

Dover Warrant Committee Minutes of the October 12, 2011 meeting

Members in attendance: David Melville- Chairman, James Stuart, Rich Forte, John Cone, Kathy Gill Body, Bob Cocks , Maureen Arkle, Kate Bush

Non-members in attendance: Dover School Committee members Carolyn Ringel, Chairman and Dawn Fattore and Valerie Spriggs (School Superintendent), Jim Dawley

Location: Dover Town House

David Melville called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Mrs. Gill Body made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting, second by Mr. Stuart. Approved 7-0-0.

Mrs. Ringel presented an overview of the Dover School Budget. Mrs. Ringel explained the lower than budgeted salary expense due to a long-term substitute (which cost less) and fewer lane changes. School leadership was reduced from three positions to two and there was a tremendous savings in transportation due to reduced fuel costs.

Special Education budget covers children ages 3-21. Dover is a member of two collaboratives that pool resources to deliver special programs. These programs are delivered in member towns and are a cost effective way to deliver specialized programs without having to go out of network. The Warrant Committee requested that the School Committee break out the cost of SPED teachers from the Specialists to help to identify the total cost of the SPED program and calculate the unit cost.

With the assistance of Capital Budget Committee, the School Committee is refining capital expenses and operating costs.

Enrollment trends were discussed briefly to determine the needs of the elementary school for FY2013 and beyond. Future enrollment estimates are based off Town census and early indications point to a declining enrollment.

The Warrant and School committees will meet again to review and discuss costs and trends. Mrs. Ringel will gather information on:

- Specialists salaries and SPED salaries
- Transportation costs- to confirm source of savings last year
- 10-year enrollment trends
- Cost/IEP (3-year trend)
- Number of teachers and aids (3-year trend)
- Pie chart SPED

The Committee thanked Mrs. Ringel and looked forward to the next meeting.

Liaison Reports:

Mr. Stuart reported that Park and Recreation was working on their Capital Budget, with initial budget numbers of \$95,000 for FY 2013, \$70,000 for FY 2014, and \$31,000 FY 2015.

Mr. Stuart also circulated a handout from the Regional School Committee meeting of October 26.

Being no other reports or business before the Committee, Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn, second by Mrs. Arkle. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 26 at 7 PM in the Dover Town House.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Richard Forte, Jr.