

Dover School Committee meeting minutes 12/5/2007

Committee Present: Darin Correll, Kathy Gill-Body, Susan Hackney, Bob Springett and James Stuart
Others Present: Perry Davis, Kirk Downing, Richard Mathieu, Deb Reinemann, Caroline White, Sally Winslow, Paul Wood

Called to order at 0845.

Energy Task Force

Mr. Mathieu updated the committee that a second quote was obtained from TMP (the original design firm for the HV system at Chickering). Their quote has a ceiling of approximately \$2,000 less than the prior firm's estimate. They will evaluate their system and offer options for solutions to the over-heating issue. We will then need to hire an estimator to get a quote for the particular option chosen. The time line for the evaluation is 4-6 weeks which should provide enough time to insert a placeholder for any funds with the Warrant Committee. Discussion ensued as to the benefits/liabilities of going with a new firm versus using the one that designed the system. A unanimous decision was made to go with the recommendation of Dr. Davis and Mr. Mathieu to use TMP.

2008-2009 Budget

Mr. Mathieu updated the committee on some of the assumptions made in the present version of the budget.

1. An estimate of the new teachers' contract was made to include step changes but not lane changes.
2. Inclusion of a new SPED aide.
3. Decrease by one teachers' aide over last year. (Discussion of whether there are the appropriate numbers of aides at Chickering. Mr. Downing felt that there are.)
4. Keeping Kindergarten at four sections, and 1st grade at 5 sections.
5. Secretarial and other non-union employee salaries adjusted upward per their contracts.
6. Removal of the co-teacher for 5th grade.
7. Reinstate a library aide to get back to previous staffing numbers.
8. Utilities costs based on pending guidelines from the Warrant Committee are not included.

This brings the present budget to ~ \$10,000 over the 2007-2008 numbers. This represents a 3.46% increase in regular education spending and a 10% decrease in SPED spending.

The committee asked for a detailed breakdown of the \$50,000 ELA line item. Most of this represents the newly realized cost of the ongoing initiative (year 2 of 3 of the Tuft's consultation agreement) that was last year funded by a DSEF grant.

Other Items

Mr. Springett informed the committee that he was contacted by the Town of Dover regarding if we are going to continue with the Instrumental Music Revolving Account,

which has a cap of \$35,000. Recommendation of Dr. Davis and Mr. Downing was to continue this for now.

Mr. Springett raised the issue of continuing with the present every Wednesday as a half-day versus going to every other Wednesday as a half-day. Mr. Downing requested to continue with the every Wednesday half-day for at least the next school year to best measure how effective the time is being used presently with the balance between Professional Development for the teachers and student learning.

Ms. Gill-Body brought up the issue of a Master Schedule for Chickering where all the classes within a grade follow the same daily schedule with the hope of being able to utilize this coordination to offer group differentiated instruction. Mr. Downing will work with the Specials teachers to evaluate the ability to coordinate them and come back with suggestions to the committee with ideas in the beginning of 2008.

Mr. Springett raised the issue of the sufficiency of the present Core Curriculum. With specific examples being the addition of gifted instruction and a second language. Dr. Davis informed the committee that there is an institute affiliated with the University of Connecticut that offers programs and instruction on developing gifted/talented programs. He suggested putting money in the budget to have a team from Chickering attend the UConn program to determine the potential model options available which range from in-class differentiated instruction to a "true" gifted/talented program. Dr. Reinemann brought up the point that this would fit perfectly with the Response to Intervention model that Chickering is to employ. Mr. Downing made the point that this would be in addition to and help optimize the presently improving differentiated instruction already planned.

Ms. Gill-Body brought up an issue regarding the internal Chickering phone system in regard to being able to contact a specific individual if necessary, for example the school nurse. Dr. Davis informed the committee that the school owns the communications software and that we can configure it ourselves to however would work best.

Adjourned at 1015.

Respectfully submitted by:
Darin J. Correll, M.D.
Secretary DSC