

Chairperson Marjorie Fisher called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Monday, April 9, 2007, at 7:08 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, Garrison Elementary School Principal; Patrick Boodey, Woodman Park School Principal; Larry DeYoung, Dover Middle School Principal; Christopher George, Dover High School Principal; Jean Briggs, Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Director; Nick Skaltsis, Future Needs Committee Chair; James Verschueren, DALC Director; Andrea Elliot, Instructional Dean, Dover High School; Matthew Jozokos, Dean of Students, Dover High School; James Stopa, Career Technical Center Director; Joanne Eaton, Facilities and Operations Manager; Linda Smart, Librarian at Horne Street School; Jack Story, DHA; Francine Kontos, Michelle Boulanger, and George Dailey, Teachers, Dover High School; Richard Barrett, DTU President; John Donais, Susan Johnson, Amanda Russell, Gary & Sherrie Rheaume, and Betsy Andrews-Parker, and Jeremiah Rood, *Foster's*.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Carolyn Mebert led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Fisher requested Vice-Chair, Audra Lurvey, chair the meeting because Ms. Fisher had laryngitis. Ms. Lurvey took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**C: CITIZENS' FORUM:**

- a. John Donais, 16 Durham Road, spoke about his concerns on the physical condition of Dover High School. He urged the Board to begin renovations and repairs now.
- b. Gary and Sherrie Rheaume, Barrington, addressed the Board about the current Dover High School behavior policy as it concerned an incident that occurred with their son. Their son was assaulted by another student and suffered injuries that required he miss many days of school. The attacker, however, received a 3-day suspension which they did not feel was reasonable for this incident. They asked the Board to consider revising policy to differentiate between a pre-meditated assault and a spontaneous fight, believing that assaults should face a stiffer penalty.
- c. Susan Johnson, 3 Deer Creek Run, spoke in opposition of redistricting at Horne Street School. She reiterated her belief the Board should wait until the completion of renovations at Woodman Park School.
- d. Amanda Russell, Cranbrook Lane, spoke in favor of redistricting at Horne Street School, stating the time to redistrict is now. It is unfair to continue with the overcrowding at Horne Street School while there is room in Garrison Elementary School.

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

- a. **Nonpublic Session #5, February 12, 2007 (Personnel)**
- b. **Regular Session #2, February 12, 2007**
- c. **Nonpublic Session #6, February 14, 2007 (Student Discipline)**
- d. **Budget Workshop Session #3, February 19, 2007**
- e. **Budget Workshop Session #4, February 26, 2007**
- f. **Nonpublic Session #7, February 28, 2007 (Student Discipline)**
- g. **Budget Workshop Session #5, March 5, 2007**

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

**E. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Brandon Foye moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to remove items 1.a., Cocheco Arts & Technology Academy letter dated March 14, 2007, Requesting Additional Funding of \$3,202 per Student, per School Year and 3.a, Nancy vonWahlde, Fourth Grade Teacher, Horne Street School, from the consent agenda to be considered separately. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Beth Setear moved, Dorothea Hooper seconded, to accept the Consent Agenda as amended. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

1. **Correspondence:**
  - a. **Cocheco Arts & Technology Academy letter dated March 14, 2007, Requesting Additional Funding of \$3,202 per Student, per School Year**
2. **Resignations/Retirements:**
  - a. **Lisa Spurling, Behavior Specialist, Woodman Park School**
  - b. **Michelle Grave, Teacher, Horne Street School**
3. **Leaves of Absence:**
  - a. **Nancy vonWahlde, Fourth Grade Teacher, Horne Street School**
  - b. **Kathryn Fontaine, Social Studies, Dover High School**
4. **Nominations:**

**Sheet 1: Nomination and Election of a Secretary, Aide, Custodian, Non-Union, Substitutes, and Summer School Staff (Clapper to Vail)**  
**Sheet 2: Nomination and Election of Coaching Positions (Anderholm to Smallwood)**  
**Sheet 3: Dover Adult Learning Center Staff Nominations**
5. **Professional Development Waiver:**
6. **Extended Travel (Student Trips):**
  - a. **Final Approval, Student Trip to DC, May 29, 2007**
  - b. **Final Approval, Student Trip to England, April 19-28, 2007**

**Item 1.a. CATA letter dated March 14, 2007, Requesting Additional Funding of \$3,202 per Student per School Year:** Dr. O'Connor explained that CATA was requesting the District voluntarily provide additional funding for each Dover student attending the Academy by \$3,202 (for a total of \$6,800 per student). This would cost the District an additional \$50,000. Ms. Hooper stated there was no money budgeted for this purpose. Ms. Fisher agreed that the District's money is "too tight" and could not afford to send the money. Dr. O'Connor stated he would communicate there was no interest from the Board and that no action will be taken.

**Item 3.a. Leave of Absence for Nancy vonWahlde, Fourth Grade Teacher, Horne Street School:** Dr. O'Connor explained the reason for this request for a leave of absence is not covered by the DTU contract and recommended the Board deny the request.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Doris Grady seconded, to deny the request for a leave of absence for Nancy vonWahlde in school year 2007-2008. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

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

- The following students received recognition during the 2007 NH Skills USA Championships held April 1, 2007: Tyler McNally, Brian Feduk, Bernard Gogele, Justin Woodman, Race Desimone, Ellen Christopher, Erin O'Brien, Savannah LaRue, Sara Crane, Colin Orr, Tyrso Carvalho, Justin Doucette, and Kasey Gelinias.
- The following students received recognition for their achievement in a competitive event at the Thirty-fifth Annual FNLA State Leadership Conference held April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>: Alannah Caraccio, Riley Fickett, and Chris Rice.
- The NJROTC is requesting permission to attend a weeklong field trip in Virginia during the week of April 22 through 28. The Superintendent requested the Board waive policy and allow him to approve or deny the trip. (Note: This waiver was approved by the Board's vote to accept the Superintendent's Report).
- Superintendent O'Connor attended a luncheon with Chairperson Fisher, Mayor Myers, and Governor Lynch last week to discuss Lynch's proposal for education funding.

Horne Street School Principal Barbara Szabunka shared information on the following:

- Spring Fling will be held on April 14, 2007, from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Third Graders will be experiencing a "trip to Ellis Island" this week
- Congratulations to Chrisanta Chandra who survived the first three rounds of the Regional Spelling Bee
- April is Earth Month and students will be cleaning and sprucing up the school grounds throughout the month

Dustin Gray, Garrison Elementary School Principal, shared information on the following:

- Math night was rescheduled due to snow and will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday is Early Release Day and Teachers will be working on MIT data
- Earth Day celebration will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Student Placement Process begins this week

Patrick Boodey, Woodman Park School Principal, shared information on the following:

- Literacy Night was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>
- The PTA held a craft fair on March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spirit Week was held in March
- DARE is working on the second grade program
- The Running Club held a Rally to kick off the student Run Club held during recess
- Thanks to Hayden Sports for clothing donation
- Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive on Wednesday to support teacher Nancy Kershaw

Larry DeYoung, Principal Dover Middle School, shared information on the following:

- The PTA held a meeting where five math teachers showed parents how the school is using the interactive boards
- Performance of the Music Man will be held on Thursday and Friday nights at Dover High School
- The last school quarter begins tomorrow

Christopher George, Principal Dover High School, shared information on the following:

- The Key Club held a Blood Drive Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
- The World Language Department is hosting the Seacoast World Language teachers this Thursday to work on competencies
- The Senior Grand March will be held Saturday evening at Dover High School

- The Senior Prom will be held Saturday night at the New England Center
- The Senior Class requested there be no Baccalaureate this year

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 on the following items:

- Saturday Senior Prom tickets went on sale today
- The Key Club and Red Cross held a blood drive today at the high school
- Academic Spirit Week went well
- Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Erica visited Woodman Park School to speak with classes to explain who she is and what the representative to the School Board does. "It was refreshing to visit with the kids; it felt a lot different that the high school. We did an informal poll as we went along. The first and second graders seem to enjoy strawberry milk much more than the third and fourth graders."

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

"The Professional Development Committee met on March 14, 2007 at DHS. The meeting began with an update on the Professional Development Master Plan that had been presented to the School Board and approved. Under review were the ways that teachers and paraprofessionals could fulfill their Continuing Education Units or CEU's. Within a 3 year cycle, teachers must accrue 75 CEU's and Para educators 50 CEU's. Among the varied ways these might be accrued could include graduate coursework, workshops or conferences, mentoring, peer coaching, committee participation, etc. These CEU's may be used for recertification. Also discussed were goals that need to be aligned with district goals.

The next 2 topics of discussion were the results of the SES day held at UNH and the value of the NEA Mentoring Program. The SES day was a series of workshops on educational topics attended by teachers from multiple districts. It was decided that in addition to the survey taken at UNH, the district would survey its own staff to measure the effectiveness of the day. To get feedback on the NEA Mentoring Program, a survey was taken by both mentors and mentees as to the training, time available, help provided in both instruction and classroom management and being a supportive friend and listener. The discussion focused on the need to support new teachers rather than let them "sink or swim!"

The need for a technology survey was discussed. We need to know how much teachers use technology integrated into their curriculum.

Lastly, the committee received a calendar showing the planned professional development for June, July and August. Included in the planning are workshops for technology and literacy, as well as putting together student portfolio guidelines and rubric aligned with NH State ICT Standards and Curriculum.

Our next meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup>."

**b. Joint Building Committee:** Carolyn Mebert reported the JBC recently met to choose patterns for floor and wall tiles in classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and the physical therapy room. The addition is "coming along" very well. Dr. O'Connor added there was a brief walk though last week and the building looks "fabulous" and he has no doubt the space will be complete by the end of July or beginning of August and he would like to schedule an open house at that time.

**I. POLICY - CHANGES – PROPOSALS:**

**a. Delete Policy DKE – Payment to Charter Schools:** The Superintendent explained this policy is no longer necessary because the state has changed how payments are made to Charter Schools. Charter Schools are no longer paid through the District; rather the state pays them directly.]

Dorothea Hooper moved, Doris Grady seconded, to waive policy and delete the obsolete policy at the first reading. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

**J. POLICY ADOPTION:**

**a. New Policy CF – School Building Administration:** Dorothea Hooper moved, Doris Grady seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading.. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

**b. Policy IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students:** Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading.. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

**c. Policy GBCD – Rules and Regulations in the Application of Administrative Personnel Policies and Salary Schedules:** Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to adopt the policy in its second reading.. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

**K. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to direct the Business Manager to pay manifest #07-J in the amount of \$3,009,362.66. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

**L. RESOLUTIONS:** None.

**M. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Dover High School Discipline Report:** Matthew Jozokos, Student Dean, provided Board members with an updated discipline statistical summary for Dover High School. Mr. Jozokos provided a statistical summary report, comparing the first semester of school year 2005/2006 to 2006/2007 (see below). He noted areas of significant increases and attributed them to increased staff monitoring (catches more students), being more diligent in noticing students arriving tardy (additional staff in kiosk), taking a stronger hold on students who refuse to cooperate and reporting as defiance or insubordination, and clarifying definitions of defiance and insubordination for staff to record more accurately. In addition, the zero tolerance policy for threatening, bullying, and harassment have increased reports in these areas. He then highlighted what staff was doing to reduce infractions at the high school.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY REPORT – First Semester Comparison (05/06 and 06/07)**

<u>Infraction</u>	School Year 06-07	School Year 05-06	DIFF.
CLASS CUTS	919	626	+293
FAILURE ASI	255	188	+ 67
TARDIES	473	338	+135
TOBACCO/SMOKING	16	13	+ 3
DRUG	13	8	+ 5
ALCOHOL	2	2	-
FIGHTING	30	33	- 3
DEFIANCE/INSUB	285	215	+70
DRESS CODE VIOLATION	4	8	- 4
TRUANCY	129	115	+14
LYING/CHEATING	10	3	+ 7
LANG/PRFAN/DISRES	97	91	+ 6
DISRUPTION	47	31	+16
ARSON/FALSE ALARM	0	1	- 1
THEFT	10	8	+ 2
PARKING VIOLATION	6	17	+11
BOMB/THREAT	0	0	-
WEAPON/DANG. OBJECT	6	5	+ 1
THREAT/BULLY/HARASS	49	36	+13
EXPLOSIVE BOMB	0	0	-
MULT INTERVENTIONS	57	81	- 24
VANDALISM	8	8	-
VIOLATION CONTRACT	2	2	-
HARASSMENT	1	1	-

He provided additional statistics comparing numbers of infractions by grade levels for 2006/2007 and Intervention Room Referrals for the past 10 years by quarter. He stated intervention referrals have decreased over time because teachers are being asked to work with students in the classroom before sending them for intervention and that the trend is showing slight improvement in all areas of behavior.

Ms. Hooper asked if there was any way to differentiate between fighting, immediately during the emotion of the moment and premeditated fighting, initiated days or weeks later. Mr. Jozokos stated there was not. Ms. Hooper added she was concerned and stated, "I'm also wondering at the same time whether or not some distinction should be made in the rules, either in the handbook or the rules of the office, or perhaps even with the discipline committee of the Board...you shouldn't use force no matter what, but it's kind of understandable when two youngsters in high school with all that testosterone go at it...even though it's wrong, but it's another whole thing when twenty-four hours or a week passes and then kids retaliate. That's kind of a more vicious kind of assault and I'm wondering if we should have a different level of punishment that more reaches the crime." Mr. Jozokos explained they certainly try to intervene and bring all concerned to the office to discuss any "rumor" to discuss it. That often results in a

non-violent resolution. However, if they meet with students and discuss this and then there is an assault afterward, there is a stronger consequence. Ms. Hooper noted, "...obviously this one slipped past the intervention place, and I'm just wondering whether or not we should have something in writing or something in the handbook that differentiates between those two things and calls for a stronger punishment for a youngster who plans an assault. That's very different than two kids duking it out over something that happened right then and there." Ms. Fisher agreed and noted that is something that should be taken up as a policy at the School Board level so this will not happen again.

## **2. Approve Recommendations of Future Needs Committee: Redistricting:**

Carolyn Mebert moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to accept the recommendation of the Future Needs Redistricting Committee, for the purpose of discussion.

Dr. O'Connor readdressed areas of concern regarding redistricting. There are three elementary school buildings – one is oversubscribed – the population exceeds the functionality of the facility itself at Horne Street School. At the other end of the community, there is a building with capacity to handle well over 550, even 600, students. There is a discrepancy in terms of student population and capacity of the buildings. That is why the District is looking at redistricting and has been monitoring enrollments over the past three years. He explained that the Superintendent's office recently purchased inexpensive software from ASBO to aide in making enrollment projections. He added that more sophisticated, and costly, software is also available from vendors specializing in school projections. Using the software we purchased from ASBO, and entering birth data, enrollment history data, and cohort survival rates, we are able to project the population will continue to grow over the next few years. The Superintendent reviewed "safety valve" areas of the city that might be considered (by neighborhood) for future redistricting needs.

Nick Skaltsis addressed the Board to clarify new construction that occurred over the past six years. 926 Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new domiciles since the year 2000. Broken down by school district:

District	Certs Issued	Relative %	Population (Enrollments) during this period (Adjusted for 2002 redistricting)
GES	365	40%	declined (75)
HSS	276	29%	Increased 91
WPS	285	31%	Increased 10

Ms. Hooper asked the Superintendent to clarify how many years Horne Street School has been over-enrolled. The Superintendent stated, using the 400-student measure, it has been three to four years. Ms. Hooper then asked if the district was currently registering students for full-day kindergarten. The Superintendent explained that the schools were registering for half-day kindergarten and asking parents whether they preferred full or half-day. He noted the response has been that more are in favor of full-day kindergarten. Ms. Hooper noted then that there would be a possibility that space freed up at Horne Street School would be used for a kindergarten class. Dr. O'Connor stated that would be probable. Ms. Hooper stated the response she had been given previously was the space being freed up would be used to take "...art off the cart, to split up special ed., and ESOL, so I assume one of these things will not be done in order to make room for all-day kindergarten if indeed the Board goes in that direction?" Dr. O'Connor stated, "The Board could look at a variety of options for full-day – partial implementation, full

implementation, it could defer the vote for another year. So, yes.” Ms. Hooper asked if kindergarten is in the budget for next year. The Superintendent replied it is not. Ms. Hooper stated, “I was certainly on board for redistricting and moving the youngsters out of Horne Street School, if it was going to reduce class size, which is, frankly, my hang-up...As I understand it, the class size will not change; that the point of this whole thing is to free up space, not necessarily reduce class size. I just wanted to make that clear. I had a lot of questions when this first came up and none of these questions is to reflect on the committee. I think the committee certainly did what they were asked to do in a timely manner. But, I think this is a very important issue and we’re talking about four months, four meetings to decide the fate of 100 kids. And if I thought there was any question about what was actually going to happen as a result of this, I wouldn’t hesitate – because I know parents, no matter what district you take them from are going to be upset...However, I still have a feeling that the way this was done, although through no fault of the committee, leaves me with some questions.” Ms. Hooper added her belief that parents from every district need to be involved in issues of this importance in the future. “We ought to go out and get parents if they don’t volunteer from those districts when it’s an issue that effects as much of the city as this does. That disturbs me still. They answered my question on the busing. I rode a bus and didn’t think it was an unreasonable amount of time. The other issue was, waiting for Woodman Park to complete the construction and I’ve been told right along that would be completed in September 2008. When I finally raised the question, there was some doubt as to that date. I’m not so sure. We’ve come in, every single time on buildings, under budget and in time. So, I’m not so sure it won’t be ready by September ’08. I have enough reservations and enough questions, and kind of, inner feeling, about the way this came about that I am not going to vote for redistricting...There are just too many questions in my mind that have not been answered...I wonder if waiting one year, we might come up with a decision that might last two or three years. I don’t know, maybe I’m wrong, but I’m going to go with my conscience.” Superintendent O’Connor explained the difficulties concerned with keeping class sizes equal across the district. He commended the Board for the work they have done across the years in keeping class sizes down. However, he noted it is very difficult to ensure equity school-to-school, grade-to-grade, and year-to-year, “It’s not an exact science.”

Ms. Fisher added her belief there were representatives from each school on the sub-committee who worked on redistricting and it was well rounded; a very good representation.

Beth Setear stated her concern is, “If we move students out of Horne Street to free up space for other things, the art teacher, ESOL, or any other kind of additional needs that they have - and then vote for full day kindergarten, we’re just taking that away again because we’ll probably need at least one additional classroom to support full-day kindergarten. We’re in essence recreating a problem very quickly – within months – if we were to do that.” Ms. Fisher added, “Yet, if we don’t do it and we vote for full-day kindergarten, Horne Street couldn’t have it. It wouldn’t be possible – or it would be very difficult.” The Superintendent agreed it would be a challenge, and that in addition to the current teachers without classrooms, the music program and a special education space and would need to be taken out of usable classrooms.

Carolyn Mebert noted she remained conflicted, but she has heard from the principal and teachers at Horne Street School who are finding their lives difficult with the overcrowded conditions at Horne Street School for the past three to four years and felt it was time to act now. Dr. Mebert added, “I’m very troubled by the fact that we have parents in the community who think that there was a political agenda underlying this. I can’t really fathom what the political agenda would be because I think all of the people who served on the committees, all the people who work for the district, are concerned primarily with the well being of the students and would not be doing things to serve needs other than the needs of the students. I really believe that. At

this point in time, I'm leaning very far in the direction of voting for the redistricting plan even though I know it's going to make some people unhappy. But, for the sake of the school and the teachers who have to work in the school, I think it's the right thing to do at this time. Does that mean that we're not going to face redistricting in a couple of years? We're probably going to continue facing redistricting and it's going to continue to be a very emotional issue for a lot of people. I would hope that families who are affected by this redistricting plan, if it does go through, would help their students to make this transition as easily as possible and would not present to their children the notion that this is a devastating event; that this is going to be disruptive to them. I think the committee did a nice job of trying to get a neighborhood; to find the children in a neighborhood so that kids who play together in the afternoon and on the weekends would be able to move to a school together."

Audra Lurvey added she agreed with the Superintendent and Dr. Mebert that the district is at a breaking point and has to take some action. She then asked the Board to vote on the motion on the floor to accept the recommendation of the Future Needs Redistricting Committee. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/2 (Setear and Hooper opposed).**

**N. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Courses Require Minimum Enrollment:** Andrea Elliot provided Board members with an "enrollment overview" showing the numbers of increases in student course requests over the period of March 2005 through March 2007. They range from a 13% increase in the number of students registering for psychology to a 94% increase in calculus sign-ups. She then presented the Board with a list of courses already cut by the administration due to low enrollments:

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Enrollments</b>
157	Gender Studies	5
256	History of Musical Theater	7
260	Advanced Keyboarding	6
450	AP Statistics	5
451	Consumer Math	5
452	Math Applications	4
674	Oceanography	7
746	History Far East	7
754	World Geography	3
<b>CTC Courses</b>		
825	E-Commerce	3
828	C++ Programming	7
834	Accounting II	2
830	Yearbook Design	3 (will remain as a club)
837	Event Marketing II	0
857	Car Works	3
877	Foods II	5

Ms. Elliot then presented a list of courses with low enrollments that had been combined or absorbed in other classes:

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Enrollments</b>	<b>Action</b>
224,225	Drawing IV, Printmaking	10 & 11	Combined
235,236	Painting I & II	19 & 6	Combined

Dover School Board Regular Meeting #4

April 9, 2007

Dover, New Hampshire 03820

Page 10

240,245	AP Studio/Honors Art	13	Combined
263, 264	Song Writing, Guitar Ens.	11 & 12	Combined
<b>CTC Programs</b>			
052, 053	ROTC III and IV	8 & 3	Combined with ROTC II
838, 839	Retail Store I & II	7 & 2 & 1	Will be taught with Advertising & Micro- soft Publisher
863	Prog. Engineering	4	Will be taught with Eng. Tech II

Ms. Grady asked why the report compared school years 05/06 to 07/08 and why they did not use 06/07. Ms. Elliot explained she could have included all three years for the comparison but they are looking at numbers over a two-year period of time. Ms. Grady asked how much tuition students increased over the same period of time. Superintendent O'Connor stated Nottingham's numbers were insignificant. He added that the incoming Barrington class, and the next two years incoming classes, will be smaller than this year's. Ms. Grady stated she was having difficulties with the percentage of numbers of increase shown in the report. Ms. Grady stated her concern that the October 1<sup>st</sup> official enrollment numbers have been decreasing by the school years' end, yet the high school keeps reporting they are "splitting at the seams." She added she had been provided with a report dated March 19<sup>th</sup>. 2007 from the dean's office showing by teacher, current enrollment numbers." Ms. Elliot reported she has math classes of 32 students and several English classes of 30 right now. Ms. Elliot stated she was not sure which documents Ms. Grady was reviewing but could review the numbers and get back to the Superintendent.

Ms. Grady then asked why students did not seem to progress from a beginning course at the Career Technical Center on to the next level in many cases. Mr. Stopa stated, in many cases, it is students who find out in the fall of their senior year that they have required courses to meet their requirement for graduation. This means they have to drop their electives (vocational courses) to complete the required credits. Ms. Grady asked if the CTC courses are all electives. Ms. Elliot stated they are because they are not required by the Department of Education for a student to graduate. Mr. Stopa noted this is a problem throughout the programs across the state. Ms. Grady stated, "Maybe we need to look at a different way to educate some of our youngsters who just aren't going to be college bound. Who are going to be looking at specific areas to go into, and make it a full course: medicine, education, technology - If those all have to be electives that's too bad that we can't train those kids to go into those fields."

Lastly, Mr. Stopa and Ms. Elliot presented rationales for a list of courses for which a waiver was being requested:

Course #	Title	Enrollments
232	Ceramics II	0
313	French I Part II	9
650	AP Biology	9

**CTC Programs**

Course #	Title	Enrollments
801	Flor/Hort I	5 DHS, 1 sending
802	Flor/Hort II	5 DHS, 2 sending
804	Agriculture I	2

808	Aquaculture II	8
809	Forestry I	1 DHS, 12 sending
810	Forestry II	3 DHS

**CTC Programs**

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Enrollments</b>
827	Visual Basic Prog.	10
836	Event Marketing	10 DHS, 3 sending
862	Small Engine	6
868	Adv. Clothing	5      Combine with Clothing I
878	Living on Your Own	9      Second Semester Elective

Ms. Grady asked, "If event marketing is a new program, and you can't get enough students to enroll it, why start the program?" Mr. Stopa explained it takes time for new tech-ed programs to have students know it is a program and for students to then enroll in the program. He added, "It takes time for those programs to gain their "sea-legs." Ms. Grady stated, "I've sat here for twelve years and I see the same thing and I get the same answer, it takes time to start it and it increases. And I sit here and I don't see them increasing. I have trouble starting a new program when you can't get enough students out of 1700 to enlist in it. That would say to me then, the program doesn't have its merit." Mr. Stopa restated his belief that it takes time for a new program to grow and to have students know about the program and to have guidance departments to understand how the program fits in and to talk to students in terms of planning their high school experience that might include a program that is new to the high school and the region.

Ms. Grady stated, "I guess I look at the average classroom teacher who sees up to 120 students a day and I'd kinda like to know somebody teaching agriculture II with fifteen students, how many students is that teacher seeing in a day and how equal is that for a teacher who has to see 100+ when we're putting things together to keep the position there." Mr. Stopa noted the program maximum is 18 because it is a hands-on laboratory program.

Ms. Hooper stated, "I've only been on six, but I've seen in those six years, floriculture, agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry have come up to us every single year. And every single year, I have said, why are we still running a program that you can't get up to par? When you say it takes a while, does it take more than six years? And if it does, maybe there's a message here." She added she had discussed previously with Mr. Stopa that there are programs out there that actually meet the needs of students today. "Certainly the health field is blossoming and we don't have anything in our program in that vein. Yet we're still carrying farming and agriculture...When are we going to stop bringing these back each year and when are we going to institute a program that makes some sense for kids now?"

Superintendent O'Connor reminded Board members that he had sent a letter at the Board's request to the Department of Education requesting a waiver to remove these programs from the Dover High School Career Technical Center Course of Studies and a response was imminent.

Dr. Mebert questioned enrollment numbers for NJROTC. "We had 28 students sitting here when we were discussing JROTC and keeping it in the budget or not. Why don't we have more people enrolled in these courses? We have a total of 30 students. What about (enrollment) in section I. Are we seeing any increase over this year?" The Superintendent stated the numbers were still in the 50-60 range most likely yet reminded the Board,

"Enrollments were during the period in which the program was being discussed publicly, too. Does that have an impact on sign ups? More than likely it does."

Ms. Grady noted the tri-city agreement expires in 2008. "This is our last year right now with the tri-city combination we have...I understand that some of the meetings have started. I'd like to make a recommendation that as the people of Dover are represented, and Somersworth and Rochester can too, I think we need to call in business people from the community who can tell us exactly what fields our youngsters coming out of high school can go into. Not all are going to go to college. We don't have the shop in the old Sawyer mill any more. That's gone. Education has changed. We don't have as much woodworking and the kinds of things we're doing. What is it out there that industry is going to demand of our kids? So when we sign this new contract, it gives us an opportunity to discuss that. I think we need a representative from the Board; I think we need representatives from the business community who can come in and say, these are the directions we're going to need to go to as the next year comes up." Mr. Stopa stated he would definitely pass that information along. Ms. Grady asked if Education rules force us to remain a part of the tri-city or do they allow Dover to be an entity on its own. Mr. O'Connor stated his belief the District can look at being independent or remain a part of the tri-city region.

Beth Setar moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve a waiver to run Ceramics II with an enrollment of 9 students. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/1 (Hooper opposed)**.

Carolyn Mebert moved, Doris Grady seconded, to approve a waiver to run French I Part II with an enrollment of 9 students. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/1 (Hooper opposed)**.

Carolyn Mebert moved, Dorothea Hooper seconded, to approve a waiver to run AP Biology with an enrollment of 9 students. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**. (Ms. Fisher suggested the Superintendent to pursue an online AP for this course in the future.)

Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to table a decision on Floriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry courses until the Superintendent receives a response from the Department of Education that may eliminate these programs. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**. (The Superintendent clarified the high school would need to come back for a waiver if the Department of Education does

Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve a waiver for Visual Basic Programming. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/2 (Fisher, Grady opposed)**.

Beth Setear moved, Brandon Foye seconded, to approve a waiver for Event Marketing. An oral vote **FAILED 2/5 (Mebert, Hooper, Grady, Fisher, Lurvey opposed)**.

Carolyn Mebert moved, Beth Setear seconded, to approve a waiver for Small Engine. An oral **VOTE FAILED 0/7 (all opposed)**.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve combining Adv. Clothing with Clothing I. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

Brandon Fraser moved, Beth Setear seconded, to approve a waiver for Living on Your Own. An oral **VOTE PASSED 4/3 (Hooper, Setear, Grady opposed)**.

A motion was made and seconded to break for five-minutes. There was no objection. Ms. Fisher left the meeting during the break.

**2. Approval 2007/2008 Handbooks:**

Dorothea Hooper recommended the handbook be amended to identify a differentiation between a fight and an assault. Dr. O'Connor suggested, rather than trying to define the difference between a spontaneous fight and a premeditated assault, perhaps words should be added on page 15 to state "Depending upon the severity of the situation, the student may be suspended," and give the administration leeway in making the decision on the number of days on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Hooper agreed that would be sufficient.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to approve the Dover High School 2007/2008 Handbook as amended. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0**.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve the Dover Middle School 2007/2008 Handbook. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0**.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to approve the Dover Adult Learning Center 2007/2008 Handbook. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0**.

A consensus was reached to table the three elementary school and alternative school handbooks until the May School Board meeting. There was no objection.

**3. Recommendations of Future Needs Committee: Facilities Renovation:** Ms. Verville presented the following report to the Board:

**SUMMARY FOR DOVER SCHOOL BOARD**  
**By Future Needs Facilities Sub-Committee**

The Future Needs Facilities Sub-Committee is pleased to provide you with a series of recommendations for the Dover School Board to approve, and support the Administration in carrying out. It is the consensus of the sub-committee that capital funds already programmed for years 2010 through 2012 totaling \$8M are clearly insufficient to address the varying and aging systems at Horne and Garrison Elementary Schools and Dover High School. We therefore recommend the following course of action:

1. Health and safety concerns in all buildings are to be placed in top priority order. The fire alarm panel and security cameras have not been budgeted for in the 2007-2008 general fund. If possible, approve to fund these priority items through District savings.
2. Upon receipt of the accreditation report (Fall 2007) from New England Association of Schools and Colleges for the high school, include any reasonable building citations in the scope of high school building renovations.
3. Direct the Dover School District to establish a facilities capital reserve fund from a portion of its fund balance returned to the City each year. The fund would be established under NH statute. Administration will do additional research on the

topic and submit a proposal to the School Board in the near future. The proposal will subsequently require City Council approval.

4. Apply any remaining savings from 2007 capital funds toward a mechanical engineering evaluation of the building's ventilation system.
5. Refer to the Detailed Energy Audit conducted by Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. performed in 2004. Use financial and consulting resources from PSNH to implement the lighting recommendations.
6. Whenever possible, apply for grant funding to address ADA handicapped compliant issues and accessibility needs in all schools.
7. Engage the services of a mechanical engineer to assist with an RFP for energy management and conservation measures. This will be a district-wide initiative, and should be completed summer 2007.
8. Research and apply for grant funding to install a generator installed at the high school. Successful installation will provide operational security in the building and establish this location as crisis management center for the community.
9. The following table illustrates a more realistic financial value compared to the current programming of \$8M for all three schools. The intent is to completely renovate each building and replace electrical, plumbing, windows, and flooring/abatement wherever necessary. These figures are only an estimate based upon today's market prices, and no adjustment has been made for inflation.

<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Horne	Garrison	High School	High School	High School
\$4,500,000	\$5,600,000	\$7,600,000	\$7,600,000	\$7,600,000

In an effort to fully establish a value for extensive renovations, the sub-committee recommends that a qualified firm with construction and planning experience be hired through the bid process to assist the District with a comprehensive schedule and value plan for all three buildings.

Ms. Verville thanked the following members who served with her on the committee:

Joanne Eaton, Facilities Manager  
 Tom Ferland, Community Volunteer  
 Scott French, Community Volunteer  
 Dustin Gray, Principal of Garrison Elementary School  
 Matt Jozokos, Dean of Students  
 Donald Rist, Community Volunteer  
 Jim Stopa, Director Regional Career Technical Center  
 Peter Wotton, Athletic Director

Superintendent O'Connor stated a detailed facilities report would be presented to the Board at the May Regular Meeting.

4. **Policy DD & DFC Reports on State & Federal Funding and Special Funds:** Ms. Verville provided the following quarterly update:

Project activity for federal projects as of March 31, 2007: Total expected funding: \$3,131,314.76. Total obligations \$2,213,569.50. 29% of funds remain.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Doris Grady seconded, to accept the business manager's report. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Facilities Fund balance as of March 31, 2007: \$78,718.14

Food Service Fund Balance as of March 31, 2007: \$97,499.76

Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to accept the business manager's report. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

5. **Award Bid Student Accident and Athletic Insurance:** Laurie Verville requested the Board award a three-year contract for student accident insurance and football sports coverage in the amounts of \$23.00 per child for student insurance and \$1,725 for freshman and varsity levels of football, to Bollinger Insurance of New Jersey.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve the Business Manager's recommendation to award the contract to Bollinger Insurance. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

6. **Approve Gate Receipt Expenditure for "L" Screen for Baseball:** Laurie Verville requested the Board approve the athletic director's request for a gate-receipt expenditure, up to \$350.00, to purchase an "L" screen for use by the baseball team.

Carolyn Mebert moved, Dorothea Hooper seconded, to approve a gate-receipt expenditure, cost not to exceed \$350.00, to purchase an "L" screen for use by the baseball team. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

7. **Approve Gate Receipt Expenditure for Senior Class Gift:** Laurie Verville requested the Board approve the athletic director's request for a gate-receipt expenditure, cost not to exceed \$2,000.00, as a Senior Class Donation toward the purchase of new speakers and hardware for the Oliver J. Adams Memorial Gymnasium at Dover High School.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Doris Grady seconded, to approve a gate-receipt expenditure, cost not to exceed \$2,000.00, as a Senior Class Donation toward the purchase of new speakers and hardware for the Oliver J. Adams Memorial Gymnasium at Dover High School. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

8. **Award Bid for Design Services for HSS Boiler:** Laurie Verville requested the Board award a bid for Horne Street School Boiler Design Services, to include specifications, pre-bid assistance, and project management, to Yeaton Associates in the amount of \$16,000.00.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to approve the Business Managers request to award the bid for Horne Street School Boiler Design Services to Yeaton Associates in the amount of \$16,000.00. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

9. **Award Bid for HSS Parking and Access Improvements:** Laurie Verville requested the Board award a bid for Horne Street School Parking and Access Improvements to Wm. Shapleigh & Son Construction for a total amount of \$95,294.00

Dorothea Hooper moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to accept the low bid for Horne Street School Parking and Access Improvements from Wm. Shapleigh and Son Construction in the amount of \$95,294.00. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

10. **Award Bid for Transportation:**

Laurie Verville requested the Board award a five-year transportation bid to First Student (lowest bidder) and COAST Transportation (3 buses total), for combined AM and PM runs and mid-day kindergarten at the following cost:

FY: 2007-2008	First Student	\$980,370.	Coast	\$102,000.	<b>Total: \$1,082,370.</b>
FY: 2008-2009	First Student	\$1,009,763.	Coast	\$105,060.	<b>Total: \$1,114,823.</b>
FY: 2009-2010	First Student	\$1,040,086.	Coast	\$108,210.	<b>Total: \$1,148,296.</b>
FY: 2010-2011	First Student	\$1,071,270.	Coast	\$111,456.	<b>Total: \$1,182,726.</b>
FY: 2011-2012	First Student	\$1,103,430.	Coast	\$114,801.	<b>Total: \$1,218,231.</b>

Ms. Verville then shared some of the items of interest that benefit the District that were not part of the Laidlaw agreement:

1. Contractor will have six months to implement a computer routing system that is available to the Superintendent's Office.
2. Routes will be provided to the SAU no later than July 20<sup>th</sup> of each school year.
3. All 19 buses will be new and have 84-passenger capacity.
4. All buses will be equipped with seatbelts.
5. Video cameras will be placed on each bus.
6. Each bus will be equipped with a child safety device that assures the driver looks for children at the end of a route or trip before leaving the bus.
7. Two additional buses will be devoted for back-up transportation in the event there is a breakdown.
8. The Superintendent or designee may ride a route at any time without prior notice.
9. Contractor will furnish the District prior to the start of the new school year, a complete list of operators and substitute operators.

The District reserves the right to approve all individuals prior to operating a bus for District students.

Ms Hooper asked where the First Student offices were located. Ms. Verville reported their offices are located in Merrimack, NH with corporate offices in Florida. Newmarket and Exeter schools currently contract with First Student are report great satisfaction with their service. Ms. Grady noted her belief the contract should be tabled until the next meeting. "We're looking at a bid here of almost \$6 million. That's a lot of money. It's quarter past ten. I think it's late, and I have probably fifteen, sixteen questions; we'll be here until 10:30 or 10:45; and we're looking at \$6 million of City money and I think we just need time for it. I know the mid-day kindergarten runs were different. The second page says, 'therefore, their pricing is considerably higher because the other two bidders most likely cost-shifted the kindergarten runs...' Do we know that they actually cost shifted it, or is it most likely that they did, and I really would like a report from Laidlaw and to know if that's what Laidlaw and the other company really did do. There's a statement under additional information that First Student is looking to purchase Laidlaw.

However, they're telling us they will supply us with 19 all new buses. If that's the case, those orders for new buses would have to be in now or last month in order to be ready for September. But if they're going to buy Laidlaw, are they still going to purchase 19 buses for us? I think it's too late to discuss such a big issue." The Chair called for a motion.

Doris Grady moved, Brandon Foye seconded, a motion to table award of the Transportation Bid until the next meeting. An oral **VOTE FAILED 2/4 (Lurvey, Hooper, Setear, and Mebert opposed).**

Dorothea Hooper moved, Beth Setear seconded, to award the five-year contract for transportation services to First Student and COAST Transportation. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 5/1 (Grady opposed).**

**O. ADJOURNMENT:** At 10:22 p.m., Dorothea Hooper moved, Doris Grady seconded, to adjourn. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
BRANDON FOYE, SECRETARY  
April 11, 2007