

A special session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Marjorie Fisher on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 6:47 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; Laurie Verville, Business Manager; Gary Bannon, Recreation Department; and Royce Stegman, Dover Youth Football.

B. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE: The Superintendent explained that the 10-year Tri-City Career Technical Center Agreement will expire on June 30, 2008. He noted that the three area Superintendents have met and they would like to establish a committee to look at the current agreement. They would also like greater input from all three communities (Rochester, Somersworth, and Dover). The committee's task will be to look advise the School Boards whether they should enter into an identical 10-year agreement; enter into an agreement with changes; or dissolve the partnership. Ms. Hooper asked the Superintendent his opinion on the advantage to Dover to stay with the Tri-City Program. Dr. O'Connor stated they agreement offers a greater variety and diversity of programs for all three communities children.

Ms. Hooper asked if another CTC's program could prevent Dover from offering the same program. Dr. O'Connor there are limits and cited an example: If there was a banking program in Rochester, Dover might have difficulty adding the program. However, he noted, "If there is a need, we can pick up the program," and cited Building Trades as an example of a program being offered at multiple CTC's. The Superintendent added that Dover does receive money and if the agreement is terminated, we could lose some of those grants. He added that the state will reimburse 75% for CTC renovations. If Dover were to continue on its own, that would be reduced to 30%.

Ms. Grady noted her desire for School Board members to participate in the meetings with the three districts but that has not taken place. Additionally, she noted only 4 Dover students currently take courses at the other two schools and there needs to be some conversation between the Tri-Cities.

Dr, O'Connor requested one or two Board members to sit on the committee along with the new CTC Director, James Amara, CTC Staff members, DHS guidance staff, and business members in the community.

Carolyn Mebert, Doris Grady, and Beth Setear volunteered to participate on the committee. Dr. O'Connor stated it would probably be the end of August before the committee members would be announced.

C. RESOLUTION RE: CELL PHONE: Dr. O'Connor and Business Manager, Laurie Verville explained to the Board how the cell phones given to key administrators were currently funded. He then asked the Board to adopt the resolution to reduce reoccurring costs associated with cell phone usage.

Ms. Fisher read the following resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION

RE: CELL PHONES

WHEREAS the Dover School Board is attempting to find avenues to reduce our costs, and

WHEREAS the District has spent considerable funds on cell phones for staff use, and

WHEREAS the School Board controls those funds associated with cell phones,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, beginning July 1, 2007, staff members required to have cell phones for school district business will be required to purchase their own personal cell phone service. The District will reimburse a minimum of \$20 and a maximum of \$40 per month based upon usage for school district business.

Audra Lurvey moved, Doris Grady seconded, to adopt the resolution. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

D. DOVER YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CONCESSION STAND: Business Manager, Laurie Verville, explained the Dover Youth Football League presented a proposal to place a temporary concession trailer at one corner of Bellamy Field. She then introduced Gary Bannon, Dover Recreation Department, and Royce Stegman, Dover Youth Football Program, to present their proposal and answer any questions Board members might have.

Mr. Bannon indicated they were asking permission to park a league owned concession trailer on Bellamy field to support the fund raising efforts of the league during its season. Expansion of the current concession stand was investigated as an option but was found to be too costly (approximately \$125,000). Additionally, they investigated the possibility of building a new structure, which, once again, cost \$136,970 (cost prohibitive). The alternative they were proposing is be for the league to pay for modifications to the field in order to place an 8.5' X 24' trailer on in the corner of the field during the football season (August – November). The trailer could then be moved to an off-site location until the next season. The cost for the trailer is affordable (\$35,000) for the league that would also be responsible for liability, damage, theft, and fire insurance. Additionally, all maintenance and upkeep would be the responsibility of the league. Ms. Setear noted it would be important to install the proper footing so that the area does not become too wet for patrons to easily access the trailer. Mr. Stegman stated he was currently working with Mr. Bannon to address the concern as necessary.

Audra Lurvey moved, Beth Setear seconded, to approve the Dover Youth Football League Proposal for a temporary concession trailer. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

E. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY DEPOSIT FOR MITCHELL PROEPRTY: Superintendent O'Connor requested approval of the Board to place a \$2000 deposit for a two

-acre parcel of land adjacent to Dover High School. The entire purchase of \$170,000 will be taken from the general operating budget. These funds have been placed aside in the 2006/2007 budget and were realized through economies made throughout the last fiscal year.

Dorothea Hooper moved, Audra Lurvey seconded, to approve the Superintendent's request to place a \$2,000 deposit on the two-acre parcel. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

F. JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER: Dr. O'Connor stated the JBC had received a resignation from Board member Doris Grady and a new Board member needs to be appointed. Dr. Mebert stated the JBC Committee and the Board wished to retain Ms. Grady as a member of the JBC and asked her to reconsider her resignation. Ms. Grady asked if she could have 24 hours to reconsider. (Record Note: Audra Lurvey agreed she would step in if Ms. Grady decides she will not return.)

G. MCCONNELL CENTER UPDATE: Ms. Mebert explained the SAU Project in the McConnell Center is "on-hold" because the JBC is lacking information on the status of roof repairs. The leaking was discovered in April during the heavy rain. She referred to an email sent to the Superintendent and Business Manager on June 9th by the City Manager.

(Record Note: The following is the text of the City Manager's email sent June 9, 2007)

"To update you on the McConnell roof, we had consulted with the same gentleman that had reviewed the high school roof to determine what work would be needed. Based on his initial review, the drain pipe that apparently caused the water damage to the tiles in the elevator lobby was repaired a few weeks ago and a roofing contractor was bid and is expected to complete interim repairs this coming week to the remaining areas where shingle had been damaged or ripped away. We have also contacted Martini regarding the stain glass window area that leaked during the storm. In addition to these short-term repairs, we will be having the roofing consultant complete a more detailed review over the next several weeks and provide recommendations including a timeline and specifications to replace the entire roof."

Dr. Mebert added the JBC has received no further information and noted, "We're (the JBC) frustrated. We're not happy," about the lack of response. Dr. O'Connor added that the Clerk-of-the-Works, Michael Bliss, did an informal analysis of the roof and he does not believe a patch will suffice. He added if that was the case, it would be prudent to have language in the agreement regarding possible expenses to repair any water damage that may occur in the future. Ms. Mebert added that the stained glass windows had also leaked during the April rainstorms. Ms. Hooper asked the Superintendent when he expected to move the SAU to the McConnell Center. He indicated it is now in the October/November timeframe, but as each week passes without the roof issues resolved, it pushes that date back. It has already been 6 weeks waiting for an answer to the problem.

Ms. Grady noted the last time the roof was replaced was in 1980 when they removed slate and replaced with shingles. She asked if the JBC could not get an answer from the City Manager, what would be the cost for the Board to get a roofer to evaluate the roof. In 2005, an evaluation was conducted and, at that time, they indicated there would be only 3 to 5 years left. Dr. O'Connor stated it would cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 but recommended the Board leave it to the JBC to make that decision.

G. OTHER: Audra Lurvey reported that she and Marjorie Fisher had met with the custodial union last week to answer their questions regarding the possibility of contracted services. She advised they had reiterated the Board's rationale for the reasons why they are investigating that option. Ms. Fisher added they told them the Board is just investigating the possibilities and will get back to them.

Dr. O'Connor reviewed current school year 2007/2008 enrollments and addressed areas of concern:

Kindergarten enrollments currently run 51 registered at Horne Street, 88 registered at Garrison, and 79 registered at Woodman Park. He stated the Board might opt to keep the .5 teaching position at Horne Street School and bus the extra students from Garrison and Woodman to Horne Street. Another option would be to have the .5 teacher at Horne Street travel to Garrison in the afternoon and bus the small number of extra Woodman Park students there. He added they still need two elementary teachers. Another area to watch is the Middle School grades 5 and 6. Currently, class averages are 25.5 in grade 6 and 24 in grade 5. Lastly, enrollments are up in Dover High School music classes that might necessitate a .5 teaching position there.

Beth Setear asked the Superintendent to place Dover High and Middle School graduations on an upcoming agenda for review. Dr. O'Connor stated he has asked both principals to review this year's practices and come to the October meeting with improved options for the Board's consideration.

H. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:44 P.M., Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to adjourn the Special Session. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

Respectfully submitted,

BRANDON FOYE, SECRETARY

Dover School Board

June 26, 2007