

Dover Warrant Committee Minutes of the November 14, 2013 Meeting

Members in attendance: John Cone, Chairman, James Stuart, Brooks Gerner, Maureen Arkle, Bob Cocks, Geoffrey Merrill, Rich Forte, Kathy Gill-Body, Doug Lawrence

Non-Members in attendance: Mr. Steven B. Bliss, Superintendent Dover Sherborn Public Schools, Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee Chairman Richard Robinson, Vice Chair Dana White, and members Michael Lee and Shelly Poulsen, Dover Selectmen James Dawley

Location: Dover Town Hall

Mr. Cone called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Mr. Bliss provided an update and overview of FY 2013 and the start to FY 2014 as outlined in the attached memo titled "Fiscal Year 2013 Debrief with Dover Warrant, November 14, 2013."

The discussion turned to Special Education programs and costs. The Region is experiencing an increase in demand for SPED services from new students transferring into Dover and Sherborn. Mr. Bliss is exploring options to build internal capacity to meet the increased SPED needs and reduce Out of District (OOD) placements. The Region has embarked on a pilot program, using public grants, to utilize a consultant following the Landmark model to introduce language based teacher model into the Regional and elementary schools. If successful, it will increase capacity in the school system and provide continuity of services from elementary through high school. Additionally, the Regional School Committee is reviewing the curriculum to adapt to current and future needs of a reduced school age population.

The inter-municipal agreement is still a work-in-process.

Ms. White introduced the capital needs assessment for the Region and the process by which projects have been identified, prioritized and identify options to fund. The Regional School Committee wishes to work with Selectmen of both towns to identify the best way to fund the needed maintenance to the physical plant at the Region as part of a multi-year capital campaign.

Mr. Cone thanked Mr. Bliss and the members of the Regional School Committee.

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2013 meeting. Second by Mr. Cocks. Approved 9-0-0

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2013 at 7 PM to review Free Cash.

Being no other business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Forte