

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of March 14, 2011

Members Present: Robyn Hunter, Chair
Clare Graham, Vice-Chair
Shelley Poulsen, Secretary
Richard Robinson
Ellen Williamson (left at 8:00 p.m.)
Nate Van Duzer

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent
Steven Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
Christine Tague, School Business Manager
Denise Lonergan and Fred Randall, Headmasters

1). Call to Order

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

2) FY2012 Budget

Ms. Tague reported that additional reductions to the FY12 had been considered by the administration, as well as Ms. Hunter and Ms. Graham of the Regional School Committee (RSC). The following recommended reductions are presented to the RSC : \$6,000 longevity from fewer teacher retirements; \$78,000 Middle School heat issue; \$4,188 Middle School stipends, and \$10,000 Special Education Contracted Services for a total recommended reduction of \$98,188. In addition, the administration recommended utilizing \$75,000 from the Excess and Deficiency account for a net reduction to the budget of \$173,188. Ms. Tague said that state aid was anticipated to be about 7.8% this year.

Regarding the \$78,000 MS heating issue reduction, it was discussed that the money was initially targeted to purchase ceiling fans to lessen physical symptoms associated with high temperatures, but that ceiling fans were no longer the sole solution recommended by the building sub-committee at this time. The teachers who had ceiling fans in their classrooms this year had not found them effective in relieving symptoms of high heat. Window air conditioning units and/or mobile units were also discussed as possible options in some of the hottest classrooms. It was decided to refer the issue of the MS excessive heat to the building sub-committee for review and that a recommendation for the FY12 budget would still be considered.

Mr. Robinson introduced possible budget reductions in the following areas: athletics, library, reduce computer replacements, physical education reduction, and increased fees. Ms. Spriggs agreed to review them.

Discussion occurred regarding certifying the RSC FY12 budget in time for the upcoming Open Hearings in Dover and Sherborn. Committee members voiced the importance of continuing to work with the Dover Warrant Committee and Sherborn Advisory Committee to review the budget. The administration stated that they would continue to refine estimates.

Ms. Williamson made a motion to reduce the FY12 budget by \$98,188 as outlined in the March 14, 2010 memo from Superintendent Spriggs and to increase revenue in the FY12 budget by using \$75,000 from the Excess and Deficiency account. Mr. van Duzer seconded the motion. There was some discussion about state aid being lowered after an announcement today as well as concern about lowering the E&D account too much at this time.

Mr. Robinson moved to amend the motion to reduce the FY12 budget by \$98,188 and not to use \$75,000 from the E&D account. Ms. Graham seconded the amended motion. After discussion the RSC voted on the amendment:

VOTE: 2-4 (Mr. Robinson-yea; Ms. Poulsen- yea; Ms. Hunter-nay; Ms. Graham-nay; Ms. Williamson-nay; Mr. van Duzer-nay. The motion to amend the original motion failed.

The RSC returned to the original motion to reduce the FY12 budget by \$98,188.

VOTE: 5-1 (Mr. Robinson-nay). The motion passed.

3) Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF)

Ms. Spriggs stated that the Sherborn Board of Selectmen had requested her presence at their upcoming meeting on March 24th to discuss the WWTF project. Ms. Spriggs said that she would attend and she requested a list of questions from the selectmen in advance of the meeting. It was discussed whether it would be beneficial to have bond counsel present at the meeting and it was agreed that Ms. Spriggs would call bond counsel and discuss it. Sherborn Selectman Pucci requested to be invited to the RSC Executive Session to discuss the legal recourse regarding the WWTF. It was agreed that we would consult with legal counsel regarding this request.

4) Additional RSC Meeting

It was agreed that an additional meeting would be scheduled to continue budget discussion and the funding of the WWTF. April 24th, before or after the Sherborn Board of Selectmen's meeting, was considered.

5) Adjournment

Mr. Robinson moved and Ms. Poulsen seconded to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return in Open Session. Members were individually polled: Ms. Hunter-yea; Ms. Graham-yea; Mr. Robinson-yea; Mr. van Duzer-yea; Ms. Poulsen-yea.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Poulsen, Secretary