

Hooksett School Board

Chair’s Report
January 2024



Budgets, Warrants, Hearings, and Deliberative Sessions

Happy New Year! With 2024 now underway, we are quickly heading into the final process preceding the yearly town elections in March: soliciting feedback on what has been proposed by the town and school administrations, governing bodies, and Budget Committee.

When	What	Why
Thurs, Jan 11	Budget Committee Public Hearing, 7:00p	Final public feedback opportunity before the Budget Committee proposes operating budgets and recommends warrant articles
Sat, Feb 3	Town Deliberative Session, 9:00a School Deliberative Session, 1:00p	Final public opportunity to amend warrant articles before the March election
Tues, Mar 12	Hooksett Town Election 6:00a – 7:00p	Hooksett residents vote on warrant articles

As the school district finalizes details for the Deliberative Sessions, you will be able to find those online at <https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net/2024/01/09/hooksett-school-district-election-information-2024/>.

Coffee with the Board

Hooksett School Board Members will be back in schools to visit with staff and residents later this month. We’re working to finalize one date and time, but have the following schedule so far:

When	Where	Who
Thurs, Jan 25, 8:00a	Fred C. Underhill School	School staff
Tues, Jan 30, 8:00a	Hooksett Memorial School	School staff
TBD	David R. Cawley Middle School	School staff
Mon, Jan 29, 6:00p	David R. Cawley Middle School	Anyone!

These events have been a wonderful opportunity for the Board Members to get staff and community feedback on the school district operations, personal perspectives on education, and hear inspiring stories about how our district is continually improving and adapting to meet changing needs of students – both inside and outside the classroom. Come for some snacks, and stay for some conversation!

School Board Santa Snacks

As 2023 closed, the Hooksett School Board arranged some treats at all three schools as a thank-you to our 220 staff members.



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Revaluations Revisited

Many Hooksett residents recently received their updated 2023 property tax bills, and it generated some sticker shock. The Town of Hooksett website recently added a helpful News page titled, "2023 Revaluation and Tax Rate", which highlights some of the factors behind the increase.

https://hooksett.org/news_detail_T5_R13.php

The 2023 Hooksett [tax rate] based on the Revaluation is \$15.98. The new tax rate is \$8.07 lower than the previous tax rate of \$24.05 [decreasing 34%, to 66% of prior value]. The town's overall valuation has increased from \$2.1 billion in 2022 to \$3.2 billion in 2023, or an increase of 52.23%.

...the value of residential homes outpaced the increased value of commercial and industrial properties. While SFR (Single Family Residential) increased approximately 71%, Commercial increased by 13% and Industrial by 17%.

Because the 2023 revaluation increased residential properties more than commercial or industrial properties, residential property owners "own" a larger portion of Hooksett's total assessed value... and a correspondingly larger portion of Hooksett's total net expenses or tax liability. If the town increased 52% overall from 2022 to 2023, but your home value increased 71% - market changes mean you own 12% more of Hooksett than you did the prior year (or prior five years).

$$\frac{v_{2023}}{\$3.2B} \div \frac{v_{2022}}{\$2.1B} \approx 1.12$$

A few other pieces of information are required to paint the full fiscal picture. The town net expenses, or net appropriation, are all budgets, contracts, and other warrants approved by voters (gross appropriation), minus revenues. One way to see what the net appropriations are is to take the tax rate for the year and multiply it times the valuation. The tax rate breakdown from hooksett.org is this:

Hooksett tax rates per \$1,000 assessed value, categorized					
	Town Rate	County Rate	Local School Rate	State School Rate	Total Rate
2022	6.9	2.62	13.14	1.39	\$24.05
2023	4.61	1.64	8.49	1.24	\$15.98
Change	66.8%	62.6%	64.6%	89.2%	66.4%

Note the somewhat inverted relationship between valuation and tax rate: tax rates are down, valuations are up, but it's not quite linear because of differences year-to-year in net appropriations.

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Applying the tax rate to the reported total town valuations can produce the more meaningful net appropriations per category.

Hooksett total net appropriations (costs minus revenue), categorized					
	Town	County	Local School	State School	Total
2022	\$14,355,721	\$5,451,013	\$27,338,286	\$2,891,950	\$50,036,970
2023	\$14,601,176	\$5,194,345	\$26,890,235	\$3,927,431	\$50,613,188
Change	\$245,455	-\$256,668	-\$448,051	\$1,035,482	\$576,217

Almost everything on the town and school ballots last March was approved by voters, nearly \$64.7 million total, an increase of \$3.6 million over the prior year. However, town and school revenues were higher in 2023 than in 2022, reducing the net expenses to taxpayers. Interestingly, the local school net appropriation actually decreased this year, as did the county appropriation.

With the recent changes in taxes, it's important to have the full fiscal picture of what's behind that.

Stay in Touch Online

You can find the School Board online at:

<https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net>

<https://facebook.com/hooksett.school.board/>

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Goertel

Hooksett School Board Chair

The mission of the Hooksett School District is to develop a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, and respectful of self and others. Academic achievement, through constantly improving standards, is the District's highest priority.