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Hopkinton School Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOPKINTON SCHOOL BOARD AGAINST SB2

March 4, 2009

The Hopkinton School Board voiced opposition to SB2 during its meeting held last night. At the polls on Tuesday, March 10th, voters in Hopkinton will choose whether or not to adopt the SB2 form of government for the school district. The question was put on the ballot by petition, and is not supported by the Hopkinton School Board.

In taking the position against SB2, the Hopkinton School Board considered input from members of the community including those expressed during a public hearing held on February 19th and attended by eight SB2 proponents.

In its rationale, the Board recognized many flaws with SB2, including:

- SB2 districts experience significantly lower participation at deliberative sessions than at traditional meetings, which makes it very easy for a well organized special interest group to control the meeting and put forth articles that are that are decidedly different from those put forth by the Budget Committee and School Board and from those that most voters would expect.
- SB2 fails to promote a transparent and public discussion of the issues and fails to take into account viewpoints from a variety of stakeholders.
- Through default budgets, SB2 fosters organizational inertia by making it very difficult to apply innovative solutions to the challenges facing public education. Such inertia would jeopardize the District's "Hopkinton Schools 2.0" initiative, which has received wide praise throughout the community as being forward thinking and positive for schools and taxpayers.
- School districts under SB2 fail to improve and therefore become stagnant.

In summary, the Hopkinton School Board does not support SB2. The SB2 question will be on the ballot during voting on March 10th at the high school gym.

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