

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**  
Meeting of March 10, 2009

Members Present: Ellen Williamson, Chair  
Rainie Pearson, Vice-Chair  
Beverly Madden  
Richard Robinson  
Clare Graham, Secretary  
Nate Van Duzer

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent  
Richard Mathieu, Business Manager  
Kitty Sturgis and Peter Caruso, Sherborn Advisory  
Robin Hunter, Dover Warrant  
Heather Peck, Sherborn School Committee

**1) Call to Order**

Ms. Williamson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Library. Agenda read.

**2) Overview of recent town and school budget activity**

- a) Dover Warrant has voted to not support \$425,000 in Regional reductions for FY10. Their vote was to not support more than \$200,000 in total for reductions.
- b) Sherborn Advisory will meet on 3/12 to look at local revenue and expenses. It looks as though they will draw down free cash, PHS budget is in a favorable place, discussions have taken place with Superintendent Spriggs on Out of District for Middle School expenses, Sherborn firm in asking for at least \$200,000 in reductions.
- c) Ms. Spriggs met with Sherborn Advisory Chair and Vice Chair. She asked that Advisory give thought to the issue that the region makes up 35% of the town budget but we are making up more than that in the budget short fall. She suggested further conversation on this issue.
  - i) The reductions suggested by the administration are made based on an effort to preserve jobs and increase academic performance. It is important that the Region partners with towns to support not only town budgets but student learning.
- d) Potential changes to FY10 Budget request detailed in 3/10/2009 memo. Reductions discussed.
  - i) Health Insurance reduction of \$130,000. Based on final numbers as rates are now set for FY10 and a reduction of \$80,000 in the contingency portion of health insurance. Should additional funds be needed during the year (and it is not expected they will be needed) other line items would be "frozen".
  - ii) Reserve fund increased by \$30,000 to cover expected legal expenses.
  - iii) SPED budget reduced by \$30,000 due to anticipated grant funds and alternate arrangements which do not affect IEPs.
  - iv) \$35,000 used from Athletic revolving fund to support budget
- e) Mr. Caruso stated that while the Region and Out of District expenses represent 38% of town budget, they are 75% of town "override". He agrees that there should be discussion between Region and towns on the use and application of circuit breaker funds. Sherborn continues to push for rate saver plan through Metro West Health. Mr. Caruso would like to see continued attention on class size and justification for smaller classes.
- f) Ms. Spriggs stated that the Middle and High schools are looking at mirroring their schedules in order to address both class size and staffing needs. The administration as

always continues to be sensitive to the needs of students, scheduling and teacher/student ratios.

- g) Discussion by Ms. Spriggs and Mr. Mathieu on the logistics should the Region need to freeze budget items in FY10. It is more important to have the human/teacher in the classroom than the pen or other materials.

**3) FY10 Budget Changes**

- a) Motion to approve administrations' recommended reduction to Health Insurance by \$130,000 for FY10 Regional Budget. Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Ms Graham. VOTE 5-1
- b) Motion to add back to the FY10 budget \$30,000 for legal fees regarding pending litigation. Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Ms Graham. VOTE 5-1.
- c) Motion to reduce FY10 Health Contingency by \$80,000. Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Ms. Graham. VOTE 4-2.
- d) Motion to reduce FY10 SPED by \$30,000. Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Ms. Graham. VOTE 5-1.
- e) Motion to reduce FY10 Athletic budget request by \$30,000. Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Ms. Graham. VOTE 5-1.
- f) Motion to hereby move that the 2009-2010 budget in the amount of 19,097,787 be reduced by estimates receipts and available funds in the amount of 2,493,844 for a net amount to be assessed to member towns of \$16,603,943, comprised of 15,103,506 in operating expenses and 1,500,437 in debt expenses, and that the Treasurer be authorized to certify this budget in the apportioned share of each town per the Statutory assessment method. Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Ms. Graham. VOTE 4-2.

Motion to adjourn at 9pm by Ms. Pearson, second by Ms Graham. VOTE 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clare Graham