

DOVER/SHERBORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02030

Office of the Superintendent

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ROBERT E. COUTURE, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

ANDREA HALLION  
Interim Assistant Superintendent

RICHARD J. MATHIEU  
School Business Manager

Combined Meeting  
January 28, 2008  
Dover-Sherborn Middle School Library  
6:00 P.M.

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee  
Dover Selectmen  
Sherborn Selectmen  
Dover Warrant Committee  
Sherborn Advisory Committee

Present:

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**

Shelly Poulsen  
Mark Linehan  
Rainie Pearson  
Ellen Williamson  
Susan Anderson  
Beverly N. Madden

**Dover Selectmen:**

David Heinlein  
Carol Lisbon

**Sherborn Selectmen:**

Ronald Fernandes  
Christopher Peck  
Paul DeRensis

**Dover Warrant Committee:**

Allen Goldbert  
Robyn Hunter  
David Stapleton  
Joseph Melican  
Arthur Meehan  
Caroline White  
Nancy Weinstein  
Scott Seidman

**Sherborn Advisory Committee:**

Graham Luce  
Barbara Wands  
Kitty Sturgis  
Gwen Ortmeyer  
Ruth Chamberlin  
Peter Caruso  
Chris Browne

Others: Bill Lahey, Dover Town Counsel  
J. Raymond Miyares, Sherborn Town Counsel  
John J. Rayan, Jr., Regional School Counsel  
Robert Couture, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Mathieu, School Business Manager  
David Ramsay, Dover Town Administrator  
Ruth Hohenschau, Sherborn Town Accountant  
Jolanta Eckert, Sherborn Capital Budget  
Libby Yon, DSBC Co-Chair  
David Chase, Dover  
Nancy Hess, Sherborn  
Frank Hess, Sherborn  
Richard Robinson, Sherborn

1. **Call to Order**—Minutes called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Shelley Poulsen, Chairperson of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee.
2. **MSBA Reimbursement Issue**—Those present engaged in an extensive discussion of the issue especially the planning the compromises reached by the Study Committee that drafted the Warrant Article that was voted at the 2007 Town Meetings of Dover and Sherborn, an article that passed in Sherborn and failed in Dover. The concern expressed by Sherborn representatives was that they were extremely disappointed that those who represented Dover in the formulation of the failed 2007 Town Meeting article did not support the article (that they helped to draft) when it was presented to the Dover Town Meeting. Dover's response was that full support of the article was not assured by them from Dover who helped to draft it.

Attorney John J. Ryan, representing the Regional School Committee offered an overview of the issue emphasizing that the legislation that created MSBA and the new reimbursement methodology created the conflict. Sherborn Town Counsel, J. Raymond Miyares asserted that the language in the statute has never changed and that the courts can stipulate a solution that would extend throughout the life of the bonds floated to pay for the Middle/High School project. He further commented that from his perspective the distribution of the financial responsibility for the project neither conforms with the statute or Regional Agreement. Both, Dover Town Counsel, William Lahey and Regional Counsel, John Ryan did not agree with Attorney Miyares interpretation.

Dover selectmen stated that to bring a warrant article that was defeated in 2007 back to the table in 2008 would almost guarantee defeat, even with additional discussion and support.

It was not clear about how to proceed beyond the present meeting. Several suggestions included having an impartial arbitrator hear the arguments, legislate a solution, reach agreement between the parties, do nothing, go to litigation. The sense of the meeting was that litigating the issue was not desirable but not excluded if all else fails.

3. **Regional Assessment Formulas**—School Business Manager, Richard Mathieu presented a comparative analysis of the new statutory assessment formula and the Regional Agreement Formula.

	<b>Dover</b>	<b>Sherborn</b>
Statutory	8,204,218	6,865,548
Alt/(Agreement)	8,052,547	7,027,129
Difference	161,671	(161,671)

Mr. Mathieu also indicated that he would clarify the town meeting budget approval process and the procedures that would follow if there wasn't agreement between the towns about the FY'09 proposal.

Some discussion also occurred about the assessment formula used last year that was approved by the Advisory and Warrant Committees.

Selectmen and legal counsel left the meeting at the completion of the agenda items noted above.

4. **FY'09 Regional Budget**—Business Manager Richard Mathieu presented an outline of the Regional School Budget process. He noted the goals and assumptions related to the process and highlighted the new expenditures included in the FY09 proposal. He will provide Warrant and Advisory with a break-out of the level service and new expenditure elements of the budget.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Pearson. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Couture  
Interim Superintendent of Schools