

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of May 6, 2008

Members Present: Shelley Poulsen, Chair
Sue Anderson
Ellen Williamson
Rainie Pearson (left meeting at 7:50 pm)
Beverly Madden
Clare Graham

Also Present: Dr. Robert E. Couture, Interim Superintendent
Richard Mathieu, School Business Manager
Denise Lonergan, High School Headmaster
Frederick Randall, Middle School Headmaster
Zachery Sokol, Student Representative
Citizens

1. Call to Order

Ms. Poulsen called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Dover Sherborn Middle School Library.

Ms. Poulsen welcomed visiting students from China.

Ms. Poulsen announced the appointment of Clare Graham to the School Committee for the one year remaining on Mr. Linehan's term.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Regional School Committee– April 1 and 14, 2008

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2008. Ms. Madden seconded. There were several changes made: Section 1, second paragraph, change Mr. Poulsen to *Mrs. Poulsen*; 2a, fourth sentence, change Ms. Anderson to Ms. *Madden*; 3a, second sentence, add *In a letter to the Committee*, to the beginning of the sentence, change DR to *directed research* and changed the following sentence to *The Committee will consider a vote next month*; 4a, first sentence, add *an increase* to prior to the Sailing Team coach stipend.

08-25 VOTE: 5 – 0, one abstention

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of April 14, 2008. Ms. Madden seconded. In the last sentence of the second paragraph as *who would be making* following Regional School Committee.

08-26 VOTE: Unanimous

The Sherborn School Committee minutes of March 13 and 25, 2008 and the Dover School Committee minutes of March 6, 18 and April 2, 2008 were noted.

3. Reports

a. Student Advisory Council – Mr. Sokol took questions and comments on the Class Town Meeting Reports that were provided to the Committee. Ms. Poulsen thanked Mr. Sokol on behalf of the School Committee for his participation in the meetings this year and presented him with a gift.

b. Business Manager's Report –

- Finance – The monthly report by function code was provided. Mr. Mathieu expects an overrun in the custodial account due to the number of snow storms during the winter. Additionally, he is projecting a sizable deficit for substitute teachers which will be partially offset from the regular teacher accounts. He will provide more accurate number next month.
- FY09 Budget – The FY09 budget was approved at both town meetings.
- Building Project – The Building Committee has provided a list of non-prioritized items that were removed from the building project due to funding concerns. The Administration suggested forming a sub-committee to prioritize the list.

- Cafeteria – The participation rate has leveled off (54%) and will continue to be monitored.
- c. Dover-Sherborn High School Report – Ms. Lonergan made a request to accept a grant of \$14,000 from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation.
Ms. Pearson made a motion to accept the \$14,000 from MassBioEd. Ms. Anderson seconded.
08-27 VOTE: Unanimous
Ms. Lonergan then updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the High School. There was discussion about the Senior Privilege and requests made by the seniors to change it. The changes include: unlimited opportunities, a warning system and extending the privilege to the first semester. Ms. Williamson made a motion to extend the number of Senior Privilege opportunities from 15 to unlimited for the remainder of the school year with the impact to be reviewed by the School Committee in June. Ms. Madden seconded.
08-28 VOTE: Unanimous (5 – 0)
- d. Dover-Sherborn Middle School Report – Mr. Randall presented the proposed changes to the Middle School Academic Handbook. The Committee will vote on the changes in June. Mr. Randall also updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the Middle School.
- e. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Couture reviewed enclosures provided to the Committee including:
- NCLB Report Card
 - Parking – Will be pursued as part of the Building Project (section 3b)
 - Increase in Early Release Days – Dr. Couture recommended an additional two professional development days for 2008-09. A vote on the recommendation will be taken in June.
 - Cell Tower – The Administration has been contacted regarding a lease of ground space for a cell tower (approximately 100’ in height) that could be made to look like a pine tree, flagpole or ball field light post. The contract is estimated to be worth a minimum of \$24,000/year with yearly escalations. The Committee directed the Administration to pursue the proposal.

4. Special Items

- a. Reverse 911 – Mr. Corning is working with the Dover Police Department to make sure the program is running for the start of school in September.
- b. Town Meetings Update – Both towns approved the school budget for FY09.
- c. Athletic Program Survey – The survey has been sent to students and will close for submissions this Friday. The survey for parents and coaches has also been sent.
- d. School Committee Goal Review
- e. Equipment Disposal – Mr. Corning has residual equipment that needs to be disposed. He is looking for approval to pursue recycling programs, donation ideas or other avenues after removing the data with Department of Defense approved techniques.
Ms. Madden made a motion to approve the disposal list as presented. Ms. Anderson seconded.
08-29 VOTE: Unanimous

5. Community Comments

Dr. Couture thanked Ms. Poulsen and Ms. Anderson for their service to the Committee over the years. Ms. Williamson also thanked them on the behalf of the Committee and presented them with gifts.

6. Future Business

- a. June Regional School Committee Agenda Items –
Building Project subcommittee, Senior Privilege, Middle School Academic Handbook, Early release days, Athletic Program Survey results, School Improvement Plans, High School Handbook, Reorganization of Committee

7. New Business

None

8. Routine Business

- a. Enrollments as of May 1, 2008
- b. Treasurer’s Report

9. Adjournment to Executive Session not to return to open session for matters pertaining to Administrator Salaries, Secretaries contracts and Custodian contracts.

Ms. Madden made a motion that the Committee adjourn at 9:10 PM. Ms. Anderson seconded. Ms. Madden – yes, Ms. Williamson – yes, Ms. Graham – yes, Ms. Anderson – yes, Ms. Poulsen – yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Davis