

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of March 5, 2009

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

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent
Richard Mathieu, Business Manager
Page Hamilton, Student Representative

1) Call to Order

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

2) Approval of Minutes

a) Regional School Committee – February 5, 10 and 23, 2009

Ms. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2009. Ms. Madden seconded. In Section 9, change Richardson to Robinson.

09-14 VOTE (as amended): 6 - 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2009. Ms. Madden seconded. Change the last sentence under section 3 to read: *An E&D balance of 5% of the operating budget is our goal and the norm.*

09-15 VOTE (as amended): 6 – 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2009. Ms. Madden seconded. After members present add: *Others Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent of Schools, Richard Mathieu, School Business Manager and members of the communities.* Under SPED, recognize Ruth Chamberlin as Sherborn Advisory Chair and Caroline White as Dover Warrant Chair. Change second paragraph to read: *Because of MCAS reporting requirements and state reporting for middle and high school OOD, circuit breaker funds will be flowing from the state to the district instead of directly to the towns. It was suggested that this money will be earmarked for the appropriate town as it arrives. Vendors will bill the region and the appropriate town, allowing the region to pay those costs until the funds are exhausted. Mr. Mathieu and Ms. Spriggs will work with the towns to determine the best method to disperse the funds.* Under E&D after the second sentence change the rest of the paragraph to read: *The history of the fund was reviewed noting that over 10 years ago the fund was in deficit. It was brought into a surplus in part to secure favorable bond ratings for the building project. It is the only contingency fund available for emergencies such as fire, roof damage, severe winter or unanticipated legal fees. Mr. Mathieu stated budgetary turnback has been about 3% of the budget and that good municipal finance would have it below 5%.* Under Other Issues, before start of first paragraph, add: *There were other issues raised by Sherborn Advisory.* At end of 3rd paragraph, also under Other Issues add: *Ms. Spriggs and the Committee have brought forward reductions that while mindful of student learning also respect fiscal restraints in both towns.*

These minutes will be corrected and presented for approval at the April meeting.

Ms. Williamson reminded everyone that subcommittee meetings are subject to open meeting laws and minutes must be submitted to the Administrative office.

Ms. Williamson read into record a letter from the Sherborn Advisory Committee. See attached.

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of January 15, 2009 and the Dover School Committee minutes of January 20, 2009 were noted.

3) **FY 2010 Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools – Budget Hearing**

Ms. Madden and Ms. Graham went through the FY2010 Budget presentation.

4) **Community Comments**

Ms. Graham was appointed to the School Committee last year to fill a vacated position. She will be running for election this spring.

5) **Reports**

a) Student Advisory Council – Ms. Hamilton updated the Committee on recent and upcoming Student Council events.

b) Business Manager's Report

- Finance – The monthly report by function code was provided. The Facility and Maintenance budget is an area of concern but should not affect the overall budget.
- FY10 Budget – discussed during Special Items.

c) Special Education Presentation – Ms. Travers reviewed the presentation she prepared for the Committee.

d) Superintendent's Report – Ms. Spriggs reviewed enclosures provided to the Committee including:

- Strategic Plan Update
- Overnight Field Trip request – Tufts Inquiry Program, April 3-4, 2009

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the overnight field trip for the Tufts EPIIC simulation on April 3rd and 4th 2009. Mr. VanDuzer seconded.

VOTE 09-16: 6 - 0

- Assistant Superintendent Update – 34 candidates applied for the position. The Selection Committee has identified 10 candidates for interviews.
- Ms. Spriggs responded to the letter from the Sherborn Advisory Committee. She is concerned with the level of "suggestions" made by the Committee regarding the budget reductions. She looks forward to better and stronger communications in a respectful and civil matter between herself and the Advisory Committee.

6) **Special Items**

a) School Choice Program – The MA School Choice Law requires the local school committee vote to withdraw from School Choice annually. Given the lack of space in the Regional Schools, Ms. Spriggs does not recommend the Regional School Committee participate in the School Choice Program for the coming year.

Ms. Pearson made a motion to have the Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools withdraw from the School Choice program for the 2009-10 school year because of space limitations. Ms. Graham seconded.

09-17 VOTE: 6 - 0

b) Extra-Compensatory Stipends – The Committee revisited the Extra-Compensatory recommendations from the Advisory Council.

Mr. VanDuzer made a motion to increase the ratio for the Department Heads from 5.5 to 6.5. Ms. Madden seconded. Discussion ensued.

09-18 VOTE: 2 – 3 – 1 (for, against, abstention). Motion failed.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to increase the ratio for the Recording Studio from 1.0 to 1.5.

Mr. VanDuzer seconded. Discussion ensued.

09-19 VOTE: 6 – 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the redistribution of the 6 High School Theatre positions from a 15.25 ratio to 15.75 ratio to be broken down as presented. Mr. VanDuzer seconded. Discussion ensued.

09-20 VOTE: 6 – 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to establish a Concert Band with an advisor ratio of 1.5. Ms. Pearson seconded. Discussion ensued.

09-21 VOTE: 0 – 6

c) School Committee Goal review

d) Town-wide Communication

e) FY10 Budget Approval and Certification

Mr. VanDuzer made a motion that the 2009-2010 budget in the amount of \$19,337,787 be reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of \$2,493,844 for a net amount to be assessed to member towns of \$16,843,943, comprised of \$15,343,506 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." Mr. Robinson seconded.

Ms. Pearson made a motion to amend the motion on the table. Mr. VanDuzer seconded.

09-22 VOTE: 6 – 0

Ms. Pearson made a motion that the 2009-2010 budget in the amount of \$19,337,787 be reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of \$2,493,844 for a net amount to be assessed to member towns of \$16,843,943, comprised of \$15,343,506 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 using the Statutory method of assessment. Mr. VanDuzer seconded.

09-23 VOTE: 6 – 0

7) Future Business

a) April Agenda Items – Assessment tools inventory, Athletic department update, Athletic handbook review & approval, post-building project items, Middle School DC trip update

8) New Business

None

9) Routine Business

None

10) Adjournment to Executive Session not to return to open session for matters pertaining to pending litigation at 9:15 pm.

Ms. Williamson – yea, Ms. Pearson – yea, Ms. Madden – yea, Mr. Robinson – yea, Ms. Graham – yea, Mr. VanDuzer – yea.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis