

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of December 7, 2010

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

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent
 Steve Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
 Christine Tague, School Business Manager
 Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters
 Amelia Fattore, High School Student Council representative
 Mr. Eggert and Mr. Haynes, Treasurer and Auditor of District

1) Call to Order

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

Massachusetts Superintendents' Certificate of Excellence – Ms. Spriggs awarded the Certificate of Excellence to Mr. Achutha Raman.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) Regional School Committee – November 2, 2010

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2010. Ms. Williamson seconded. Under 4c just after 10-59 VOTE change donate to “accept a donation of”. In section 4e, 4th bullet, correct spelling of Ms. Tague and just before 10-62 VOTE change Mr. Poulsen to Ms. Poulsen.

10-63 VOTE: 6 - 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of October 14, 2010 and the Dover School Committee of October 19, 2010 were noted.

3) Community Comments - none**4) Reports**

a) Student Council Report – Ms. Fattore reviewed recent and upcoming events for the High School Student Council.

b) FY10 Audit Report – Mr. Eggert and Mr. Haynes presented the FY10 Audit Report. The auditors believe the E&D number is adequate for the district. The auditors also discussed the GASB rules for unfunded pension liabilities. Mr. Haynes stated that the FY10 budget was well managed as the balance sheet showed a +2.2% variance of the total budget (\$437,361) which is a reasonable variance on a \$19 million budget.

c) DS Middle School Heating Report – The Building and Grounds subcommittee discussed the options available to alleviate the excessive heat in the Middle School during heat waves. The options include installing ceiling fans in the classrooms, ventilating the “spine” of the building, resurfacing the roof with a sun reflective surface or installing air conditioning. Policy and administrative changes were also discussed such as changing the school calendar, closing on extremely hot/high humidity days, and scheduling the Middle School to match the High School so that vacant rooms could be accessed on hot days. Mr. Randall and Ms. Weiter have joined the subcommittee. Mr. Randall stated that he feels strongly that the heat issue in the building drastically affects the ability of the teachers to provide a productive learning environment. Mr. Kelley will provide additional data logged into the computer system that tracks the heat in each room by the hour, as well as the outside temperature and humidity. Data will be provided to the committee to better understand the number of days of excessive heat and the hottest classrooms. The Committee also asked Mr. Kelley for an estimate of how much fully air conditioning the building would cost understanding that will most likely require an engineering study.

d) Destiny On-Line Presentation – postponed to another meeting

e) Increase in Facilities and Grounds Fees – Ms. Connelly, Assistant to the Athletic Director, presents the research done to update the rental fees for the facilities and fields. There was a recommendation of an increase in the fees to attempt to recuperate field maintenance costs. There was discussion about implementing an in-town and out-of-town rental fee structure.

Mrs. Poulsen made a motion to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee to increase the rental fees for the facilities and fields and to improve the field numbering system. Mr. van Duzer seconded.

10-64 VOTE: 6 - 0

- f) High School Report – Ms. Lonergan reviewed recent and upcoming events at the High School. The Class Size Report was provided and discussed.
- g) Middle School Report – Mr. Randall reviewed recent and upcoming events at the Middle School. The Class Size Report was provided and discussed.

- NEASC (New England Association of School and Colleges) Membership – Mr. Randall recommended the Middle School discontinue its membership affiliation with NEASC. DSMS is one of only a handful of middle schools that participate in the accreditation process in all of New England. Additionally, Mr. Randall believes the middle school could find another means with which to promote self reflection and improvement planning without committing to the same level of monetary expense or staff professional development time required under the NEASC process. With approval of this recommendation, the Middle School Administration will look into other organizations that would provide a less costly means of self reflection.

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to accept the recommendation to discontinue the relationship between the Middle School and the New England Association of School and Colleges (NEASC). Ms. Williamson seconded.

10-65 VOTE: 6 - 0

h) Business Manager's Report

- FY11 Monthly Report – The monthly report was provided.
- Waste Water Treatment Plant – The subcommittee is working on preparing the RFP's for bids. Meetings are ongoing regarding the various funding options for Phase 1 of the project. Ms. Tague will provide the Committee with a timeline for when the funding options need to be finalized so the Region is not penalized by the DEP for non-compliance as well as funding options.
- FY12 Budget – The budget books were provided and will be discussed at next week's meeting.

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

- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan – The amended plan was provided to the Committee for approval.

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to approve the Dover Sherborn School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as presented and amended. Ms. Williamson seconded.

10-66 VOTE: 6 - 0

- Extra Compensatory Requests – The Extra Compensatory Stipend Requests were submitted for approval. Ms. Spriggs expressed her concern with making any decisions about the requests until further along in the budget process. Ms. Hunter suggested the total of the extra compensatory requests in a separate line item in the FY12 budget for consideration during the ongoing budget discussions.
- Teachers' Professional Day – Ms. Bliss updated the Committee on the recent district wide professional development day held November 29, 2010.

5) Special Items

- a) FY12 Budget Assumptions - Ms. Graham shared the draft of the presentation for the FY12 budget.

6) New Business

- a) January Regional School Committee Agenda Items – Destiny on Line presentation;

7) Routine Business

- a) Enrollments as of December 1, 2010

8) Adjournment to Executive Session at 10:15 pm for matters pertaining to legal considerations not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis