

Chairperson Marjorie Fisher called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 7:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

A. ROLL CALL: Present were Marjorie Fisher, Beth Setear, Audra Lurvey, Brandon Foye, Doris Grady, Carolyn Mebert, and Dorothea Hooper.

Also present were Superintendent John O'Connor; Laurie Verville, Business Manager; Dustin Gray, Principal Garrison Elementary School; Patrick Boodey, Principal Woodman Park School; Larry DeYoung, Dover Middle School Principal; Jean Briggs, Director of Federal Projects; Joanne Eaton, Facilities and Operations Manager; Rich Barrett, DTU President; Nick Skaltsis, Future Needs Committee Chair;

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Doris Grady led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CITIZENS' FORUM: No one addressed the Board.

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

- a. **Nonpublic Session #38, December 11, 2006 (Personnel)**
- b. **Regular Session #12, December 11, 2006**
- c. **Nonpublic Session #39, December 13, 2006 (Discipline)**
- d. **Nonpublic Session #1, January 3, 2007 (Discipline)**

An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

E. CONSENT AGENDA: Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to accept the Consent Agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

1. **Correspondence:**
 - a. **Dover Middle School PTA, Approval for Annual DMS Snow Ball Dance & Silent Auction**
2. **Resignations/Retirements:**
 - a. **Nancy Pierpont-Pape, Dover High School, Chemistry Teacher**
3. **Leaves of Absence: None.**
4. **Nominations:**

Sheet 1: Nomination and Election of Teachers (Milkowski)
Sheet 2: Nomination and Election of a Secretary, Aide, Custodian, Non-Union, Substitutes, and Summer School Staff (Amon to Quigley)
Sheet 3: Nomination and Election of Class/Club Advisors (Bonello to VanDyke)
Sheet 4: Reassignment of Non-Union and Administrative Personnel (Briggs to Dascoulias)
5. **Professional Development Waiver: None.**
6. **Extended Travel (Student Trips): None.**

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

- Congratulations to Emily Martuscello, American Lung Association Volunteer of the Week. Article appears in www.lungusa.org.
- Thanks to Macy's who donated four large bags of clothing to Woodman Park School just before the holidays.
- The Dover Girls' Varsity Soccer Team has been recognized for a second year in a row for the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Coaches for the Team Academic Award.
- The State Department of Education recently approved the Professional Development Plan for SAU #11 which will be in effect through June 30, 2011. Thanks to the Professional Development Committee members who worked with Jean Briggs to develop the plan: Dave Bennett, Mary Buese, Diane Gormley, and Nancy vonWhalde.
- Congratulations to CTC teacher, Scott Goodell, who has been nominated for the New Hampshire Teacher Excellence Award.
- Dover Reads reminder: Everyone in the community should be reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Toulane*, the book chosen for this year's program.
- The Joint Fiscal Committee met last week. Dorothea Hooper will provide an update during committee reports.
- Chairperson Fisher asked for a report regarding telephone calls and emails she had received stating that milk served at Dover Middle School last week had passed the expiration date. Principal DeYoung reported the milk company was contacted. They advised the milk would be safe for 5 days after the expiration date. However, all milk with the January 1st expiration date has been consumed or returned to the vendor.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to accept the Superintendent's report. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Erica Sgrignuoli reported that the Student Council Annual Canned Food Drive donated 2200 cans of food to local food pantries in Dover, Barrington, and Nottingham. The Art Club Student Film Festival will be held January 19th at 6:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$4.00. The male beauty pageant, Mr. DHS, sponsored by Interact, will be held on January 11, 2007, tickets cost \$5.00. The pageant proceeds will benefit local humane societies and on behalf of children with parents who have cancer.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Curriculum Planning Council - Dorothea Hooper reporting: Ms. Hooper gave the following report:

CURRICULUM PLANNING COUNCIL

"The Curriculum Planning Council met Thursday, January 4th at the Dover Middle School. The meeting focused on the curriculum update of Mathematics grades K through 4. A monitoring report was given by Sue Vitko and Dave Bennett.

We started out with a questionnaire to determine what the group remembered about Dover becoming a District In Need of Improvement (DINI) in math, what math programs we are currently using, the difference between a traditional report card and one that is standards based, and what obstacles we face as a district in sustaining our math improvement effort as our DINA money is phasing out.

Some very positive things have been accomplished to date:

1. Student score results document a good showing against N.H. state standards
2. We now have a standards based report card in math
3. The Math Improvement Team has provided solid support for classroom teachers
4. The process used to improve mathematics involved teachers every step of the way giving them a solid commitment to needed changes
5. The math curriculum is lined up with state standards with minor exceptions

There were some concerns expressed by Mrs. Vitko and Mr. Bennett

1. When the funds dry up this year for the math program, how do we keep up the momentum?
2. Our first try at common assessment was not good ---how do we improve this and expand it to all elementary schools?
3. With no funds, how do we continue to train new teachers coming into the district and sustain the interest of the experienced teachers?

Several recommendations were made

1. The lessons we learned in our journey with mathematics needs to be shared with the other subject areas.
2. The district would benefit from establishing a new position, Math Improvement Coordinator K-8, in order to keep up the gains the teachers have made with their discipline materials that have enriched their program. The department has developed a list of expectations for each course at each level. They also developed a supplementary video list that is geared to the curriculum.

Ms. Celeste Feren, World Language teacher at both the Middle School and High School, described the "Muzzy" (an alien from outer space) program used in French and Spanish at levels 1 and 2.

Statistics show a solid growth in enrollment in languages to meet new standards at the college level. The department is proposing a full time Middle School teacher to expand the World Language program grades 5 through 8.

Larry DeYoung, principal of Dover Middle School, and Ms. Linda Smart, Media Specialist at Horne Street School, gave the committee an update on where we are with technology in the schools. As a district, we believe in an interdisciplinary approach to technology integrating into the regular classroom curriculum.

Recommendations in technology include:

1. Hiring technology integration teachers at each elementary school and 2 at the middle school
2. Providing the necessary tools for students and staff to effectively integrate technology into their curriculum
3. An opportunity for students to complete a ½ credit ICT course prior to high school graduation
4. Additional staff to take care of the district web site and Edline
5. Re-activating the Web Site Review Committee

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 4th at the Dover Middle School."

- b. Joint Fiscal Committee Meeting (JFC) - Dorothea Hooper reporting:** Ms. Hooper reported she attended a JFC with Mayor Myers and City Council Members to ask for guidelines as to what the Board should expect them to approve as far as a budget increase was concerned. They gave the Board the same information that they gave to the City Manager: They are looking for a 0% to 2% increase in the budget. Ms. Hooper noted all costs have gone up, just like homeowner budgets, and to come in at 0%, she would have

to give up "some pretty big things." "I find it almost ridiculous to be asked to run a school system, which has the same increases and expenses as everyone in town has, with a 0% budget." Ms. Hooper also noted the Council members present, Mayor Myers, Mr. Trefethen, Mr. DeDe, (JFC Committee Member, Councilor Scott, was unable to attend) made the point that schools are not what they used to be twenty years ago. She added her belief that some of the people who get up during City Council meetings to speak about their tax concerns have not been inside a public school in years and don't realize what services the District is required to provide (state and federally mandated) and that all of them are expensive and none of them are fully funded.

Ms. Hooper expressed her disappointment that City Council members do not seem to watch School Board meetings to fully understand the process the Board follows with the budget and "the amount of hacking away at programs and people that we do. That made me feel a little bit upset, that since I sit there and watch City Council meeting, because they do impact on the School Board, that they don't do the same thing. That they don't watch us in our process and see what we're trying to do and maybe have a little bit more sympathy with the difficulties we have in running a school district in this modern age with all of the requirements that have been put upon us."

Dr. O'Connor clarified that the JFC suggested the Superintendent prepare a 0%, a 2%, and what the Superintendent will bring to the Board, and let the Board decide which they want to submit to the Council.

Ms. Hooper stated her belief that a 0% budget was "a little silly", but, "as a Board member, I'm committed to bringing in a budget that I think will support the programs we need to have in this District and let them do what they will."

- b. **Dover Adult Learning Center - Doris Grady reporting:** Ms. Grady reported the following: "Most importantly is that the Dover Adult Learning Center has made the move into the McConnell Center Community Center. Adult basic education and English for Speakers of Other Languages classes are now meeting here, together for the first time since 2002. Staff and students are very pleased with the space and excited to be in their new home. With lots and lots of volunteer help and donations, whiteboards and bulletin boards are now installed in classrooms and the computer lab. The childcare facility has cupboards and bookshelves in place and is serving up to a dozen pre-schoolers per day."

"Among the many advantages of the new space are:

- Adult Basic Education and English for Speakers of Other Language students now have a common break time in the student center area.
- Space has been established for the Center's Writing Resource Center.
- The Center's computer lab has been expanded to eight teaching stations and will soon be available to the general public, scheduled through the Recreation Department. With a grant from Comcast, the lab will add an LCD projector and put computers on a server system."

"DALC would also like to thank all those who have contributed to their Come Help Us Grow campaign to fund the move to McConnell and future needs. They are currently half-way to their \$100,000 goal, and if anyone listening can help, I'm sure they're looking for your assistance."

Superintendent O'Connor invited school administrators to speak at this time.

Larry DeYoung, Dover Middle School Principal, reported the after-school program at DMS has been self-funded and through large donations. They service well over 250 students per quarter. A fundraiser will begin to fund the third quarter. The Fundraiser will be Piscataqua Coffee. "I hope the community will continue to support our after-school program and the value that it passes on to all students."

Barbara Szabunka, Horne Street School Principal, thanked community members and families who contributed to the Christmas Baskets and Giving Tree this holiday season. She also congratulated the band and chorus for the highly successful, special concert they presented on December 18th.

Dustin Gray, Garrison School Principal, also thanked the public for their generosity during the season for participating in a successful food drive, angel tree, and presents donated for needy children. There was an all-school assembly Friday to kick-off "*Treasure your Books*," the new literacy initiative in the building. It is pirate themed. He recognized two students whose work artwork and poetry appeared in *Foster's* - Ms. Hills' second graders, Eric Little and Sabrina Chin.

Patrick Boodey gave an update on the construction project at Woodman Park School. He also reported students went to Exeter on the *Polar Express* last month. Students had cocoa, refreshments, and sang Christmas caroles. In addition, for the first time, Exeter students took the Downeaster to Woodman Park School. Students participated in arts and crafts, library time, lunch, and then Christmas caroles in the school foyer. Students new at Golf, sponsored by local golf club pros. They bring giant sized golf equipment and practice good etiquette, respect, integrity, etc. *Operation Day 100 – Give Back* will be held on the 100th day of school in February. Students will collect 100 different items to be given to local charities. Based on an incident that occurred recently, Mr. Boodey reminded parents they need to practice with their children what to do, and not to go home with other people, even with their friends.

I. POLICY - CHANGES – PROPOSALS: None.

J. POLICY ADOPTION:

- a. **Job Description- Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Director:** seconded, to adopt the job description in its second reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**
- b. **Job Description – Technical Support Services Manager:** Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adopt the job description in its second reading: An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**
- c. **Job Description – Education Data Specialist:** Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adopt the job description in its second reading: An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**
- d. **Policy EEAA – Audio and Video Surveillance on School Property:** Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading: An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

K. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS: Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to direct the Business Manager to pay manifest #07-G in the amount of \$3,0053,769.51. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

L. RESOLUTIONS: None.

M. OLD BUSINESS: None.

N. NEW BUSINESS:

1. FUTURE NEEDS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Future Needs Committee Chairperson, Nick Skaltsis, provided an overview of the actions taken by committee members to date and the direction they will follow in the future. There are 40 volunteers divided into three sub-committees dealing with recommendations on full-day kindergarten, the question of redistricting, and facilities renovations. There are several surveys being taken at this time. Ms. Szabunka will be discussing the redistricting survey. Teachers have been surveyed, K-3 regarding full-day and half-day kindergarten. Personnel are being surveyed for facilities needs. As of today, there have been over 500 responses from parents and citizens on full-day kindergarten. The date has been extended for the surveys to go through Friday, January 12, 2007. Mr. Skaltsis stated he was pleased with incredibly large response to all of the surveys. He also thanked the City's Planning office for assisting the committee with vast amounts of information to be used to make predictions and use for some calculations. The School Board's recent decision to move the SAU to the McConnell center will also impact considerations for a full-day kindergarten. There will be additional space for elementary needs in the Woodman Park School as a result of this decision.

The population at elementary school has remained stable. With all of the growth that has taken place in Dover, we have nearly the same number of students (-2) that we did a year ago in grades K-4 (1270). The elementary school population today remains static and has been over the last three years.

Mr. Skaltsis shared with the Board a list of questions he developed when he was asked to Chair the committee and asked Board members for any additional questions. "My hope was to have the committee answer as many questions as they could in the final report and those answers we do not have, we'll provide as much information as we found."

FUTURE NEEDS QUESTIONS

In order to assist the School Board in decision making and budget control the Committee hopes to provide information and where possible answers to the following questions:

REDISTRICTING (being chaired by Barbara Szabunka):

Can this task be accomplished with minimum disruption?

How many students will need to be transferred out of Horne Street?

Given size constraints what is Horne Street's ideal student population?

Will redistricting require additional buses bringing students to WPS and GES?

How many additional students can Woodman and Garrison accommodate?

FACILITIES (being chaired by Laurie Verville):

Will we need another elementary school in the next ten years?

Will we need additional elementary school classrooms in the next ten years?

What building systems require replacement in the next ten years?
How much money is needed each year to fund a comprehensive improvement program?
What are the specific improvement items are needed at DHS, Horne, and Garrison?
Can these renovations and system replacements be done without resulting in a tax increase?
What building renovations are a priority item for health and safety?

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN (being chaired by Patrick Boodey):

What level of interest is there in adding this program?
Are teachers supportive of adding a full-day program?
Will the community support full-day Kindergarten?
What percentage of parents prefer the half-day program?
Will introducing a full-day program require the construction of additional classrooms?
Will a full-day program require additional buses?
What will a full-day program cost?
Will the Community endorse phasing in this program over three years?
If phased in, how will students be selected to fill limited seats in the first two years of full day Kindergarten?
Can the School District phase out mid-day busing?

Mr. Skaltsis stated his desire was to have the report done before the Board passes the Budget. He would like to present, at a workshop at the end of February, an outline of the findings just in case any changes impact the budget. Additionally, the current bus contract expires June 30th and transportation will be affected by these changes. It might be important for the Board to know prior to renegotiating a transportation contract.

Dr. O'Connor asked Mr. Skaltsis to clarify for the families of the elementary schools to better understand the reasons behind considering redistricting.

Mr. Skaltsis reported that about five years ago, the City's Planning Office came up with some numbers that showed significant housing construction on the South and Southwest parts of Dover. The concern was we would have significant impact of growth with children in that area. One of the answers was to consider moving students from south to north and the Board did do that. The City did have significant construction, but housing costs had risen to such a level that those moving in to the south side of Dover were second and third time homebuyers. They did not have students ages 5 through 8. They typically had children middle school age and above. The surge was in the middle school enrollments, not the elementary schools.

By this movement, the Board actually created some problems at Horne Street School. The school has 20 general education classrooms. Those classrooms are 200 square feet smaller than the state would permit a classroom to be built today. If you average 20 students per class, the maximum number if students at Horne Street School would be 400. Today, there are nearly 460 students and some are being shuttled out of Horne Street to keep enrollments at the levels required by the Board and that is an additional expense.

There are empty seats available at Garrison. There will be empty seats available at Woodman. We need to bring the numbers of students in the elementary schools in balance. There are 20 available classrooms at Horne Street; 24 to 26 at Garrison; and will have nearly 30 available at Woodman and we need to begin to move students from north to south. It is a process and it will be stymied by renovations on-going at Woodman. No students can be added to Woodman next year. In order for the Board to take a really close look, parents, teachers, and principals reviewing City maps to discuss the least disruptive, most reasonable way to begin a process –

rather than moving 60 or 80 students all at once, the discussion has been to do this over a period of time so that a certain bus run or a certain neighborhood would move from north to south. Mr. Skaltsis then invited all three sub-committee chairpersons to speak to the Board.

Laurie Verville advised there are 10 people on the Facilities Renovation Committee with over 50 years of experience in commercial instruction. The committee met last November to discuss the immediate safety needs of the buildings. Principals provided tours of Garrison and Horne, Street Schools and the committee will be touring Dover High School. From those tours, the committee will determine what are the items in the need of immediate repair; which are cosmetic; which are energy efficiency, safety or operational items; which are short-term needs; what is in the long term scope of working on the building envelopes (items such as mechanical windows plumbing, electrical, overall energy efficiency, HVAC systems etc.) Teachers, custodial, and maintenance staff, PTA's, and community members have been surveyed for opinions. 500 surveys were distributed with an approximate 20% return. The committee will now review these opinions and comments and their information will be shared with the Future Needs Committee to be integrated into the final report.

Patrick Boodey advised that since 1998, the city has offered half-day kindergarten. Currently, 282 students attend the three elementary schools. The kindergarten committee consists staff, parents, and citizens. Kindergarten teachers developed a model full-day kindergarten schedule emphasizing not more academics; rather to have better quality and more time to present material. The committee is reviewing many options: a full-day, half-day, and both. Teachers from grades K-grade 3 took a survey asking their opinions on full-day kindergarten. Comments include: "It will slow down the day," "Better quality versus quantity," "Not for Every Child," "School is not a daycare," "Full-day will increase social skills and help ease into first grade."

Ms. Hooper noted she supports full-day kindergarten but does not want it to be a substitute for daycare. She felt parents should have the option of half- or full-day kindergarten and questioned if children that young have a long enough attention span for full-day kindergarten. Ms Hooper stated she would like to have reassurance that studies have been conducted supporting a full day kindergarten. Mr. Boodey stated there are several studies available that support full-day kindergarten. Ms. Fisher stated there are multiple research report links available on the school's website. Dr. O'Connor agreed with Mr. Boodey and stated there is overwhelming research supporting full-day kindergarten.

Ms. Grady asked whether a parent requesting half-day kindergarten would be assigned to AM or PM. That is of concern to Ms. Grady because she believes children attending AM sessions "learn more." She added that she is in support of full-day kindergarten because half-day kindergarten is not fair to PM students – "They lose out." Ms. Grady then questioned whether the committee would consider phasing kindergarten in over a three-year period and, if so, how it would be implemented – by lottery? Which school would be first? Could parents request to transport their child in the first year of the phasing in? Ms. Grady noted these were some of the questions the committee should study.

She added the District needs to review the kindergarten curriculum closely and that a lot of "social growth" should be added. Ms. Grady then asked what would be used for the entrance test because she believes the current PAL's test being used is too weak.

Mr. Boodey stated he would bring Ms. Grady's comments back for the committee to address. Mr. Skaltsis agreed with Ms. Grady's concern about the current PAL's testing but noted the

question needs to be directed to the Superintendent because it is beyond the purview of the committee.

Barbara Szabunka, Chairperson of the Redistricting Committee, advised they had met and developed a series of questions to create a survey to be sent home with Horne Street and Woodman Park School Students. 430 surveys have been returned to date and 40% contain comments for the committee to review. Answers to questions (so far) indicate the following:

1. How important is it to balance enrollments at the three elementary schools? – the majority felt it was very important.
2. How important is it to maintain equitably balanced class sizes at the three elementary schools? – the majority felt it was very important.
3. Appropriate Class Size? – majority in the 19 to 21 range
4. Would you support redistricting? – overwhelming support
5. Would you support your child being redistricted? – Responses varied by many personal preferences.

Ms. Grady indicated she hoped the redistricting would be “done once and for all as this has gone on for 40 years and the students in the north end of the City need to have the security” as they always seem to be the students who are re-districted.

The Superintendent noted that over 40 people participating on the Future Needs Committee is a testament from the community that they support education and that is very much appreciated!

Mr. Skaltsis noted that responses to the Kindergarten survey (to date) show 75% of the community and 75% of the professional staff appear to support full-day kindergarten. He stated that the group would work to answer all of the questions and provide recommendations to the Board.

Mary Buese, Pre-K teacher, spoke to the Board in support of a full-day kindergarten. She expressed her opinion there is not enough time for kindergarten teachers accomplish what they need to in half-day sessions. The extra time will provide the opportunity to expand curriculum and practice social skills, define motor skills, and gain social confidence. She also believes fewer transitions in a school day would be of benefit to the students and noted children attending full-day will be tired but they quickly adapt. She added her belief that offering half- and full-day would be optimum.

Chairperson Fisher thanked all committee chairs for their presentation.

2. ASSIGN OVERSIGHT DUTIES TO WPS JBC FOR SAU OFFICE MOVE TO MCCONNELL CENTER: Superintendent O'Connor explained that once the money is appropriated for the SAU to move to the McConnell Center by the City Council, the Board will need to vote whether to authorize the current JBC oversight to handle the renovation of the McConnell Center. Ms. Grady stated she was concerned that assigning both the Woodman Park School Project and the SAU at the McConnell center would be too much work for one JBC and she felt it would require two separate groups. She stated the JBC should discuss this before the Board votes. (RECORD NOTE: The JBC meets next on January 11, 2007 and this can be discussed at that time.)

3. ANNUAL ADOPTION – SCHOOL BOARD BY-LAWS POLICY BA: Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to readopt Policy BA, School Board By-Laws, without change. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

4. ANNUAL ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS: Superintendent O'Connor asked for nominations for School Board Chair. Doris Grady moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to nominate Marjorie Fisher for School Board Chair. There were no other nominations. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Doris Grady moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to nominate Audra Lurvey for School Board Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Carolyn Mebert moved, Doris Grady seconded, to nominate Brandon Foye for School Board Secretary. There were no other nominations. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT: Chairperson Fisher read the mission statement into the record:

"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, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to readopt the mission statement without change. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOOL BOARD ETHICS POLICY: Ms. Fisher read several paragraphs from the existing Code of Ethics that must be given to each member of the School Board annually. Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adopt the School Board Code of Ethics without change. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

7. APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR WOODMAN PARK SCHOOL BOILER: Business Manager, Laurie Verville, provided the following background information to the Board. "In October, our Facilities Manager, Joanne Eaton, discovered that there are combustion leaks in one of the old boilers at Woodman Park School. Due to the smoke and fumes, we have not been able to run this boiler. We are currently using the other boiler, but have no backup system during the cold winter months. This particular boiler is scheduled for replacement as part of the Woodman Construction Project in the summer of 2007. However, the boiler plans are still in the design phase and it is not feasible to move up the installation date. We are therefore forced to repair the boiler so we are assured heat in the building at all times."

Dorothea Hooper asked if there were statutes defining minimum allowable temperatures in schools and when students must be sent home. Ms. Verville stated there was a statute and the temperature is 58 degrees.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Audra Lurvey seconded, to approve a bid from Eckhardt and Johnson, Inc. for \$5,025 to repair the Woodman Park School Boiler. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

8. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT: Jean Briggs gave the following update:

As part of "The Nation's Report Card," the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is given to a sampling of students across the country. In January – February 2005, the science portion of the NAEP was given in New Hampshire for the first time to students in grades 4 and 8. In Dover, three schools participated: At Dover Middle School 180 8th graders and at Horne and Garrison 90 fourth graders at each school took the 90 minute science assessment.

It is not possible to break out the Dover scores from the state report, due to a congressional mandate against disaggregating the data by specific schools.

Forty-four states across the national participated in the Science NAEP test. Sample schools are selected by probability sampling methods and within participating schools, random samples of students are chosen. Student performance is reported in terms of three achievement levels: Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.

The content for the NAEP science test is based on the 2005 Science framework. This framework is organized along two major dimensions: (1) Fields of Science, including earth physical and life sciences and (2) knowing and doing science, including conceptual understanding, scientific investigation and practical reasoning. A combination of multiple-choice and constructed response questions assessed students' knowledge of important facts and concepts and probed their analytical and problem solving skills.

Key Findings for Science NAEP 2005

For Grade 4

- NH's average score was 161, higher than that of the nation's public schools at 149.
- In NH, the percentage of students (37%) who performed at or above "Proficient" was greater than that for the nation's public schools (27%).
- In NH, the percentage of students (83%) who performed at or above "Basic" was greater than that for the nation's public schools (66%).

For Grade 8

- NH's average score was 162, higher than that of the nation's public schools at 147.
- In NH, the percentage of students (41%) who performed at or above "Proficient" was greater than that for the nation's public schools (27%).
- In NH, the percentage of students (76%) who performed at or above "Basic" was greater than that for the nation's public schools (57%).

According to Dave Gebhardt, the NH State Consultant in charge of coordinating NAEP for New Hampshire, Educational Testing Services uses a "Balanced Incomplete Block Spiraling" technique that relies on the power of sampling students to learn information on national and state progress towards achievement in reading, mathematics and science. The NH State Department of Education just recently released the NAEP Science results.

9. EARLY LITERACY ASSESSMENT PLAN: Jean Briggs gave the following update: The District Reading Specialists, Literacy Coaches, Elementary principals, Sandie Crosson, School Psychologist, Jean Briggs and Dr. O'Connor met during December to formalize our District's approach to early literacy assessments. The new plan, as outlined in the following chart, addresses our need for diagnostic information for targeted teaching as well as providing a tool for special education mandated progress monitoring.

<i>Literacy Assessment Schedule</i>					
Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4

PALS Spring screening for those incoming kindergarteners	PALS – Fall	PALS – Fall	PALS & NWEA – Fall	NWEA – Fall	NWEA – Fall
	P A L S / N W E A Winter for select students				
	PALS – Spring	PALS – Spring	PALS & NWEA – Spring	NWEA – Spring	NWEA – Spring
	DIBELS Progress Monitoring Probes for students receiving targeted interventions				
	Informal Reading Assessments				

The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) has been used here in Dover for kindergarten literacy assessment since 2001. Developed at the University of Virginia, the PALS test measures young children’s knowledge of important literacy fundamentals. The test focuses on: phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, knowledge of letter sounds, spelling, concept of word, word recognition in isolation and oral passage reading. The major purpose of the PALS is to provide teachers with a screening tool to help identify students in need of additional reading instruction who are below grade-level expectations in these areas.

For students not making expected gains, we will also utilize the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, (DIBELS), as a monitoring tool. DIBELS is a set of standardized, individual measures of early literacy development. Designed to be a short (one minute) fluency measure, it will be used to regularly monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills. Each measure has been researched and demonstrated to be a reliable and valid indicator of early literacy development. In addition, the DIBELS is also predictive of later reading proficiency and aids in the early identification of students who are not progressing. The DIBELS measures concentrate on fluency and allows for an efficient way to monitor student progress. DIBELS will be used when a problem solving team (grade level teams/PAT) decides to place the student in an intervention designed to address skill deficits. DIBELS will be used to monitor the student’s response to an intervention.

The district is currently planning summer trainings for our Dover Support Service Staff (Reading Specialists, Literacy Coaches, Title I tutors, Special Education teachers) and classroom teachers in both PALS and DIBELS test administration.

10. POLICIES DD & DIC: Business Manager, Laurie Verville, provided an update on Federal Projects, Food Services, and Enterprise Fund expenditures to date:

Project Activity Report for 06/07 Federal Projects as of December 31, 2006 total expected funding was \$3,173,028.35. The cash balance remaining was \$2,331,673.95, total obligations and disbursements were \$1,554,787.31 with a 51% total of funds remaining.

Food Service Fund balances as of December 31, 2006 – Revenue was \$556,598.81 with expenditures of \$514,327.07 for a fund balance of \$101,183.66. Ms. Verville noted that a portion of these funds would be used to upgrade food service areas during the Woodman Park School Project.

Enterprise Funds, Facilities Fund balance as of December 31, 2006 - \$74, 928.38. These funds are broken down into four areas:

Field User Fees (used for sprinkler systems and field maintenance) Balance \$3,455.65
Facilities Funds (used for renovations and facility projects) Balance \$23,330.73
Athletics - Gate Receipts (put into fields and sports equipment) Balance \$19,717.16
Parking Lots (used for paving and lighting) Balance \$28,424.84

11. ACCEPT GIFT FROM WENTWORTH DOUGLASS HOSPITAL TO DOVER HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT: Superintendent O'Connor explained Wentworth Douglass Hospital offered to donate \$1,564.50 to fund the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a surface mounting box, and a hard-shelled, waterproof carrying case. School Board policy required the Board to accept any donations over \$500 in value.

The district must first purchase the AED and associated materials and Wentworth Douglass Hospital will reimburse for its purchase. The AED will be located in the athletic department and will be available for use during sporting events. Dr. O'Connor and the Board thanked the hospital, and Noreen Biehl in particular, for their generous donation.

Audra Lurvey moved, Dorothea Hooper seconded, to accept the gift of an AED from Wentworth Douglass Hospital. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED FY07/08 BUDGET PRESENTATION: This item was not addressed and will be discussed during the January 22, 2007 workshop.

O. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:45 p.m., Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to recess to non-public session. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

BRANDON FOYE, SECRETARY
January 9, 2007