

DOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2008

Members Present: Bob Springett, Chairperson
Darin Correll
Kathleen Gill-Body
Susan Hackney
James Stuart

Also Present: Dr. Robert Couture, Interim Superintendent
Kirk Downing, Principal
Dr. Deb Reinemann, Curriculum Coordinator
Dana White, PTO President

1. **Call to order** – Mr. Springett called the meeting to order @ 7:00 in the Chickering School Library.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a) Dover School Committee minutes of February 26 and March 6, 2008.

Mr. Springett requested a motion to accept the February 26th minutes with the following amendments/corrections: second page update to 08-06 Vote to reflect unanimous; Technology Report, 2nd bullet, note that SIS database is Everyday Math; page 3, New Business add that Mr. Springett will likely be running for re-election.

Ms. Hackney moved, Mr. Correll seconded

08-07 Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Springett requested a motion to accept the March 6, 2008 minutes.

Ms. Hackney moved, Ms. Gill-Body seconded

08-08 Vote: Unanimous

b) The minutes were noted of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee for January 28, February 5 and February 13, 2008

c) The minutes were noted of the Sherborn School Committee for February 11 and 12, 2008

3. **FY '09 Dover Public Schools Budget** - Mr. Springett, Dr. Couture

- Treat education as an investment; invest in people, programs and time
- Do students have enough time to master the subject matter, and faculty to instruct?
- 2009 initiatives:
 - Academic Excellence
 - Innovation--including Prototype Response to Intervention Model (RTI)
 - Professional Development
 - Financial Responsibility
 - School Administration & Management--including Time to Learn Task Force
 - Community/Parent Satisfaction
- 2009 Budget Request is \$7,737,675, a reduction of \$21,966 from the 2008 budget. Major budget categories and budget request/variance are:
 - Salaries \$5,177,843--a \$155,301 increase;
 - Special Education \$1,697,762--a \$199,017 decrease;
 - Shared Services (utilities, etc.) \$862,070--a \$21,750 increase
- Special Education expenses drive changes to the budget
- All town departments are asked to come in with a submission for a non-override budget. If Special Education budget increase, other services would need to be reduced.
- Budget request includes \$30,000 for recommissioning the HVAC system at Chickering. It is not a capital expense since it is an extraordinary one time expense. Expense should have been included as a warrant article because it is funding for a study.
- Budget request Includes increase aide time to support RTI initiative.
- Maintenance contract still to be looked at to confirm if any further changes/reductions.
- Mr. Springett requested a motion to accept the budget reviewed and an additional \$30,000 for recommissioning the HVAC system at Chickering. Mr. Stuart motioned and Ms. Hackney seconded.

08-09 Vote: Unanimous

- Requested \$80,000 of capital budget needs to be moved from FY2011 to FY2010 Capital Budget. Mr. Springett requested a motion, Mr. Stuart motioned and Ms. Hackney seconded
08-10 Vote: Unanimous

4. Community Comments -- None

5. Reports

- a) **PTO Report** – Dana White, President, PTO distributed the March 2008 newsletter and reported on PTO events which included:
- The new PTO website is now live
 - Family Fun night was 3/6—approximately 200 students attended
 - Lots of excitement about the new playground cart from the students
 - Bus Driver appreciation breakfast held
 - PTO Speaker discussed “Go Green”—approximately 15-20 parents and 15-20 students attended
 - Information sessions being held in April for PTO leadership positions
 - State of the School April 10th—ready to kick off preparations
 - Volunteer Opportunity—parent needed to work with two 4th graders on the student newspaper—recommendation made to contact Bill Barrett; students want to have an issue out before school year is over
 - Staff relaxation event held
 - End of year event planning—May 21 staff appreciation lunch
 - Box Tops -- \$800 made so far, funded the playground rolling cart purchase
- b) **Business Manager's Report** – Dr. Couture for Mr. Mathieu
- Most accounts in the black, looking good for the end of the year.
- c) **Principals Report** – Mr. Downing
- ELA update - Ms. Snyder
 - Reviewed handout--side 2 reflects First Grade schedule for student who are not meeting benchmarks. Will have a schedule for all grades. Scheduling is designed to reduce impact on classroom time
 - Tufts visits going well--building curriculum
 - DOE rewriting language arts standards for each specific grade level
 - Working with students whose DRA levels were below benchmark in the fall; only one student in the school remains below benchmark
 - Balanced literacy--both fiction and non-fiction
 - Applying for a joint grant to DSEF in collaboration with Pine Hills for Dibbles Assessment tool—training K-3 on tool so they can make assessments.
 - EveryDay Math - Dr. Reinemann
 - Grades 2-5 working on inputting data; need to obtain more advanced version of software so that data can be accessed at more than 1 workstation; Grade 1 still to be trained
 - Targeted instruction
 - Learning goals/success % below 85% identified—grade 1, 3c--77% are at a 100% success rate in a developing goal. Also identified some goals that we want to concentration on more. At higher grade levels, focus is on secure goals
 - Instrumental Music Update
 - How to improve learning time in classroom without sacrificing music program.
 - Handout includes tables providing information on current instruction, recommendations for 2008/2009
 - General Instrumentation vs. lessons for certain instruments—for example, with a rotation of 2 music classes (ex., chorus/general music in grade 5), expand to 4th and 5th grade—the 1st class will be chorus instruction; the 2nd class would be instrumentation or a general music class. We would still have band available before or after school.
 - New approach supports need to eliminate pulling students out for instrumentation. In the future may look at expansion to Strings program as part of improving program.
 - Can we offer the 2nd class to be another of the arts such as speech or drama?
 - Committee also discussed if we need to see an afterschool model.
 - Committee supports Mr. Downing continuing to evaluate models.
 - Mr. Springett noted that when we're looking at the strategic piece, we have to look at the competing limitations on time and resources.
 - When comparing our program to other schools, our obligation and responsibility to the students is for the program to lead.

- Music in Our School concert tomorrow night @ Chickering 7pm

d) Superintendent's Report – Dr. Couture

- Special Education Peer Review
 - Marvelous support for special education throughout the schools
 - Regular education gets more protection in the inclusion setting due to the addition of special education staff, resulting in classroom teacher not being drawn away as much
 - Typically 11-12% of students have IEP's in Dover-Sherborn
 - Need to further the early identification/early intervention of special needs as they are emerging
 - Since students are coming into school with such rich backgrounds, they are able to compensate in 1st/2nd grade, then gaps are seen in 3rd/4th.
 - Dover Sherborn is a Special Education magnet due to our schools excellence
 - 20% of Dover and 10% of Sherborn students are in private school
 - We have 23 staff members delivering services to Special Education students
 - Having a Administrator of Special Education is important

6. Special Items

a) School Choice Program - Dr. Couture

- Committee discussed participation in the program
- If Dover doesn't vote out, they will automatically be included
- Most communities around us don't participate, it is more popular in areas west of Northboro/Southboro area
- Recommendation from Dr. Couture not to participate
- Mr. Springett requested a motion to withdraw from program for 2008, Mr. Correll moved, Ms. Hackney seconded

08-11 Vote: Unanimous

7. Future Business

- a) April Dover School Committee Agenda Items – Mr. Springett
- b) Agenda Items for Joint/Union Meeting on March 25, 2008 - Mr. Springett
 - Superintendent's Transition Plan

8. New Business

9. Routine Business--

- a) Enrollments as of March 1, 2008
 - Report included in packet—not reviewed at meeting.

10. Adjournment-- Mr. Springett requested a motion to adjourn, Ms. Gill-Body motioned, Mr. Correll seconded. Meeting Adjourned at @ 9:02p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deb Savastano