

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Meeting of June 9, 2009

Members Present: Ellen Williamson, Chair
Robyn Hunter, Vice Chair
Beverly Madden
Clare Graham, Secretary
Nate van Duzer

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent
Richard Mathieu, Business Manager
Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters

1) Call to Order

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

Reorganization:

Ms. Madden nominated Ms. Williamson to be Chair of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee for 2009-2010. Mr. van Duzer seconded.

09-34 VOTE: 5 – 0

Mr. van Duzer nominated Ms. Hunter to be Vice Chair of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee for 2009-2010. Ms. Graham seconded.

09-35 VOTE: 5 – 0

Ms. Madden nominated Ms. Graham to be Secretary of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee for 2009-2010. Ms. Hunter seconded.

09-36 VOTE: 5 - 0

Ms. Williamson thanked Mr. Mathieu for his service to the District and wished him well in his future endeavors.

2) Approval of Minutes

- a) Regional School Committee –The May minutes will be approved in September.
- b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of April 14, 2009 were noted.

3) Community Comments - None

4) Reports

- a) Observatory Presentation – Mr. Bridger showed pictures from the Astronomy Trip to the Southwest during April vacation.
- b) Athletic Department Handbooks – Mr. Rollins presented the Athletic Department Handbook.
- c) Business Manager's Report
 - Finance – The monthly report by function code was provided. The Custodial function code includes estimates for costs associated with the lightening strike over Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Mathieu will file a claim with the insurance company once all of the invoices are received.
 - Facilities and Maintenance Update – Mr. Mathieu provided updated data on electricity usage for the campus which is expected to track below the past few years.
 - Cafeteria Update – The operation of the cafeteria for FY09 has been successful in maintaining the improvements made in the past years.
 - Wastewater Treatment Update – The solution for the Wastewater Treatment Plant has not been solved, but progress has been made. Mr. Mathieu will continue to work with Weston and Sampson to resolve the issue.

- FY10 Budget Closeout – End-of –year budget transfers will be made in September so that all June costs can be included.
- FY10 Budget – The status of the FY10 local aid budget remains in transition. Chapter 70 has been reduced by \$29,130 due to the Senate using a different inflation factor to determine foundation budgets. The Administration expects this decrease to stay through budget conferences. Regional transportation was reduced by \$146,727. This appears to be the result of the reduced revenue forecasts instead of formulaic changes. Several groups are lobbying to have these monies returned to the state budget.

At this time, the Administration is recommending that the School Committee authorize funding from the E&D account in the amount of the final reduction in state aid, up to \$176,037. The projected status of the E&D account for the start of FY10, including this additional vote, is just shy of 4% (approx \$750,000). This vote should not be seen as setting a precedent, but rather a logical reaction to a set of unprecedented circumstances. This level of E&D usage should not be viewed as standard and is not sustainable as a practice moving forward. The School Committee agreed to use the E&D account to fund state revenue shortfalls.

d) Middle School Report

i) Washington DC Field Trip recap

ii) School Improvement Plan – Mr. Randall presented the plan and answered questions.

Ms. Madden made a motion to approve the School Improvement Plan for the Dover-Sherborn Middle School for 2009-2010. Ms. Graham seconded.

09-37 VOTE: 5 – 0

iii) Handbook Revisions – The changes to the Parent/Student and Academic handbooks were presented pending approval from legal counsel.

Ms. Hunter made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the Middle School

Student/Parent Handbook for 2009-2010 pending legal review. Ms. Madden seconded.

09-38 VOTE: 5 – 0

Ms. Graham made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the Middle School Academic Handbook for 2009-2010. Ms. Madden seconded.

09-39 VOTE: 5 – 0

e) High School Report

i) School Improvement Plan – Ms. Lonergan presented the plan and answered questions.

Ms. Graham made a motion to approve the School Improvement Plan for the Dover-Sherborn High School for 2009-2010. Ms. Madden seconded.

ii) Handbook Revisions – The changes to the handbook were presented.

Ms. Graham made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the High School Student Handbook for 2009-2010. Ms. Madden seconded.

09-40 VOTE: 5 – 0

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

- Strategic Plan Update
- Policy Manual Update
- Professional Development Plan – presented for approval

Ms. Hunter made a motion to approve the Professional Development Handbook for 2009-2010.

Ms. Madden seconded.

09-41 VOTE: 5 – 0

- China Exchange Program – The students and teachers from China were not able to make the trip this spring. A problem with visas was not able to be resolved early enough to allow travel. Ms. Spriggs will not be traveling to China in the fall due to the changes in the District office and her responsibilities here.
- Cheerleading Club Proposal – presented a proposal to re-instate cheerleading at Dover-Sherborn High School as a non-competitive club for the fall of 2009 only. The club would cheer for the Varsity Football team, both home and away games. Parent transportation will be provided for the away games. The goal is for the club to grow into a recognized varsity sport.

Ms. Madden made a motion to support the DS High School Cheerleading Club Team proposal for 2009-2010 school year which will be funded privately. Ms. Graham seconded.

09-42 VOTE: 5 – 0

5) **Special Items**

- a) Subcommittee Appointments
- b) School Committee Summer Schedules

6) **Future Business**

- a) September Agenda Items – Cafeteria, FY09 Budget transfers,

7) **New Business** - None

8) **Routine Business** – Enrollments as of June 1, 2009

9) **Adjournment to Executive Session at 9:35pm to return to open session at 9:50 pm for matters pertaining to Administrators' Contracts.**

Ms. Williamson – yea, Ms. Madden – yea, Ms. Hunter – yea, Ms. Graham – yea, Mr. van Duzer – yea

10) **Return to Open Session 10:10 pm**

Ms. Hunter made a motion to approve the suggested 3% administrative salary and annuity increases as included in the FY10 budget. Ms. Madden seconded.

09-43 VOTE: 5 – 0

11) **Adjournment**

Ms. Graham made a motion to adjourn at 10:12 pm. Ms. Madden seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis