

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Meeting of September 3, 2013

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

Also Present: Steve Bliss, Superintendent
Karen LeDuc, Assistant Superintendent
Christine Tague, Business Administrator

1) Call to Order

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments – None

3) Reports

- a) Student Council Report – none this month
- b) Superintendent - Mr. Bliss thanked the faculty and staff for their work to get the summer jobs completed and the schools opened successfully. The faculty participated in 1 1/2 days of professional development training on the new Professional Growth and Evaluation System.
 - FY15 Capital Planning will begin within the subcommittee using the On-Site Insight spreadsheet. The subcommittee will report back to the Regional Committee at a later meeting.
 - The Committee discussed the Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) and whether to pursue another attempt to get an IMA that all parties can agree upon. Mr. Bliss suggested a meeting with all interested parties and will report back on the outcome at next month's meeting.
 - The FY14 Minimum Local Contribution for many cities and towns changed from the original guidance in the FY14 Governor's budget. The net effect is an increase in the assessment to Dover of \$44,216 and a decrease of the same amount for Sherborn. Mr. Bliss has been in contact with both towns about the matter and does not anticipate any problems with the adjusted assessments.
 - Language Based Learning Strategies - As part of professional development training, both regular and special educators will work with a consultant from the Landmark School on language-based instructional strategy development and deployment. This is grant funded. Additionally, a special educator specializing in language-based instructional strategies has been hired to work with a cohort of students who returned from out-of-district placements as well as other students at the Region. The cost of this additional staff member (approximately \$60,000) is being funded in FY14 in part by residual Circuit Breaker funds and savings realized by attrition/non-incurred lane changes.
 - Due to changes in the TEC and ACCEPT agreements Mr. Bliss must be appointed as the voting member for each collaborative.

Ms. White made a motion to appoint the Superintendent of Schools as the voting member of TEC on behalf of the Regional School Committee. Ms. Balk seconded.

13-47 VOTE: 6 - 0

Ms. White made a motion to appoint the Superintendent of Schools as the voting member of ACCEPT on behalf of the Regional School Committee. Mr. Lee seconded.

APPROVED 10/1/2013

13-48 VOTE: 6 - 0

- The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (BPIP) has been updated to include changes to the language mandated by the State and must be approved by the Regional School Committee.

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to accept the changes to the Dover Sherborn Public Schools Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as presented. Mr. Lee seconded.

13-49 VOTE: 6 - 0

- Mr. Bliss provided Obsolescence Declarations from the technology and high school science departments.

Ms. White made a motion to accept the Obsolescence Declarations from the IT and high school science departments. Ms. Graham seconded.

13-50 VOTE: 6 - 0

- c) Assistant Superintendent - Dr. LeDuc spoke of the work she has done over the summer and her focus now to review and devise action plans around the spring 2013 MCAS results.
- d) Business Manager
 - Status of Appropriations - The preliminary FY13 closing balance shows a surplus of \$484,629 attributable primarily to positive variances in salaries of \$244,096 (leaves of absence, anticipated lane changes that did not occur and attrition of support/administrative positions) and expenditures of \$240,053 (legal services, regular/athletic transportation, utilities and employer insurance).
 - Transfer of Funds - Each year the School Committee must approve transfers required to balance line items in the budget.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the recommended transfers as outlined in the September 2013 Central Office Report. Ms. White seconded.

13-51 VOTE: 6 - 0

- Capital projects - The Middle School air conditioning installation is nearly complete. The choral room, music room, library and front entry are expected to be done by the end of September. The flooring replacement will not be completed until June 2014 as it could not be done at the same time as the AC project. The security upgrades have been completed.
 - WWTF - Weston and Sampson began full time operational responsibility as of August 1st. The WWTF passed June testing.
- e) High School - Mr. Smith spoke of the successful opening of school last week.
 - 2013 AP Test Results - 98.5% of tested students scored a 3 or higher and 46% of tested students received a 5 on at least one exam. The DS Mean Score was 4.24 vs 3.26 MA State Average.
 - Six students have been named National Merit Scholar semi-finalists.
 - Donation - The DS Boosters have donated 8 banners to adorn the light poles located at Nora Searle Field valued at \$4,900.

Ms. White made a motion to accept the banners for Nora Searle Field from the DS Boosters.

Ms. Poulsen seconded.

13-52 VOTE: 6 - 0

- f) Athletics: Girls' Ice Hockey - Ms. Graham recused herself from voting. Mr. Rollins explained that due to transfers to private schools and attrition there are only 11 players for the girls' ice hockey team. He recommended starting a co-op team with another district to allow the team to run this year. There was discussion about that option and how to determine the feasibility to run the team in future years.

APPROVED 10/1/2013

Ms. White made a motion to allow athletes from outside the district to play on the DS Girls' Ice Hockey team for 2013-14 at an agreed upon tuition rate pending approval by the participating district. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

13-53 VOTE: 4 - 0 - 2 (Mr. Robinson, Ms. Graham)

- g) Middle School - Mr. Kellet spoke of recent and upcoming events at the middle school.

8) Special Items and New Business

- a) Appointment of Subcommittees
- b) Excellence metrics - Mr. Robinson proposed an informal meeting to discuss ways to measure excellence at the Region.
- c) October Agenda items – MCAS results, SAT results, PARCC/Common Core, Capital Planning update, IMA update

9) Approval of Minutes

- a) June 11 and July 17, 2013

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2013. Ms. Balk seconded.

13-54 VOTE: 6 - 0

Ms. Balk made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2013. Ms. Poulsen seconded.

13-55 VOTE (as amended): 6 - 0

- b) June 17th Joint meeting minutes - will be voted on at the Joint meeting.

10) Routine Business

- a) Enrollments as of September 1, 2013

11) Adjournment to Executive Session at 9:15 pm for matters pertaining to Contract Negotiations not to return to Open Session.

Mr. Robinson - yea, Ms. White - yea, Mr. Lee - yea, Ms. Poulsen - yea, Ms. Balk - yea and Ms. Graham - yea.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis