

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of April 6, 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
Steve Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
Fran Rush and Jim Eggert, Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer
Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters

1) Call to Order

Ms. Williamson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) Regional School Committee – March 2, 2010

Ms. Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2010. Ms. Graham seconded. Under 4b include the two specific revolving funds in the motion. In Vote 10-16 amend to read: 4 (van Duzer, Madden, Graham, Hunter) – 2 (Robinson, Williamson)
10-20 VOTE (as amended): 6 – 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of February 11, 2010 and the Dover School Committee of February 23 and March 3, 2010 were noted.

3) Community Comments – Ms. Jordan asked the Committee to specifically list the areas to be cut and she feels no personnel, no programs should be cut. Three students spoke on behalf of the student body against the proposed cuts to the budget.

4) Technology: Website Preview (moved to after item 5) – Ms. Conkey presented the new and improved school website.

5) FY'11 Budget – Ms. Williamson updated everyone on the last few months of the budget process. Ms. Spriggs spoke of the difficulty of recommending cuts to the budget based on Sherborn Advisory's budget number (which would require at \$220,000 budget reduction) without impacting services and staff. The Administration proposed the following cuts of \$72,432 for discussion with an additional \$27,568 to come from E&D for a total of \$100,000:

- (1) HS Equipment/Supplies - \$7,000
- (2) Pay staff member from grant monies - \$14,250
- (3) Elimination of instructional aide - \$23,182
- (4) HS office supplies (SPED) - \$4,000
- (5) MS office supplies (SPED) - \$3,000
- (6) HS classroom supplies (SPED) - \$1,000
- (7) Athletic Equipment/Uniforms - \$20,000

Ms. Spriggs listed a few more items that had been discussed to reach the \$220,000 reduction but she did not recommend making those cuts. There was also a proposal to raise fees including an additional \$50 to the athletic fee (with a \$1,250 family cap), an additional \$50 to the parking fee, and \$10 for the MS/HS Activity fees for a total increase in revenue of \$48,000.

Ms. Williamson made a motion to direct the Administration to reduce the FY11 budget by \$100,000 as identified in the memo dated 4/6/10 as items 1 through 7 and including \$27,568 to

be taken from available funds not yet identified to be approved by School Committee, contingent upon Sherborn Advisory meeting next week and accepting the reductions. Mr. Robinson seconded.

There was discussion within the Committee as well as public comments.

10-21 VOTE: 2 (Williamson, Graham) – 4 (Hunter, Madden, Robinson, van Duzer)

Mr. Robinson made a motion to direct the Administration to reduce the FY11 budget by \$103,250 as identified in the memo dated 4/6/10 as items 1,2 and 4 – 7 plus \$34,000 from extra-curricular/athletic activities and an increase to student fees of \$20,000. Ms. Williamson seconded.

10-22 VOTE: 1 (Robinson) – 5

Mr. van Duzer made a motion to direct the Administration to reduce the FY11 budget by \$73,750 as identified in the memo dated 4/6/10 as items 1, 2 and 4 – 7 plus an increase in fees of \$24,500 (consisting of +\$25 athletic fee, +\$25 parking fee and +\$5 MS/HS Activity fee) contingent upon Sherborn Advisory meeting next week and accepting the reductions. Ms. Hunter seconded.

Mr. van Duzer made an amendment to the previous motion to direct the Administration to reduce the FY11 budget by \$100,000 as identified in the memo dated 4/6/10 as items 1, 2 and 4 – 7 plus an increase in fees of \$24,500 (consisting of +\$25 athletic fee, +\$25 parking fee and +\$5 MS/HS Activity fee) and including \$26,250 to be taken from available funds not yet identified to be approved by School Committee that will not impact services, contingent upon Sherborn Advisory meeting next week and accepting the reductions. Ms. Hunter seconded.

10-23 VOTE to amend the motion: 5 – 1 (Robinson)

10-24 VOTE: 5 – 1 (Robinson)

6) Reports

- a) Student Council Report – Mr. van Duzer read Ms. Fattore’s report on the recent and upcoming events for the Middle School Student Council.
- b) Business Manager’s Report -
 - FY10 Monthly Report – Ms. Tague provided the standard reports but could not attend the meeting.
- c) Middle School Report - Mr. Randall reviewed recent and upcoming events at the Middle School.
- d) High School Report - Ms. Lonergan reviewed recent and upcoming events at the High School.
- e) Superintendent’s Report – Ms. Spriggs reviewed enclosures provided to the Committee including:
 - Strategic Planning Update
 - Policy Manual Update – Section J is scheduled to be completed by the Fall.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant – Martinage Engineering Associates was awarded the contract for the “Upgrade Report”.
 - Lindquist Commons Storage – Ms. Spriggs is continuing to work on both a short-term and long-term solution.
 - SPED Director update – The position has been advertised and members of a screening committee are being recruited.
 - MS Assistant Headmaster update – The first meeting of the search committee has taken place. There are approximately 35 applicants for the position.
 - METCO Director update – The search committee has revised the job description and will be meeting on April 13th to select candidates for interviews.

- Middle School Temperature Update – Options have been explored but are not being considered at this time due to the unknown costs associated with getting the Waste Water Treatment Plant in compliance with DEP standards.
- Last Day of School – June 18th and a half day.
- Superintendent’s Evaluation – The packet including the new evaluation form and a timeline will be delivered to all committee members tomorrow.

7) Special Items

- a) Enrollment – to be discussed at a later meeting
- b) Communication – Work continues on different forms of communication with members of both towns.

8) New Business

- a) Ms. Williamson read the following into the record: Due to my position as a School Committee member and prospective member of the 2011 contract negotiation team, I would like to disclose to the School Committee members and public that my son was employed to work with the building and grounds department last summer. He will return to his summer job for 2010. His position is not covered by the custodians’ contract or any other bargaining units’ contract and he receives no benefit from any contract bargained with the School District.
- b) May Regional School Committee Agenda Items – Enrollment, Capital Needs Projections (5 year) – moved to June, Post-employment benefits/GASB – moved to June, Athletic fees, WWTP, SPED monthly report, Student Handbook approval

9) Routine Business

- a) Enrollments as of April 1, 2010
- b) Treasurer’s Report
- c) Student Activity Report

10) Adjournment to Executive Session at 10:17 pm for matter pertaining to Administrator and Non-Instructional Contracts 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