

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**  
Meeting of March 1, 2011

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

Also Present:         Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent  
                               Steve Bliss, Assistant Superintendent  
                               Christine Tague, School Business Manager  
                               Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters  
                               Amelia Fattore, HS Student Council representative

**1) Call to Order**

Ms. Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in the Middle School library.

**2) Approval of Minutes**

a) Regional School Committee – February 8, 2011

Ms. Graham made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2011. Ms. Poulsen seconded. Under Also Present, add "*Danny Moon and Brian Thompson, MS Student Council representatives*". Under 4d), final bullet, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, remove "several" before rooms, then in final paragraph of same bullet change "no cost" to "*no-cost*" and correct spelling of Mr. Kelley's name. 11-08 VOTE should be 5 – 0.

11-09 VOTE (as amended): 4 – 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of January 13, 2011 were noted.

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

a) Student Council Report – Ms. Frattore reviewed recent and upcoming events for the High School Student Council. Mr. Moon and Mr. Thompson could not attend the meeting.

b) FY12 Budget – Ms. Spriggs made a statement regarding the proposed changes to the FY12 budget specifically concerning the status of the Choral class at the High School. Ms. Gayle Murphy read a statement on behalf of FOPA supporting the Choral class. Two students and many parents also spoke in favor of keeping the Choral class as part of the school curriculum. Several parents expressed their desire for improved scheduling as a way to offer the class to more students.

Ms. Tague presented the revised budget for FY12 and itemized the reductions taken since the budget discussion at last month's meeting:

Health Care	\$125,000	savings due to shift to Rate Saver Plan
County Retirement	28,330	reduced liability due to legislation
MS Expenses	43,932	see below
HS Expenses	32,460	see below
Utilities	20,000	savings due to 3-yr rate lock
Choral Class	12,576	
Athletic Supplies	11,000	
TOTAL	\$273,298	

The proposed FY12 budget includes \$100,000 from E&D. The budget does not include the required repairs to the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF). There are two teacher

retirements which will result in an anticipated \$60,000 attrition savings. Those savings will be used to cover the historically under-funded substitute line.

The Middle School Headmaster proposed reductions totaling \$43,933 which he does not believe will adversely affect service delivery:

PE Contract Services	\$2,000	Dancer in Residence
Contracted Services	2,000	Across all departments
Guidance Clerical	1,575	1 less hour per day
Textbooks	6,125	Across all departments
Dept Supplies	12,688	Across all departments
Headmaster Acct	15,400	Contracted services
Professional Dev.	4,145	Across all departments

The High School Headmaster proposed \$45,036 in reductions which she does not believe will adversely affect service delivery to students with the exception of the choral class. The choral class has been recommended for elimination as a result of under-subscription.

Headmaster travel	750
School Newspaper	2,000
Program of Studies printing	1,000
Newsprint pads	200
Furniture	1,000
Alcohol education	2,000
Travel – Science	300
Purchased Services – Science	200
Equipment – Science	2,700
AV materials – Science	500
Textbooks	14,600
Supplies	7,210
Choral class	12,576

Ms. Williamson made a motion to reduce the FY12 budget by \$273,298 as detailed in the February 24<sup>th</sup> memo provided by the Superintendent. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

Ms. Poulsen stated that she supports all the reductions recommended by the Administration except for the Choral class which she would like to leave in the budget for now.

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to amend the previous motion to read “motion to reduce the FY12 budget by \$260,722 as detailed in the February 24<sup>th</sup> memo provided by the Superintendent except for the Choral class. Mr. Robinson seconded.

11-10 VOTE (on the amended motion): 2 (Mr. Robinson, Ms. Poulsen) – 3 (Ms. Hunter, Ms. Graham, Ms. Williamson)

11-11 VOTE (on original motion): 4 – 1 (Mr. Robinson)

Sherborn Advisory has asked that the capital improvements included in the Assessment be separated as a separate warrant article. Historically, capital improvements have not been separated, especially in the case of maintenance items. The three projects that make-up the \$113,000 capital improvements line item include \$88,000 for the middle school heating issue, \$15,000 for storm drainage expansion and \$10,000 for concrete repairs. The Regional Treasurer, Mr. Eggert, has been contacted to provide a written opinion for the Advisory Committee. The subcommittee working on the MS over-heated classrooms problem will meet to discuss the \$88,000 for proposed capital improvements and report back to the school committee.

c) High School Report – Ms. Lonergan reviewed recent and upcoming events at the High School.

Ms. Graham made a motion to accept the grant of \$1,000 from Intel Corporation and Society for Science & the Public on behalf of Achutha Raman to be designated to further support excellence in science, math and/or engineering education. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

11-12 VOTE: 5 - 0

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

e) Business Manager's Report -

- FY11 Year-to-Date Statements – The monthly report was provided.
- FY11 Expense Projections – Ms. Tague estimates a projected balance for the FY11 budget of \$279,000 at year end. However, she is also projecting a revenue shortfall of \$111,403 primarily due to reduced Chapter 70 funding and lower interest revenue. As a result, the net operating surplus for FY11 is anticipated to be \$167,597 or 0.0085% of the operating budget.
- FY11 E&D Projection – Ms. Tague has estimated the E&D for the end of FY11 to be approximately \$900,000 or 4.47% of FY12 Budget. The Department of Revenue maximum E&D allowed is 5%. Historically, the School Committee has kept the E&D percentage between 3.5 – 4%. If the School Committee decides to use \$100,000 of E&D funds to supplement the FY12 budget, the remaining E&D percentage would be 3.97%.

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

- Acceptance of Gift to METCO Program – The CSA at Pine Hill School hosted a fundraiser to support the METCO Program. The event raised \$1,775.30 which will be used towards the cost of students' enrollment in the Pine Hill Morning Program. Since the METCO account is at the Region, the funds must be accepted by the Regional School Committee as well as the Sherborn School Committee.

Ms. Graham made a motion to accept the gift of \$1,775.30 from the CSA to be used for the Pine Hill METCO Program. Ms. Hunter seconded.

11-13 VOTE: 5 - 0

- Extra Compensatory Requests – At this time the Superintendent acknowledges the work of the employees at the Region, however, due to the economic difficulties she is unable to recommend approval of additional positions to the Extra-Compensatory.

Ms. Graham made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of no action on the Extra-Compensatory requests. Ms. Hunter seconded.

11-14 VOTE: 5 - 0

- Day on the Hill – March 29, 2011
- Inter-Municipal Agreement Update – The updated Agreement was provided.
- WWTF Update – Martinage Engineering Assoc. (MEA) has reviewed and analyzed the seven bids and is of the opinion that the lowest bid of \$590,000 received from Robert Our Company (ROC), Harwich, MA is reasonable to complete the required modification. Additionally MEA believes that ROC is qualified to complete the required modifications.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to award the bid to Robert Our Co. in the amount of \$590,000 to make the required repairs to the Waste Water Treatment Facility contingent upon Ms. Tague receiving 3 favorable recommendations on Robert Our Co. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

11-15 VOTE: 5 – 0

- DSMS Engineering Study for Cooling Options – Three proposals have been submitted. The cost of an engineering study is approximately \$14,000. The balance available in the original Building Fund account is \$28,918.

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$14,000 to fund an engineering study for cooling options at the Middle School with the funds to come from the available balance in the original Building Fund account. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

Ms. Williamson suggested that the temperature data be analyzed to determine if any of the classrooms at the Middle School are too cold in the winter. If that is the case, the scope of the engineering study should be expanded to include heating options as well. Mr. Robinson will analyze the data for next week's meeting. The motion was tabled until more information is provided.

11-16 VOTE (to table the motion): 5 - 0

**5) Special Items**

- a) Advisory/Warrant Committee Meeting Update

**6) New Business**

- a) March 8<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing Agenda Items – MS Engineering Study for Cooling Options, FY12 Budget Presentation
- b) March 22, 2011 Joint School Committee Agenda Items – State Representatives' visit, MOU committee assignment, Long-Term Substitute pay schedule, Superintendent Evaluation

**7) Routine Business**

- a) Enrollments as of March 1, 2011

**8) Adjournment at 10:11 pm for matters pertaining to contract negotiations and possible litigation not to return to open session.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Davis