

APPROVED MAY 19, 2014

**Dover School Committee**  
Meeting of March 6, 2014

Members Present: Dawn Fattore  
Kristin Dennison  
Tim Caffrey  
Lauren Doherty  
Adrian Hill

Also Present: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent of Schools  
Christine Tague, Business Manager  
Laura Dayal, Principal  
Maria Colarusso, Chickering Director of Special Education  
Therese Green, Pine Hill Director of Special Education

**1) Call to order**

Ms. Fattore called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Chickering Library.

**2) FY15 Dover Public School Budget Hearing**

Ms. Fattore presented the proposed FY15 budget for Chickering highlighting the following:

- The FY15 in-district operating budget shows a decrease to \$6,687,089 over FY14 or (0.29%). Out-of-Districts (OOD) costs will increase to \$2,823,173 or 17.82% over FY14. FY15 capital requests are \$161,903.
- In-District estimated enrollment is 482 students which represents a 20% decline since 2005.
- Reductions have been made to reflect enrollment: 3.8 FTE of teaching staff (3.5 Classroom, 0.2 Music and 0.1 Art), 2.9 FTE of support staff (1.0 Custodian, 1.0 Library aide, 0.5 Nurse's aide and 0.4 Secretary), \$10,500 decrease in supplies.
- There is a placeholder for salary increases until contract negotiations are complete.
- There were additions of 1.2 FTE for contracted services/teaching staff - 1.0 Special Education and 0.2 World Languages.
- OOD Budget - the increase in OOD over FY14 is due to increased placements realized during FY14 (FY14 was budgeted for 29, actual is 32), new OOD placements (above actual FY14 placements), cases moving from day programs to residential and tuition increases of 3%.

**3) Community Comments – none**

**4) Reports**

A. PTO Report –Ms. Johnstone updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events with PTO:

- Books for the Heart raised \$6,500 which was used to purchase 350 new books for the school library.
- The Luau Auction will be on April 5th at Chickering.

B. Superintendent's Report -

- Thank you to Ms. Fattore and Mr. Caffrey for their dedication to the Teachers' Contract negotiation process.
- Non-teaching contract negotiations are underway
- Wellness Committee - Mr. Bliss provided a sample assessment provided by Edvocate and requested consensus approval for him to hire Edvocate to assess all schools in the Dover-Sherborn District. The assessment will cover staffing, funding and equipment recommendations as well as provide an objective look at the food service program. The cost of the consultation is \$9,000 (for all four schools) and will be funded from the Superintendent Reserve account.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to support the hiring of Edvocate as presented. Ms. Dennison seconded.

14-02 VOTE: 5 - 0

C. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. LeDuc was unable to attend the meeting due to the birth of her first grandchild.

D. Business Manager's Report

- Status of Appropriations - The current salary variance increased from \$14,964 to \$23,780 as a result of a custodial staff retirement. The schedules of the custodial staff have been adjusted to ensure that the building needs are still met.
- Capital Project progress - The only remaining operating maintenance project for FY14 is the asphalt road edges which are scheduled to be done during the April vacation.
- Revolving Accounts - Ms. Tague provided the estimated fund balances for the revolving accounts as of November 30, 2013: Building Rental \$38,443, Donation \$20,930 and Food Service \$10,946.

E. Principal's Report

- Chickering was one of only 48 schools across the Commonwealth that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recognized this year as a 2013 Commendation School for its high level of achievement, high progress, and/or narrowing proficiency gaps.
- Teachers administered mid-year assessments in ELA and math using AIMSweb as well as the DRA II. This data is collected at the administrative level and reviewed to assess student needs and growth.
- Educators are sharing electronic and hard-copy portfolios with assessments, student work and units of study as part of mid-cycle Formative Assessment meetings.
- Ms. Bedell-Healy has announced her retirement.

f) Special Education Quarterly Report - Ms. Colarusso presented her report and highlighted the Strategic Learning Center and Landmark Outreach Program.

## 5) Special Items/New Business

a) Special Education Reorganization - Mr. Bliss went over the Reorganization proposal: 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

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Middle School Team Chair (0.6 FTE) and a High 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 -

Ms. Dennison made a motion to not have the Dover Public Schools participate in the School Choice program for the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Doherty seconded.

14-03 VOTE: 5 - 0

c) TEC Space Rental - the TEC Education Collaborative would like to rent a classroom at Chickering during the next school year. There was discussion about the potential liabilities/disruptions vs the benefits of renting the space. The Committee decided it would like to talk to school committee members from towns that have recently rented space to TEC.

d) DSEF Grants – The DSEF Grants have been shared in the Google drive.

e) Agenda item for May 19th - RTI, standard items

**6) Routine Business**

a) Enrollments as of March 1, 2014

**7) Approval of Minutes**

a) December 17, 2013 - add amount to capital requests in 3a and change “reflection” to “reflects” in 7th line of 3b.

Mr. Hill made a motion to accept the minutes of December 17, 2013. Mr. Cafferty seconded.

14-04 VOTE (as amended): 5 - 0

b) January 21, 2014

Ms. Dennison made a motion to accept the minutes of January 21, 2014. Ms. Doherty seconded.

14-05 VOTE: 5 - 0

c) The Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee minutes of December 3, 2013, January 7, 2014 and February 4, 2014 and the Sherborn School Committee minutes of December 10, 2014 and January 14, 2014 were noted.

**8) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Davis