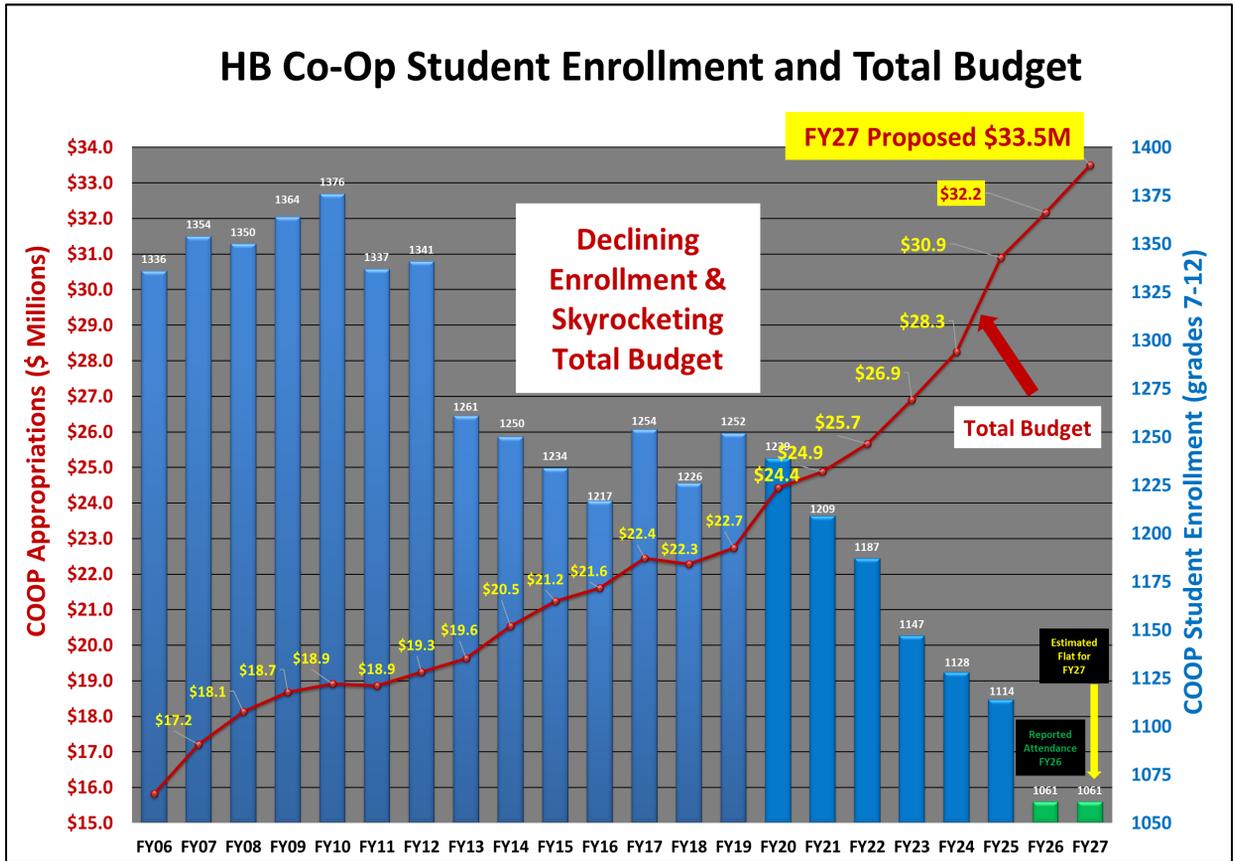


2026 HB Co-Op School District Meeting Conservatives Voters Guide

6:30 pm, Thursday, March 19, 2026 – HB High School, 24 Cavalier Court, Hollis

Proposed total spending : \$33,503,298, up \$1,340,490 - \$31,577/student

Co-Op Tax Rate Increase: Hollis +4.7%, Brookline +3.6% Inflation CPI-U 2.7%



Items in green: conservative action to support
Items in red: conservative action to oppose

Article 1: SAU Budget \$2,560,328 – vote NO by ballot

For SAU administrators, added second Assistant Superintendent, in July 2025. 3.5% pay increases (above inflation). SAU budget up from \$1.4M to \$2.6M in 10 years with declining enrollment. Brookline voters build up a 120 vote NO margin on March 10.

Tax impact: \$0.60/1K (Hollis), \$0.94/1K (Brookline) – Total SAU tax impact for all 3 districts

FY	K-12	SAU Budget	SAU/Student	Increase
FY17	2418	\$1,447,377	\$598.58	-
FY18	2386	\$1,498,630	\$628.09	4.9%
FY19	2439	\$1,602,693	\$657.11	4.6%
FY20	2425	\$1,719,314	\$709.00	7.9%
FY21	2369	\$1,813,954	\$765.70	8.0%
FY22	2372	\$1,957,257	\$825.15	7.8%
FY23	2355	\$2,107,176	\$894.77	8.4%
FY24	2348	\$2,268,374	\$966.09	8.0%
FY25	2322	\$2,434,995	\$1,048.66	8.5%
FY26	2250	\$2,447,505	\$1,087.78	3.7%
FY27	?	\$2,560,328	\$1,137.92	4.6%

Article 2: Co-Op Operating Budget \$31,716,292 – recommend amendment to \$31,391,827 (2.7% inflation-based increase) or lower figure, otherwise vote NO

Continued accelerated operating budget despite enrollment down 53 students (4.8%) last year. Cadillac benefits and student loan repayment are driving \$510K+ of this increase. Staffing is not scaling with declining enrollment. Expenditures per student up 13.8% in past two years (from \$27,737 to \$31,577) Tax impact: \$5.99/1K (Hollis), \$9.04/1K (Brookline)

Article 3: Support Staff Contract – increase of \$131,512 – vote NO

Average 5% – 6% pay raises with generous (8%+) benefit cap increases, better than private sector. Tax impact: \$0.03/1K (Hollis), \$0.05/1K (Brookline)

Article 4: Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust \$300,000 – vote NO

Total of \$691K in facilities maintenance including resurfacing track in addition to crumb rubber field
Opportunity Tax impact: \$0.07/1K (Hollis), \$0.11/1K (Brookline) (reduces taxes if defeated)

Article 5: Contingency (Slush) Fund \$125,000 – vote NO

Fund for unforeseen wants and needs. Funds can be literally can be used for anything.
Tax impact: \$0.03/1K (Hollis), \$0.05/1K (Brookline)

Article 6: Limit Open Enrollment In, Stop Open Enrollment Out – vote NO

Limits school choice. Will allow up to 4 students total from outside HB Co-Op to tuition into Co-Op (if space available), with any special education costs funded by sending school district. Unnecessarily limits use of available classroom and teacher capacity, which would come with significant revenue to lower property tax effort. Unnecessarily prohibits any Brookline or Hollis students from going to any open enrollment public school in NH. **Tax impact: Minor revenue benefit if passed, but severely limits school choice for Hollis and Brookline students.**

Article 7: Enhanced Transparency in State Assessment Results – vote YES

Requires school board to ensure current and previous year state assessment scores and state rankings are prominently displayed on the school district website header, visible on every page, with said information to be updated within thirty (30) days of the official release of scores by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Tax impact: Zero to minimal (can be completed by current large SAU staff)

Article 8: Adopt SB2 Official Ballot Voting – vote YES (1 hour ballot vote, 3/5 required)

Same system used in the Brookline School District. Provides for a deliberative session in early February (similar to traditional meeting) then all day official ballot voting (and absentee voting) on all warrant articles. Greatly increases voter participation and eliminates voter disenfranchisement, and more reasonable budgets. **No tax impact, but increases voter participation and will likely lead to more sustainable budgets.**

Article 9: Adopt School District Budget Cap – vote YES (1 hour ballot vote, 3/5 required)

Important fiscal guardrail that provides budgeting limit on spending to \$27,500 per student, which adjusts annually with inflation (CPI-U Northeast). Automatically guides to sustainable budget, tracking with inflation and student enrollment. Can be overridden by 3/5 majority vote for truly urgent needs. Additional federal and state aid must go towards property tax relief instead of higher spending, unless there is an override. **No tax impact, but virtually guarantees slower property tax growth.**

Article 10: Require Tax Impacts Stated in Warrant Articles – vote YES

Requires school board to include the tax impact for each town (e.g. \$0.60/1K (Hollis), \$0.94/1K (Brookline)) in each warrant article, and tax impact for each year up to 5 years for bonds and multi-year contracts. Why hide the tax impacts? **No tax impact, but greatly increased transparency.**

Article 11: Adopt inflation/enrollment-based local tax cap – vote YES (1 hr ballot vote, 3/5 required)

Important fiscal guardrail that provides budgeting limit on tax effort, limiting proposed tax effort to the prior year tax effort adjusted by inflation (CPI-U Northeast) and changes in student enrollment. Can be overridden by 3/5 majority vote for truly urgent needs. May co-exist with school district budget cap. **No tax impact, but virtually guarantees slower property tax growth.**