

A meeting of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Marjorie Fisher on Monday, March 13, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

A. ROLL CALL: Present were Marjorie Fisher, Dorothea Hooper, Audra Lurvey, Brandon Foye, Kara Winton, and Doris Grady. Absent was Carolyn Mebert.

Also present were Superintendent John O'Connor; Laurie Verville, Business Manager; Anne Watson, Woodman Park School Principal; Anna Parrill, Garrison School Principal; Larry DeYoung, Dover Middle School Principal; Patrick Boodey, DHS Dean of Students; Murray Ingraham, Director of Curriculum; Chris George, Principal Dover High School; Jean Briggs, Federal Projects; Jason Hindle, Deputy Mayor; Bailey Rigg, Network Manager; Fran Meffen, DMS Guidance Counselor; Dave Bennett, DINI Coordinator; Sue Vitko, Math Teacher; NJROTC Students and Instructors; and Marcus Weisgerber, *Foster's*.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Audra Lurvey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CITIZENS' FORUM:

Deputy Mayor, Jason Hindle, addressed the Board on behalf of his wife, Heather Orion-Hindle, who was unable to attend the meeting due to an injury:

"Thank you for hearing my comments by proxy this evening. I'm sorry I'm not able to deliver them in person."

"I'm asking that you reconsider your decision regarding the future of JROTC. I won't presume to think that anything I could say would be more persuasive than the comments made by the actual students benefiting from the program. What I will say is that in the four years that I served on the board, I did not once see a student come out in support of an academic program the district was offering. We saw them for awards and recognition. We saw them in support of sports, music, and community service programs, and even to protest the cost of parking permits. But not once did we see them come in support of their history or science class."

In JROTC we have found a program that reaches a broad spectrum of students that we have otherwise been unable to reach. Alternative programs like mentoring, peer education, Youth to Youth, JROTC, and yes, Mr. Foye, Big Brothers, Big Sisters are vital to the educational, mental, and social growth of our students. We even have a yearly behavioral survey that shows us how much these programs, and more like them, are needed."

"I'm concerned that the students we have reached with JROTC will tune out completely now that it is gone. I'm concerned that some opportunities for post-secondary education and employment will dry up now that JROTC is gone. And most of all, I'm concerned by how quickly the Board has given up on this successful program still in its infancy."

"I want Dover to be known for producing great leaders in all fields. I want colleges and future employers to compete for Dover grads. If JROTC is not reinstated, well, then yes, Dr. O'Connor, I, too, fear we are on the road to mediocrity."

Corrine Boulanger, 278 Longhill Road, Dover spoke in support of the World Language program at Dover Middle School and asked the Board to reconsider reinstating ½ teacher position.

Fran Meffen, Dover Middle School Guidance Counselor, spoke in favor of the JROTC program and summer school at Dover Middle School. She noted these are programs that provide a vital component for students in transition to high school and decrease the drop out rate.

Dan Retlon, 24 Ivans Lane, asked Board members to reconsider reinstating JROTC, stating his belief that, "No other program is better suited to prepare our kids for what's next."

Celeste Feren, World Language Teacher, Dover Middle School spoke in favor of retaining 5th and 6th grade curriculum at Dover Middle School.

Jennifer Beams, Mt. Vernon Street, spoke in support of the 6th grade language program. She stated her belief that the program helps students make better choices when choosing language at the high school level.

Jan Hennessey, World Language Curriculum Advisor, Dover High School, spoke in favor of retaining the middle school world language program. She stated the program helps students in many ways, including developing tolerance for different and diverse cultures.

Cadet Stephen Dunn, 123 Drew Road, asked the Board to reinstate the JROTC program and cited the many benefits for him over the last two years.

Cadet Jennifer Barter presented a petition signed by 66 Dover High School Students who want to keep the JROTC program next year.

Cadet Lauren Oleon recounted conversations she had with four 8th grade students who want to join JROTC in their freshman year.

Cadet Erin Chisling stated he enjoys JROTC which has taught him self-discipline and integrity.

Tim Barter, parent of a cadet, asked Board members to reinstate the JROC program and outlined what he felt were benefits of the program; honor, duty, self-respect, and respecting others.

Maria Sharp, 20 Roosevelt Avenue, spoke in support of JROTC. She recounted her "rocky road" through the National guard to adulthood and mused the program might have been helpful to her when she was in high school.

Joe Cooper, 4 Hubbard Road, spoke in support of JROTC, recalling its history in Dover and stated as a taxpayer he would be happy to put his tax dollars toward the program.

Donna Frank-Berchulski, Dover High School Intervention Specialist, spoke as an advocate for the JROTC program, citing examples of good things happening for students currently enrolled in the program.

Chief Amon urged the Board to reinstate the NJROTC program for next year. "It's about the youth!".

Cdr. Kanewske, NJROTC Naval Science Instructor, wrapped up citizen's forum responding to what he felt were the 3 major areas of concern with the program. First, he stated it is not a military program if that was of concern to some. He also noted the program's not being fully "functional" might be of concern and asked the Board to "give it time." He noted the slow start of

the program and the fact that it has been operating fully for only 6 months. "It takes 3 to 4 years to build up interest." He added that two years of uncertainty about the program being run have also added to lower membership. Last, he reminded the Board that they get two full-time instructors at about \$65,000 per year, but "if the budget can't stand it, we'll leave." He stated his feeling that was not a lot of money for the return to the district. "We need **support** to grow as we should."

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to accept the following minutes:

- a. **Nonpublic Session #4, February 13, 2006 (Contract Negotiations)**
- b. **Regular Session #2, February 13, 2006**
- c. **Nonpublic Session #5, February 15, 2006 (Discipline)**
- d. **Nonpublic Session #6, February 27, 2006 (Personnel & Negotiations)**
- e. **Budget Workshop #3, February 27, 2006**
- f. **Nonpublic Session #7, March 6, 2006 (Student Discipline)**
- g. **Nonpublic Session #8, March 6, 2006 (Personnel)**
- h. **Budget Session #4, March 6, 2006**
- i. **Nonpublic Session #9, March 8, 2006 (Student Discipline)**

An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

Kara Winton moved, Audra Lurvey seconded, to approve the consent agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

1. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Dover Fire & Rescue Thank You letter dated February 13, 2006 re: donation
 - b. Request for Waiver of Rental Lead Time, Dover Parents Music Club letter dated February 4, 2006
 - c. Request for Waiver of Rental Lead Time – Contingency Plan, L. J. Tourtellot letter dated February 28, 2006
2. **Resignations/Retirements:** None.
3. **Leaves of Absence:** None.
4. **Nominations:**
5. Sheet 1: Nomination of a Secretary, Aide, Custodian, Non-Union, Substitutes, and Summer School Staff: Cote to McKinstry
Sheet 2: Nomination and Election of Teachers: Cousins
Sheet 3: Nominations for Dover Adult Learning Center
5. **Professional Development Waiver:** None.
6. **Extended Travel (Student Trips):**
 - a. Request for Final Approval, DHS Student Trip to France, April 19-28, 2006

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent O'Connor reported on the following items:

1. **Educational Information:**

- a. NECAP testing data will be released for the New Hampshire Tri-State assessments on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. Dr. Ingraham will present the data to the Board in June.
- b. At a recent Superintendent's workshop, a presentation was given on Guidance for Educational Institutions' Pandemic Influenza Preparedness & Response. Nurses and Principals have received this information.
- c. The legislature defeated HB1707, Voucher Program in the State of New Hampshire.
- d. The Chamber of Commerce will be honoring its Citizens of the Year, Sue and Steve Hodgson at an awards banquet slated for March 18th.
- e. Mark Covell and Laurie Verville reviewed a request from the McConnell Center Renovation Committee to provide food services at the site. They determined that between paying rent and outfitting the spaces, this would not be a viable investment for the District.
- f. The Superior Court in New Hampshire has ruled that the State needs to define what is an adequate education in New Hampshire.
- g. A second student Behavior Survey Newsletter on Bullying has been published and distributed. (The first issue of a series of four was on the topic of Depression and Mental Health.) The Superintendent thanked Murray Ingraham, Jean Briggs, Bill Simons, Dana Mitchell, and Carolyn Mebert for their hard work in making the results of the behavior survey such an informative tool.
- h. Tom Welch will be the key-note speaker on Friday's teacher workshop. He will also be available at a luncheon in the Superintendent's office from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Board members and City Councilors are invited. Mr. Welch is the Director of Seeding Information for the Office of the New Economy for the State of Kentucky. He will speak about the role of education in our changing global economy.

2. **Education Achievements:** Superintendent O'Connor asked Principals and Directors to share the good things happening at their schools:

- a. **Barbara Szabunka** reported that Horne Street School participated in the Pennies for Patients Program and raised over \$1500 for the Lukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- b. March is Math Facts month at Horne Street School and they will hold a Mathathon.
- c. Matt Randall is starting an after-school karate class. Proceeds (\$1500) were donated to the PTG.
- d. Ms. Szabunka thanked Ms. Nary for the Dr. Seuess extravaganza held last week at the school.
- e. Last Wednesday, 300 participants joined librarian Linda Smart in a celebration for Camp Read-A-Lot.
- f. Horne Street School received an award for implementation of the Positive Behavior Intervention System work at their school.
- g. **Anne Watson** reported on Dover Reads activities taking place at Woodman Park School.
- h. There will be a Roller-skating Night fundraiser sponsored by the School.
- i. Kindergarten registration starts March 14th at Woodman Park School.
- j. UNH Interns have been interviewing with teachers for positions next school year.

- k. A bus driver breakfast was held last week and drivers were introduced to a revised transportation policy using PBIS in the elementary schools. Bus safety groups have also been developed for students who need extra help.
- l. **Anna Parrill** reported that the front of the Garrison Elementary School had opened that morning.
- m. There is a new parking format at Garrison (Parents use the loop in front of school for pick up and drop off. Buses use rear parking area). The new gym is scheduled to open in mid-April.
- n. New England Brass will be performing at Garrison School – March is Music Month.
- o. **Larry DeYoung** reported that March is Music Month in the Dover Middle School and there will be band and choral performances throughout the month.
- p. The Student Council is preparing correspondence packets to send to troops in Iraq.
- q. Dover Middle School received an award for implementation of the Positive Behavior Intervention System work at their school.
- r. **Chris George** reported that the Dover High School boys' hockey team lost 3-2 in the state championship against Spaulding last Sunday.
- s. Dover High School will hold a mini college fair on March 14th.
- t. High School students will also celebrate Pi Day on March 14th.
- u. There will be a open house for parents on March 14th, 7 to 9 p.m. There will be college and job search presentations at 6 and 6:30 p.m.
- v. Scholastic Art Awards will be presented to students on Wednesday, March 15, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. during a reception.
- w. An Extreme Dodge ball fundraiser is being held on Thursday, March 16th at 4:00 p.m. to benefit the football boosters.
- x. **Jean Briggs & Dr. Ingraham** reminded all that the Dover Reads Final Celebration will be held March 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dover Middle School Cafeteria. There will be door prizes, dinner, and entertainment.

Kara Winton moved, Audra Lurvey seconded, to accept the Superintendent's report. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Erica Sgrignuoli reported that tomorrow is Pi day at Dover High School. This is a celebration of both Einstein and Sierpinski's birthdays and the number Pi. There will be a pie sale during lunch, a Pi-Day T-shirt decoration contest, and a Pi Memorization Contest.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Health, Wellness, and Nutrition Task Force - Dorothea Hooper reporting: Ms. Hooper reported that it is the intent of the Dover School District to promote wellness in all aspects of curriculum and school activities. Wellness is recognized as physical, social, emotional and academic health. To accomplish this goal it is necessary that an integrated effort be organized between administrators, faculty, students and the community. All of our campuses will be a focal point to serve as a learning tool allowing our students, parents, and faculty to apply and develop the critical thinking skills necessary for wellness.

It is our intent to fully utilize our knowledge and resources to develop the highest possible standards. We recognize that this is a process that will evolve. We promise to remain vigilant for the health, happiness and success of all our staff, students, and community.

To accomplish this vision, the Committee came up with seven statements of intent:

1. Nutrition Education is integrated in as many areas of the curriculum as possible.
2. Cafeteria will serve as the nutrition education learning tool allowing students to apply critical learning skills.
3. Faculty, staff and the school community will work together to promote and reinforce healthy lifestyle habits during school and after school hours in school sponsored activities.
4. Food will not be used as a reward or punishment unless specified in a student's IEP or behavior plan.
5. Foods offered in vending machines and school stores will be highly nutritional.
6. In addition to PE class, opportunities for other physical activities will be encouraged on a regular basis to achieve current state standards.
7. Fund raising should look for alternate ways to support activities, that do not include food sales.

We now need to develop Guidelines for "How" we are going to achieve the above in a manner that is measurable.

3. Horne Street School Enrollment Issues Committee – Kara Winton Reporting: The committee last met on February 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Horne Street School. Committee members reviewed many options and narrowed them down to redistricting or making Horne Street a "no vacancy" school. The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at Horne Street School

4. Facilities Rental Fee Committee – Audra Lurvey reporting: Ms. Lurvey stated the committee had met to discuss their plans for moving forward. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

I. POLICY - CHANGES – PROPOSALS:

1. IHAK – Character and Citizenship Education: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

2. IJ – Instructional Materials: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

3. IMBD – Early Graduation Guidelines: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

4. JI – Student Rights and Responsibilities: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

5. JICD & JICD-R – Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process – Safe School Zone & Memorandum of Understanding: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

6. KB – Title I Parent Involvement in Education: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

7. KEC & KEC-R – Policy on Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Report Form: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to table the policy until the April 10, 2006, Regular Meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

J. POLICY ADOPTION:

1. EEAEC – School Transportation Policy: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Dorothea Hooper reminded parents that state law does not require the District to provide transportation for all grades and transportation in those cases is a privilege, not a right. She asked parents to go to the school's web site and read the policy.

Kara Winton noted her pleasure that the Positive Intervention Behavior System (PBIS) was being implemented on the elementary school buses.

2. IHBBA – Limited English Proficiency Instruction: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

3. IHBG & IHBG-R Home Education & Dual Enrollment: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

4. IJO – Community Relations : Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

5. IKA – Grading System Grades 5-12: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

6. ILBA - Assessment: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

7. IMC – Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers and Programs: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

8. JEA – Compulsory Attendance Age: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

9. JFAB – Admission of Nonresident Students and Tuition: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

10. JICI – Dangerous Items and Weapons in the Schools Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

11. JICK – Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Policy (Bullying): Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

12. JJG – Contests for Students: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

13. JKA – Corporal Punishment: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Ms. Hooper pointed out an addition to the policy: “Physical restraint is authorized when needed to protect the safety of the individual student and/or other students and employees. Documentation of any incident requiring such restraint will be given to the Principal.” She added that a lot of students think “you can’t touch me,” but, if there is a danger to other students or staff members, schools are allowed to contain the student in some way, “and if it has to be physical, it has to be physical.”

14. JLCEA – Use of AED’s: Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

K. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS: Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to authorize the Business Manager to pay manifest 06-I in the amount of \$2,869,714.63. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6-0.**

L. RESOLUTIONS: None.

M. OLD BUSINESS: None.

N. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt Mission Statement: Marjorie Fisher read the mission statement into the record:

**DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Dover School District, in partnership with students, family, and community, is to ensure that each child has the opportunity to develop to his or her fullest potential in an academically challenging, supportive, and safe environment.

Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adopt the mission statement. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

2. Budget Discussion and Adoption:

Ms. Grady spoke in favor of reinstating the NJROTC Program in next year’s budget. “I know there’ve been a lot of comments out on the street about the cost of the ROTC program. I’m not sure how we measure that particular cost. I investigated and may ask Laurie in a minute to explain how, when we have to pay a bill from the system, it goes into the budget but then, there are other methods where monies reimbursed come back in another column. The actual cost of the ROTC program amounts to \$62,000 which is two teachers at approximately \$31,000 per

person. When we can service at the Alt School 29 students for the cost of approximately \$428,000; when we can service AP students using several teachers with a small number of classes (and I believe that should be done because I believe those needs should be met also). I think we have here a group of students that we need to provide an alternative form of education. And ROTC for them, has been their choice, as their alternative form of education. We have students who pick art; we have a lot of students, and we spend a lot of money if you look at grade 4 through 12 in music; and there's never been any question about the amount of money that we spend to give the education for those students that they need. And I just have a heart-felt feeling, when I hear words like we've heard tonight, like leadership, responsibility, confidence, discipline, focus – they're all issues that should be in every single classroom that we have. And we should be developing all of these in classes where we have academics. Because I feel that all children should have a chance for the electives that they want, and no one should be left out from that choice; and because I feel that the benefits from the monies that have been spent already in ROTC have been insurmountable in relationship to the cost. We have one young honor student already been accepted at Air Force Academy; we have another young lady who is at the top of the list for prep-school for Air Force Academy; we have another young man as he expressed tonight who is going to go to college on an ROTC scholarship who probably thought he would never reach those heights. How much more can you get back for \$62,000?"

"It doesn't only meet the needs of the top of our kids. We've talked about the honor students. We have at least three young people that I know, and they were from the Alt School, who in ROTC have found themselves. They've made the honor roll and they're doing things that they were never successful at before. We also have the young man whose email that we received, it was a very, very tear-jerking letter, who has finally found a family...he's not had a family since he was two, and he finally has a family."

Ms. Grady then asked the Superintendent how the budget would be affected if ROTC were reinstated in to the budget. Dr. O'Connor stated the impact would add approximately \$65,000 to the current budget. Ms. Grady then asked how that would impact the tax rate. The Superintendent explained the current budget represents in the General Fund Budget, \$35,712,494 (3.93% increase over last year's funds). That, coupled with debt service, looking at revenues, will have a tax impact of \$.29. If ROTC were added at \$65,000, the General Fund Budget would be \$35,778,218 (4.12% increase over last year's funds). Overall, that would increase the tax rate to \$.31.

Ms. Grady stated she would have a hard time saying that the city could not afford a \$.02 tax increase in order to provide the young people with the education they need.

Kara Winton reminded the Board that the current budget does not include the teacher contract that will add even more to the tax impact on the citizens of Dover. "The students, parents, and teachers get up here, we feel for you, we understand that. We have had this discussion a couple of times during our budget workshops. This is not a decision that has easily been made. When we talk about the three issues, it doesn't even cross my mind that this it's because it's a military program that I'm trying to stop or not have in the budget. The second one is that the program is not producing. It hasn't been. We do not have the enrollment at 100 where it should be. (Third), you need the support. My question might be, how about the Navy? Has anyone written or called the Navy to see if they can add more money? Obviously we are struggling; we have a budget that is tight on the taxpayers. Therefore, another way to have the money there is to maybe ask the Navy to pitch in more money. Someone stood here a couple of weeks ago talking about a Booster club or something for the ROTC program. I need to look at the programs and the cost of it. I don't know what else I could cut from the budget to have the ROTC program

in here. I'm not going to cut the sixth grade teacher that I added on here and voted for in the past regarding class sizes. I will not be voting to reinstate JROTC into the budget."

Ms. Hooper asked how much it would cost to reinstate the World Language teacher at the middle school. The Superintendent stated it would cost approximately \$30,000 - \$35,000. Ms. Hooper then asked, "and it affects how many students?" Principal DeYoung stated it affects all 5th and 6th graders.

Chairperson Fisher asked Principal George if there is any other program or class in the high school that would fit the needs of these students other than ROTC. Mr. George indicated he had reservations when ROTC was introduced to Dover High School. "I can also share with you that I've become a believer in this. Cdr. Kanewske's comments about what this program does is absolutely on target in the sense that it is about students learning self-discipline, and focus, and teamwork, and I have seen that impact on our students. We do not have other programs that do that as well as the NJROTC Program." Mr. George then commended Commander Kanewske and Chief Amon for their hard work, dedication to students, and vision for the program. "I can only speak in favor of it, even though I started with concerns."

Brandon Foye commented, "I would like to reemphasize that all of these cuts that we've made have been very difficult for all of us and we all know that they'll make an impact on the children, probably in a negative way. I personally have been moved, though, by the unwavering support for the ROTC program. That's come from all levels whether it be parents or faculty, but most notably to me, the students themselves. In the letter we heard Jason Hindle read earlier, students don't always stand up for their academic subjects, and I think that that's really made an impact on me, and I will support Doris' motion to bring it back into the budget.

Audra Lurvey added, "All along all through the budget process, I have voted against removing the JROTC money. I had a constituent approach me on the street the other day and say, 'Hey, good for you. Keep standing up for it.' I also will be continuing to support Doris in this motion. Again, we do have a very difficult job here with the budget, and I'm going to just keep plugging away."

Doris Grady moved, Audra Lurvey seconded, to amend the budget to reinstate the NJROTC Program into the budget. An oral **VOTE PASSED 4/2 (Hooper and Winton opposed)**.

Ms. Winton congratulated audience members and encouraged them to come out to the City Council hearings to support the budget.

Kara Winton moved, Doris Grady seconded, adoption of the \$35,778,218 budget amended to include NJROTC. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6/0**.

Ms. Verville requested Board members review the appropriation of Other Funds (Cafeteria, Federal Grants, Special Programs, Tuition Programs, Alternative Education Program, and Facilities). Those estimated budgets total \$4,343,098.

Audra Lurvey moved, Kara Winton seconded, to approve the Other Funds budget. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0**.

At 8:50 P.M., Kara Winton moved, Audra Lurvey seconded, to recess for five minutes. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0**. The meeting resumed at 9:00 P.M.

3. District in Need of Improvement Update:

Jean Briggs provided an overview of the work accomplished by the District in Need of Improvement (DINI) Committee during the past year. One year ago, Dover was designated as a DINI in mathematics due to scores in two schools in our state testing by a sub-group in Math. A root-cause analysis committee was formed to look at scores, data, talking to teachers about math, wondering what we could do to improve our math scores. Two workshops were held over the summer. Throughout the process, staff, parents, and students came together to work on this problem as a creative team. Ms. Briggs then introduced Dave Bennett, Math Improvement Coordinator (MIC), and Sue Vitko to discuss the elementary level projects.

Mr. Bennett updated Board members on three major accomplishments of the DINI team:

- Unpacking Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) which means changing the language of the GLE's into a language that is user friendly for teachers, parents, and students. This has made teachers much more aware of a standards-based approach to education.
- Designed and implemented common assessments at the three elementary schools.
- Identified professional development to see what teachers really need.

Math Improvement Teams (MIT's) were formed at each school. The MIC and Curriculum Director looked at NWEA, NECAP, and Every Day Math to see if there is any correlation. They found very little discrepancies between the three.

The committee is also working on developing a support mechanism called a "bridge document." It is a shopping list of things to help address where GLE's will be found in the curriculum and give teachers a way to be sure they are meeting those grade level expectations.

The district MIT will look at all data to help steer the direction and course of the DINI plan. Mr. Bennett then introduced Sue Vitko, Math Improvement Coach for the elementary schools. Ms. Vitko stated she has been a liaison between the administration and the teachers. She described it as a bottom-up communication process regarding, math, math instruction, programming, professional development, and unpacking the GLE's based on the state standards. The March 17th workshop will offer an opportunity for MIT members to introduce unpacking to the GLE's to their peers.

4. Policy IKF – Set Dover High School Graduation Date: Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to set June 13, 2006, the 176th day of school, as graduation day for Dover High School. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

5. Request for CIP Funding: Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to approve an expenditure of \$1,433.94 to Hart Plumbing and Heating from Garrison Elementary School Phase I CIP monies. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

O. ADJOURNMENT: At 9:15 p.m., Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adjourn the meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Respectfully submitted,
KARA WINTON, SECRETARY
March 14, 2006