

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Members Present: Shelley Poulsen, Chair
Mark Linehan, Vice Chair
Ellen Williamson
Sue Anderson
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
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.

A memorial tree and plaque have been donated by the classmates of Ryan Skapars, a member of the Class of 2001. The grounds crew will be responsible for planting the tree.

Mr. Linehan made a motion to accept a gift of \$450 in memory of Ryan Skapars. Ms. Pearson seconded.
08-01 VOTE: Unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Regional School Committee– December 4 and 17, 2007

In Section 3b, add the following after the first sentence: The School Committee approved the Open Campus policy be added to the Student Handbook beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. All changes to the handbook are voted on by the School Committee annually.

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2007. Ms. Pearson seconded.
08-02 VOTE (as amended): Unanimous

Mr. Linehan made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of December 4, 2007. Ms. Madden seconded.

08-03 VOTE: Unanimous

In Section 1 of the December 17, 2007 minutes change Mr. Linehan to Ms. Pearson.

Ms. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2007. Ms. Williamson seconded.
08-04 VOTE(as amended): 5-0 (Ms. Poulsen abstained)

The Sherborn School Committee minutes of November 15 and 29, 2007 and the Dover School Committee minutes of November 20, 2007 were noted.

3. Reports

a. Athletic Review – Heath Rollins presented the Committee with participation rates and fee collection through the fall sport season. Ms. Madden and Ms. Anderson presented the information they had collected with the help of Mr. Rollins breaking down the cost of each sport (coaches, equipment, parental donations/purchases, etc). They will continue their work and present their finding and recommendations at a future meeting.

b. **(followed Student Advisory report)** Business Manager's Report –

- Finance – The monthly report by function code was provided.
- Facilities and Maintenance – There is no additional information to report regarding the vandalism that occurred in November.
- Cafeteria – The participation rate remains stable (approx 55-60%.)

- c. Dover-Sherborn High School Report – Ms. Lonergan made a request for the Tufts Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship overnight field trip. This year's topic is Global Poverty and Inequality.
Ms. Anderson made a motion to approve the Tufts EPIIC field trip as presented. Ms. Williamson seconded.
08-05 VOTE: 5-0 (Mr. Linehan has to step out during the discussion and vote)
Ms. Lonergan made a request for the Astronomy Observatory Tour III overnight field trip in April of 2009.
Mr. Linehan made a motion to approve the Astronomy field trip as presented. Ms. Madden seconded.
08- VOTE: Unanimous
Ms. Lonergan updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the High School.
- d. Student Advisory Council – Mr. Rich gave an update of Student Council activities.
- e. Dover-Sherborn Middle School Report – Mr. Randall updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the Middle School. The NEASC report will be available for discussion at the February meeting.
- f. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Davis reviewed enclosures provided to the Committee including:
- MSBA Reimbursement – will be discussed further at meeting on January 28th between the Regional School Committee and both town's Selectmen and Advisory/Warrant Committees
 - Regional Assessment Formula – the DOE has advised that D-S should use the statutory assessment formula provided by the State unless both towns vote approval at their respective Town Meetings to use the formula included in the Regional Agreement. Dr. Couture believes the assessment difference between the formulas is approximately \$150,000-200,000 cost to Dover.

4. Special Items

- a. NESDEC Enrollment Projections – report provided for information.
- b. Superintendent Search Update – There are 4 semifinalists who will be visiting the district. The public interviews will be held January 14th and 16th. The appointment is scheduled to be made on January 29th at a joint meeting of the school committees.
- c. Review of the Operation of the High School Athletic Program – discussed under 3a: Athletic Review

5. Community Comments

Mr. Robinson suggested there be a policy regarding student to chaperone ratios for field trips.

Ms. Poulsen has received several calls asking when the stipend recommendation for the sailing team will be discussed.

6. Future Business

- a. February Regional School Committee Agenda Items
FY09 Budget, Middle School NEASC report, stipend requests, parking issues
- b. Proposed 2008-09 School Calendar
The calendar was reviewed and will be approved at the January 29th meeting of all the school committees.

7. New Business

- a. FY09 Budget Discussion -
The Administration provided a layered list of possible budget reductions. Dr. Couture recommended discussion around priorities 1 and 2 (\$176,400 total) and to wait on further reductions until State aid is known and the assessment formula issue is resolved. Those items include:
Priority 1 - HS Language Lab items (\$29,000), Potential Health Insurance (20,000), Potential retirement (8,000), World Culture Week (3,300), Massai Warrior (1,000), HS textbooks (6,000), MS textbooks (3,500), MS Library videos (1,500), MS History (1,500), MS Jazz Spectrum (1,200), 2 SPED aides (50,000), and Data Management stipend (5,000)

Priority 2 - Utility heat reduction (10,000), Health Aide (11,400), Facility and Maintenance (25,000)
The Committee directed the Administration to reduce the budget by \$105,000 made up of the “priority 1” reductions as presented (except the 2nd SPED aide).
The Committee directed the Administration to reduce the budget by \$35,000 made up of the “priority 2” reductions as presented (except the Health aide).
The Committee discussed the “priority 3” items. No further cuts will be made until more complete direction is given by Sherborn Advisory and Dover Warrant Committees.

8. Routine Business

- a. Enrollments as of January 1, 2008

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

Ms. Pearson made a motion that the Committee adjourn at 9:20 PM. Ms. Anderson seconded. Ms. Madden – yes, Ms. Pearson – yes, Ms. Williamson – yes, Mr. Linehan – yes, Ms. Anderson - yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Davis