Dover-Sherborn Joint School Committee
Workshop Meeting of January 22, 2020

Regional Members Present: Anne Hovey, Chair; Maggie Charron, Vice Chair; Judi Miller, Secretary; Kate Potter; Michael Jaffe; Lynn Collins

Sherborn Members Present: Angie Johnson, Chair; Megan Page, Secretary; Nancy Cordell; Amanda Brown

Dover Members Present: Henry Spaulding, Chair; Rachael Spellman, Secretary; Mark Healey; Brook Matarese; Leslie Leon

1) Call to Order: Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

2) Dr. Keough introduced Dorothy Presser, the Field Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

3) Ms. Presser explained that the purpose of the workshop was to help the joint school committee work together effectively by understanding goals and responsibilities and developing a set of operating norms for how the work of the joint school committee would be performed.

4) Ms. Presser explained that a school committee’s most important responsibility is continued improvement in student achievement and discussed how a committee’s practices impact that responsibility.

5) Ms. Presser explained the importance of the committee working as a united team along with the superintendent, and we discussed the importance of collaboration, trust and respect.

6) Discussed what practices effective school committees use: goal setting, monitoring progress, working collaboratively and conducting varied and purposeful meetings.

7) Discussed the distinct roles of the school committee (governance, goals, policy and budget) versus the superintendent (management, recommendations and implementation) and how best to respect those roles.

8) Discussed the difference between the committee and the individual member and the fact that individual members do not speak for the committee.

9) Discussed that operating protocols and norm setting are important as these set the ground rules for how the committee operates.

10) Ms. Presser provided the group with a handout on what these protocols/norms address and gave suggestions for how we might develop such protocols.

11) Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Miller