

Approved January 7, 2014

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of December 3, 2013

Members Present: Richard Robinson, Chair
Dana White, Vice Chair
Shelley Poulsen
Michael Lee
Lauren Balk

Also Present: Steve Bliss, Superintendent
Karen LeDuc, Assistant Superintendent
Christine Tague, Business Administrator
John Smith, Headmaster, DS Regional High School
Scott Kellett, Headmaster, DS Regional Middle School
Brian Merringer, Assistant Headmaster, DS Regional Middle School
Jerry Schimmel, Director of Special Education

1) Call to Order

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments – None

3) Reports

a) Student Council Report – Ms. McCabe updated the committee on upcoming events for the high school student council. Ms. Handler was unable to attend the meeting this month due to the "Willy Wonka" dress rehearsal.

b) Annual Financial Statement Audit - Mr. Eggert and Mr. Haynes discussed the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2013. There are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the report.

c) Capital Committee update - Ms. White and Mr. Lee have continued their work with the Administration to determine the necessary capital projects for the next several fiscal years. The proposed capital needs for FY15 are \$362,000 comprising 21 projects. Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve a request for capital funding from Dover and Sherborn Annual Town Meetings in an amount not to exceed \$362,000. Mr. Lee seconded.

13-64 VOTE: 5 - 0

d) Superintendent - Mr. Bliss

- IMA update - The Sherborn BOS are researching the issue and expect it to be included on an agenda later this month or early January at the latest.
- FY15 Operating Budget - Mr. Bliss stated that the proposed FY15 budget represents a 3.78% or \$809,566 increase over FY14 and is responsibly constructed in that it provides level service against a landscape of increasing enrollment. The proposed budget also: reflects continuation of the effort to return out-of-district students to district and to keep as many current SPED students in district using the full inclusion model at an estimated cost savings of \$400K; increases Chinese by .4 FTE; decreases middle school foreign language by .4 FTE, English by .2 FTE, math by .2 FTE and health by .2 FTE to reflect decreasing enrollment; eliminates the full-time library assistant at the high school and the part-time library assistant at the middle school; include a 7% healthcare increase, a 15% increase for Norfolk County Retirement, a 2% increase for healthcare plan changes and a .75% FICA increase; assumes \$500K us of E&D; reflects a reduction of approximately \$100K stemming from salary savings of staff changes and the termination of wastewater treatment facility litigation; includes facilities funding sufficient to allow for continued outsourcing of the operation of the wastewater treatment facility and increased electricity usage due to the installation of

air-conditioning at the middle school; includes a 15% increase in insurance coverage and includes an undisclosed amount for contract negotiations spanning all bargaining units (teachers, administrators, support staff, secretarial, food service and plant/facilities).

The proposed FY15 budget as well as Mr. Bliss' cover memo can be found at:

[http://www.doversherborn.org/doversherborn/tempFile/DS_Regional_Proposed_Fiscal_Year_2015_Operating_Budget_\(2\).pdf](http://www.doversherborn.org/doversherborn/tempFile/DS_Regional_Proposed_Fiscal_Year_2015_Operating_Budget_(2).pdf)

There was discussion about the budget. The funding of a handicapped accessible van to be used for transportation of students to and from school has been included as a lease payment in the operating budget (\$18K annually) as well as a capital project item (\$47,700 for purchase). The Administration will defer to the Towns to decide which method of funding they prefer.

- Extra-compensatory Requests FY14 funding - In lieu of new extra-compensatory requests for FY15, the Extra-compensatory Council has proposed use of grants funds and redeployment of unused extra-compensatory monies to fund the following for FY14 only: AFS, HS Environmental Club, MS Green Team Advisory, SADD Advisor, Art Club, Ultimate Frisbee Club, MS Team Leaders and MS Fall Drama. The Council recognizes that approving these requests for the 2013-14 school year only does not guarantee the same ratio assignment beyond the 2013-14 school year. There was lengthy discussion about the proposal.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Extra-Compensatory Council recommendations as outlined in the first page of the memo dated December 3, 2013 with the following stipulations: the ratios apply to only the 2013-14 school year, will not carry forward to future years and will remain budget neutral. Ms. White seconded. 13-65 VOTE: 3 - 2 (Ms. Balk, Ms. Poulsen)

- Donation acceptance - The Alan Thayer Mudge Fund has donated \$4,910 to be used for the acquisition and installation of an assistive technology (hearing) system in the Mudge Auditorium.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the \$4,910 donation from the Mudge Fund for the assistive technology system in the Mudge Auditorium. Ms. Poulsen seconded. 13-66 VOTE: 5 - 0

e) Business Manager

- Status of Appropriations - The salary variance remains unchanged since last month. Ms. Tague conducted an analysis of the health care line item. The FY14 budget included approximately \$100K for retirements and qualifying events over and above the rate change. That amount has been exceeded by \$37K as a result of 15 additional enrollments.

f) High School

- Senior Privilege - Ms. Fattore and Mr. Rapo, on behalf of the High School Student Council, proposed extending Senior Privilege into the first semester. Currently the Privilege applies to second semester. There was discussion among the school committee members as well as an endorsement of the extension by Mr. Smith. Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the extension of Senior Privilege for the remainder of the first semester this school year when a Directed Research falls during the first block. Ms. White seconded.

13-62 VOTE: 5 - 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the extension of Senior Privilege for the remainder of the first semester this school year when a Directed Research falls during the last block. Ms. White seconded.

13-63 VOTE: 4 - 1 (Ms. Poulsen)

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- Donation Acceptance - The DS Gridiron Club has donated \$19,000 of fundraised money to be divided equally between 5 assistant football coaches.
Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$19,000 from The Gridiron Club for the football coaches. Ms. White seconded.
13-67 VOTE: 5 - 0
 - g) Regional Special Education Report - Mr. Schimmel spoke of the work of the Special Education Department over the past few months.
 - h) Middle School - Mr. Kellett highlighted the fall musical that will take place later this week and the art on display behind the Committee members.
- 8) Special Items and New Business**
- a) January Agenda items – FY15 budget, class size report, Town Report approval
 - b) Town Reports - Ms. Graham will draft the Town Reports for the January meeting.
- 9) Approval of Minutes**
- a) November 5, 2013
Ms. White made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2013. Ms. Graham seconded.
13-68 VOTE: 5 - 0
 - b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of October 8 and November 12, 2013 were noted.
- 10) Routine Business**
- a) Enrollments as of December 1, 2013
- 11) Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis