

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of February 8, 2011

Members Present: Robyn Hunter, Chair
Clare Graham, Vice-Chair
Shelley Poulsen, Secretary
Richard Robinson
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

1) Call to Order

Ms. Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the High School library.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) Regional School Committee – January 11, 2011

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2011. Ms. Graham seconded. Under 4c), change 3rd sentence to read “Ms. Spriggs does not recommend approval of the proposal based upon her interpretation of MA legislation and statements in school records on the matter that state the ...”. At the end of the 5th sentence add “or seek their own legal opinion.”. And in the following sentence change Poulsen to Williamson. Under 4f, 4th bullet, 3rd sentence, change “has gotten” to “will obtain”.

11-06 VOTE (as amended): 5 – 0

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2010. Ms. Graham seconded.

11-07 VOTE: 5 – 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of December 16, 2010 and the Dover School Committee of December 21, 2010 were noted.

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

a) Student Council Report – Ms. Hunter welcomed the Middle School representatives, Danny Moon and Brian Thompson. Mr. Moon and Mr. Thompson reviewed recent and upcoming events for the Middle School Student Council. Ms. Fattore reviewed recent and upcoming events for the High School Student Council.

b) High School Report – Ms. Lonergan reviewed recent and upcoming events at the High School. Ms. Graham made a motion to accept the gift of \$1,000 from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund for the Dover Sherborn High School swim team. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

11-07 VOTE: 5 - 0

c) Middle School Report – Mr. Randall reviewed recent and upcoming events at the Middle School.

d) Business Manager’s Report -

- FY11 Monthly Report – The monthly report was provided.
- Treasurer’s Report – Interest income will not meet the budget projections for FY11 as a result of the current interest rate environment and the decline of cash balances in the capital bond project account relating to expenses paid for the WWTF engineering studies. The FY12 budget will be adjusted accordingly.
- Students’ Fees – The High School Activity account is running 30% lower than the amount collected for the same period last year. The Administration is working to determine the reason for the lower fees and will report their findings at the March meeting.
- Fuel Adjustment Costs for Bus Contract – The fuel adjustment for the first three months of the school year is \$1,550.96. The FY11 budget provided for \$25,000 for the fuel adjustment as an estimate given the lack of historical data. The FY12 budget will be adjusted accordingly.
- Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Update – The Administration has received 13 requests for bid specifications, 11 prospective bidders attended the pre-bid conference. The bid opening is scheduled for February 18, 2011 at 3:00 pm. Ms. Tague also provided correspondence with the DEP and Martinage Engineering Associates concerning compliance with the ACOP deadlines. A draft of the Intermunicipal Agreement was provided and discussed. There will be a special assessment to Dover and Sherborn for the cost of the WWTF project.

- FY12 Budget – The House One budget indicates increased appropriations of Chapter 70 and level funding of regional transportation aid. The revised FY12 budget is \$20,474,000 or a 3.66% increase over FY11. The revised budget includes the actual numbers for salary and benefits based on the new teachers' contract.
- Capital and Operating Assessment Allocation – The assessment percentages for the Towns was provided. While the operating budget is only increasing 3.48% over FY11 the assessments to the Towns have increased by more than 7% due to lower revenues (particularly E&D supplementation that has occurred in the past few years). Additionally, there has been a shift of 30 students towards Sherborn over the past 2 years.
- Middle School Heat Issue – Mr. Robinson gave a presentation about the heat issue. The subcommittee has analyzed the temperature in the middle school classrooms for May, June and September 2010 and verified that several rooms in the middle school are above 78 degrees for 25-30 days of the school year. Studies have shown that 68 degrees is the optimal temperature for a classroom. The higher temperatures in the middle school are affecting the learning environment for the students. The subcommittee recommends: an engineering study to determine the cost and feasibility of AC options (whole building vs multiple mini-units vs other?), evaluation and proposal of additional mitigation measures, and an emphasis on a definitive solution as well as energy and cost savings over time. The subcommittee also proposed: by June 2011, Regional School Committee review and develop funding and implementation plan while working with building administrators to explore short term options.

The Committee discussed the funding of an engineering study and if there are no cost options available to get the same information. Ms. Tague will review the FY11 budget for the March meeting to determine if funds are available after accounting for the most recent snow removal. Mr. Kelly will contact utility companies to find out if there are any funds available to use towards the cost of the study.

- e) Superintendent's Report – Ms. Spriggs reviewed enclosures provided to the Committee including:
- Sabbatical Request – Mr. Randy Hoover has requested a sabbatical for the school year 2011-12 to work at Yunnan Normal University in Kunming, China. Ms. Spriggs and Mr. Hoover have discussed the opportunity, the sabbatical criteria and his desire to stay in touch with the students at the Middle School. A highly qualified long term substitute is available and the salary of the long term substitute plus 50% of Mr. Hoover's salary is within the salary range of Mr. Hoover's current salary. Ms. Spriggs recommended the sabbatical request be granted.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant Mr. Hoover a one year sabbatical. Mr. van Duzer seconded.

11-08 VOTE: 6 - 0

5) Special Items

- a) Teachers' Contract - The Teachers' Contract was ratified two weeks ago. The Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee unanimously approved the Teachers' Contract in Executive Session on January 25, 2011.
- b) Budget Presentation – Ms. Graham asked for comments on the budget presentation.

6) New Business

- a) March Regional School Committee Agenda Items – Middle School heat issue, WWTF update, FY12 budget, Student fee analysis, E&D projection,
- b) The Budget Hearing will be held on March 8, 2011 at 7 pm.

7) Routine Business

- a) Enrollments as of February 1, 2011

8) Adjournment

Mr. Robinson made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis