

**Joint Fiscal Committee  
Minutes – February 7, 2006**

Those present: School Board Chair Marjorie Fisher, School Board Members Brandon Foye, Dorothea Hooper, Audra Lurvey & Doris Grady, Mayor Scott Myers, City Councilors Dean Trefethen & David Scott, City Manager Michael Joyal, Superintendent John O'Connor & Business Manager Laurie Verville.

Myers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He outlined the objectives for the meeting and the hope that both Boards will better understand the financial and budgeting issues that are facing both the City and the Schools.

Fisher gave an update on where the School Board is in their budget process and some of the adjustments that the School Board has already made to their budget.

O'Connor gave a very brief overview of the School budget that he presented to the School Board and discussed what was driving the increases.

General discussion continued on a variety of topics including the School's bid for group health insurance, union contracts, this year's State funding formula for education aid, tuition students and costs associated with State & Federal mandates.

Grady brought up the timetable of when the School Board needs to pass their budget in relation to when the City Council passes the entire budget. She raised a concern over the district having to commit to teachers for the following year without knowing what the available financial resources will be and asked that the City Council give the School Board direction, sooner rather than later.

Myers stated that he would do everything possible to get the School's budget to councilors as soon as it is passed and to also schedule a council workshop on the school portion of the budget at the earliest possible date after the budget is presented to the City Council by the City Manager. Tentative time frame for this would be late April. Myers also reminded everyone that even though the City Council can give direction to the School Board, that direction is not binding and the council cannot take a binding vote on the School Budget separate from the entire budget.

Trefethen spoke of what he is hearing from residents of the City and that the general feeling is that we need to take a serious look at reigning in spending in all areas of the City this year. Myers spoke about a resolution on the agenda for the next night's City Council meeting that would direct the City Manager to present a budget with no greater than a 3% increase in the operating side of the budget.

Hooper stated that even though there are some serious financial issues, we have an obligation to educate our students, and that as a community, this is the best investment we can make for our children.

All agreed that this was a constructive dialogue regarding the needs and financial issues facing the city of Dover.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.