are awful and there is not any accountability.

240. I would like to improve strength training programs-weights etc. Like to see support of swimming program.

264. Get with the costs. The impact of building two new schools is very high. The plan for the playing fields is way out of line with fiscal reality. You have to make choices and cutting back on the number of teams is an option that should be explored.

287. For multiple reasons (student time, conservation, and cost) varsity teams should play nearby schools/Hartford etc. And reduce long trips. There should be fewer reserve teams, a phys. Ed should be required for more than one year for non-varsity students. THE PRIORITIES ARE OFF BASE.

291. Frankly, I think the plan was absurd in addition to being too expensive. Why don't you move the football playing field to Norwich and keep tennis, soccer, field hockey on-site. Hanover is already too exclusive. The development of Norwich fields makes it even more so. Unless a family has a stay-at-home parent, their kids will not be able to participate in athletics due to the far flung fields. I haven't seen any creative thinking, e.g. more indoor sports in fall/spring, enhanced PE program in high school. I will not support any plan that does not consider the needs of ALL members of the community, esp. single parents w/multiple children, and children that do not enjoy field sports.

308. I am deeply disturbed by the entire process regarding athletic fields, inattention to equal opportunity for participation in athletics by all kids – regardless of socio-economic background, and the obvious growth of Hanover – Norwich towards being so exclusive. Whoever thought of the idea of putting fields in Norwich to begin with hasn't a clue what it is like for families with fewer resources to live in this town. In the plan presented to voters, game fields on the school site would lie fallow while kids would have to find their way across the river just to practice. Only kids whose parents are able to transport them daily after school would get to play. Even if the district provided transportation to and from the Norwich fields (an enormous cost), practice time would be cut at least 45 minutes to allow for transportation. Basically, it would be a nightmare...and meanwhile, back at the H.S. the football "stadium" which services all sport and takes up an enormous space is reserved for the few home games that are played. What an awful use of resources. The committee that put this plan together is shortsighted. The more I think about it, the more frustrated I become. I have no confidence that the next plan will be much better. The survey asks if we should have lighted fields to allow later practices ... come on ... should kids be practicing until it gets dark in the fall? The very fact that provision of transportation isn't assumed (Q,6h) speaks volumes as to how ignorant the writers of this plan are. There are three gyms in the district, including Ray School, and only one fall indoor sport that I know of ... none after basketball. How about some creativity? I know of at least one middle boy that school would love to see a boy's volleyball team. Mountain biking in fall or road cycling are just as valid as "team sports". Finally, the J.V. and sub-J.V. teams are just as entitled to field use as Varsity. Teams don't have to practice on the field every day of the week. If fields were shared, a team could do some conditioning (no field required, folks!) on their off day. With some creativity and thinking, the Norwich fields don't need to be used for practice at all.

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areas of the country it is a marquee sport. We all recognize the names of Michael Phelps, Mark Spitz, New Hampshire's Jenny Thomson, and Lyme's very own B.J. Bedford. It is not a field sport, and would appeal to students that might not be attracted to ball sports. It is a good complement to other sports. Not least important is that swimmers are among the most dedicated athletes in school. Many swimmers practice their craft 11-12 months of the year, 5 or 6 days a week, sometimes twice a day. Swimmers are high academic achievers; look at the HHS honor rolls to see the consistent presence of the vast majority of student swimmers. It is a shame that these hard working kids do not get the academic and social recognition that other, often more casual, athletes do. The presence of a high school program will make it easier for NCAC and other swimming programs to retain swimmers through middle school. The lack of swimming at the high school level is a deterrent for middle school swimmers to continue with their sport. The exciting possibility of a 50 meter swimming facility in the Upper Valley makes now a great time for Hanover to make a commitment to this wonderful activity. Neptune knows I wish I did as a youngster. Thank you for soliciting and evaluating opinions on this issue.

## LOCATION/COMMUNITY

### *Sharing facilities, coordinating with community*

1. Should be sharing anyway.
17. Community support will improve if people realize that they can use some of the fields for running or kicking balls with pre-school kids while students are in school.
36. There is a clear need for more playing fields. Sports are a positive for HHS-varsity and non-varsity athletes. Sharing with town and /or college is a positive more sports like swimming, crew, etc. should be supported if facilities and finances can be worked out.
41. Sell the Norwich land a.s.a.p. Its purchase was a bad decision. Work with Dartmouth about multiple use at all the fields by Campion Arena also their office facilities. Continue using Norwich facilities on Turnpike road.
43. Would town of Hanover and Norwich chipping in?
46. Dartmouth is such a major factor in the Norwich/Hanover community that I believe the College as well as the school and town governments should coordinate closely to make most efficient use of recreation resources and avoid duplication of expense. As a major taxpayer the College should share our interest in efficiency.
53. Sharing fields is not only cost effective, but it is environmentally prudent as well. Forget AstroTurf. Any new changing facilities should be good, but not elaborate.
59. Any program should be integrated with the rec. programs; the Dresden athletic budget does not reflect the full athletic costs. Fields are expensive, they should get optimum use by the whole community.
60. I am disappointed in the athletic committee (new one) chosen-not diverse enough-too many from the first committee. They can over power and influence the few new people, and won't be open to new plans that divert too much from their original plans. DO NOT BE CLOSED MINDED to community views, and to talking with the towns and improvement society, Dartmouth even about sharing facilities.
69. Dresden athletics programs proposals should be flexible enough to make use of available facilities.
74. Sell the Norwich land! Explore cheaper alternatives-trade the land to Dartmouth or purchase more convenient to HHS. And we don't necessarily need to own the fields. There must be opportunities for sharing between Hanover & Norwich that haven't been fully explored.
76. If a proposed expenditure would enhance recreational opportunities for all in the community, support would be much stronger. Our school taxes are very high and many taxpayers will oppose as increased expense unless it is something that would benefit all.
84. Try not to create the picture or promote the feeling that every child would be or might want to be a athlete and have his own playing field. Sharing is a character builder and a teacher.
93. Focus on cooperative ventures like Huntley Meadows-Lyme and Hanover need similar setups. Plus the College could continue to put in some fields on a regular basis.
111. The issue of fields appears to be one of territory, I believe that it should be one of community. This discussion should be addressed by the schools, town, college, the improvement society and program outside those entities like baseball and soccer.
132. Bathroom and toilet facilities and changing rooms can be address later to Norwich. I like the idea about using college and town equipment and materials to reduce the cost and get it done.
154. Taxes in Hanover, driven by excessive school expenditures, have become prohibitive. Facilities for recreation and school athletics should be shared and creative, cost effective solutions found. Acquiring land is not one of them. Sell the Norwich land in 2009!!!
159. Sell the Norwich land 9 in 2009 or as soon as possible) and look to acquire more "community friendly" land in Hanover. Share fields and stagger practices until then. Don't RUSH to a poor long term solution or plan.
162. FIELDS- have community org. & members work together to do some of the work to save \$\$\$\$ build community.
170. Please come up with a cheaper, more financially controlled plan. Use existing facilities in the community. Recognize that team sports are not the only way to go- explore other "life sports" like hiking, water sports on the CT river, snow sports etc.
174. Contact Hanover Imp. Society re: expand tennis courts at their location as an option. Have user fees for students who

participate in more than one varsity sport per year.

198. Questions were not geared for certain ides-trade property, use other fields Sachem good option.

205. Share fields-less fields. no Astroturf. No locker rooms-bath rooms only. lights.

214. If a plan can't be developed at a reasonable cost (between 1-2 million) then sell the Norwich land and use the money to seek out other land or expend fields at area schools and town rec. department.

230. Please consider that many locations are not user friendly to our students or the competition. And we must consider who is the primary user of the fields. Of course the public should be able to use fields when school's aren't.

231. Having the fields in Norwich is silly, causing traffic problems. Finding a good solution requires more collaboration between the town, SAU, and the college.

243. The whole fields issues centers around the key question of : Is the plan integrated into the community? Just like schools, fields should be planned as community facilities that anchor and enhance both new and existing neighborhoods, villages and community centers. To plan athletic complexes in isolation will only encourage in both the physical and programmatic segregation of school athletics form the greater community sports playing fields and kids should be integrated into the life and fabric of our communities, not segregated in auto-oriented specialized mega center. Route 5 lands should be planned in conjunction with Norwich community development and planning goals. the school board and town planning boards need to work much more closely together than they have to achieve this.

253. The challenge facing the board is to think of ways in which the field use can be of value to the majority of voters. I think opening up the use of the fields to the community will be very important. Installing lights would certainly allow greater use and is a great idea. Unfortunately the issue of installing lights will likely be met with great resistance.

259. School district should not see itself as separate from town. We're the same taxpayers. Also, as long as fields are functional they do not need to be plush. E.g. more important to have an extra field to cycle through repair/recovery than to have changing facilities.

270. I think we need to use our fellow citizens, both towns and Dartmouth College to donate time, energy and community resources to the completion of this integral part of our community. There is no reason that this project has to be as expensive as it is. Communities have been building fields for years, through involvement. Lets mobilize the dads with tractors, the money with bake sales, the kids with brick drives. We have blown our budget on improvement for our kids, and if we want more, we need to all pitch in and get involved. Lets keep this from costing the community anything more that sweet equity. We all will appreciate what we have if we are the ones who build it.

282. In towns with largely well to do citizens there should be both financial and physical help by parents, students, and others. There are parents in construction, as well as unskilled students and adults who could participate. This project could be run in a way similar to Habitat for Humanity. It could become a great learning experience for the youth of Norwich and Hanover. this should become a community project rather that a huge purchase for a small number for athletes.

298. Driving through Hanover and out towards the Malls I often notice what's happening in the many fields along the way; and it's my strong impression that *most of them are unoccupied most of the time.* These are Dartmouth fields, Dresden Fields, and I think some along Route 10 may be private; but they are mostly empty, in summer as well as winter. As I see it, the problem is not lack of space but lack of time-tabling imagination, combined with a kind of inward-looking determination to have their own land which they can do whatever they want with at any moment the feel like it – institutional selfishness, in my opinion. I recall a public meeting at the High School during which a question was asked about specific allocation of funds. The reply from the platform was, "We prefer to have that vision without becoming too specific." (A number of people recall this. I do not want to dig up old debate, but mention this line as a contrast to what I think now cries to be done.) It is high time that Dartmouth people, whose children are in the Hanover schools, do some rigorous cost accounting to discover realistically whether it will cost more or less for the Hanover schools to own their space or to rent it from somebody else. (One gets a little tired of the magical use of long-term bonds. Looking around Hanover, I get the impression that projects are started and contractors get their shovels into the ground and presto, come back for more than they had on the original plan. There is *always* something the matter with the soil foundation, etc.) The problems vis-à-vis Hanover Town, Dresden, Dartmouth, look to me ridiculous for adult people. This town accumulated the atmosphere which now makes it pleasant, during years when these entities worked closely with each other. An attitude of "exclusivity" – considering what the whole community has to gain from the opposite – is folly.

301. I have tried to describe in this memo a rough concept for a "smart growth" approach to Dresden's playing field planning. The following is one of many definitions of the term "Smart Growth": Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient. One (among several) of my objections to the past athletic fields proposal was that the planning and design approach to providing these facilities truly had a "suburban sprawl" theme. Sprawl, also somewhat elusive to define, in general has single land uses and large parking areas, and are often only accessible by cars. Contrast the shopping environment of Hanover with that of the Route 12A strip in West Lebanon: Hanover has multiple uses, mixed horizontally and vertically, and a parking supply that is shared among many types of uses, and therefore can provide spaces for offices, stores, restaurants, and movie theatres / performing arts venues throughout the course of the day. It is easy to walk from on destination to another in town. West Lebanon has much more uniform land uses of retail, surrounded by very large parking areas that generally only serve a narrow range of uses. It is very difficult to walk to West Lebanon from anywhere. One of the key components of smart growth planning and development is to make the most use of the existing infrastructure, rather than extending infrastructure into new areas, which are not within walking distance to existing towns and villages. I would like to propose the following concept to the playing fields committee. This is more

of a brainstorm, and not something that I have tried to analyze or plan in detail, as that would best be done by the committee: [a] Rehabilitate all the fields on the HHS site with AstroTurf fields with lighting. The AstroTurf will allow for the continuous use in fall and spring seasons, and eliminate the need for "resting" the fields. The lighting will allow for staggering of the practices, perhaps each practice having half the time to themselves, and half shared with another team, throughout the afternoon and early evening. (This assumes that AstroTurf is safe – If it is not, nor are there other comparable products that are safe, this may not be advisable.) [b] Establish more long term arrangements for the minimum amount of remaining fields that are needed beyond the HHS site fields, such as Huntley Meadows in Norwich. [c] Sell the land on Route 5 to pay for this plan. It will probably prove to be a great investment, but putting either a school or a large playing fields complex for this location is not consistent with smart growth. It is not near any concentrated residential area of either community. Does this make sense?

310. [a] Tennis Courts: There are adequate tennis courts now for team practices and games. The Dresden School District certainly does not need eight courts that would be used only during one of two months of the year by the school teams. I am a great supporter of tennis but there are not that many students that go out for tennis. However, if the towns of Norwich and Hanover decided they needed more courts and were willing to share in cost and maintenance, then there might be a reason for adding some. [b] Football Field AstroTurf: Have the members of the committee consulted with Dartmouth to find out exactly how much it costs to maintain their new AstroTurf facility? I have noticed that the fields I being plowed every time there is even an inch of snow. Then it has to be trucked away so it does not pile up too much and in addition to that I noticed this past Fall the AstroTurf was being watered constantly between games. I have no idea why. It seems to me your reasoning on cutting down on expense by installing such a field is not really well thought out or researched. I think you have done a good job on your questionnaire but there should have been some mention of the possibility of perhaps negotiating with the college on such ideas as taking over Sagem Fields which would seem to be the most obvious solution and could be shared by town and schools. Thank you for your hard work.

315. Sometime ago I attended a meeting regarding purchase of the land in Norwich. This was a typical school board meeting, in a Kangaroo Court sense, where you had to be there to vote which prevents many from voting, as it did my wife who has Parkinson's. After many hours of opinions it was noted by a former owner that this land contains much ledge and would be very expensive on which to build playing fields. The people from Norwich were pushing to have the new middle school built in this area as well as the fields. Fortunately this did not take place. This is the wrong location for the fields, too far away from the schools in Hanover, too much over the bridge travel and much too expensive. The varsity fields should be maintained near the high school and other locations found in both Hanover and Norwich. Sometime ago there was talk of building tennis courts on town owned land on Greensboro Road and there appears to be much open land on Turnpike Road in Norwich. These lands should all be shared to avoid any further increase in already overly high taxes. And in the future we have all day voting on any money issues!!! As I recall the vote on the original bond was 401 for and 400 against, certainly not a mandate to proceed --- and suggest this land be sold

### *Use Dartmouth facilities*

41. Sell the Norwich land a.s.a.p. Its purchase was a bad decision. Work with Dartmouth about multiple use at all the fields by Campion Arena also their office facilities. Continue using Norwich facilities on Turnpike road.
46. Dartmouth is such a major factor in the Norwich/Hanover community that I believe the College as well as the school and town governments should coordinate closely to make most efficient use of recreation resources and avoid duplication of expense. As a major taxpayer the College should share our interest in efficiency.
60. I am disappointed in the athletic committee (new one) chosen-not diverse enough-too many from the first committee. They can over power and influence the few new people, and won't be open to new plans that divert too much from their original plans. DO NOT BE CLOSED MINDED to community views, and to talking with the towns and improvement society, Dartmouth even about sharing facilities.
63. Use Dartmouth they have done it right and well they have excessive field time space.
70. The college has a track that is under used opposite the high school. Consider using it.
93. Focus on cooperative ventures like Huntley Meadows-Lyme and Hanover need similar setups. Plus the College could continue to put in some fields on a regular basis.
241. Explain who is on the fields committee and why and the selection process. Is there a 50/50 representation of Norwich and Hanover residents? Satisfy the concern of whether the committee has really explored and pushed for ALL options. I do not see evidence of any real push to further negotiate with Dartmouth re. and land. When push came to shove with the new school site controversy, it seemed that negotiations with Dartmouth finally yielded some possibilities. I do not see the committee exploring this to any sincere extent. Committee appears very biased toward Norwich fields and many same members for the last committee and new, fresh approach. The Norwich fields are a nice conglomeration of fields, but space is not accessible to any real neighborhood. The space is not in walking distance and does not serve the community well. Traffic and safety concerns are paramount given field location would necessitate bridge travel and navigating several congested intersections. Field location require constant commute of students and family and coaching staff, the majority of which have to travel over bridge to the site and back again to Hanover. This plan unwise. Hanover site makes so much more sense,
252. Dartmouth is an essential key to this problem. They will continue to expand their program. Can we cost share? Why can't 4-5 HS games be played in the stadium per year? Sports should be available to all interested students, but Dresden does not need to be an Olympic training center. Sports should not overwhelm educational goals.
272. We need to work together with Dartmouth to figure out how to save money and resources by sharing our construction

schedules. We have an example of we need fill soil and they need to get rid of soil. They are paying to truck material, when we could be using the aterial on our project. We have just destroyed the sod at the new middle field while the ray school has been unsuccessfully seeding their fields for five years.

275. Renovate HH fields. Develop Route 5 into a multi purpose field complex (like H. Meadow and Sachem), but add basic bathroom and changing facilities. Turf at HHS that community at large could use!

277. My son is on the tennis team but unless we're going to build an indoor facility (which I'm suggesting!) I don't think its necessary or cost effective to build more outdoor courts in this climate. Program ends up spending money for indoor time and the kids shovel snow off the existing counts.

298. Driving through Hanover and out towards the Malls I often notice what's happening in the many fields along the way; and it's my strong impression that *most of them are unoccupied most of the time*. These are Dartmouth fields, Dresden Fields, and I think some along Route 10 may be private; but they are mostly empty, in summer as well as winter. As I see it, the problem is not lack of space but lack of time-tabling imagination, combined with a kind of inward-looking determination to have their own land which they can do whatever they want with at any moment the feel like it – institutional selfishness, in my opinion. I recall a public meeting at the High School during which a question was asked about specific allocation of funds. The reply from the platform was, "We prefer to have that vision without becoming too specific." (A number of people recall this. I do not want to dig up old debate, but mention this line as a contrast to what I think now cries to be done.) It is high time that Dartmouth people, whose children are in the Hanover schools, do some rigorous cost accounting to discover realistically whether it will cost more or less for the Hanover schools to own their space or to rent it from somebody else. (One gets a little tired of the magical use of long-term bonds. Looking around Hanover, I get the impression that projects are started and contractors get their shovels into the ground and presto, come back for more than they had on the original plan. There is *always* something the matter with the soil foundation, etc.) The problems vis-à-vis Hanover Town, Dresden, Dartmouth, look to me ridiculous for adult people. This town accumulated the atmosphere which now makes it pleasant, during years when these entities worked closely with each other. An attitude of "exclusivity" – considering what the whole community has to gain from the opposite – is folly.

310. [a] Tennis Courts: There are adequate tennis courts now for team practices and games. The Dresden School District certainly does not need eight courts that would be used only during one of two months of the year by the school teams. I am a great supporter of tennis but there are not that many students that go out for tennis. However, if the towns of Norwich and Hanover decided they needed more courts and were willing to share in cost and maintenance, then there might be a reason for adding some. [b] Football Field AstroTurf: Have the members of the committee consulted with Dartmouth to find out exactly how much it costs to maintain their new AstroTurf facility? I have noticed that the fields I being plowed every time there is even and inch of snow. Then it has to be trucked away so it does not pile up too much and in addition to that I noticed this past Fall the AstroTurf was being watered constantly between games. I have no idea why. It seems to me your reasoning on cutting down on expense by installing such a field is not really well thought out or researched. I think you have done a good job on your questionnaire but there should have been some mention of the possibility of perhaps negotiating with the college on such ideas as taking over Sachem Fields which would seem to be the most obvious solution and could be shared by town and schools. Thank you for your hard work.

## **Field Locations**

65. I had trouble with buses taking my son to LAX practice on Route 10 during his freshman year (he is a junior now and not driving yet). The buses were inconsistent, late, or never showed. This is not worth paying for....my feelings is that if you have a kid in sports and they do not drive then you find a way to get them to local practices (car pool, other students with cars, parent permission of course or advance transit.) This is a good reason to have as many multi-sport fields "on site" as possible. Or students could take the regular bus, after school to the nearest drop site and the student could walk.

153. ?#46 Foot travel to sites should be part of team fitness.

4A/228. Hanover should ask the landowners who want zoning changes to massively increase their residential density (and the value of their property) to compensate the community by setting aside land for playing fields. hanover recreation dept. could use Thompson Terrace again. Dresden should just sell (or lease, etc.) the Norwich Route 5 land. Perhaps to the College in trade for fields nearer the high school. Or use the money to buy fields from other private sources. Perhaps the high school could use more at Sachem Village. A major problem with the past plans is that they commit us to decades of driving back and forth to Vermont-a waste of time for students and a traffic mess.

230. Please consider that many locations are not user friendly to our students or the competition. And we must consider who is the primary user of the fields. Of course the public should be able to use fields when school's aren't.

4A/241. Explain who is on the fields committee and why and the selection process. Is there a 50/50 representation of Norwich and Hanover residents? Satisfy the concern of whether the committee has really explored and pushed for ALL options. I do not see evidence of any real push to further negotiate with Dartmouth re. and land. When push came to shove with the new school site controversy, it seemed that negotiations with Dartmouth finally yielded some possibilities. I do not see the committee exploring this to any sincere extent. Committee appears very biased toward Norwich fields and many same members for the last committee and new, fresh approach. The Norwich fields are a nice conglomeration of fields, but space is not accessible to any real neighborhood. The space is not in walking distance and does not serve the community well. Traffic and safety concerns are paramount given field location would necessitate bridge travel and navigating several congested intersections. Field location

require constant commute of students and family and coaching staff, the majority of which have to travel over bridge to the site and back again to Hanover. This plan unwise. Hanover site makes so much more sense, 4A/295. I have actual experience of comparison between a number of schools under the same public authority in one area, which sent pupils to fields some miles away, or which managed with their own surrounding playing-fields. The one which used imagination to keep sports close to their school, had a general and academic record far better than the others, not because it had more money per year per pupil (it had less) but because they handled the situation better. Over time, the schools which “bussed out” had increasing logistic, bureaucratic and cost difficulties. People at these schools longed to be able to use fields within walking distance, but were prevented by an immovable finance bureaucracy and political obstacles inside the local authority.

301. I have tried to describe in this memo a rough concept for a “smart growth” approach to Dresden’s playing field planning. The following is one of many definitions of the term “Smart Growth”: Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient. One (among several) of my objections to the past athletic fields proposal was that the planning and design approach to providing these facilities truly had a “suburban sprawl” theme. Sprawl, also somewhat elusive to define, in general has single land uses and large parking areas, and are often only accessible by cars. Contrast the shopping environment of Hanover with that of the Route 12A strip in West Lebanon: Hanover has multiple uses, mixed horizontally and vertically, and a parking supply that is shared among many types of uses, and therefore can provide spaces for offices, stores, restaurants, and movie theatres / performing arts venues throughout the course of the day. It is easy to walk from one destination to another in town. West Lebanon has much more uniform land uses of retail, surrounded by very large parking areas that generally only serve a narrow range of uses. It is very difficult to walk to West Lebanon from anywhere. One of the key components of smart growth planning and development is to make the most use of the existing infrastructure, rather than extending infrastructure into new areas, which are not within walking distance to existing towns and villages. I would like to propose the following concept to the playing fields committee. This is more of a brainstorm, and not something that I have tried to analyze or plan in detail, as that would best be done by the committee: [a] Rehabilitate all the fields on the HHS site with AstroTurf fields with lighting. The AstroTurf will allow for the continuous use in fall and spring seasons, and eliminate the need for “resting” the fields. The lighting will allow for staggering of the practices, perhaps each practice having half the time to themselves, and half shared with another team, throughout the afternoon and early evening. (This assumes that AstroTurf is safe – If it is not, nor are there other comparable products that are safe, this may not be advisable.) [b] Establish more long term arrangements for the minimum amount of remaining fields that are needed beyond the HHS site fields, such as Huntley Meadows in Norwich. [c] Sell the land on Route 5 to pay for this plan. It will probably prove to be a great investment, but putting either a school or a large playing fields complex for this location is not consistent with smart growth. It is not near any concentrated residential area of either community. Does this make sense?

### **Sell Norwich /No Norwich land/Not Norwich**

- 9. Sell the Norwich land and use the proceeds elsewhere.
- 15. Sell Norwich land!!
- 20. Before the Ray school bond issue vote for its most recent renovation, members of the committee that worked on the plan (it was large) attended Rotary, Lions and other community events to speak about the needs, the why’s and why not’s and to entertain questions and feed back. By putting the issues to the people. I believe we reached voters who would not come forward and learn about the “why’s and why not’s” otherwise. I think this survey is a good first step.
- 21. Sell the Norwich land.
- 30. The Norwich land should be sold and the money used to help finance community fields. Beaver Meadow etc. I object to an athletic complex and its long term maintenance cost. Also it would not be used consistently. would need to be policed and fenced, bathrooms and changing rooms. Its all too much for a public school.
- 41. Sell the Norwich land a.s.a.p. Its purchase was a bad decision. Work with Dartmouth about multiple use at all the fields by Campion Arena also their office facilities. Continue using Norwich facilities on Turnpike road.
- 4A/49. Too much money being spent all at once in the town (new school, senior center, Howe library, etc.). Voters are inundated. Having fields away from school, at Norwich, doesn’t make sense.
- 50. It was a community mistake to purchase the Norwich land for athletic fields.
- 57. this proposal needs time to quiet voters otherwise you will never get the necessary votes to purchase anymore land. Why do you insist upon using the former coop property and transporting students to Norwich. Creating more traffic when we already have more traffic in Hanover and Norwich than can be ad equality handled.
- 74. Sell the Norwich land! Explore cheaper alternatives-trade the land to Dartmouth or purchase more convenient to HHS. And we don’t necessarily need to own the fields. There must be opportunities for sharing between Hanover & Norwich that haven’t been fully explored.
- 85. Sell Norwich land.
- 87. Purchase of the fields in Norwich was a mistake. A one vote margin might have suggested that would problem obtaining subsequent funding.
- 90. Too late now, Norwich was a poor purchase.
- 120. The Norwich land should be sold,
- 122. Neglected to consider selling or swapping the Norwich land. Traffic conditions should be a major consideration. (Honestly

not wishful)

125. This questionnaire is much too long and complicate. I would like to see 1-3 cost and location, options spelled out. how about selling Norwich and get something in Hanover!

134. It was a mistake to lock in to Norwich, The traffic is already a disaster-it can only become impossible. Athletes are vital, essential for every child's health and future health. We must support it. it brings the community together. It is worth what we need to spend.

152. Sell the land on Route 5 in Norwich!!!

154. Taxes in Hanover, driven by excessive school expenditures, have become prohibitive. Facilities for recreation and school athletics should be shared and creative, cost effective solutions found. Acquiring land is not one of them. Sell the Norwich land in 2009!!!

158. Please sell the Norwich land, I've had extensive experience w/both games and everyday practices for softball and it is simply not as practical as possible.

4A&5159. Sell the Norwich land 9 in 2009 or as soon as possible) and look to acquire more "community friendly" land in Hanover. Share fields and stagger practices until then. Don't RUSH to a poor long term solution or plan.

164. Avoid the 'Woopsies' we didn't think of these additional concerns. Also sell the Norwich property + buy more useful land.....

169. The Norwich land should be sold.

214. If a plan can't be developed at a reasonable cost (between 1-2 million) then sell the Norwich land and use the money to seek out other land or expend fields at area schools and town rec. department.

4A,5/221. Swap land in Norwich with Sachem field land or similar or sell it.

228. Hanover should ask the landowners who want zoning changes to massively increase their residential density (and the value of their property) to compensate the community by setting aside land for playing fields. hanover recreation dept. could use Thompson Terrace again. Dresden should just sell (or lease, etc.) the Norwich Route 5 land. Perhaps to the College in trade for fields nearer the high school. Or use the money to buy fields from other private sources. Perhaps the high school could use more at Sachem Village. A major problem with the past plans is that they commit us to decades of driving back and forth to Vermont-a waste of time for students and a traffic mess.

229. The Norwich land is not the answer to our field problems. remember it was voted upon by one vote only. Anything over the Ledyard bridge will be to congested for all and too far for most of Hanover to reach i.e., Etna, Hanover Center, Blueberry Hill.

231. Having the fields in Norwich is silly, causing traffic problems. Finding a good solution requires more collaboration between the town, SAU, and the college.

233. Give up on Norwich land-should not have bought on 1 vote margin! Develop fields that can be split up if/when Dresden District is split again.

234. Sell Norwich land!

4A,5/261. Sell the Norwich land. Use the money for land in Hanover.

301. I have tried to describe in this memo a rough concept for a "smart growth" approach to Dresden's playing field planning. The following is one of many definitions of the term "Smart Growth": Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient. One (among several) of my objections to the past athletic fields proposal was that the planning and design approach to providing these facilities truly had a "suburban sprawl" theme. Sprawl, also somewhat elusive to define, in general has single land uses and large parking areas, and are often only accessible by cars. Contrast the shopping environment of Hanover with that of the Route 12A strip in West Lebanon: Hanover has multiple uses, mixed horizontally and vertically, and a parking supply that is shared among many types of uses, and therefore can provide spaces for offices, stores, restaurants, and movie theatres / performing arts venues throughout the course of the day. It is easy to walk from on destination to another in town. West Lebanon has much more uniform land uses of retail, surrounded by very large parking areas that generally only serve a narrow range of uses. It is very difficult to walk to West Lebanon from anywhere. One of the key components of smart growth planning and development is to make the most use of the existing infrastructure, rather than extending infrastructure into new areas, which are not within walking distance to existing towns and villages. I would like to propose the following concept to the playing fields committee. This is more of a brainstorm, and not something that I have tried to analyze or plan in detail, as that would best be done by the committee: [a] Rehabilitate all the fields on the HHS site with Astroturf fields with lighting. The Astroturf will allow for the continuous use in fall and spring seasons, and eliminate the need for "resting" the fields. The lighting will allow for staggering of the practices, perhaps each practice having half the time to themselves, and half shared with another team, throughout the afternoon and early evening. (This assumes that Astroturf is safe - If it is not, nor or there other comparable products that are safe, this may not be advisable.) [b] Establish more long term arrangements for the minimum amount of remaining fields that are needed beyond the HHS site fields, such as Huntley Meadows in Norwich. [c] Sell the land on Route 5 to pay for this plan. It will probably prove to be a great investment, but putting either a school or a large playing fields complex for this location is not consistent with smart growth. It is not near any concentrated residential area of either community. Does this makes sense?

308. I am deeply disturbed by the entire process regarding athletic fields, inattention to equal opportunity for participation in athletics by all kids - regardless of socio-economic background, and the obvious growth of Hanover - Norwich towards being so exclusive. Whoever thought of the idea of putting fields in Norwich to begin with hasn't a clue what it is like for families with fewer resources to live in this town. In the plan presented to voters, game fields on the school site would lie fallow while kids would have to find their way across the river just to practice. Only kids whose parents are able to transport them daily after school

would get to play. Even if the district provided transportation to and from the Norwich fields (an enormous cost), practice time would be cut at least 45 minutes to allow for transportation. Basically, it would be a nightmare...and meanwhile, back at the H.S. the football "stadium" which services all sport and takes up an enormous space is reserved for the few home games that are played. What an awful use of resources. The committee that put this plan together is shortsighted. The more I think about it, the more frustrated I become. I have no confidence that the next plan will be much better. The survey asks if we should have lighted fields to allow later practices ... come on ... should kids be practicing until it gets dark in the fall? The very fact that provision of transportation isn't assumed (Q,6h) speaks volumes as to how ignorant the writers of this plan are. There are three gyms in the district, including Ray School, and only one fall indoor sport that I know of ... none after basketball. How about some creativity? I know of at least one middle boy that school would love to see a boy's volleyball team. Mountain biking in fall or road cycling are just as valid as "team sports". Finally, the J.V. and sub-J.V. teams are just as entitled to field use as Varsity. Teams don't have to practice on the field every day of the week. If fields were shared, a team could do some conditioning (no field required, folks!) on their off day. With some creativity and thinking, the Norwich fields don't need to be used for practice at all.

315. Sometime ago I attended a meeting regarding purchase of the land in Norwich. This was a typical school board meeting, in a Kangaroo Court sense, where you had to be there to vote which prevents many from voting, as it did my wife who has Parkinson's. After many hours of opinions it was noted by a former owner that this land contains much ledge and would be very expensive on which to build playing fields. The people from Norwich were pushing to have the new middle school built in this area as well as the fields. Fortunately this did not take place. This is the wrong location for the fields, too far away from the schools in Hanover, too much over the bridge travel and much too expensive. The varsity fields should be maintained near the high school and other locations found in both Hanover and Norwich. Sometime ago there was talk of building tennis courts on town owned land on Greensboro Road and there appears to be much open land on Turnpike Road in Norwich. These lands should all be shared to avoid any further increase in already overly high taxes. And in the future we have all day voting on any money issues!!! As I recall the vote on the original bond was 401 for and 400 against, certainly not a mandate to proceed --- and suggest this land be sold

## ***Keep Norwich***

140. Whatever you do-don't give up the land in Norwich. It's needed one way or another long term.

## ***Transportation/Traffic concerns***

57. this proposal needs time to quiet voters otherwise you will never get the necessary votes to purchase anymore land. Why do you insist upon using the former coop property and transporting students to Norwich. Creating more traffic when we already have more traffic in Hanover and Norwich than can be ad equality handled.

65. I had trouble with buses taking my son to LAX practice on Route 10 during his freshman year (he is a junior now and not driving yet). The buses were inconsistent, late, or never showed. This is not worth paying for....my feelings is that if you have a kid in sports and they do not drive then you find a way to get them to local practices (car pool, other students with cars, parent permission of course or advance transit.) This is a good reason to have as many multi-sport fields "on site" as possible. Or students could take the regular bus, after school to the nearest drop site and the student could walk.

94. Please make sure people know fields cannot be used every season-without some "rest"-because they will deteriorate. Transporting kids to practice would be nice, but expensive (some should run)! We've done ok since the early 90's without transportation. NO LIGHTS-NO artificial turf- (it's dangerous!)

122. Neglected to consider selling or swapping the Norwich land. Traffic conditions should be a major consideration. (Honestly not wishful)

134. It was a mistake to lock in to Norwich, The traffic is already a disaster-it can only become impossible. Athletes are vital, essential for every child's health and future health. We must support it. it brings the community together. It is worth what we need to spend.

141. Having after school activities in Norwich will create further traffic and travel nightmares. Creating more stress and frustration to both communities members. Using Norwich on weekends and summer programs wouldn't be as bad.

228. Hanover should ask the landowners who want zoning changes to massively increase their residential density (and the value of their property) to compensate the community by setting aside land for playing fields. hanover recreation dept. could use Thompson Terrace again. Dresden should just sell (or lease, etc.) the Norwich Route 5 land. Perhaps to the College in trade for fields nearer the high school. Or use the money to buy fields from other private sources. Perhaps the high school could use more at Sagem Village. A major problem with the past plans is that they commit us to decades of driving back and forth to Vermont-a waste of time for students and a traffic mess.

229. The Norwich land is not the answer to our field problems. remember it was voted upon by one vote only. Anything over the Ledyard bridge will be to congested for all and too far for most of Hanover to reach i.e., Etna, Hanover Center, Blueberry Hill.

231. Having the fields in Norwich is silly, causing traffic problems. Finding a good solution requires more collaboration between the town, SAU, and the college.

241. Explain who is on the fields committee and why and the selection process. Is there a 50/50 representation of Norwich and

Hanover residents? Satisfy the concern of whether the committee has really explored and pushed for ALL options. I do not see evidence of any real push to further negotiate with Dartmouth re. and land. When push came to shove with the new school site controversy, it seemed that negotiations with Dartmouth finally yielded some possibilities. I do not see the committee exploring this to any sincere extent. Committee appears very biased toward Norwich fields and many same members for the last committee and new, fresh approach. The Norwich fields are a nice conglomeration of fields, but space is not accessible to any real neighborhood. The space is not in walking distance and does not serve the community well. Traffic and safety concerns are paramount given field location would necessitate bridge travel and navigating several congested intersections. Field location require constant commute of students and family and coaching staff, the majority of which have to travel over bridge to the site and back again to Hanover. This plan unwise. Hanover site makes so much more sense,

301. I have tried to describe in this memo a rough concept for a "smart growth" approach to Dresden's playing field planning. The following is one of many definitions of the term "Smart Growth": Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient. One (among several) of my objections to the past athletic fields proposal was that the planning and design approach to providing these facilities truly had a "suburban sprawl" theme. Sprawl, also somewhat elusive to define, in general has single land uses and large parking areas, and are often only accessible by cars. Contrast the shopping environment of Hanover with that of the Route 12A strip in West Lebanon: Hanover has multiple uses, mixed horizontally and vertically, and a parking supply that is shared among many types of uses, and therefore can provide spaces for offices, stores, restaurants, and movie theatres / performing arts venues throughout the course of the day. It is easy to walk from one destination to another in town. West Lebanon has much more uniform land uses of retail, surrounded by very large parking areas that generally only serve a narrow range of uses. It is very difficult to walk to West Lebanon from anywhere. One of the key components of smart growth planning and development is to make the most use of the existing infrastructure, rather than extending infrastructure into new areas, which are not within walking distance to existing towns and villages. I would like to propose the following concept to the playing fields committee. This is more of a brainstorm, and not something that I have tried to analyze or plan in detail, as that would best be done by the committee: [a] Rehabilitate all the fields on the HHS site with AstroTurf fields with lighting. The AstroTurf will allow for the continuous use in fall and spring seasons, and eliminate the need for "resting" the fields. The lighting will allow for staggering of the practices, perhaps each practice having half the time to themselves, and half shared with another team, throughout the afternoon and early evening. (This assumes that AstroTurf is safe - If it is not, nor are there other comparable products that are safe, this may not be advisable.) [b] Establish more long term arrangements for the minimum amount of remaining fields that are needed beyond the HHS site fields, such as Huntley Meadows in Norwich. [c] Sell the land on Route 5 to pay for this plan. It will probably prove to be a great investment, but putting either a school or a large playing fields complex for this location is not consistent with smart growth. It is not near any concentrated residential area of either community. Does this make sense?

315. Sometime ago I attended a meeting regarding purchase of the land in Norwich. This was a typical school board meeting, in a Kangaroo Court sense, where you had to be there to vote which prevents many from voting, as it did my wife who has Parkinson's. After many hours of opinions it was noted by a former owner that this land contains much ledge and would be very expensive on which to build playing fields. The people from Norwich were pushing to have the new middle school built in this area as well as the fields. Fortunately this did not take place. This is the wrong location for the fields, too far away from the schools in Hanover, too much over the bridge travel and much too expensive. The varsity fields should be maintained near the high school and other locations found in both Hanover and Norwich. Sometime ago there was talk of building tennis courts on town owned land on Greensboro Road and there appears to be much open land on Turnpike Road in Norwich. These lands should all be shared to avoid any further increase in already overly high taxes. And in the future we have all day voting on any money issues!!! As I recall the vote on the original bond was 401 for and 400 against, certainly not a mandate to proceed --- and suggest this land be sold

## PROPOSING SOLUTIONS

### *Specific suggestions*

10. I believe we need to use what the district owns and approach usage in a new way-practices during the day-early practices before school. Indoor practices (gym) alternate field use.

29. Finish the middle school and high school renovations before you ask for more money!

64. The lights would be an excellent way to spread out practice time. Even if students had to have practice later, they could be getting homework done earlier (this would require parent/teacher influence of course!) The evening games would be great because JV could also play on a varsity game day or vice versa. This would reduce transportation cost.

75. On Route 5 land, rough in some fields, add porta potties for the season, and improve as the years go by, when money is raised.... Rough in a gravel parking lot and run kids there with school buses. with 1-2 late bus returning to MCS and HHS at 5:30 or so.

95. no lights or artificial turf. if you want that kind of atmosphere and surface-encourage kids to play in the street. Look at transportation as an option-nice but costly.

146. The concept of open large playing pitches is pretty good and certainly may cut back in costs. Artificial turf with lights at the high school levels go a long way to enhance multiple use and drop over all costs. Athletics are a crucial aspect of a child's

education and should be considered just as strongly as biology, spanish or other academic pursuits.

149. Your alien volunteers bring a pleasure image of the school to many. Think about how students can see this school. Inter generate involvement like across Rivendell Trail. School + Town Walk/Bike or ride the bus day + meet someone. Town Green up or beautification involving students + community in idea.

150. Spend 1 million now, stagger practices, be innovative and then see how much need to spend. Team sports are over rated as part of high school experience-to many nostalgic parents, vicariously reliving childhood, pushing for these fields- not enough attention given to other non-athletic students and non-enthusiasts and more creative uses for Norwich land.

163. As a Hovey Lane neighbor, I strongly oppose artificial turn and lights for night play.

179. Fill in the "pit" or field hockey field- put in artificial turf + lights- fully develop the Norwich site with bus service.

180. Team activities provide a great environment for learning life lessons + staying healthy. Good friendships are formed with peers & adults in sports. Athletics get a lot of local news coverage because sports happen often. There are multiple sports each season, each sport competing at least once a week, if not more often. Although Hanover offers many other wonderful activities, music, drama, academic competitions, school paper/ yearbook etc.; because of the nature of these activities fewer public performances or little recognition outside of the school community, people in the community are less aware. This the erroneous conclusion that sports are everything + over-emphasized. Hanover offers + supports many athletic choices. It also supports many non-athletic activities. The public only hears about sports or hears more about sports. I think an effort should be made to help the public realize sports is one of many valuable activities available. Also, sports are very valuable for life + health. the facilities are expensive. It is in our best interest to have these facilities on-campus, as much as possible. Dis-engage kids with too much time on their hands are not food for the life of a community. Maintain soccer, football, and possibly lower field as high school. Develop Huntley into extra fields. Possibly re-organize layout. Build new gym @ high school, keep current gym so that there is a gain. Develop Rt. 5 to cover extra fields needed. Tennis should be fine @Huntley and Storrs.

184. Eliminate or severely restrict student parking lot at schools & recover land for fields. Charge students to park on school property. You must stop wanting Rolls Royce & start buying last year's chevy.

204. HHS should have lights on both the lower practice/field hockey and upper football fields. Increases use add more people attend games in the evening (especially Friday nights!)

205. Share fields-less fields. no Astroturf. No locker rooms-bath rooms only. lights.

235. Approach every owner of undeveloped lot in Hanover with offer to buy out for field use.

236. Many people live in this area because of the schools. The upgrading of athletic fields should be presented as something that adds value to the community and not just something for student athletes.

242. Facilities are a MUST wherever the field space.

253. The challenge facing the board is to think of ways in which the field use can be of value to the majority of voters. I think opening up the use of the fields to the community will be very important. Installing lights would certainly allow greater use and is a great idea. Unfortunately the issue of installing lights will likely be met with great resistance.

265. The fields at Norwich need to be made usable. Parents have already spent many years toting their kids to activities, a few more years until the kids can drive will not hurt. Artificial turf at the high school is gold-plating one field for varsity use only. The HHS field and Norwich fields should be designed and constructed the same. The real issue here is providing access for many students, not just the varsity, and the school district should own and control the fields.

271. Teach our children that we can raise money, pitch in and get anything done that we put our minds to rather than just finding the lowest bidding contractor to take on the project and constantly compromise because the project gets too expensive. We need to be more aware of the resources that we are destroying while making the improvements to our community. I am ashamed that we are asking to replace a adequate field at the Middle school so that it can be used to stage the construction for the high school. use the traffic calming area as a staging area of the construction of the high school. The community behind the high school has already made it clear that they do not want the rest driving through their neighborhood. I recommend that we close off their access to Lebanon Street between the church and middle school and have the construction team use it for staging of the construction, rather than ruining the field that is there.

272. We need to work together with Dartmouth to figure out how to save money and resources by sharing our construction schedules. We have an example of we need fill soil and they need to get rid of soil. They are paying to truck material, when we could be using the aterial on our project. We have just destroyed the sod at the new middle field while the ray school has been unsuccessfully seeding their fields for five years.

296. Questions 1 through 4 (which goes from a to h): these seem to me to be questions of theory evaluation rather than concrete plans; I leave this to the people inside the High school and those who govern it directly. It's my impression over many years that any plan may need a certain amount of idealistic PR at the start, but that in Hanover we have already heard enough of that, and what we really need is practical accounting, ahead of time. I am not inclined to fuss over theories which can be interpreted in so many different ways. Question 5 (in a box on page 2) is rather similar. I did not vote for the plan for a whole spectrum of reasons, most of them listed. The root reasons was that I didn't think that their plan could possibly achieve the aims they set out for it. Artificial turf was not my main objection; but in my opinion it is passé – most of the major athletic associations of THE WORLD have gone back to real grass, for a variety of reasons. I live near enough to the Dartmouth College 9artificial turf) field to that it plainly has not fulfilled their planning ambitions *as a relatively care-free facility*. It is *not* trouble free.

310. [a] Tennis Courts: There are adequate tennis courts now for team practices and games. The Dresden School District certainly does not need eight courts that would be used only during one of two months of the year by the school teams. I am a great

supporter of tennis but there are not that many students that go out for tennis. However, if the towns of Norwich and Hanover decided they needed more courts and were willing to share in cost and maintenance, then there might be a reason for adding some. [b] Football Field AstroTurf: Have the members of the committee consulted with Dartmouth to find out exactly how much it costs to maintain their new AstroTurf facility? I have noticed that the fields I being plowed every time there is even an inch of snow. Then it has to be trucked away so it does not pile up too much and in addition to that I noticed this past Fall the AstroTurf was being watered constantly between games. I have no idea why. It seems to me your reasoning on cutting down on expense by installing such a field is not really well thought out or researched. I think you have done a good job on your questionnaire but there should have been some mention of the possibility of perhaps negotiating with the college on such ideas as taking over Schem Fields which would seem to be the most obvious solution and could be shared by town and schools. Thank you for your hard work.

## SUPPORTIVE COMMENTS

### *Positive Value/Role of competitive athletics ,*

6. Our children thrived on the experiences in high school athletics. The values they learned are applied today as young adults in the working world. I think we support a strong proposal that ensures the strength of the high school sports program allowing broad participation of many students in a wide variety of programs. Unfortunately we missed the last vote we will do better and vote next time.
19. We live in one of the wealthiest communities in NH and its a poor reflection on our system that de don't support (\$) on athletic program. Organized sports on all levels have been known to increase self esteem. keep kids in school, help kids focus etc. We should be offering all levels of sports and other extracurricular club. They aren't mutually exclusive. It's as important as academics in educating our children and teaching them life skills.
178. It is well known that kids involved in adult-led after school activities do better, make fewer poor choices. Being involved in after-school sports, whether a serious varsity athlete or a casual recreational/intramural athletic is a positive use of a kids' time.
293. More over, both team and individual competitive sports have positive value in and of themselves. They have their place within the larger frame of a physical education program and the still larger frame of a balanced academic and co/extracurricular offering. It is important for varsity sports teams to be competitive but not be the perennial power. It is equally important that sports teams not utilize a school's finite resources so that other school programs are wanting. It is every bit as necessary, for example, that the graphic and performing arts have the physical facilities, materials and personnel they need to be effective and a source of school pride as for a varsity football team to have a comparable level of support.
36. There is a clear need for more playing fields. Sports are a positive for HHS-varsity and non-varsity athletes. Sharing with town and /or college is a positive more sports like swimming, crew, etc. should be supported if facilities and finances can be worked out.
66. We cannot in this age of computers (less exercise), obesity, and increased stress on students, afford to cut their major outlet of exercise and street reduction (because our community wants to save some tax dollar). At what cost? Sports how students how to cooperate with all levels of players as in life...a good reason not to cut reserve teams. All teams are important are important, especially to the student's self-esteem. The schedules teach time management to the student, keeps them off the streets after school, and most import gives them pride in their school sport's program.
98. regarding 4a: I would emphasize participation in that team sports not track, not tennis, perhaps not baseball--helps overcome social stratification among Dresden students. In a true team sport and individual's performance is contingent upon cooperation for all other members of the squad. All coaches should recognize that this is a team ethos (or attitudinal) issue. It's not winning or losing or how you play the game but whether you are a better (social) human being because you have team sports to mold your development. The more participants- active participants-the better! And team sports use fields and gyms and rink time.
100. My interest-and the reason for my responses herein-is in returning athletics to the point where the values inherent in games are the reasons for athletics not winning. As a former school athlete and even as a "golfer". I want to win the games I play. But what is more important are the values of team work, hard work. camaraderie, and the sense of doing my best, irrespective of the outcome. I recognize this is an ideal but so much is given up when winning for winning sake is the primary goal.
130. It's great to solicit community input and to educate community members-it is complicated. So I appreciate "unbiased" information. Sports are important and we want to support them and be reasonable with expenses.
146. The concept of open large playing pitches is pretty good and certainly may cut back in costs. Artificial turf with lights at the high school levels go a long way to enhance multiple use and drop over all costs. Athletics are a crucial aspect of a child's education and should be considered just as strongly as biology, spanish or other academic pursuits.
180. Team activities provide a great environment for learning life lessons + staying healthy. Good friendships are formed with peers & adults in sports. Athletics get a lot of local news coverage because sports happen often. There are multiple sports each season, each sport competing at least once a week, if not more often. Although Hanover offers many other wonderful activities, music, drama, academic competitions, school paper/ yearbook etc.; because of the nature of these activities fewer public performances or little recognition outside of the school community, people in the community are less aware. This the erroneous conclusion that sports are everything + over-emphasized. Hanover offers + supports many athletic choices. It also supports many non-athletic activities. The public only hears about sports or hears more about sports. I think an effort should be made to help the public realize sports is one of many valuable activities available. Also, sports are very valuable for life + health. the facilities are

expensive. It is in our best interest to have these facilities on-campus, as much as possible. Dis-engage kids with too much time on their hands are not food for the life of a community. Maintain soccer, football, and possibly lower field as high school. Develop Huntley into extra fields. Possibly re-organize layout. Build new gym @ high school, keep current gym so that there is a gain. Develop Rt. 5 to cover extra fields needed. Tennis should be fine @Huntley and Storrs.

239. Athletics at HHS is an important part of community life, not just HHS student life. It is embarrassing to me that with our history of exceptional student athletes who compete and win at the highest levels, we are denigrating sports generally and HHS sports particularly.

### ***Unqualified support for fields/Support fields***

28. I would support whatever proposal for the Dresden fields that the Dresden school board recommended.

36. There is a clear need for more playing fields. Sports are a positive for HHS-varsity and non-varsity athletes. Sharing with town and /or college is a positive more sports like swimming, crew, etc. should be supported if facilities and finances can be worked out.

67. We do need our communities (Norwich and Hanover) to stop arguing about turf issues, taxes, etc. and support our two communities as one for this issue...all our children are in this together and they are not arguing about who is on the field playing by their side! They just want to play sports.

112. I fully support the athletic program.

114. We believe strongly that Dresden student-athletes should be encouraged to play sports and be able to have team of all levels practice and play simultaneously at convenient times in proximity to each other. The value of participation is only winning is less important.

177. We need to convince voters that our facilities are inferior to poorer towns that we compete with and those arguing for the "cheap" alternative need to be confronted with those facts.

181. HHS has a fantastic athletic program & tradition. DO NOT succumb to some cares to downsize the program. It is real positive for the students, school community and envied by many, many schools throughout the state.

213. I am appalled that blue collar communities around us provide more for their students then we do. Look at the new Windsor High School (it reflects a community) that cares about kids, not just their own downtown real estate value.

219. People need to look around at other high schools. We have one of the worst facilities around. I also think we need to do a grass roots, and call everyone and really educate them using the phone, and to sell it to the communities. We need a first class sports complex for everyone to use.

223. I would love to see as many home contests as possible played at the school. It s important for kids who don't have a ride to another location to speculate and cheer on their schoolmates. As a former coach (skiing, soccer, basketball) I always liked going to other schools that had all of their athletic facilities in a single location, near the school. As this is not possible in Hanover, the fields in Norwich are the next best plan!

239. Athletics at HHS is an important part of community life, not just HHS student life. It is embarrassing to me that with our history of exceptional student athletes who compete and win at the highest levels, we are denigrating sports generally and HHS sports particularly.

244. I think that more fields particularly help the students who are not varsity athletes helping them get involved in sports. They are the ones who lose out with facilities..

265. The fields at Norwich need to be made usable. Parents have already spent many years toting their kids to activities, a few more years until the kids can drive will not hurt. Artificial turf at the high school is gold-plating one field for varsity use only. The HHS field and Norwich fields should be designed and constructed the same. The real issue here is providing access for many students, not just the varsity, and the school district should own and control the fields.

269. Try to help the community understand that all investments in the health and education only enhances the health of the entire community including athletics.

286. Original plan was the best one!!!

288. Spots participation for all is very important, not just for varsity athletes. Even practice time for those who want to participate is being limited because of the lack of facilities. And the condition of those facilities- track, gym lighting, locker rooms, bleachers, parking for example is shameful. No other school in the area, including Lebanon, Hartford, Windsor etc. has such poor (and sometimes dangerous) conditions.

289. Thanks for the efforts thus far. Focus on setting us second fields built are needed for all to be able to participate in sports. Don't give up. Compromise on luxurious elements, but not number + size of fields. Remember the non elite kids.

290. Really important to emphasize how crucial it is to continue to encourage kids to participate in sports at all levels. Continue to promote an inclusive sports policy that enables everyone to play. The rise in levels of obesity, child hood onset diabetes and other health issues related to our increasingly sedentary lifestyles suggest that this is not the time to scrimp on athletic facilities. Make sure there are enough facilities so that everyone can play up to their skill level. Not all sports have to be high-pressure, high performance varsity level teams with a small number of skilled student athletes. Everyone needs physical activity, and organized sports are some of the best ways to stay active. We should be promoting a culture of active, athletic participation. This culture begins in school in many cases or is at least fostered & promoted there. A healthy, active lifestyle benefits individuals and the community at large. Sufficient athletic facilities are a key component to this kind of community well being.

292. We are relatively new to Hanover. For that reason and because we neither had have nor will have a child attending Hanover

High School, we lack sufficient knowledge to responsibly answer questions 6-10 of the questionnaire. We did vote in favor of both recent athletic field proposals, essentially out of respect for members of the Dresden School Board, whom we presumed had responsibly balanced the competing needs for funds posed by the overall program of Hanover High School.

312. The Dresden district is very luck to own land on which to develop field (or even a school one day, in another century). We should therefore use the Norwich land. Indeed, it would be grossly irresponsible for the district to sell it when land is so scarce.

## COMMENTS RELATING TO DIFFERENT QUESTION, OR MISC.

### *Belongs in Question #11 Having to do with Board & Communication or Process)*

*Process: improved communication between Board & Community, representative committee structure, long-range planning important.*

E/20. Before the Ray school bond issue vote for its most recent renovation, members of the committee that worked on the plan (it was large) attended Rotary, Lions and other community events to speak about the needs, the why's and why not's and to entertain questions and feed back. By putting the issues to the people. I believe we reached voters who would not come forward and learn about the "why's and why not's" otherwise. I think this survey is a good first step.

I/26. You could improve your response rate by including a pre-addressed return envelope, preferably stamped.

D/32. Put people into do not share board's viewpoint on planning committee so end up until reasonable cost and compromises.

D/37. Dresden District board needs to come to terms with the fact that they are part of a larger community.

D/60. I am disappointed in the athletic committee (new one) chosen-not diverse enough-too many from the first committee. They can over power and influence the few new people, and won't be open to new plans that divert too much from their original plans. DO NOT BE CLOSED MINDED to community views, and to talking with the towns and improvement society, Dartmouth even about sharing facilities.

D/73. The school board has made its worst decision when it has become politically wedded to ideas before generally asking and considering community input. These are a lot of talented people with expertise in vary areas and the board should tap their potential and profit free it rather than keep trying to be so controlling.

B/E77. We have recently moved to the area from a town in New York State which has gone through many of the same issues in the past few years. That district made a concerted effort to inform residents in a number of ways, (mailings, public forums, questionnaires, etc.). I think this questionnaire is an excellent start but Dresden needs to do alot more to inform the district residents and the school board needs to be more open and responsive to residents.

D/81. If group is unwilling accept repeated votes against, clearly education/information is not the issue.

I/82. Question 2 should include grandparents active in grand children's sports.

B/H/83. Give some attention to how to communicate. It has been pathetic in recent years. Compare how town of Hanover does it.

H/88. Please be straight forward about facts, numbers, "needs". Be Clear that Hanover High athletics include sports-volleyball, track, cross country, tennis, x-c skiing, downhill skiing, hockey, crew that DON'T USE FIELDS. Fields are for a few select sports.

A/92. While it's important for the voters to feel that their voices have been heard, it's also important for the Board to remember that we operate under a representative form of government, not a direct democracy. One public opinion has been sought, the Board should feel free/have the courage to make a decisions that are (1) in the best interest of the whole district (2) strike a balance between educational and financial interests and (3) are based on the board ad deep knowledge that the Board, more than any single voters, brings to its decision making. in other words, when the community is divided, as it often will be, have the courage of your own convictions as a board, based on the above considerations, and vote. (The worst thing that can happen is that someone else gets elected in the next board election!)

H/109. Today not informed or in touch with school activities such is the case with our elderly population ( in your 95) Some answers may help or lack of answers.

D/110. We don't have children in school. Several who do have suggested that Hanover schools place too much emphasis on sports. I would caution the committee to listen to those voices-not just the ones promoting sports. I don't envy you with these decisions but some compromises seems in order to satisfy more fields.

I/113. This survey is poorly designed.

J/118. It is impossible to translate the total sum into how will it affect my taxes and how much field is this going to get us-please find a way to clarify.

J/125. This questionnaire is much too long and complicate. I would like to see 1-3 cost and location, options spelled out. how about selling Norwich and get something in Hanover!

D/126. Don't start out presenting a take it or leave is plan. Listen to alternative and then finalize plan and possibly several line items to each be voted on.

H/130. It's great to solicit community input and to educate community members-it is complicated. So I appreciate "unbiased" information. Sports are important and we want to support them and be reasonable with expenses.

D/137. Strong advocates for 2 failed votes should not be on new committee. Get new blood.

D/148. Moderate income- people who generally support school initiatives are being forced to vote against them because of the tax

burden. Your expectations are too high. Inform yourself of your voter populations concerns + burdens.

E/151. Have students become involved in discussion groups.

D/167. Get some diverse views on the board. Currently it is little more than a rubber stamp for the schools and the superintendent's office. Get your budgets under control and stop passing every possible new expenditure on to the tax payer. Recognize that you represent all voters and not just the schools.

H/173. The art of writing unambiguous questions is just that. Often, the composer is too involved in the subject to realize that neither "agree" nor "disagree" delivers the relevant information. Thank you for good intentions.

H/175. This questionnaire sometimes asks questions that assume more knowledge \_ ex. #4 (g)- "perspectives" without background information on current practices & policies- are not helping the public- nor would they be a good basis for any decision.

I/180. Team activities provide a great environment for learning life lessons + staying healthy. Good friendships are formed with peers & adults in sports. Athletics get a lot of local news coverage because sports happen often. There are multiple sports each season, each sport competing at least once a week, if not more often. Although Hanover offers many other wonderful activities, music, drama, academic competitions, school paper/ yearbook etc.; because of the nature of these activities fewer public performances or little recognition outside of the school community, people in the community are less aware. This the erroneous conclusion that sports are everything + over-emphasized. Hanover offers + supports many athletic choices. It also supports many non-athletic activities. The public only hears about sports or hears more about sports. I think an effort should be made to help the public realize sports is one of many valuable activities available. Also, sports are very valuable for life + health. the facilities are expensive. It is in our best interest to have these facilities on-campus, as much as possible. Dis-engage kids with too much time on their hands are not food for the life of a community. Maintain soccer, football, and possibly lower field as high school. Develop Huntley into extra fields. Possibly re-organize layout. Build new gym @ high school, keep current gym so that there is a gain. Develop Rt. 5 to cover extra fields needed. Tennis should be fine @ Huntley and Storrs.

D/188. I hope that as a part of this process that there will be an opportunity to discuss what role athletics should play at H.H.S.

A/190. I appreciate the efforts the board and the athletic planning committees are making to get the input and the approval of the voters. Too bad they didn't reach our earlier. Glad they're doing it now.

D/192. I believe that this entire discussion and the lack of implementation has taken much too long. I have lost support due to the continuous lack of decision on the part of the school board. My children will have graduated long before anything is done and therefore will not benefit from the change. I would like to be unselfish in my support of the fields, however, I have watched this unrelenting issue go on so long that I really don't want to support anything having to do with the renovation of this school and its athletic programs. I don't want to increase my property taxes to give support after so many years have passed with an unsatisfactory decision and implementation. Though I am lacking in details of this process and have not been able to participate in its discussion, I think that we are all tired of this ongoing state of everything to do with the school, fields, etc.

H/193. You must keep the public informed. Not all citizens of Hanover and Norwich have children in the school system. You have got to convince us that all the money in the budget is really worthwhile.

I/195. I think HHS has done a wonderful job offering a variety of activities for students-debate, drama, music, art, quiz bowl, math team, language clubs, etc. There is a tremendous amount of talent, but there is a very little PR for the school in terms of student's academic and artistic achievements. For some reason, the school has a policy of not publicizing specific student's names and achievements. Even in the principal's weekly e-mail home to parents, names are never mentioned. However, the Valley news and CT Spectator constantly provide coverage on high school sports with names, photos and various achievements. From where I sit, the publicity is very asymmetrical in favor of sports and doesn't highlight the other wonderful school activities and talents. I think this imbalance in publicity has left the public with the incorrect opinion that Hanover High places too much emphasis on athletics. The school needs to do a better PR job on what it offers on a whole and not leave it up to the sports editors of the local papers.

I/197. I am concerned that there may be people who fill out many questionnaires-just to make sure their ideas get enough votes. Please be weary of this ballot stuffing possibility.

I/198. Questions were not geared for certain ideas-trade property, use other fields Sachem good option.

I/203. Too many questions on this survey. I don't think you'll get clear or easily understandable results. There are other athletic and non-athletic extracurricular needs that should have equal or higher priority. e.g. crew and debate, which deserve more substantial support than they get and I'm sure there are others.

J/212. Unless the project plan and expenses breakdown is available for study, it is difficult to understand why the estimated cost is so high! (\$4,557,884.000)

H/218. This questionnaire is an example of how vague the Dresden school board is on its need for field use. For example question #3 what athletic program are you talking about? The high school, the rec program or individualized programs. Give us the facts on artificial turf vs. grass. What does one "central facility" mean? I agree we need bathrooms on site but what beyond that are you proposing? Your questionnaire and the information that you send to the general public is always VERY VAGUE!!

F/219. People need to look around at other high schools. We have one of the worst facilities around. I also think we need to do a grass roots, and call everyone and really educate them using the phone, and to sell it to the communities. We need a first class sports complex for everyone to use.

H/237. Question 9 doesn't tell us anything-you should equate it to tax burden.

I/238. Send out email survey, via HHS student/parent email earlier. I received this on 1/27/05/ You asked for it to be returned 1/28/05. I might have given it more thought if I had more time.

D/245. I suggest you get input from the finance committee about cost/benefits options.

D/254. Begin without preconceived notions about the role of athletics and team sports in education. Create a healthy, open and through debate on these topics in the community.

H/269. Try to help the community understand that all investments in the health and education only enhances the health of the entire community including athletics.

D/280. New school board. Try a fund-raiser!!!

H/294. The school [...] presumably has articulated its mission in a fashion that is sufficiently detailed to be meaningful and speak to how the entire Hanover High School program addresses the universe of students' interests, including the arts as well as competitive athletics. In future PR materials relative to the athletic fields, it might be well to spell out their place in the school's overall program (i.e., what percentage of capital and operating costs are received by each of Hanover High School's primary program components).

H/296. Questions 1 through 4 (which goes from a to h): these seem to me to be questions of theory evaluation rather than concrete plans; I leave this to the people inside the High school and those who govern it directly. It's my impression over many years that any plan may need a certain amount of idealistic PR at the start, but that in Hanover we have already heard enough of that, and what we really need is practical accounting, ahead of time. I am not inclined to fuss over theories which can be interpreted in so many different ways. Question 5 (in a box on page 2) is rather similar. I did not vote for the plan for a whole spectrum of reasons, most of them listed. The root reasons was that I didn't think that their plan could possibly achieve the aims they set out for it. Artificial turf was not my main objection; but in my opinion it is passé – most of the major athletic associations of THE WORLD have gone back to real grass, for a variety of reasons. I live near enough to the Dartmouth College (artificial turf) field to that it plainly has not fulfilled their planning ambitions *as a relatively care-free facility*. It is *not* trouble free.

H/298. Driving through Hanover and out towards the Malls I often notice what's happening in the many fields along the way; and it's my strong impression that *most of them are unoccupied most of the time*. These are Dartmouth fields, Dresden Fields, and I think some along Route 10 may be private; but they are mostly empty, in summer as well as winter. As I see it, the problem is not lack of space but lack of time-tabling imagination, combined with a kind of inward-looking determination to have their own land which they can do whatever they want with at any moment the feel like it – institutional selfishness, in my opinion. I recall a public meeting at the High School during which a question was asked about specific allocation of funds. The reply from the platform was, "We prefer to have that vision without becoming too specific." (A number of people recall this. I do not want to dig up old debate, but mention this line as a contrast to what I think now cries to be done.) It is high time that Dartmouth people, whose children are in the Hanover schools, do some rigorous cost accounting to discover realistically whether it will cost more or less for the Hanover schools to own their space or to rent it from somebody else. (One gets a little tired of the magical use of long-term bonds. Looking around Hanover, I get the impression that projects are started and contractors get their shovels into the ground and presto, come back for more than they had on the original plan. There is *always* something the matter with the soil foundation, etc.) The problems vis-à-vis Hanover Town, Dresden, Dartmouth, look to me ridiculous for adult people. This town accumulated the atmosphere which now makes it pleasant, during years when these entities worked closely with each other. An attitude of "exclusivity" – considering what the whole community has to gain from the opposite – is folly.

H/300. I may not have children at the school, but it would be interesting to know what percentage of the town taxes actually come from people who don't.

D/315. Sometime ago I attended a meeting regarding purchase of the land in Norwich. This was a typical school board meeting, in a Kangaroo Court sense, where you had to be there to vote which prevents many from voting, as it did my wife who has Parkinson's. After many hours of opinions it was noted by a former owner that this land contains much ledge and would be very expensive on which to build playing fields. The people from Norwich were pushing to have the new middle school built in this area as well as the fields. Fortunately this did not take place. This is the wrong location for the fields, too far away from the schools in Hanover, too much over the bridge travel and much too expensive. The varsity fields should be maintained near the high school and other locations found in both Hanover and Norwich. Sometime ago there was talk of building tennis courts on town owned land on Greensboro Road and there appears to be much open land on Turnpike Road in Norwich. These lands should all be shared to avoid any further increase in already overly high taxes. And in the future we have all day voting on any money issues!!! As I recall the vote on the original bond was 401 for and 400 against, certainly not a mandate to proceed --- and suggest this land be sold

D/316. As a member of the Hanover Food Co-op I attended the meeting which decided how we should dispose of our land in Norwich and voted to sell it to the Dresden school district because I believed that putting a school on that land with all the acreage it has for accompanying fields would be the "highest and best" use of the land. As a member of the Dresden school district, I attended the meeting at which we discussed the potential purchase of the land, and voted in favor for the same reason as before. As a member of the Dresden school district, I also attended a few of the meetings of the committee charged with sorting out and presenting to the voters of Hanover & Norwich the various choices of renovate / build new and all the possible permutations of location for each school. When public participation was permitted, I raised my hand and asked why locating at least one school on the Norwich land did not appear to be seriously considered. I was told, vaguely, that there "wasn't much interest" in that idea. It did seem to me that it was the committee – or a patron of it – and not the public that was not interested. At a later date, I again attended an open committee meeting and asked whether the location of adjacent playing fields carried any weight in the choice of building lots. There was an uncomfortable pause, and then one committee member said, "We prefer to keep the matter of playing fields separate from the matter of school location." This response did, and does, seem so illogical to me that I can only conclude

that these are people (I do hope they are a small minority) to whom the cherished vision of a multi-million-dollar sports complex is so dear that to achieve it they are willing to sacrifice all logic in school location, bus routes, alternative uses of funding, money already spent to purchase the land – you name it. All the arguments now being so heartrendingly advanced about lack of field space, parents having to drive kids to practice etc. ad nauseam, could have been avoided early on. As a taxpayer, I have voted (twice!) for the bonds to fund our schools. If there is no money left to fund Sports Heaven on the Norwich land, I can only say to the adults who separated the playing field issue from the school location issue, “This is a problem which you created with your own hands. It is too late to ask me to pay for it. My taxes right now are all I can handle. Good Luck.”

B/45. Why not do such surveys on line or a least allow and on-line response?

### ***Belongs in Question #11 /Board & Communication: “A” refers to saying “OK as is”***

78. I feel the school district is losing its way. If I believed “sports” encouraged positive interactions among participants I would support sports in school. All the evidence is quite the reverse. It is true I have not yet heard of high school players assaulting watchers, but it would not come as a surprise. If the functions of the schools is to prepare children for college and for life highly organized sports are out of place-the proportion of pupils making a living by throwing or kicking balls is minuscule, and preparation for such an activity is a waste of other people’s money. If people want their children to participate they should shoulder the true economic cost.

106. Thanks for you continued time and effort!

171. We appreciate your hard work.

187. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all of us.

196. I wish you luck.

200. Good luck!

209. A good questionnaire, As Q’s go. Analysis and interputation will not be easy. Thanks for this major effort.

263. Thank you, the Board, for the work and long hours. Anything you can do to set priorities , with the quality of the curriculum and academic excellence as the main guiding light, would be most important in a time when budgetary considerations are limiting what the School District can provide.

276. Thanks for your time!

### ***No longer relevant (Water under the bridge)***

7. We are in a mess because of where high school must remain. We lost the opportunity to go out to Lyme road.

51. We appreciate your efforts. This is difficult, Thankless work. That being said, we still think the attachment to keeping HS downtown is a flawed strategy and has led to these problems. Now we are caught in this trap of high costs and a population unwilling to pay the resulting costs of keeping HHS on Lebanon Street.

80. Bond on an even amount 4,557,884!?! Seven significant digits? As we saw on middle school construction costs, this is an estimate.

89. Why wasn’t the school board and the town thinking ahead 10 years ago?

129. The nyopin, foolish refusal to move the high school from its current site has created multiple problems. One bad decision begets others.

157. I would also strongly suggest that the SAU #70 offices be transferred to one of the schools in the rebuilding plans and save the tax payers money for this essential expenditure.

224. Since the HS was voted to move out of town, why hasn’t it?

### ***Miscellaneous.***

(When we are unsure of the point being made, or when the comment doesn’t fit into any code we’ve developed)

11. Our General US Society displays less courtesy, self-discipline and self-control than in previous generations. Re-introduction of the values. Is a major task of parents and educators and critical to the future of this nation.

14. It’s time to think long term, and conserve the land for health recreation for the next 50 years. Let the land go now and where will we play in 5 years let alone 50!

16. Too much emphasizes on consultants. Listen to the AD and consultants.

22. Stay the course!

34. Good luck its complicated.

40. Since this form is available without accountability, aren’t you concerned about teams stuffing the ballot box with multiple questionnaires?

44. Don’t know

68. Already have. This entire approach has been a shoot-from-the-hip, egocentric, unplanned, political, elitist driven, ridiculously expensive QUAGMIRE!!!

97. Because one method of return of the survey is to drop off at a school rather than town clerks office, etc. The results may not be

as valid as they should be.

99. In question 8 which is the cheapest alternative? Question 9 what does each amount buy?

104. Give something back to the community that has provided you with an already luxury school system few in the United States. (let alone in the World) Enjoy.

124. In new plans for high school, please make parking for voters more easy to use-more of it. Closer to door, easier to find without circling the block.

131. The Claremont decision will ultimately change lore that the way schools are financed in New Hampshire. The State's teaching resources are now allocate in a very inefficient manner. Many of the most difficult teaching problems occur in our poorest communities, while most of the best teachers are in wealthier communities. Our schools will need to be networked so that the minds of the best teachers can be brought to bear on these problems. Instead of waiting for the inevitable, Dresden should take the lead in developing the network. Properly organized, the only thing that Dresden will be required to expend is teacher time in the network's design. The necessary technical resources and charitable funding are readily available, but the teacher input essential to the design of a teachers network.

142. Ray school

156. I am a former 4 varsity letters for 4 sports for 4 years in both high school and college as well as past college 3 sports organized teams (regional) per year. I am also a former coach and physical education teacher. Frankly, I am appalled at the plans.

160. The newspaper article spurred me to send this in..... Thanks.

185. My spouse and I agree on all these responses- you may count this survey twice.

232. As a grandparent I don't understand why elementary school sports are not played against towns so far away.

251. Lets do it as as possible.

257. Thank you for your efforts and time on behalf of our entire community.

267. Get it done!

279. Save the JV and varsity slot for talented athletes just like the elite musical group at HHS.

283. I live in Norwich.

285. Let's get this done and put it to rest!

306. I (we) believe the opposition to spending more on athletics (or other fringe subjects such as art and music) is either opposition to athletics in general, or extreme parsimony.



## QUESTION #11:

# How can Board help voters become more informed?

*Sorted by Comment type, and organized by theme*

### MECHANISMS FOR COMMUNICATING

#### **Media: mail, print media, email, website, CATV, radio**

4. Explanations sent by mail to Dresden voters.
5. Information sent in the mail & surveys like this are good!
10. Web page.
11. Keep up the occasional newsletters; press releases.
12. Notices to home, newsletters.
16. Information latter/pamphlet-through I suspect at least 50% of the readers won't read it.
18. This survey is a nice way to solicit information and I would like to see the school board to more of this. I think there is a tendency for the school boards to make their minds up and then go through the motions of involving the public, I have attended meetings when I felt that they really weren't interested in my opinion and were really not willing to change their mind on the issue. This really puts a damper on public participation when this perception is out there. Use the web site to get information out there. Publish consolidated fact sheets using graphs, etc. as the issue is on going giving the voters all sides of the picture so that they can make an educated vote, Do your best to present the information in an unbiased manner and the voters will do their best to make an informed vote. Don't hold on so tight to what the outcome might be
24. Fact sheets with pro/cons of alternatives distributed to all tax payers by mail. Frequency depends on issues and problems.
36. Clear information published in the Valley News and HHS news email.
40. Valley News
41. Public meetings. Web site info. Good Valley News coverage.
44. Web site current and in detail.
46. Keep web site as current as possible.
55. Via Valley News
57. Send e-mail , more newspaper articles, more United States mailing. Bombard the community.
59. Post information on web site and mail flyers. Past controversy will create more interest.
65. Mail information to voters.
69. More in the Valley News.
70. Better use of newspaper to explain issues.
71. Keep putting articles in the paper and have people write letters to the editors about it.
72. Mailed information including site plans.
74. Advertise or articles in the spectator newspaper or send mailings. Questionnaires good but time consuming.
78. Periodic mailings to taxpayers.
80. Keep voters informed by news letters.
81. Email summary of issues and active problems to all community members who volunteer their emails.
83. A dedicated web site
89. Valley news coverage is very important. Informational meetings in Norwich and Hanover with CATV coverage and good publicity to encourage non-attendees to watch on television. When the weather is a bit better, I think it would be good to offer field trips to the sites, especially the Norwich fields, led by a school board /field committee member. Sunday afternoon might be a good time for this.
91. First off, make sure you have the Spectator over the story instead of the Valley News. The information is more timely and accurate. I am serious about this one!.. Secondly, Mike Jackson has made an effort to inform the football booster club (FOHF) at our regularly scheduled meetings about the athletic fields. This worked nicely. We were kept informed and questions were answered that many did not have answers to. It also gave us the opportunity to get information that otherwise some may not have had because of missing DSB/town meeting. Lastly, the SAU web site should be known to all the public. I found the "It must be true" link a great way to get questions answered and see what questions others were asking about the fields. GREAT SITE!
92. Mailings with allot of detail and summary.
93. Mailings with summary.
95. In the school newsletter.
97. Updates sent thru PO . Saturday info center @dump and or at the PO as plans develop.
99. Mailings
103. Continue to send out flyers.
104. Mailings explaining issues, proposals, cost. Multiple public information sessions to provide discussions of issues, proposals, cost.
111. Mailings.

112. More details and organized information in Valley news or in mailers.
114. Valley News.
117. Use the newspaper with plans and costs associated with each option or separate mailing.
128. Send out info articles.
135. Keep the website up to date and publicize its availability as a resource.
151. Mailings or Valley News reports.
154. Website with pro/con arguments.
156. Concise direct mail.
160. Quick fact sheets, website with current information.
161. Distribute an information sheet to postal patrons.
162. The board and SAU should publicize the effort more, explain more through newspapers, radio and newsletters.
168. Sports are a good way to involve folks with the schools publications.
173. Use of CATV could be enhanced.
175. Hand outs to each household.
176. Flyers when accurate and critical information is available should be mailed to voters.
181. CANDID Q + A on CATV 8 or 10.
182. A write up sent to households with pros + cons of major issues this has been helpful in the past.
184. Please post at the library, stores, banks etc. mail to homes.
186. Keep the newsletters coming.
194. Just keep us informed- newspaper works well fir us or meetings.
195. Summary flyer/ mailing with opposing viewpoints written by the leaders of a few pro/con groups. Discussion with students- both athletes and non-athletes that let people ask questions of what it is like for students. Conversations with teachers (counselors/ advisors) about the role of sports for today's kids and how that impacts personal growth, college acceptance, etc. Finally save content for costs, what other educational programs call \$4.5 million.
198. E-mail (voluntary). Articles in the Sunday Valley News + any VT local papers. Mailings to all households for critical matters.
204. Present in depth pros + cons on both sides of complex issues. Build a data base of email addresses for all Dresden taxpayers & use the internet to sent them info on a regular basis.
205. Meetings more or in larger rooms than MCS multi purpose room- couldn't get into the last 2 meetings w/o standing elbow to elbow. Emails/ newspaper/ accurate reports.
208. Post committee meetings & draft minutes. It is very difficult to follow school issues without relying on 2nd & 3rd hand information. It seems like everything is decided by the time it gets to a big meeting. Also, focus on communicating the facts and not your opinions or conclusions. This is an intelligent community that supports education. Trust us with all of the information.
210. Valley News- meeting notices.
211. Weekly short newsletters by mail or email.
213. Have better explanations on public TV. Watching meetings now is hard!
214. Articles in the newspaper.
217. Publications.
223. Should be a town wide permission based email list that infrequently informs voters of major issues. Make sure the most vocal opponents of the fields are on your next field committee.
224. on-line perhaps.
225. Make information available on web site. This should include ways for community to give input. Surveys on line also need to tap students for input! this survey should have been given to students-at least HS level. Important infor to gather and important learning opportunity for the students. We have done this in the past through common ground for the building project. It was informing to the students.
228. Publish minutes of meetings in paper.
232. Valley news articles.
233. I think the Dresden school board should provide the taxpayers with a detailed description including line item costs for the proposed fields development project (i.e. equipment, materials, and personnel costs.) The mailed should then be mailed to all taxpayers prior to any public meetings.
240. mass e-mails.
241. Send home updates/plans with students from school. also, post updates/possible plans at the Coop in Hanover or at Dan and Whits or at the Hanover and Norwich public libraries.
250. Public access TV and mailings and meetings are fine.
252. Keep informed through Valley News or flyers.
253. A bi-weekly newsletter to be distributed at the scholls would help parents or a bi-weekly notice in the Valley news or Spectator.
256. Continue to make information available many places. Do not assume that everyone has access to the web, or reads the Valley News regularly.
262. Use regulas e-mail updates! Easy, efficient, informative, timely! Develpop e-mail list for those people whe wish to be informed this way. Put same information on the website.

- 265. Present the issues clearly in newsletters.
- 266. Publish on the web a discussion of the issues and cost/benefit analysis of various options.
- 269. Have meetings broadcast on radio.
- 275. I think you have done a great job. Recap, review and explain the issues and the many ramifications. Put it in writing and make it available by mail or at town public meetings.
- 276. Send voters the results of this survey and a study/report of the facts in 2005 including educational goal of our athletics program.
- 278. Spell it out in the Valley News-present all sides and list supporters for program-explain the consequences if the proposal fails. Offer compromises and market your plan so the community feels like it's their decision, their ownership of the idea and their spending of the money, not just a small committee proposal.
- 280. Mailings.
- 284. Send agendas and minutes via email; update web site in timely fashion.
- 285. More ads and stories in Valley News. radio. TV plugging need for additional fields
- 288. Publish a booklet about the facts. Stop bullying the board. Have Dartmouth issue a public statement about their policy on use to their fields by high school students. The community thanks Dartmouth for providing fields. Issue a statement why the board did not include fields as part of the school plan. Does the board not feel that high school sports are part of high school experience??
- 290. Come up with various proposals and have brochures outlining them along with public forums. Parents are very concerned with unknown costs associated with new middle school and the high school renovations-we need to be on the conservation side-it is a lot to have to deal with all at once. I think many Hanover people that it would not be fair to have athletic fields in Norwich the cost Hanover residents just as much and be closer and more accessible to Norwich. Idea of a multi purpose practice field would be o.k., but I wouldn't want to have it all over there.
- 305. Publish results of questionnaires. Send issues and problems to voters.
- 306. E-mail the minutes and issues out to the public.
- 307. Use e-mail! Especially for reminders about the meetings.
- 316. This is a good idea (survey) letters to editor school mail outs.

***Public forums: speakers, using students, athletes, teams, parents.***

- 14. A presentation meeting with questions.
- 15. Hold meetings during day or Saturday or Sunday.
- 25. Involve student athletes.
- 34. Have the kids-athletics and non-athletics run a forum for parents.
- 41. Public meetings. Web site info. Good Valley News coverage.
- 43. Perhaps students/athletes could speak to the media.
- 53. Absolutely Yes more public forums.
- 73. Speakers at organizations.
- 88. This survey is a good start! Hold forums with survey results and with input from the community discussion. Be open to their input rather than try to influence them (us) with your and the athletic committee's plan.
- 89. Valley news coverage is very important. Informational meetings in Norwich and Hanover with CATV coverage and good publicity to encourage non-attendees to watch on television. When the weather is a bit better, I think it would be good to offer field trips to the sites, especially the Norwich fields, led by a school board /field committee member. Sunday afternoon might be a good time for this.
- 91. First off, make sure you have the Spectator over the story instead of the Valley News. The information is more timely and accurate. I am serious about this one!.. Secondly, Mike Jackson has made an effort to inform the football booster club (FOHF) at our regularly scheduled meetings about the athletic fields. This worked nicely. We were kept informed and questions were answered that many did not have answers to. It also gave us the opportunity to get information that otherwise some may not have had because of missing DSB/town meeting. Lastly, the SAU web site should be known to all the public. I found the "It must be true" link a great way to get questions answered and see what questions others were asking about the fields. GREAT SITE!
- 94. Have a series of town meetings dedicated to this issue.
- 96. More Information Sessions.
- 97. Updates sent thru PO . Saturday info center @dump and or at the PO as plans develop.
- 104. Mailings explaining issues, proposals, cost. Multiple public information sessions to provide discussions of issues, proposals, cost.
- 121. Have a meeting around the beginning of the spring session or make it at town meeting if can make it shorter and do the fields first!
- 133. People are stubborn. Real kids need to tell their stories.
- 134. Show different options with public meetings and present to general public at meetings especially for this.
- 152. Hold public input sessions and recommend solutions to many of most favored answers to questionnaire.
- 169. Develop presentation teams of three people, each team offering a presentation each week at the locations, one in Hanover and

one in Norwich, said presentations to continues up to the district vote.

179. Hold more community forums.

187. Continue to hold public hearings + be willing both to develop such expensive fields for already spoiled kids!

189. More open discussions and in addition to having them at the high school, hold one in Etna and Norwich. Work with the League of Women Voters. This is very much the sort of thing they would be good at helping with.

193. Open forums in both towns.

195. Summary flyer/ mailing with opposing viewpoints written by the leaders of a few pro/con groups. Discussion with students- both athletes and non-athletes that let people ask questions of what it is like for students. Conversations with teachers (counselors/ advisors) about the role of sports for today's kids and how that impacts personal growth, college acceptance, etc. Finally save content for costs, what other educational programs call \$4.5 million.

199. Suggestions for help voters become more informed. Ask team members who participate in sports & their parents to host neighborhood gatherings to (1) Describe the goals & philosophy of the high school athletics program. (2) the need for the field. Have other gatherings as available- ex. Kendal-. In the past brochures have been sent out with good information, but it may take discussion where there is a personal contact to distend mistaken understanding

205. Meetings more or in larger rooms than MCS multi purpose room- couldn't get into the last 2 meetings w/o standing elbow to elbow. Emails/ newspaper/ accurate reports.

209. The board should be held public hearing on the recommendations of the field committee. If the board should then carefully decide on a course of action to propose to voters via a bond vote. It is hugely important to build consensus. A 51% approach would signal a serious failure in this regard.

215. Community meetings (multiple) at churches before civic groups. Publish schedules (practices/games) daily-inform people about the space/time crunch. Hi-lite number of interested students denied opportunity because of crunch.

218. Shorter meeting, get to point similar to ope house and schools.

230. More public meetings.

234. Have students on reserve teams describe in writing how participatiing on a team makes their experience at Hanover High make them feel mre included, more a part of the school. Providing facilities for varsity only aliemates a lot of the student body. Kids need to have the opportunity to be part of a team.

236. Having coaches and especially student-athletes, talk about their experiences can be an effective way to get voters thinking about the positives even if they have no family members directly involved. It puts a face on the abstract trade offs, makes it more personal.

247. Host "road trips" to all playing fields. These road trips should , if at all possible happen during the same time student have to get themselves to practice. At each location a brief presentation of useage (who plays on the field and when) and ownership concerns could be given.

260. Meeting or meetings to discuss and vote on all above questions.

264. Joint workshops with town planning boards around issue of integrating fields with town plans. This would be very informative and onlightening for both sides.

275. I think you have done a great job.Recap, review and explain the issues and the many ramifications. Put it in writing and make it available by mail or at town public meetings.

299. Hold a forum on the value of athletics in the high school experience. The panel to include speaker pro and con.

303. The best way to help voters become more informed is by getting them involved. It seems that some of this issue is building more conflict in the community than being the unifying force it should be.

309. Community meeting. Provide compared info to other school distrit. Analyze the impact of different levele of sports program to real estate values i.e. is there a relationship between better sports programs and higher real estate values?

## PROCESS

### *Attitude/Input – asking the Board to listen more, invite input*

9. The school board is so busy trying to "see" a certain position on each issue i.e. new school and playing fields that their effectiveness is lost. As elected representatives it is the boards to represent what the community wants.

13. Include more diverse voices in planning.

17. It may be beneficial to have a discussion amongst the board members as to what they feel their responsibilities are to the voters as a whole. Are they there to advocate only for the schools, for the voters as a whole (those with and without school children). are they liaisons between taxpayers and schools officials, etc.. It seems to me at this point they are functioning as advocates for the schools only and are there to "sell" the community on what the schools need and want. I think the school board should be more a liaison between the taxpayers and the school officials and must balance both needs. By exploring the question and adopting a mission statement you may avoid public misrepresentation of you mission. Unfortunately, without contested races when candidates are running for school board seats it is not possible to tell what a candidates agenda is. It would be nice to have a balanced view representation on the board, one that represents all constituents of the community.

18. This survey is a nice way to solicit information and I would like to see the school board to more of this. I think there is a

tendency for the school boards to make their minds up and then go through the motions of involving the public, I have attended meetings when I felt that they really weren't interested in my opinion and were really not willing to change their mind on the issue. This really puts a damper on public participation when this perception is out there. Use the web site to get information out there. Publish consolidated fact sheets using graphs, etc. as the issue is on going giving the voters all sides of the picture so that they can make an educated vote, Do your best to present the information in an unbiased manner and the voters will do their best to make an informed vote. Don't hold on so tight to what the outcome might be

23. I believe the school board should make itself more informed on voter problems and issues-not the other way around. You're to isolated and disinterested and arrogant.

27. Stop manipulating, lying and get you heads out of your collective butts and realize that your money comes out of our pockets all year long, and you only work 3/4 of the time.

29. Listen to students/parents currently enrolled.

31. Ask instead of tell!!

47. The Dresden school board should listen to and then follow community input. Many community members (including myself) believe the board to be uncaring about voters sentiment. Surveys of this kind are sent, collected and ignored. (Example-750 cap of HS enrollment-decision of seven years ago.)

49. Interview graduates of high school and include their view points in your presentation to voters. Our kids are our communities future.

54. Listen to and solicit voters input very early in decision process; avoid selling board proposal.

82. A strong representative committee

88. This survey is a good start! Hold forums with survey results and with input from the community discussion. Be open to their input rather than try to influence them (us) with your and the athletic committee's plan.

105. More informed... Please be fair and balanced in communicating with the public. My perception is the school board & Administration try hard to push, rather that encourage.

119. Information is adequate; need to continue to assess resident's preferences since they don't seem t be reflected by planning committee members.

130. Public hearings prior to voting dates.

131. Continue open meetings and questioning sessions.

141. In, short, the Dresden School Board lacks credibility in the eyes of the voter. With regard to the issues of construction of athletic fields, I am worried that the Board listens to only the proponents of providing sufficient state-of-the-art fields to provide every child in the school district with the opportunity of participating in team sports. The real question that should be addressed is how the school district is preparing the students with the information and skills sufficient to enable the students to be physically fit for life. Team sports should not be encouraged to the detriment of physical education programs that help students to maintain good habits for lifelong physical fitness. (Is it time to require physical education programs in the gym for all students every year?)

159. The voters need a full accounting for the cost of physical education in the district. Not just the incremental cost, but the cost a separate entity devoted to physical education. Failure to provide this information leaves the voters ignorant of the cost of intellectual education. This lack of information could be costly for residents of Hanover. This is because, following the Claremont decision, New Hampshire may well decide to emphasize intellectual education. If it does, knowing the cost of intellectual education could help the state, and Hanover residents, avoid bad policies which would result from overstating the cost of the education.

167. Inform the students themselves and get their input.

180. Make sure BOTH sides of issues are fairly presented by inviting your opponents to present their views. DO NOT engage in pushy and aggressive advertising campaigns.

183. Stop being advocates. Vitt had not credibility. The board should have presented more viewpoints.

185. Less one ended advocacy, more facts, more open and unforced discussion.

219. Read these surveys and respond directly to people's concerns. I've felt like the decision of developing the Norwich fields was decided in a vacuum and approval was assumed. I've never been convinced that enough thought was given to a cooperative field/land sharing relationship between college, schools, town-even individuals with laarge properties who would let intermural teams practice! Lets get imaginative and not assume everybody here is wealthy (were not)! and we can have it all and then some.

223. Should be a town wide permission based email list that infrequently informs voters of major issues. Make sure the most vocal opponents of the fields are on your next field committee.

243. Give more authority and attention to Hanover committee.

254. Be open-no clandestine activities. Choose committee members at random for better community representation- No hands processing!

257. You need stronger leadership, a stronger voice.

263. Be more balanced and honest.

267. Express a community view rather than elitist view.

279. The problem is not that the voters are uninformed. The board and Valley news have done ok in the regard. The problem is that the voters DO NOT AGREE with the board's position on the athletic fields. The board needs to rethink the whole thing!

310. Find someone who (1) knows how to write (2) has an analytical mind/can lay ot alternatives in a clear way. Don't waste my money publishing last minute, poorly (i.e. homendously) written full color brochures. Replace whoever is currently in charge of

this project. Replace him /her with a person who can manage the ideas, and create a concensus.  
315. Larger variety of board members. The current board is way too homogeneous.

### ***Develop greater transparency of the process... communicate details***

107. Show schedule of fields and utilization. I don't understand the problem. It's difficult to decide on solutions that understanding.  
113. Keep us advised.

117. Use the newspaper with plans and costs associated with each option or separate mailing.

118. Reinstate that part time public relations position for Dresden. The person who held this position, which was eliminated during a tight budget year, produced a regular newsletter which was sent to all Hanover/Norwich residents. The amount of money saved by elimination the position for under \$20,000. but I believe that the cost to the district was huge: voters aren't as well informed about the schools and have lost confidence in their board, administrators and staff. This lack of information and resulting lack of confidence has made it more difficult to gain support for building plans and fields, as well as the regular budget. Sometimes you have to spend a little money in order to get a return on your investment.

120. Present several complete plans.

125. Lay all the facts out. Do your homework.

129. Supplement Valley news accounts of a varsity game results. Are there non-varsity squads? How many student and adult participant at each level? When and where are practices? How are the teams seasons going with respect to participation? You must recognize and overcome-the fact that most Hanover/Norwich families do not have kids in Dresden, and so have no appreciation of what the entire--interscholastic and intramural--athletic program is like, and I don't just refer to wins and losses. Perhaps a special column in the Valley News on a weekly basis.

132. As long as it is done in a completely neutral way.

139. Provide maps that show more details. Show projections of what expense the proposals will make.

140. The Dresden School Board could better inform voters about budget and other issues (including the proposed construction of athletic fields) by being honest about all the issues. For example, when the last school construction bond issue was presented there were no facts relating to the slashing of the building contingency fund. Voters had no idea that one of the "cost-savings" items to lower the proposed bond financing was the unreasonable and unconscionable cutting of the contingency. Further, the Board did not explain to the electorate that there had not been sufficient soils studies performed to support the budgeted costs for preparation of the site before construction of the Middle School.

146. By providing a comprehensive plan to show the full cost of the new schools and field at one time.

147. Be open and forthcoming with facts.

148. Inform don't sell plan.

149. Sent out detailed description of several options, avoid "political" campaign type mailing to convenience voters of one option.

157. Give us the whole picture. Cost over runs, budget increases and grand plans will reduce the diversity of this community and only have the \$\$\$ highest earners live here. SHAME ON YOU!!

158. The board has to educate the voters.

163. Simplify!

171. International meetings.

18. This survey is a nice way to solicit information and I would like to see the school board to more of this. I think there is a tendency for the school boards to make their minds up and then go through the motions of involving the public, I have attended meetings when I felt that they really weren't interested in my opinion and were really not willing to change their mind on the issue. This really puts a damper on public participation when this perception is out there. Use the web site to get information out there. Publish consolidated fact sheets using graphs, etc. as the issue is on going giving the voters all sides of the picture so that they can make an educated vote, Do your best to present the information in an unbiased manner and the voters will do their best to make an informed vote. Don't hold on so tight to what the outcome might be

185. Less one ended advocacy, more facts, more open and unforced discussion.

20. I think you're done allot. Honesty would help unbiased information materials.

201. Only a few years ago, in town meeting, Hanover voted for a substantial bond 9 running into the millions) intended (as claimed) to fortify a fall-back position "in case" Dresden at some future date should decide to "sell out" and Hanover be obliged to "buy back" their fraction. These propositions were legally intricate and couched in technical language. After long publicity (not clarity) they were passed by a public somewhat bemused by the extended process, but willing to support the bona fides of the people who created them. This positive response was in the older tradition of personal respect and trust. It had little to do with understanding the legal and other technicalities. Since then, however, committees have come back for more after unwise early decisions about the ground condition at the Lyme Road site- and so on. It is practical to wonder whether, if "Dresden" now gets into buying and improving more land, the bond enacted not so long ago would remain adequate. (I would imagine not). there has also been a slump in the financial market (one hopes, now in recovery) and an escalation of local land values and medical expenses well beyond the level of inflation. At some point, I think, forward planners have got to rein in and cope with what is out there, rather than continuing with visions in the distance, beautiful as these may be. The voters ought to have been told in lucid form, which different architects had competed to design plans; how much this process costs and who paid for it; whether the plans were submitted to different builders; and what the suggested sums have been. In the summer of 2002, a little booklet was issued

from the middle school concerning their pressing needs. Some of these were certainly important. Unfortunately, the booklet also threw in comments about the inadequacy of the school parking lot (stray balls had struck “many” windshields on cars parked behind the fence. How many? How high is the fence?) and it was no longer possible to play mini-golf for sports, in the corridors. There were problems about the air in the school. (People from far away used to come to Hanover in summer “for fresh air.” Were the windows sealed shut? They were often open when I was at school in the same building.) And so on. Dreams can be wonderful; but common sense is also important.

203. Give us a complete & lowest statues of non-school fields. Ex. Will Dartmouth really top us off & if so when? This is a poorly designed questionnaire. Many things I disagreed with because you gave no opportunity for grading.
204. Present in depth pros + cons on both sides of complex issues. Build a data base of email addresses for all Dresden taxpayers & use the internet to sent them info on a regular basis.
22. Present fewer and simple conflicting and incomplete data .
227. Process should be more transparent.
229. Present all facts, including yearly cost for each team. Board has a history of only presenting data to support its position.
231. Present all facts, whether pro or con that informs how board comes to its recommendation.
233. I think the Dresden school board should provide the taxpayers with a detailed description including line item costs for the proposed fields development project (i.e. equipment, materials, and personnel costs.) The mailed should then be mailed to all taxpayers prior to any public meetings.
235. Present a plan with options, i.e. cost per major field or fields improvement. This is not a one-size for all debate; it must be presented with options or even as a phased development, otherwise it is doone to fail again.
239. Give us the facts regarding how many kids use playing fields each season, does the rec/ program use the same fields, what is the projection for future use, how much does it cost per field in construction etc. The bare bone facts and dend to every family and community member in both Norwich & Hanover.
244. The question is really how do you get people (like myself) more involved at the input stage, so there are no supprises ar voting time? I don't have the answer.
246. Release info with clear pros and cons and input from community spectrum.
254. Be open-no clandestine activities. Choose committee members at random for better community representation- No hands processing!
255. First reestablish trust of community.
258. Start informing community very early-right from the beginning of the discussions instead of later when it seems as if everything's been decided and all they want is a yes with out alot of citizen input.
261. Be more open-be prepared to have multiple view points of committees.
270. Presenting more accurate estimates of building costs would be nice. There always seems to be an “oops” after voters agree to an amount. Then there is little choice but to spend more. Also, put everything on the table (i.e. High school, middle school, fields and salaries, etc.) ( so voters could see the entire picture. By incrementally rolling these increases out. We feel overburdened and slightly hook winked, our taxes are very high as it is.
272. Compare facilities with H regional public and private scholls with similar enrollments.
273. Publish a booklet showing how much you received for the sale of the fields you had, and explain the reason why that amount is not being applied to upgrading the fields in Norwich and Hanover that Dresden wants now. I think a regular mailing would be helpful. It should not be an expensive design-a simple letter would do. I also think the Board should consider presenting various priced alternatives for these athletic fields and presenting those instead of one expensive option and then trying to sell it. My salary goes up in small increments each year so assuming all Hanover taxpayers can afford large expensive items is not the reality despite what we might deserve.
278. Spell it out in the Valley News-present all sides and list supporters for program-explain the consequences if the proposal fails. Offer compromies and market your plan so the community feels like it's their dicision, their ownership of the idea and their spending of the money, not just a small committee proposal.
283. Better coverage of both/all sides of an issue.
286. It would be very helpful, if the board would answer questions posed to them without bias toward how individual members may feel. The public should understand both sides to an issue and be aable to state and disagreement with the board and not be made to feel guilty or wrong. To date,, the board seems to be representing the teachers, the administration, and special interests more than the generla public.
287. Tell the truth from the start of the project. The Norwich land was bought without a plan or how to use it. fund it or maintain it.
288. Publish a booklet about the facts. Stop Mrs. Pritchard from bullying the board. Have Dartmouth issue a public statement about their poicy on use to their fields by hihg school students. The community thanks Dartmouth for providing fields. Issue a statement why the board did not include fields as part of the school plan. Does the board not feel that high school sports are part of high school experience??
291. Be up front and honest!
297. Communicate more regularly and more effectively to the public.
312. Be more open and honest. Send frequent informaive letters to every resident in each town and hold discussions in each town twice for each issue/problem-once during the dany and once in the evening. In that way people who work and people with night

driving difficulties could all take part. Also publicize these meetings (both newspapers) beyond the fire district and notices by way of the students.

318. First of all, be more honest. There is a perception among many of the voters who rejected the plan that the “crisis” was being exaggerated. There was double-counting of athletic participants who do more than one sport per year, threats of cutting teams rather than sharing fields, etc. I’ve never heard a good explanation of why teams can’t share fields, stagger practices, use lights. These options should be fully explored and presented to voters. If they won’t work, the reasons must be explained. One field per team seems like an unnecessary luxury.

32. The board has not been honest and forthcoming on this subject. New fields are doomed.

35. Please spell out several options. (1) Bare bones development of playing fields. (2) Development of playing fields improvements over 5 year time frame. (3) Private fund-raising with town matching \$3 for \$1 (?) or something like that.

44. Web site current and in detail.

46. Keep web site as current as possible.

52. Publish these survey results broadly and show that you are coordination well with other agencies transportation, recreation, etc. and towns. With rising educational costs and anticipated continued rising costs (fuel and salaries) Dresden needs to find a modest way to continue good sound athletic programs without the extravagance of the first proposal. Lets try to be like other communities for a change and not try to out do everyone!

66. Less secretive

67. How about being less secretive?

7. Be more transparent earlier on.

84. Whatever information is dispensed should be factual and unbiased.

### ***Do more persuasion campaigning***

3. I don’t really know. Not having kids at HHS anymore makes us more detached and less plugged in than before. It’s very complex and at times confusing.

6. Work through current teams and parents to campaign and get out the vote. Also work through alumnae and families of former athletes. Perhaps this is too bias an approach.

51. Get the students involved-send them to places to speak about it (Kendall for instance). Put a face to it for people who don’t have a personal connection to the issue.

137. The Dresden School Board needs to engage the community in a systemic dialogue that addresses broader educational priorities. In this context, the fields decision will become clearer to the voters. Physical well-being contributes to success in all aspects of a child’s life. Feeling part of a larger community of athletes (i.e. being together in a central location) creates a sense of belonging that is more important than winning the next game. When seen as isolated time, the fields plan seems extravagant. When seen in the context of opportunities for the community at large over the long term, perhaps this plan will be more palatable to more people.

153. Statistics concerning numbers of children turned away due to field limitations.

192. Tell the voters again and again about the need for a central recreational facility.

215. Community meetings (multiple) at churches before civic groups. Publish schedules (practices/games) daily-inform people about the space/time crunch. Hi-lite number of interested students denied opportunity because of crunch.

313. Explain the importance of athletics and health, fitness, character building, teamwork etc. to the voters

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

### ***Are satisfied, is OK, good enough***

1. I think they’ve been very good at communications. I think the voters have been clear, Now a compromise is needed.

2. They do a fine job already.

19. I know you all work very hard and care about this town. Keep up the good work!

28. Thanks for your hard work!!

33. You do well

42. Web site and newspaper articles have been good sources.

48. What they are doing is sufficient.

50. Despite the fact that some disagree. I think you’re doing a very good job now.

58. We’re informed. We read.

62. I believe you have informed the public as much as a group can!

64. Mailers seem adequate.

76. You’re doing a great job informing people.

77. You’ve done a good job with mailings, etc.

79. We are very informed.

86. I believe the board provides ample opportunity to learn about proposals. Most people use that as an excuse not to participate.

87. They have every opportunity to be informed (cable TV, attend meetings, on-line, newspapers).
98. I think they have tried hard. It is not their fault if more people won't inform themselves by participating in meetings, reading up the subject, etc.
102. They do a fine job.
109. Dresden board has done an excellent job.
115. I think people are informed...it is a tough issue.
123. Informing voters to their personal satisfaction is hopeless. You are offering the information and the voters should be asking themselves how they could help themselves become more informed avail themselves of the information is not all up to the Board to spoon feed us!!
124. It maybe impossible but keep trying.
126. I think they are very well informed.
127. I think the voters are well informed-some just don't see the value of athletics.
138. I think the school board does a good job of getting the information out, but most people don't pay attention. I think it is an over-whelming job for the school board, and the general population is/has lost interest. There is the wealth issue too: those with plenty may not understand what the tax impact does to people scraping by.
145. We did receive a mailing outlining the proposals that I found quite helpful.
155. We are informed!
165. You are doing a nice job. Thank you.
166. I think you're done a good job with this.
190. You are doing a good job!
191. The thing the board does a good job. Some people in the community simply refuse to take responsibility for becoming informed- there are those who want to be spoon fed information but don't come to the table (meetings, website, reading brochures) to eat.
207. Doing fine- this questionnaire is an excellent idea- forums for interested parties have been held- keep plugging away at this complex issue.
216. If people wanted to know they could find out. The information is available.
220. You are doing the right thing by sending this questionnaire.
221. I think they already do a great job between CATV.VN. and information mailed to residents.
226. We are already very informed.
238. They're doing a good job now.
245. I thinkthe board has done a good job getting the information out there but, like any issue in this district, there are constituents who will either ignore it or fight it because they don't feel the negative effects of a lousy, disjointed athletic facility.
248. I think the communication from the Dresden School Board to the voters has been superb.
259. Keep doing what you are doing.
274. This is not the problem.
275. I think you have done a great job.Recap, review and explain the issues and the many ramifications. Put it in writing and make it available by mail or at town public meetings.
277. The Board has done a nice job informing the public.
279. The problem is not that the voters are uninformed. The board and Valley news have done ok in the regard. The problem is that the voters DO NOT AGREE with the board's position on the athletic fields. The board needs to rethink the whole thing!
289. I think the school board does inform voters. So far the plans have been just too expensive. We are not Rockefellers and can't afford to stay here much longer. We don't need the finest that money can buy. We need to do the best we can with limited resources.
298. Voters are too involved the board should do what is best for the students and to maintain and improve programs.
300. I don't think you can do much more
301. I think imformation is available to anyone who is interested.
314. There's nothing else you can do. You can't force people to read!
319. I think the Board has been very helpful.

### ***Addresses the question asked in Question 12 (Additional comments/suggestions)***

1. I think they've been very good at communications. I think the voters have been clear, Now a comprise is needed.
138. I think the school board does a good job of getting the information out, but most people don't pay attention. I think it is an over-whelming job for the school board, and the general population is/has lost interest. There is the wealth issue too: those with plenty may not understand what the tax impact does to people scraping by.
289. I think the school board does inform voters. So far the plans have been just too expensive. We are not Rockefellers and can't afford to stay here much longer. We don't need the finest that money can buy. We need to do the best we can with limited resources.
21. Be realistic about MONEY! You are worried about fields with that lousy high school gym???

26. Any decision should be made only in conjunction with a study of the academic and athletic program as a whole. Far too much emphasis is given to athletics to the expense of a stronger academic program.
35. Please spell out several options. (1) Bare bones development of playing fields. (2) Development of playing fields improvements over 5 year time frame. (3) Private fund-raising with town matching \$3 for \$1 (?) or something like that.
37. Don't delay on construction estimates spend the money to get to working drawings, before putting out estimates. They are always too low!
38. This has failed twice. Try picking a figure-say \$3M and work backwards and try to get as much for you \$3M as possible rather than a wish list from #0 and working forward. Do the project in phases and maybe folks will support it.
45. Get a handle on tax money. Don't always go for the big guys.
52. Publish these survey results broadly and show that you are coordination well with other agencies transportation, recreation, etc. and towns. With rising educational costs and anticipated continued rising costs (fuel and salaried) Dresden needs to find a modest way to continue good sound athletic programs without the extravagance of the first proposal. Lets try to be like other communities for a change and not try to out do everyone!
60. Don't seriously under estimate costs.
63. How can enhanced fields in Norwich help the Hanover Rec. department unless these two start a cooperate. I will never support facilities on the Norwich land until they get public sewer.
75. Just my general feeling that sports are not sacred. Sports can be recognized! Funded on an equal basis with theater and other after school programs. Everybody should have the opportunity and be encouraged to participate in an after school program. Some will not be able to because of family obligations, they have to work etc. Sports are so expensive. Not for Everybody. Other thing should be available.
85. The athletic program is becoming too professional. These are 16 year of students. The program competes with academics.
90. Use Dartmouth College planners.
100. Don't keep coming back to the well (us) in little bites. Have a ten plus year plan and stick to it.
108. Develop a plan which is for approval by the voters with a cap of 1,000,000 firm guaranteed figures!
116. Australian ballot-would have prevented Norwich purchase.
122. People didn't vote against the field because they were not informed. They disagree with the excessive expenditure and athletics and do not need more info to get them to change their minds. Athletic budget should be frozen . \$800/athletic is already excessive. More opportunities for kids to play sports without the enormous commitment Hanover sports require at ALL LEVELS. You have few students because they want to also do other things.
136. Imagine yourself retired on a low fixed income knowing full well the benefits of team sports looking at the possibility of being unable to meet your property tax obligation. Until you are in the financial situation it is unlikely that you can fully appreciate being subsistence mode!
141. In, short, the Dresden School Board lacks credibility in the eyes of the voter. With regard to the issues of construction of athletic fields, I am worried that the Board listens to only the proponents of providing sufficient state-of-the-art fields to provide every child in the school district with the opportunity of participating in team sports. The real question that should be addressed is how the school district is preparing the students with the information and skills sufficient to enable the students to be physically fit for life. Team sports should not be encouraged to the detriment of physical education programs that help students to maintain good habits for lifelong physical fitness. (Is it time to require physical education programs in the gym for all students every year?)
142. Athletic programs do provide students opportunities to interact and compete with other students from their home and other schools, but there are other programs that can do this as well: for example, competing within that context of music, drama, debating, and scholastic activities. To be realistic, not all students have the ability to be team competitors. Placing a great emphasis on "team" sports may deny some students the confidence they need to prepare themselves for life after graduation from high school when the opportunities for team sports are not generally available.
143. In, Short, does the Dresden School Board really think that all students, not only high school but also middle school, are athletes? If so, that thinking is misguided.
144. Deal with reducing traffic impact in Hanover.
150. Mail the results of this questionnaire to all postal patrons. Cover all extra curricular activities, not only sports, in the news paper. It should be public knowledge when drinking, drugs, bullying occurs in the schools.
159. The voters need a full accounting for the cost of physical education in the district. Not just the incremental cost, but the cost a separate entity devoted to physical education. Failure to provide this information leaves the voters ignorant of the cost of intellectual education. This lack of information could be costly for residents of Hanover. This is because, following the Claremont decision, New Hampshire may well decide to emphasize intellectual education. If it does, knowing the cost of intellectual education could help the state, and Hanover residents, avoid bad policies which would result from overstating the cost of the education.
164. By emphasizing academics over athletics. Letting the community know via print and press releases of non-athletic achievements. Creating award programs for academic and non-athletic progress that will be as attractive to students as the sports "banners hanging in the gym" Publicize that in detail those achievements made by students or groups of students outside of school.
170. We enjoy a natural environment that should make us the envy of stations in cities everywhere. Suggestions for physical fitness that would be continued for a lifetime include: walking, hiking, swimming, biking, x-country skiing, kayaking, running and snow

shoeing. Also trail and other landscape maintenance, low income hosing maintenance, food, gardening etc.

172. Review decision path that led to the Norwich proposal-why other Hanover sites were discarded as options. Compare use to Sachem where there are no facilities. Perhaps add at a later stage? Please preserve the philosophy that anyone interested in team sports may participate. It is one of the strengths of the Dresden and town rec. program.

174. Present facted issues, not biased opinions and literature. Hold steady on the next teachers contract to help pay for the fields. Sell or trade Norwich fields to Dartmouth in trade for River Crest . Turn Norwich into a community and River Crest into fields. It'll be a win-win for everybody.

177. I don't think it's an issue of information, I think it's pure and simple and issue of monies.

178. One first must submit an acceptable proposal and eliminate all of the non varsity participants. The amount required will be less than stated at the left. (Reference to Question #9)

195. Summary flyer/ mailing with opposing viewpoints written by the leaders of a few pro/con groups. Discussion with students-both athletes and non-athletes that let people ask questions of what it is like for students. Conversations with teachers (counselors/ advisors) about the role of sports for today's kids and how that impacts personal growth, college acceptance, etc. Finally save content for costs, what other educational programs call \$4.5 million.

201. Only a few years ago, in town meeting, Hanover voted for a substantial bond 9 running into the millions) intended (as claimed) to fortify a fall-back position "in case" Dresden at some future date should decide to "sell out" and Hanover be obliged to "buy back" their fraction. These propositions were legally intricate and couched in technical language. After long publicity (not clarity) they were passed by a public somewhat bemused by the extended process, but willing to support the bona fides of the people who created them. This positive response was in the older tradition of personal respect and trust. It had little to do with understanding the legal and other technicalities. Since then, however, committees have come back for more after unwise early decisions about the ground condition at the Lyme Road site- and so on. It is practical to wonder whether, if "Dresden" now gets into buying and improving more land, the bond enacted not so long ago would remain adequate. (I would imagine not). there has also been a slump in the financial marker (one hopes, now in recovery) and an escalation of local land values and medical expenses well beyond the level of inflation. At some point, I think, forward planners have got to rein in and cope with what is out there, rather than continuing with visions in the distance, beautiful as these may be. The voters ought to have been told in lucid form, which different architects had competed to design plans; how much this process costs and who paid for it; whether the plans were submitted to different builders; and what the suggested sums have been. In the summer of 2002, a little booklet was issued from the middle school concerning their pressing needs. Some of these were certainly important. Unfortunately, the booklet also threw in comments about the inadequacy of the school parking lot (stray balls had struck "many" windshields on cars parked behind the fence. How many? How high is the fence?) and it was no longer possible to play mini-golf for sports, in the corridors. There were problems about the air in the school. (People from far away used to come to Hanover in summer "for fresh air." Were the windows sealed shut? They were often open when I was at school in the same building.) And so on. Dreams can be wonderful; but common sense is also important.

212. I think its unfortunate that the school issues have turned into majr monetary investment die to 75 years of keeping the same/ same. Why do athletic have to suffer? I have heard from surrounding towns...we can't believe a school district like Hanover has not addressed the need to update that gym. We do not have a place to assemble all students. safety. let alone students and concerned parents. I think we need to make shshort term /long term plans for continual update of facilities at all levels of school/fields. We have relied on Dartmouth way too long!

219. Read these surveys and respond directly to people's concerns. I've felt like the decision of developing the Norwich fields was decided in a vacuum and approval was assumed. I've never been convinced that enough thought was given to a cooperative field/ land sharing relationship between college, schools, town-even individuals with laarge properties who would let intermural teams practice! Lets get imaginative and not assume everybody here is wealthy (were not)! and we can have it all and then some.

222. #6C is the solution!

225. Make information available on web site. This should include ways for community to give input. Surveys on line also need to tap students for input! this survey should have been given to students-at least HS level. Important infor to gather and important learning opportunity for the students. We have done this in the past through common ground for the building project. It was informing to the students.

237. It is all too much money with all the other construction costs and we don't even know the full impact of HHS renovations. It's all a big mess and we did not even need all of these fields if the original Dartmouth offer of \$26M had been accepted.

251. get small. Still trying recover from building program.

271. By getting into the community and out of their own butts. Don't just talk with the pro-sports gang. This school district is about nurturing brains, basic phys ed is all we should pay for.

273. Publish a booklet showing how much you received for the sale of the fields you had, and explain the reason why that amount is not being applied to upgrading the fields in Norwich and Hanover that Dresden wants now. I think a regular mailing would be helpful. It should not be an expensive design-a simple letter would do. I also think the Board should consider presenting various priced alternatives for these athletic fields and presenting those instead of one expensive option and then trying to sell it. My salary goes up in small increments each year so assuming all Hanover taxpayers can afford large expensive items is not the reality despite what we might deserve.

282. Put a five year budget plan together for the survival of Norwich as it is today.

290. Come up with various proposals and have brochures outlining them along with public forums. Parents are very concerned

with unknown costs associated with new middle school and the high school renovations-we need to be on the conservation side-it is a lot to have to deal with all at once. I think many Hanover people think that it would not be fair to have athletic fields in Norwich the cost Hanover residents just as much and be closer and more accessible to Norwich. Idea of a multi purpose practice field would be o.k., but I wouldn't want to have it all over there.

292. We should have more sports programs for more students and so more facilities.

293. Sports should be available to everyone, not just those who can commit all their free time.

302. It's not just about money-its about well rounded kids.

304. Stop assuming that ever more dollars from the taxpayers are better for the Dresden schools. Start developing budgets that make sense and will produce the essential outcomes. Students who can read and write are adept in math and have good study habits. Provide adequate facilities for physical activities but keep their role of these activities in perspective.

### ***Misc. Comments we weren't able to code, but need to include***

8. Yes!

30. Don't know

39. Can not comment at the moment.

61. No comment

68. No comment

101. Probably can't.

197. Don't know.

206. I don't know.

208. Post committee meetings & draft minutes. It is very difficult to follow school issues without relying on 2nd & 3rd hand information. It seems like everything is decided by the time it gets to a big meeting. Also, focus on communicating the facts and not your opinions or conclusions. This is an intelligent community that supports education. Trust us with all of the information.

209. The board should be held public hearing on the recommendations of the field committee. If the board should then carefully decide on a course of action to propose to voters via a bond vote. It is hugely important to build consensus. A 51% approach would signal a serious failure in this regard.

268. Don't really know advice to give.

281. Don't know I am 68 years old have neither child or grandchildren living locally am completely out of the loop on knowing the detail of HHS.

56. By getting their act together, they dithered around for years on the school issue. Made poor decisions and are still making stupid decisions.

106. Do their homework first.

110. Argentine style: borrow big and then default.

188. Voters are partly to blame for the surprising lack of interest.

196. Just because we defeated the bond vote, doesn't mean we are NOT INFORMED!!

200. Address the issues to the general public!!

202. Difficult! Especially added cost of schools and lack of an ideal setting. Ex. at current campus.

242. Invite them to games and gatherings.

249. Encourage our interstate school district to act and think with an interstate mind. Encourage voters to consider appropriate facilities for State Championship level teams and school.

294. Coaches should be required to become certified by some training program-AAU is good.

295. We should give greater financial support to sports programs that serve both boys and girls.

296. We should move toward the elimination of programs that do not serve both boys and girls.

308. This is not a good questionnaire. If properly done it would help a great deal!

311. Yes!!

317. Dresden served us in the original bond issue by applying funds obtained from selling athletic fields to the buildings instead of the new athletic fields, making the athletic field cost seem much higher.

**...THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!**