

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of May 4, 2010

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

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent
Steve Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters

1) Call to Order

Ms. Williamson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) Regional School Committee – March 8 and April 6, 2010

Ms. Graham made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2010. Ms. Hunter seconded. Under section 2, 3rd sentence change admitted to “acknowledged”. Change the next section to read: “The budget assumptions used by the committee include, among other things, the need to continue to provide excellence in education...”.

10-25 VOTE (as amended): 4 – 0

Ms. Madden made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2010. Ms. Graham seconded. Under section 5, second sentence in parenthesis change at to a. After bullet points, in second sentence removed phrase in parenthesis.

10-26 VOTE (as amended): 4 – 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of March 11, 2010 and the Dover School Committee of March 16, 2010 were noted.

3) Community Comments – None

4) FY11 Budget – Both towns approved their assessments at their respective Town Meetings. Ms. Williamson thanked everyone for their hard work during the budget process.

5) Reports

a) Student Council Report – Ms. Fattore reviewed recent and upcoming events for the Middle School Student Council. Mr. Rich reviewed recent and upcoming events for the High School Student Council. Ms. Spriggs and the School Committee thanked both of the student representatives for the input over the year.

b) Business Manager’s Report -

- FY10 Monthly Report – Ms. Tague reviewed the quarterly reports. The surplus for the FY10 budget is projected to be approximately 1% which will be added to the E&D Fund. This amount is significantly below previous years. The Regional School District was recently upgraded by S&P from AA+ to AAA.
- Payroll – The Regional School District will no longer be issuing pay stubs to its employees. This will save the cost of mailing the stubs to employees over the summer as well as save the time it takes to prepare the stubs to be distributed during each pay period.
- Waste Water Treatment Plant – Martinage Engineering is still reviewing the previous test samples against recent samples to further define the study and project design. A draft report and estimated cost estimates will be delivered by May 17th.

c) Middle School Report - Mr. Randall announced that Mr. Scott Kellett has been selected to serve as the Assistant Headmaster at the Middle School. There was also discussion of the new class

schedule for September and the proposed changes to the Student Handbook. Mr. Randall explained that the wording of Rule 13 regarding personal electronic equipment will be further changed to accommodate those students that pack up for dismissal before period H.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Middle School Handbook changes as proposed by Mr. Randall including the changes discussed for Rule 13. Ms. Madden seconded.

10-27 VOTE: 5 – 0

- d) High School Report – The Dover-Sherborn Boosters Club would like to fund electrical service to the tennis courts. The electrical outlet could also be used for the baseball fields and batting cage and the design would allow for future extension of the circuit to Farm Street Fields.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the gift from the Dover-Sherborn Booster Club in the amount of \$2,370 to bring electrical service to the tennis courts. Ms. Madden seconded.

10-28 VOTE: 5 – 0

Ms. Lonergan reviewed recent and upcoming events at the High School. The proposed changes to the Student Handbook were provided.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the High School Student Handbook. Ms. Madden seconded.

10-29 VOTE: 5 – 0

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

- Retiring Members – Ms. Spriggs and Ms. Williamson thanked Ms. Madden for her work over the past three years for the School Committee. Ms. Williamson also thanked Ms. Sturgis for her years of service on the Sherborn Advisory Committee.
- MA School Building Authority – The Region will be visited by the MSBA by June to survey the general conditions, building systems, capacity, maintenance and educational environment.
- Strategic Planning Update
- Policy Manual Update
- SPED Director Update – The final selection of applicants to be interviewed will be made on May 5th. The process is expected to be completed in early June.
- METCO Director update – Two candidates have been recommended to Ms. Spriggs. The final decision is expected by the middle of May.

6) Special Items

- a) Athletic Fees –

Ms. Hunter made a motion to no longer require student athletes to pay the athletic fee for a sport sponsored by the high school that does not use any school resources. Ms. Graham seconded.

10-30 VOTE: 1 (Robinson) – 4

The School Committee directed the Superintendent to research the following items so the issue can be discussed again in June: liability exposure, Athletic Director input, Athletic Advisory Council input and how this issue is handled by surrounding towns.

Ms. Hunter made a motion to increase the family cap for athletic fees to \$1,375. Ms. Madden seconded.

10-31 VOTE: 4 – 0 (Mr. Robinson abstained)

Mr. Robinson started a discussion of the athletic/activity fee and suggested charging different fees based on the cost of the activity. The Committee members shared their thoughts. Ms. Williamson suggested fees be discussed by the Athletic Advisory Council and the Dover-Sherborn Boosters Club. The Committee asked Ms. Spriggs to have Mr. Rollins provide information about athletic fees at surrounding schools for the September meeting.

- b) Enrollment – Ms. Spriggs and Ms. Hunter will work together on enrollment projections for September meeting as a place to start the budget conversation.
- c) Waste Water Treatment Plant – Ms. Spriggs and Ms. Hunter are working on a format for providing information and keeping the Committee update.
- d) SPED Reporting Format – Ms. Spriggs and Ms. Hunter are working on the format.
- e) Communication

7) New Business

- a) June Regional School Committee Agenda Items – Bullying Prevention Act overview, Athletic Fees, Middle School curriculum review, Cafeteria – food options update and lunch charge, Reorganization, Five year capital needs projections, OPEB/GASB 45
- b) May Joint School Committee Agenda Items – Superintendent’s Evaluation, Policy, Contract Negotiations and liaisons

8) Routine Business

- a) Enrollments as of May 1, 2010

9) Adjournment to Executive Session at 9:43 pm for matter pertaining to Contract Negotiations and Litigation (Waste Water Treatment Plant) not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis