

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of January 12, 2010

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

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent
Steven Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
Christine Tague, School Business Manager
Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters

1) **Call to Order**

Ms. Williamson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

a) Regional School Committee – December 1 and 8, 2009

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2009. Ms. Madden seconded. In section 4a add Ms. Frattore and Mr. Coutts to the beginning of the second sentence. In section 4c first sentence change Spriggs to Tague. In section 4e correct spelling of *Robinson* in motion.

10-01 VOTE (as amended): 6 – 0

Ms. Graham made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2009. Mr. van Duzer seconded.

10-02 VOTE: 6 - 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of November 19, 2009 and the Dover School Committee of November 17, 2009 were noted.

3) **Community Comments** – Mr. Linehan and Ms. Guthrie both had comments regarding the policy of charging athletic fees that go into the general fund instead of being applied toward the costs of running sports that are not funded by the school budget. They suggested the \$250 athletic fee paid by athletes of a non-funded team (or at least some portion of it) be applied toward the cost of running the sport with the understanding that the parents of the athletes would fund the rest of the cost of the sport.

Ms. Jordan requested that the Committee only present a budget that does not compromise education (defined by Ms. Jordan as academics, arts and sports) and then allow the Towns to vote. She also requested that the Committee make clear to the voters what budget cuts would mean in terms of teachers, programs, etc.

4) **Reports**

a) Presentation of Superintendent's Excellence Award – Ms. Spriggs presented Mr. Brett Stevens with the 2010 MASS Superintendents' Award.

b) Student Council Report – Ms. Frattore reviewed recent and upcoming events for the Middle School Student Council. Mr. Rich reviewed recent and upcoming events for the High School Student Council.

c) Business Manager's Report -

- FY10 Monthly Report – The school district received \$43,678 from the State which was payment for Regional Transportation cuts that were reinstated. The Legal Services account is currently overspent as a result of legal fees associated with a special education case that has recently been resolved. All related legal fees pertaining to this case have been paid. An analysis of the health care account projects the costs to come in as originally budgeted. The

electrical usage is running 46,530 KWH less than the same period last year however the delivery cost is higher than last year.

- FY11 Budget – The transportation bid proposal is scheduled to be opened in early February, the rate setting meeting for health care is scheduled for February 23rd and the Norfolk County Retirement contribution amount will be known by the end of January. As each of these numbers become available, the budget will be updated.

Ms. Spriggs presented a draft report that showed the proposed FY'11 budget with an increase of 7% and the necessary reductions to bring it down to 4.3%. The Administration is not recommending the additional reductions at this time.

d) Middle School Report - Mr. Randall reviewed recent and upcoming events at the Middle School.

e) High School Report - Ms. Lonergan reviewed recent and upcoming events at the High School. The High School PTO and an anonymous donor have offered a gift of five benches to be placed on the regional campus (four in front of Lindquist Commons and one at the entrance to the courtyard between the main high school building and the Wakely Gymnasium). The gift totals \$5,165.00.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the gift of 5 benches from the High School PTO and an anonymous donor totaling \$5,165.00. Ms. Graham seconded.

10-03 VOTE: 6 - 0

The Friends of the Performing Arts have offered a gift of \$1,937.00 to purchase a new MAC computer to interface with the Digital Recording Studio.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the gift of a new MAC computer from the Friends of the Performing Arts totaling \$1,937.00. Ms. Graham seconded.

10-04 VOTE: 6 - 0

Ms. Hunter made a motion to accept a gift not to exceed \$6,000 from the Dover Sherborn Youth Soccer Club to cover expenses of the Freshman Soccer Team for the 2009 fall season. Mr. van Duzer seconded.

10-05 VOTE: 6 – 0

Ms. Graham made a motion to accept a gift not to exceed \$6,000 from the Dover Sherborn Youth Baseball Club to cover expenses of the Freshman Baseball Team for the 2010 season. Mr. van Duzer seconded. Mr. Robinson mentioned his concern regarding the email trail attached to the proposal. Specifically he wanted to make sure the authors of the emails were aware of their use in a public document and he suggested Heath Rollins contact the author of the emails to clarify that acceptance of the gift for the 2010 season does not suggest that Freshman baseball will be funded in the budget in the coming years. The rest of the Committee agreed.

10-06 VOTE: 0 – 6

The motion failed with the stipulation that the Committee will revote the motion next month after Mr. Robinson's concerns are addressed.

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

- Strategic Planning Update – The vision, mission, core beliefs and goals will be brought to the Joint School Committee for approval. The next steps include identifying a steward for each goal and formulating an action team that will write the objectives and guides to achieving the goals.
- Policy Manual Update – The completed sections will be brought to the January Joint School Committee meeting for approval.
- Superintendent's Goals – Ms. Spriggs has identified four goals: 1) Strategic Plan approved and ready for implementation for 2010-2011 school year, 2) research "Teaching and Learning with Technology" as preliminary work in development of a plan for the next five

years, 3) Teacher Academy and 4) improve efficiency in the use of human and financial resources at the central office.

- Raise to the Top/MOU –

Mr. van Duzer made a motion to sign the State MOU on January 12, 2010 and to take the issue back up in May when more is known about the grant requirements. Mr. Robinson seconded.

10-07 VOTE: 2 – 4

- Apple Seminar – Ms. Williamson shared her thoughts about the Apple Seminar she attended presented by educators for the purpose of raising awareness of what technology is available and how to maximize teaching and learning with the use of technology. Ms. Williamson suggested that the education plan and the technology plan for the schools no longer be viewed separately.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant – The Regional District has hired a lawyer to represent them at the DEP Hearing scheduled for January 26th. Mr. Robinson provided background information about the problem to the Committee.
- CDC Report – At the current cost of salaries/rent and accounting for the decline in enrollment, the CDC will end the year with a significant deficit. The Director of Community Education, Business Administrator and Superintendent have meet to discuss solutions to the existing shortfall. The Committee will be kept advised going forward.

5) **Special Items**

- a) February Agenda Items – budget communication, Youth Baseball and Hockey gifts, budget, Wastewater Treatment update, discussion around policy of athletic fees specifically for unfunded sports, Lindquist Commons Storage
- b) Lindquist Commons Storage - moved to February

6) **New Business** - None

7) **Routine Business** – Enrollments as of January 1, 2010

8) **Adjournment to Executive Session at 9:48 pm for matter pertaining to contracts and litigation not to return to open session.**

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

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis