

# DOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2008

Members Present: Robert Springett Chairperson  
Kathleen Gill-Body  
James Stuart  
Darin Correll

Also Present: Dr. Robert E. Couture, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Kirk Downing, Principal  
David Stapleton, Warrant Committee

**1. Call to order** - Mr. Springett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Springett reminded those present that the purpose of the posted extra monthly meetings was to provide the School Committee and the Administrators the opportunity to discuss strategic ideas for improving the programs and services at the Chickering School.

**2. Budget Discussion** - After a careful review of the budget and input from Mr. Stapleton about the expectations of the Warrant Committee, the School Committee reduced the budget by \$13,000 (\$6,500 from the Superintendent's salary account and \$6,500 from contingency accounts).

Motion to reduce the budget by \$13,000 was made by Ms. Gill-Body, seconded by Mr. Stuart.

**08-08 Vote:** Unanimous

There was some discussion about the Town's Capital Budget and whether there was a place holder and amount for a capital expenditure (i.e., the recommissioning of the Chickering School Heating/Air Exchange System - \$30,000).

**3. Instrumental Music Discussion** - Mr. Downing shared a "first draft" memo regarding his recommendations for Instrumental Music. The draft displayed a model similar to the way instrumental music lessons take place during the school day in Weston. Mr. Springett expressed the concern that the model does not contribute to an increase in academic instructional time. Ms. Gill-Body offered that there may be a positive impact of increased participation on the instrumental music experience if lessons were taught during the regular school day.

All Committee members and administrators present engaged in a very informative discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of the "first draft" model. It was also stated that the pro's and con's of an after school instrumental music program should be part of the discussion before decisions are made. The funding issue also requires review.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Couture  
Interim Superintendent