

## **Dover Warrant Committee**

### **Minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting**

**Members in attendance:** James Stuart (Chair), Brooks Gerner, Geoffrey Merrill, Rich Forte, Kate Cannie, Rodney Petersen, Douglass Lawrence

**Non-Members in attendance:** Mr. Steve Bliss (Superintendent of Schools) and Ms. Dawn Fattore (Chairperson Dover School Committee), Bob Springett (chairperson Capital Budget Committee)

**Location:** Dover Town House

Mr. Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Ms. Fattore presented an 8 year analysis of in-district education, showing enrollment, number of staff, transportation and budget (see attached).

Ms. Fattore presented a proposal for a new integrated pre-k program (see attached). The concept is to be able to provide pre-school services for special-ed identified Dover Children who would otherwise be placed in out of district education settings. The benefits are the ability to get to know the student and the family early to help with the development of programs to meet need and there is cost savings by providing the services in-district.

There was discussion of technology capital items that will be moved from the capital budget to the operating budget. Mr. Bliss and Ms. Fattore discussed the need for flexibility in identifying specific items in the technology budget. Technology moves quickly and budgets are developed 2 years in advance of need. It was agreed that a budget should have flexibility to acquire what is needed at the time with planning, but with strict oversight from the School Committee. A protocol is being developed to address a technology replacement schedule. Draft budget (not yet approved) is \$6,575,161 in-district education (see attached), \$551,038 Chickering out-of-district special education, \$2,616,506 Dover share of the Regional out-of-district special education for a total Dover School Budget of \$9,742,705.

Ms. Fattore and Mr. Bliss presented an additional service request to reconfigure the Living, Fine, and Technical Arts positions at the region, resulting in a Fine Arts Department Chair for grades K-12 and a Technology-Engineering Chair for grades 6-12 (see attached). Justification for the reconfiguration is to provide a consistent experience for students in the elementary schools of Dover and Sherborn so when they reach the Region they have had exposure to the same curriculum and be better prepared for continuing the experience through the Region. There was discussion as to need, long-term costs and future staffing levels under this new configuration.

Mr. Stuart thanked Ms. Fattore and Mr. Bliss.

Mr. Stuart discussed preparations for the Open Hearing and the Blue Book and will set aside time at future meeting to discuss the use of Free Cash.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Being no other business, Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Stuart.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Richard Forte Jr.