

DOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 15, 2011

Members Present: Jennifer DaSilva, Chairperson  
Dawn Fattore  
Karl Johnson  
Carolyn Ringel  
Bob Springett

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent  
Steven Bliss, Assistant Superintendent  
Christine Tague, School Business Manager  
Dr. Theresa Nugent, Principal  
Dr. Deb Reinemann, Assistant Principal  
James Stuart, Warrant Committee

**1. Call to order**

Ms. DaSilva called the meeting to order at 7:02pm in the Chickering School Library.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

a) Dover School Committee:

- Ms. DaSilva requested a motion to accept the February 15, 2011 minutes. Mr. Johnson motioned, Ms. Fattore seconded. Corrections:  
Page 1: 4. b) 4<sup>th</sup> bullet: ...the Town to ~~being~~ *begin* deploying money  
Page 2: Class size policy, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet: ...Ms Ringel spoke of this year's work ~~on~~ *to begin to process* differentiated instruction. **Vote 11-06:** Unanimous

b) Ms. DaSilva noted the February 8, 2011 Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee minutes.

d) Ms. DaSilva noted the February 10, 2011 Sherborn School Committee minutes.

**3. FY '12 Dover Public Schools Budget Hearing – Ms. DaSilva, Ms. Spriggs, Ms. Tague**

- Ms. Spriggs thanked the staff, School Committee, Warrant and Capital Committees for the work that has been put into the budget this year.
- In the future we will be looking at the decline in enrollment, what the priorities are and the impact on the budget.
- Ms. DaSilva stated that if you look at the numbers for Kindergarten we are exactly at the minimum number, next year when it moves to five classes rather than four it makes sense to drop a class. Ms. Fattore spoke of the influx of Montessori kids that will be coming back for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Dr. Nugent stated that those that come back and move-ins usually are about ten for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Mr. Springett stated that even at 80 that would be 5 classes of 16 which is just below the guideline.
- Ms. Tague reported that the proposed budget is still the same at \$8,246,055 representing a 1.88% increase or \$151,939 over last year, of which \$46,064 is for regular education and \$105,975 is for special education. Reductions of \$162,000 have been made to the budget which includes a 4.0 FTE reduction. Contract settlements have been reflected.
- Ms. Fattore asked for clarification on FTE vs. fulltime. Ms. Tague will clarify in her final memo, but believes it to be 4 positions at a total of 3.6 FTEs.
- \$5,000 has been included for contracted services for the School Committee to implement the MOUs.
- \$17,937 has been added for OOD tuition.
- Circuit Breaker reimbursement is currently budgeted at 60%; Ms. Tague has also provided a 40% figure which she recommends for budgeting purposes. The final percentage should be decided by the state in late June or possibly in the next fiscal year.
- Savings on healthcare is estimated at \$209,000 for the Town.
- Mr. Johnson asked when and how will we address the 1<sup>st</sup> grade enrollment issue. Ms. Spriggs stated that she needs to look at the information with Administration; she will then send information to the Committee. Mr. Springett stated that there should be census information available from the Town; Dr. Nugent stated that she already has it.

- Mr. Johnson stated that the set aside for the consulting fees for the MOU's seems light. Ms. Spriggs stated that she has been meeting with the union leadership, the Joint Meeting is where this will be further discussed and the Teachers Association would also be a part of this discussion.

#### 4. Community Comments—None

#### 5. Reports

##### a) Business Manager's Report – Ms. Tague

- FY' 11 Budget Update:
  - The projected variance has changed by about \$18K as a result of an OOD placement.
  - As the heating season is wrapping up Ms. Tague feels more comfortable with the projections.
  - The School Lunch Program participation is still down. They are looking at initiatives for healthier foods. We have been looking at this to see if we are losing participation due to the increased price.
  - The fuel adjustment has gone up substantially.
  - Mr. Johnson asked what we are doing with the projected surplus. Ms. Tague responded that they have attended meetings with Warrant, but that the minutes did not reflect what she thought. Mr. Johnson asked how we can quickly resolve this so that we can look at what initiatives we want to fund. Ms. Tague stated that she thought we could use the funds for non-salary maintenance issues. Mr. Stuart spoke of it being for prepaying text books, not for new programs. Mr. Johnson asked that a list be put together of items to consider. Ms. Spriggs spoke of the conversations that have taken place and how they have been respectful to the Town and the taxpayers. Ms. Spriggs will have the list sent out to the School Committee prior to the next meeting. Mr. Stuart stated that Warrant is putting together a summary from the meetings.

##### b) Principal's Report—Dr. Nugent

- SAC minutes will be sent to the Committee.
- Dr. Nugent provided a video presentation to the Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade American Red Cross basic first aid training (BAT) that is part of the physical education curriculum.

##### c) Superintendent's Report – Ms. Spriggs

- Contract Negotiations Update—The Negotiation team has reviewed final edits and changes to the contract. The final update has been sent to the attorney.
- Support Negotiations—Meetings have taken place with each association, there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss if we can bring together in one proposal or if we will keep four separate units. Plan to bring to the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting for discussion.
- Ms. Spriggs has been invited to China by the new administrator of our sister school. A grant has been submitted to seek funding for additional elementary administrators to participate. There is currently a program at the high school; she would like to look at a K-12 program. Ms. DaSilva asked if the program in China is K-12, Ms. Spriggs responded it is not, but she has received a commitment to meet with the feeder schools. This visit will also include the teacher who will be on sabbatical attending the teacher's college.
- Fit Kidz Update—Sixty kids participated the first morning, now there are 100 children since more volunteers have come forward. Reebok has sponsored us and has opened up their office space so the coordinators can work with them.
- Music and Health Curriculum Program—Mr. Bliss—Elementary and Middle School teachers have come together to design common units in grades K-7 and continue the Wiki site for all of the units in Music, Health and Physical Education. It will be on a Moodle server so the units can continue to be refined. The work is being done with grant funding. Mr. Bliss thanked the Administration and Superintendent for allowing the work on the project.

#### 6. Special Items

##### a) School Choice

- Each year we have the opportunity to elect to be a school of choice or not. Ms. Spriggs provided the chair with a copy of the law. You can open it for one grade if you choose. Due to the lack of space in the Dover Schools, Ms. Spriggs recommends Dover does not participate. Ms. DaSilva requested a motion. Mr. Springett moved, Ms. Ringel second. **Vote 11-07: Unanimous**

#### 7. Future Business

- April Dover School Committee Agenda Items – Shopping list, 1<sup>st</sup> grade census data
- Joint Meeting Agenda Items—MOU's, Last day of school, Support Negotiations

**8. New Business** – None

**9. Routine Business**

- a) Enrollments as of March 1, 2011—reports distributed.

**10. Adjournment**—Ms. DaSilva requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Springett motioned, Ms. Fattore seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:53p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deb Savastano