

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of April 2, 2013

Members Present: Shelley Poulsen, Chair
Richard Robinson, Vice-chair
Ellen Williamson
Dana White

Also Present: Steve Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
Christine Tague, Business Administrator
Elizabeth Rummel, Student Council representative

1) Call to Order

Ms. Poulsen called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments – none

3) Reports

- a) Student Council Report – Ms. Rummel updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events for the HS Student Council.

4) Goal 1 – Academic Excellence

- a) High School Report – Ms. Lonergan updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the High School.
- Mr. Bourque made a request to attend the Close-Up Pacific Basin in Honolulu, HI in February 2014.

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the out-of-state overnight field trip to Close-Up Pacific Basin from February 1-9, 2014. Mr. Robinson seconded.

13-16 VOTE: 4 – 0

- The High School PTO has made a donation of \$3,699 for the purchase of 3 lounge chairs for the library.

Ms. White made a motion to accept the gift from the PTO to purchase 3 chairs for the library. Mr. Robinson seconded.

13-17 VOTE: 4 – 0

- b) Middle School Report – Mr. Kellett updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the Middle School.

- A family has made a donation of a music stand to the Middle School.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the gift of a new music stand from Mr. and Mrs. Ocker. Ms. Williamson seconded.

13-18 VOTE: 4 – 0

5) Goal 2 – Outstanding Teachers

6) Superintendent's Update

- a) High School Headmaster Position update - Mr. Bliss announced that the position has been accepted by Mr. John Smith who is currently the principal of Westborough High School. He will be introduced to the Committee at the May meeting.
- b) Middle School Assistant Headmaster Position update - Mr. Brian Meringer has accepted the position and will begin work on April 15th.
- c) Guidance Department Positions update - The current .4 guidance counselor has accepted the full time position. The additional .6 position will bring counselor caseloads down from 200 to 165 per counselor. The search for a Guidance Director is on-going.

7) Goal 3 – K-12 Effective and Efficient Districts

- a) Finance – Ms. Tague provided the first new monthly report after the conversion to Budget Sense. The April 12th payroll will be the first live run in Budget Sense. Ms. Tague thanked members of the Central Office for their time and commitment to the conversion. The efficiencies produced by

the switch to Budget Sense will benefit budget preparation, budget controls, financial reporting, contract negotiations, human resources and benefits management.

b) FY14 Budget –

- Vote to amend March 5th RSC Capital Items vote – The votes taken last month need to be amended to include additional language that clarifies that no monies will be borrowed unless the warrants are approved at the Dover and Sherborn town meetings. Below are the original votes taken March 5th:

MS Air Conditioning - Mr. Robinson made a motion that the DS Regional School District hereby appropriates the amount of \$853,000 for the purpose of paying costs of adding air conditioning to the Middle School including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. Ms. Balk seconded.

13-06 VOTE: 6 - 0

Capital Items - Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Warrant Article for Capital Items as presented in the amount of \$122,000 and to forward to the Towns immediately to determine if all items can be bonded. Ms. White seconded.

13-07 VOTE: 6 - 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to add the following language to the above motions from March 5th: “Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws to the contrary, no amounts shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this vote until each of the Towns of Dover and Sherborn have voted to approve the debt authorized by this vote at their 2013 Annual Town Meetings. Ms. Williamson seconded.

13-19 VOTE: 4 - 0

- Vote to approve final Warrant Articles – not necessary
- Extra-compensatory Considerations – The extra-compensatory stipend increase requests submitted in the memo dated November 20, 2012 were discussed. Mr. Bliss pointed out that any approved stipend increases will have to be paid for with offsets in other line items in FY14. There was discussion about the impact of a no action vote, particularly on the Cheerleading stipend.

Mr. Robinson made a motion that no action be taken on the extra-compensatory ratio increases submitted in the memo dated November 20, 2012. Ms. Williamson seconded.

13-20 VOTE: 4 - 0

8) Special Items and New Business

a) School Choice – The district is required to withdraw from School Choice annually.

Ms. White made a motion to have the Dover Sherborn Public Schools withdraw from the School Choice program for the 2013-14 school year because of space limitations. Ms. Williamson seconded.

13-21 VOTE: 4 – 0

b) Discussion: Town Treasurer/Tax Collector update – Mr. Lee has taken out papers to run for the Town Treasurer position in Sherborn. There is no legal conflict of interest for Mr. Lee to hold the Town Treasurer position if elected and serve on the Regional School Committee. There was discussion about any potential implications of Mr. Lee holding both positions.

c) Advisory/Warrant Committees Update - Ms. Poulsen thanked members of the both committees for their work over the past few months. Mr. Robinson spoke of what is legally allowed for school committee members to do to advocate for the warrant articles for the schools.

d) May Agenda items – introduction of HS Headmaster and MS Assistant Headmaster, MOU on Extra-Compensatory stipends, award AC contract, House Budget update, Indoor track proposal

9) Approval of Minutes

a) February 5, March 5 and 13, 2013

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2013. Mr. Robinson seconded. In section 7a) correct spelling of "dual"; 7c) omit 3rd sentence of paragraph; and 7f) change if to "of" in second to last sentence.

13-22 VOTE (as amended): 4 - 0

Ms. Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2013. Ms. White seconded. Section 6) strike last sentence of first paragraph.

13-23 VOTE (as amended): 4 - 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2013. Ms. White seconded.

13-24 VOTE: 4 - 0

10) Routine Business

- a) Enrollments as of April 1, 2013

11) Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis