

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**  
Meeting of March 4, 2008

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

**Also Present:** Dr. Robert E. Couture, Interim Superintendent  
Richard Mathieu, School Business Manager  
Denise Lonergan, High School Headmaster  
Zachery Sokol, 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 28, February 5 and 13, 2008  
Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, February 5 and 13, 2008. Ms. Pearson seconded.  
08-14 VOTE: Unanimous (except February 5<sup>th</sup> which was 5 – 0 with one abstention)  
Ms. Pearson made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of February 5, 2008. Ms. Anderson seconded.  
08-15 VOTE: 5 – 0 (one abstention)  
The Sherborn School Committee minutes of January 17, 2008 and the Dover School Committee minutes of January 22 and February 6, 2008 were noted.

**3. Budget Hearing**

Dr. Couture and Mr. Mathieu presented the proposed 2008-2009 Budget. Mr. Mathieu also provided recommended budget cuts to reduce the operating budget increase to “level services” (~ 4.26% operating increase) and to 4% (the request of both towns’ finance committees). There was extensive discussion amongst the Administration, Committee, Sherborn Advisory and Dover Warrant. The Regional School Committee directed Mr. Mathieu to make the recommended cuts except \$60,000 from the Technology account which should instead be spread across all discretionary accounts.  
Ms. Anderson made a motion that the 2008-2009 budget in the amount of \$18,762,294 be reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of \$2,535,713 for a net amount to be assessed to the member towns of \$16,226,581, comprised of \$14,707,825 in operating expenses and \$1,518,756 in debt expenses, and that the Treasurer be authorized to certify this budget in the apportioned share of each town based on the statutory method. Mr. Linehan seconded.  
08-16 VOTE: Unanimous

**4. Reports**

- a. Student Advisory Council – Mr. Sokol gave an update of Student Council activities.  
b. Business Manager’s Report –
- Finance – The monthly report by function code was provided.
  - Facilities and Maintenance – The unencumbered fund balance for the Regional School Building Project can only be used for like projects within the scope of the original warrant article.
  - Cafeteria – The participation rate has leveled off (55%) and will continue to be monitored.

- c. Dover-Sherborn High School Report – Ms. Lonergan updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the High School. Ms. Lonergan made a request for Dodge Poetry Festival overnight field trip in September 2008.  
Ms. Pearson made a motion to approve the Dodge Poetry Festival field trip as presented. Mr. Linehan seconded.  
08-17 VOTE: Unanimous
- d. Dover-Sherborn Middle School Report – Mr. Randall was unable to attend the meeting.
- e. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Couture discussed the findings from his Special Education Peer Review report.

**5. Special Items**

School Choice Program – The Massachusetts School Choice Law requires the local school committee vote to withdraw from School Choice annually. Given the lack of space in the Regional Schools, Dr. Couture does not recommend the Regional School Committee participate in the School Choice Program for the 2008-09 school year.

Ms. Pearson made a motion to have the Dover Sherborn Regional Schools withdraw from the School Choice program for the 2008-09 school year because of space limitations. Ms. Williamson seconded.  
08-18 VOTE: Unanimous

**6. Community Comments**

Mr. Robinson asked a few questions about the MSBA reimbursement issue and an article about it in the Boston Globe.

Several parents expressed their concerns over the Administration’s decision not to rehire the girls’ soccer coach.

**7. Future Business**

- a. April Regional School Committee Agenda Items –  
Budget, stipend positions, NEASC report, School safety report, Superintendent transition plan
- b. Transition Planning for Superintendent Elect –  
Dr. Couture will provide more information as planning progresses.

**8. New Business**

- a. Athletic Review – Ms. Anderson and Ms. Madden provided a draft form of a survey targeted towards athletes and parents in an effort to get feedback regarding the athletic department and its programs.

**9. Routine Business**

- a. Enrollments as of March 1, 2008
- b. Treasurer’s Report (December 2007 and January 2008)

**10. 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 10:00 PM. Ms. Anderson seconded.  
Ms. Madden – yes, Ms. Pearson – yes, Ms. Williamson – yes, Mr. Linehan – yes, Ms. Anderson – yes, Ms. Poulsen – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Davis