

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of February 5, 2008

Members Present: Shelley Poulsen, Chair
Mark Linehan, Vice Chair
Ellen Williamson
Rainie Pearson
Beverly Madden

Also Present: Dr. Robert E. Couture, Interim Superintendent
Richard Mathieu, School Business Manager
Denise Lonergan, High School Headmaster
Frederick Randall, Middle School Headmaster
Zachery Sokol & Jonathan Rich, Student Representative
Citizens

1. Call to Order

Ms. Poulsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Dover Sherborn Middle School Library.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regional School Committee– January 8, 2008
Add January to the heading. Change Zachery Sokol to Jonathan Rich under also present. After Call to Order correct spelling of Skapars.
Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2008. Ms. Pearson seconded.
08-07 VOTE (as amended): Unanimous
The Dover School Committee minutes of December 18, 2007 were noted.

3. Reports

- a. Business Manager’s Report –
- Finance – The monthly report by function code was provided.
 - Facilities and Maintenance – The equipment to deal with the “power factor” issues (which result in paying a premium on the electric bills for the high school) has arrived and is scheduled to be installed over February vacation. A temporary custodian has been hired to fill in for a custodian out on disability.
 - Cafeteria – The participation rate has fallen slightly and will continue to be monitored.
- b. Student Advisory Council – Mr. Sokol gave an update of Student Council activities.
- c. Dover-Sherborn High School Report – Through the Intel Science and Talent Search, the High School is eligible for a \$1,000 grant. Anugraha Raman was named an Intel STS Semifinalist and also received \$1,000.
Ms. Pearson made a motion to accept \$1,000 from Intel to further support excellence in science, math or engineering education. Ms. Williamson seconded.
08-08 VOTE: Unanimous
Open Fields has raised approximately \$1,000 for the High School Drama department through a recent performance of “Annie”.
Mr. Linehan made a motion to accept approximately \$1,000 from Open Fields to support the High School Drama department. Ms. Williamson seconded.
08-09 VOTE: Unanimous
Ms. Lonergan updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the High School.
- d. Dover-Sherborn Middle School Report – Mr. Randall reviewed the NEASC report highlighting both commendations and recommendations. The report is available on the Middle School website.
- e. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Couture discussed the recent meeting with Selectmen (both towns), Warrant and Advisory Committees and recommended having Attorney Ryan meet with Dover and Sherborn Town Counsels so that they can discuss in detail their different interpretations of the problem. They can then lay out their differences in a proposal that could be sent to the Attorney General for an Advisory Opinion. The Committee directed Dr. Couture to have Attorney Ryan provide

a written opinion of his interpretation. Mr. Linehan and Ms. Poulsen will meet with their respective town Selectmen to discuss the three lawyers getting together.

4. Special Items

- a. Staff Request – Ms. Li, a teacher at the High School, has asked the Committee to allow her daughter to attend Dover-Sherborn High School for the 2008-09 school year. It has been past practice not to approve such requests due to enrollment increases and the possible obligation to accept all requests from staff.

Ms. Madden made a motion to grant the request of Ms. Li as presented by Dr. Couture. Mr. Linehan seconded.

08-10 VOTE: 0-5

5. Community Comments

Ms. Hall, on behalf of sailing team parents, expressed support for the proposed increase to the coaching stipend recommended by the Advisory Council on Extra Duties.

6. Future Business

- a. March Regional School Committee Agenda Items
FY09 Budget, MSBA reimbursement issue, School Choice, Transition planning for incoming Superintendent, Assessment method including how to inform citizens

7. New Business

- a. FY09 Budget Discussion – The Dover Warrant Committee Chair gave the Regional Committee guidance: The Warrant Committee will support a potential Regional Committee vote to use the statutory assessment formula (versus the formula in the Regional Agreement), the Warrant Committee is uncomfortable with additional E&D funds being used this year given the potential litigation around the debt assessment issue, the Warrant Committee cannot give a % guidance at this time.

The Regional School Committee discussed the recommendations of the Advisory Council on Extra Duties. The Administration recommended increasing the athletic fee by \$25 to cover the cost associated with implementing the recommendations. Several members did not support an increase in the Athletic fee.

Mr. Linehan made a motion to remove the N-er-G and Personal/Social Issues new stipend positions from the FY09 budget. Ms. Williamson seconded.

08-11 VOTE: 1-4

Dr. Couture recommended removing the additional funds (\$11,400) to increase the Health Aide to full time. The Administration is applying for a five year grant to hire an additional nurse instead. Dr. Couture also recommended removing an additional SPED Aide (\$25,000) that was discussed last month. The Committee directed the Administration to remove those items from the budget.

Both Warrant and Advisory Committees expressed their desire to see a “level service” operating budget. The current budget represents a 5.34% increase; a level service budget is a 4.16% increase. The dollar difference between the two is approximately \$213,000.

There is an additional meeting scheduled on February 13, 2008 at 6 pm to discuss the alternative assessment formulas.

8. Routine Business

- a. Enrollments as of February 1, 2008
b. Treasurer’s Report (October 2007)

9. Adjournment to Executive Session not to return to open session for matters pertaining to contract negotiations with the incoming Superintendent.

Ms. Pearson made a motion that the Committee adjourn at 10:10 PM. Ms. Anderson seconded. Ms. Madden – yes, Ms. Pearson – yes, Ms. Williamson – yes, Mr. Linehan – yes, Ms. Anderson - yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Davis