

APPROVED APRIL 1, 2014

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of March 4, 2014

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

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 Meringer, Assistant Headmaster, DS Regional Middle School
Ms. Handler, Student Council Representative

1) Call to Order

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments – None

3) Reports

a) Student Council Report – Rachel Handler updated the Committee on the upcoming events for the middle school student council.

b) Superintendent - Mr. Bliss

- FY15 Budget Hearing - Mr. Bliss provided a revised cover memo for the budget: the operating budget has increased by \$816,044 or 3.81% over FY14 and reflects all known retirements as of February 1st, the purchase of a handicapped accessible van, a 7.5% increase for healthcare, 15% increase for Norfolk Retirement, 2% increase for healthcare plan changes and 0.75% increase for FICA. Mr. Robinson reviewed the FY15 Budget Presentation.

Ms. Poulsen made a motion that the 2014-15 budget shall include \$500,000 of the June 30, 2014 certified Excess and Deficiency to reduce assessments. Ms. White seconded.
14-18 VOTE: 6 - 0

Ms. Poulsen made a motion to adopt the 2014-15 budget in the amount of \$22,213,814 which is reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of \$2,681,196 for a net amount to be assessed to the member towns of \$19,532,678. This assessment is comprised of \$17,955,796 in operating expenses and \$1,576,882 in debt expenses, and that the Treasurer be authorized to certify this budget in the apportioned share of each town based on the statutory method.

14-19 VOTE: 6 - 0

- Mr. Bliss thanked the members of the Administration, Sherborn Advisory and Dover Warrant for their hard work during the budget season. He also thanked the Educators' Agreement Team for their work on negotiating the the contract over the last several months.

c) Assistant Superintendent - Dr. LeDuc updated the Committee on the International Foreign Students program (SEVIS), the Educator Evaluation system and Professional Development.

d) Business Manager

- Status of Appropriations - the snow removal budget has been spent (\$25,000).
- Facilities - The VCT flooring bid opening took place February 19th. There are five bids ranging from \$50,000-\$104,000. The Administration is currently in the vetting review

process to award the bid. Mr. Ken Beck of BLW Engineering, Inc., will develop the bid specifications for the repair and construction of the four boilers at a cost of \$5,400.

- e) High School - Mr. Smith spoke of recent and upcoming events at the high school.
 - Overnight Field Trip - Mr. Smith requested approval for a trip to Belize during February vacation week 2015. The trip will be run by EF Tours and will focus on wildlife ecology, conservation efforts in the tropics and the indigenous culture that exist there. The trip will culminate in a collaborative effort between students from various schools to design their own models of conservation.

Ms. White made a motion approve the 2015 trip to Belize as outlined. Ms. Balk seconded.

14-20 VOTE: 6 - 0

- Donation Acceptance - The DS Boys' Ice Hockey Club Team has fundraised and donated \$2,000 to compensate an Assistant Coach for the JV team.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the donation of \$2,000 for the Boy's Basketball Assistance Coach. Ms. White seconded. Ms. Graham disclosed that her son played on the JV team.

14-21 VOTE: 6 - 0

- Donation Acceptance - The DS Boosters have donated: two replacement side panels for the tennis windscreens (\$1,400), a new Ice-O-Matic ice machine for the Athletic Training room to replace the failing unit (\$4,769) and a new Sport Panel Fencing homerun fencing for the baseball field to replace the dilapidated homerun fence (\$9,000).

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the donations from the DS Boosters. Ms. White seconded.

14-22 VOTE: 6 - 0

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

4) Special Items and New Business

- a) Special Education Reorganization - Mr. Bliss presented a proposal for Special Education Reorganization. The goals of the reorganization are: identify opportunities for increased efficiency and reduced redundancy; provide consistent services in the most efficient manner pre-K through age 22; increase capacity to meet students' needs through a system-wide (all 3 districts) approach; systematize the means for analyzing complex cases requiring a multi-district/system-wide approach; enhance accessibility and improve communication with parents/guardians, personnel and service providers as to the broad range resources made available to meet student's needs in the most programmatically and fiscally responsible manner; and institute a systems-based approach to specialization of labor: one point person for direct oversight of special education and communication to the Superintendent concerning special education trends, issues and opportunities. The reorganization proposes adding a Director of Special Education, Pre K - 12 that would directly supervise all aspects of special education services for the school system (3 districts). The persons' responsibilities would include: oversight of student programming and placement; direct supervision and evaluation of the Elementary Special Education Administrator, Regional (grades 6-12) Team Chairs and the Out-of-District Coordinator; shared responsibility for supervision and evaluation of special education faculty and staff members, in conjuncture with Principals/Headmasters; budget and grant administration; representation of special education of the Administrative Cabinet; and coordinate directly with the Elementary Administrator of Special Education and Secondary Schools' Team Chairs on all special education cases. The Director of Special Education will support all 3 districts. The Elementary Special Education Administrator will be shared by Chickering (0.6 FTE) and Pine Hill (0.4 FTE). There will be a Middle School Team Chair (0.6 FTE) and a High

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School Team Chair (0.6 FTE) as well as a Out-of-District Coordinator (1.0 FTE) who will coordinate all out-of-district special education students for all 3 districts. There was lengthy discussion. The Committee decided not to vote on the reorganization until next month to allow more discussion between interested parties. Each member spoke of their individual feelings about the plan.

b) School Choice -

Mr. Robinson made a motion to not have the Dover Sherborn Regional Schools to participate in School Choice program for the 2014-15 school year. Ms. Graham seconded.

14-23 VOTE: 6 - 0

c) RSC Meeting Access and Scheduling - There was discussion about whether to avoid daytime meetings of the Committee to allow as many people as possible to attend.

d) Cell Tower - There is a proposal to put a 93' mono-pine cell tower on a parcel of private land off Evergreen Lane in Medfield that abuts the school campus. The Committee discussed whether they wanted to spend money to investigate a cell tower on school grounds (no).

5) Approval of Minutes

a) February 4 and 26, 2014

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2014. Ms. White seconded. In motion for vote 14-06 to add "\$3,300 for each District" after \$9,900.

14-24 VOTE (as amended): 6 - 0

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014. Ms. White seconded. Add "Annual Town Meeting" after ATM in Section 2a.

14-25 VOTE (as amended): 6 - 0

b) The Sherborn School Committee minutes of January 14, 2014 were noted.

6) Routine Business

a) Enrollments as of March 1, 2014

7) Adjournment to Executive Session at 8:49 PM for the purpose of approving Executive Session meeting minutes and discuss contract negotiations not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis