

A special session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Marjorie Fisher on Monday, March 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

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

Also present were Superintendent John O'Connor; Larry DeYoung, Principal, Dover Middle School; Barbara Szabunka, Principal Horne Street School; Christopher George, Principal, Dover High School; Patrick Boodey, Principal, Woodman Park School; Dustin Gray, Principal, Garrison Elementary School; Jean Briggs, Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Director; Peter Wotton, Athletic Director; Joanne Eaton, Facilities Manager; James Stopa, Career Technical Center Director; Jaclyn Adams, Special Education Director; Nickolas Skaltsis; Dover Citizens; and Tom Kressler, *Foster's*.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Marjorie Fisher led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CITIZEN'S FORUM – REDISTRICTING: The following citizens address the Board regarding a proposal to redistrict students from Horne Street to Garrison Elementary School:

- a. Charlene Barlow, Country Club Estates – Ms. Barlow stated she was concerned about the length of the proposed bus ride for redistricted students and disappointed because she did not feel that the Superintendent properly notified families prior to conducting the test bus route runs. She asked for two things: A test run through all proposed bus routes and for the Board to wait until all data is in before making a decision.
- b. Richard Johnson, 3 Deer Creek Run – Mr. Johnson provided a 6-page email to Board members (copy attached) outlining all of his concerns, asked Board members to “read and digest” the information before the March 12th meeting, and recommended they “kill” the proposal as submitted by the redistricting sub-committee. He then addressed some of his major points which included the length of bus rides from the redistricted area to Garrison School and noted there are eleven lights between Portland Avenue and Garrison School. He also criticized the lack of data to support the recommendation and the lack of a long-term plan for the district. While recognizing that Horne Street School is overcrowded, he asked board members to “hold the line” until Woodman Park School construction is complete (with a 9 classroom surplus) and revisit the redistricting possibilities at that time. Due to the number of issues that have been raised, he stated he felt redistricting now seemed “highly illogical.”
- c. Betsy Andrews-Parker, 22 Maplewood Avenue, spoke in favor of redistricting according to the committees proposed recommendation, noting the need for adequacy throughout all of the elementary schools in Dover.
- d. Amanda Russell, 20 Cranbrook Lane, stated she has been a Horne Street School parent for five years and will for eleven more years. She stated she understood this is a highly emotional issue, but the “bus is not the issue.” Rather, the issue is that Horne Street School is “maxed out,” while Garrison school has empty classrooms. She added her desire to see the district implement full-day kindergarten because half-day does not allow enough time to get through the curriculum material and to “be a kid.”
- e. Richard Long, 11 Fairview Drive, stated his belief that the length of bus ride is a “huge issue” and his opinion that the district was “jumping the gun.” He asked Board members to wait until the completion of construction at Woodman Park School.

- f. Susan Widra 29 Cherrywood Drive, noted that the upper Sixth Street had been redistricted four years ago and this would be their third move if the Board revised the recommendation to redistrict in the Portland Avenue area. She added that everyone had been invited to the future needs redistricting sub-committee. She also spoke in support of 16 to 18 child classrooms instead of 24 to 26 students per class and her belief Horne Street School should not have overcrowded classrooms or an overcrowded school. Lastly, she stated her support for full-day kindergarten.
- g. Keith Workman, Cottonwood Drive, spoke in favor of the proposed redistricting plan because Horne Street School is overcrowded now, even "before full-time kindergarten." He added his opinion that moving kids from the north side of Dover to the school located the furthest south makes no sense and that the elementary families in the north end of Dover had recently been redistricted.
- h. Darcy Sowers, 57 Hill Street, stated that although she supports redistricting, her feeling was that busing is an issue and she would like to see students in areas less than one mile from school remain in the Horne Street District.
- i. Sheila Hatch, 47 New York Street, stated she had no problem with redistricting or with the bus ride. She did question whether moving 100 students from Horne Street to Garrison Elementary would simply create a problem with overpopulation at Garrison. She stated she would prefer the Board take a long-term view. She questioned whether it would make better sense to make changes in stages. She reiterated she wanted to see a long-term solution to keep students from redistricting again and again. She ended by stating her belief this was a community project. We are a city!"
- j. Marcie Marchuk, 18 Cherrywood, stated that her kids already travel on the bus for 45 minutes and that moving to Garrison would create a bus ride over one hour which she found to be unacceptable. She supported the proposed redistricting plan because Horne Street is overcrowded and it would be "nice to spread out the population."
- k. Mike Johansmeyer, 11 Forest Street spoke against the proposed redistricting plan and recommended the Board wait until Woodman Park opened before making a decision.
- l. Keith Holt, 45 Oak Street stated his concern was that there "is no master plan in place." If there were a long-term plan, he wondered whether the redistricting that took place four years ago would make sense now. He also asked that "the plan be shared with the entire community."
- m. Linda Long, 11 Fairview Avenue, stated her two children attended Horne Street School and she saw no "see any problem with their education." She noted there will be a net gain of nine additional classrooms when Woodman Park construction is finished, stated this redistricting "seems piecemeal" and recommended waiting because she is afraid there will be more redistricting.
- n. Mr. Lane, Oak Street, noted his child lives 6/10th of a mile from Horne Street School and he did not want him to travel by bus, across town, to Garrison. He also voiced concerns regarding the possibility of future redistricting and asked the Board to wait and revisit the subject after Woodman is completed. He stated, Horne Street is "our school and I want my son to go there."

Chairperson Fisher thanked all those who attended the meeting and those who spoke. She explained redistricting will be on the March 12, 2007 Regular Board Meeting Agenda for vote and invited parents to return then.

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D. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:10 P.M., Audra Lurvey moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to adjourn to Workshop Session. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

The Board Chair called for a 10 minutes break prior to the start of the Budget Workshop. There was no objection.

Respectfully submitted,

BRANDON FOYE, SECRETARY
Dover School Board
March 5, 2007