



DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Budget Workshop
 Meeting Location: City Council Chambers
 Meeting Date: **Monday, February 2, 2009**
 Meeting Time: **6:30 pm**

A workshop session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Marjorie Fisher on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s proposed fiscal year 2010 budget.

A. ROLL CALL: Members present were Britt Ulinski Schuman, Dorothea Hooper, Carolyn Mebert, Audra Lurvey, Marjorie Fisher, Beth Setear, and Doris Grady.

Also present were Superintendent John O’Connor, Jean Briggs, CIA Director; Patrick Boodey, Principal WPS; Dustin Gray, Principal GES; Larry DeYoung, Principal DMS; Deborah Migneault, Principal DHS; Malcolm Forsman, Principal HSS; Peter Wotton, Athletics Director; Chris Roberge, Technical Support Services Manager; James Amara, CTC Director; Deb Hackett, DTU President;

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CITIZEN’S FORUM: No one addressed the Board.

D. BUDGET DISCUSSION: Dr. O’Connor provided a brief review of the 3.8% and 2% Tax Cap figures:

National CPI Urban (NCPIU) (12-month avg.)	3.8%
Prior FY Net from Taxes	\$24,296,444
Times NCPIU 3.8% = Subtotal	<u>\$923,265</u>
Net Constr/Demo Permit Value	\$20,000,000
Times PY <i>local</i> tax rate \$8.79 = Subtotal	<u>\$175,800</u>
Net Constr/Demo Permit Value	\$20,000,000
Times PY <i>state</i> tax rate \$2.31 = Subtotal	<u>\$46,200</u>
State Property Tax 2007/08	\$6,292,003
Times NCPIU 3.8% = Subtotal	<u>\$239,096</u>
<i>Increase allowed to appropriations</i>	
<i>Under 3.8% tax cap:</i>	\$1,384,361
Amount to be Reduced to meet 3.8% Tax Cap:	
Superintendent	
Proposed Budget:	\$44,633,221
Increase Over	
2008/2009 Budget:	\$1,654,886
Tax Cap Formula:	
(3.8%CPI)	\$1,384,361
Amount to be Reduced:	(\$270,525)



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National CPI Urban (NCPIU) (12-month avg.)		2%
Prior FY Net from Taxes	\$24,296,444	
Times NCPIU 2% = Subtotal		<u>\$485,929</u>
Net Constr/Demo Permit Value	\$20,000,000	
Times PY local tax rate \$8.79 = Subtotal		<u>\$175,800</u>
Net Constr/Demo Permit Value	\$20,000,000	
Times PY state tax rate \$2.31 = Subtotal		<u>\$46,200</u>
State Property Tax 2007/08	\$6,292,003	
Times NCPIU 2% = Subtotal		<u>\$125,840</u>

Increase allowed to appropriations Under 2% tax cap: **\$833,769**

Amount to be Reduced to meet 2% Tax Cap:

Superintendent	
Proposed Budget:	\$44,633,221
Increase Over	
2008/2009 Budget:	\$1,654,886
Tax Cap Formula:	
(2% CPI)	\$833,769

Amount to be Reduced: (\$821,117)

The Superintendent pointed out that the figures being used to calculate permit values and state property taxes are those being provided by the City at this date and could, possible, change. He noted that the figures are “in the ball park” however. He also acknowledged the City Council “strongly urged” the City Manager to bring in a 2% budget, and that is the figure the District will also use. That means the Superintendent’s proposed budget needs to be cut by \$821,117.00.

Dr. O’Connor suggested some areas at which the Board might take a “closer look,” noting that cuts in these areas have been discussed previously during budget preparations:

- High School Transportation
- Kindergarten
- Supplies & Text Fees
- Band/Instrumental Music
- Athletics
- NJROTC
- Personnel



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Dr. O'Connor then stated he had prepared some figures in accordance with the Board's instructions for the possible introduction of "user fees." He noted that neither he nor anyone on the Board advocates implementing user fees. "I'm certainly not supporting that and I don't think any of you want to support user fees." However, given the tax cap, this may be the time to initiate fees for those programs that are "above and beyond" what is defined as an adequate education. Dr. O'Connor stated although these are all important programs, they are not required programs.

Ms. Hooper advised she had heard from parents of students who support the idea of paying a fee for kindergarten. Additionally, some parents want to have the half-day option and that might be another way to save some money. Dr. O'Connor agreed and noted he would be discussing the possibility of kindergarten fees later in the evening.

Ms. Grady stated she was not happy to see a 6:1 ratio of programs to personnel in the items being suggested for cuts. Dr. O'Connor explained that by "personnel" he means he would be providing average costs for each position classification so the Board would have a general idea of cost savings associated with any personnel cuts they chose to implement – not specific position cuts.

Dr. O'Connor then reviewed some of the advantages and disadvantages of implementing program fees:

Advantages:

- Pay to Use
- Equitable Fee for Service
- Potential to Generate Revenue
- Revenue to Off-Set Costs

Disadvantages:

- Individual or Family "Tax"
- Public Relations
- Question Financial Acumen

He then discussed specific programs providing various scenarios for implementing fees:

High School Transportation

First Student and COAST Transportation

Dover Students: 907 students currently eligible for transportation

	<u>Maximum Revenue</u>
Total: 907 x \$100 Transportation Fee =	\$90,700
Total: 907 x \$150 Transportation Fee =	\$136,050



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Total: 907 x \$200 Transportation Fee = \$181,400

Dr. O'Connor noted \$100 is the amount students currently pay for parking at Dover High School.

Kindergarten

Current Enrollments: 248 Students

Full Time

175 x \$200 = \$35,000

175 x \$400 = \$70,000

Part Time

73 x \$100 = \$7,300

73 x \$200 = \$14,600

Ms. Ulinski Schuman voiced reservations about charging kindergarten fees, noting the state is mandating kindergarten must be available (at least half-day) starting in 2009. She asked if the fee would be eliminated once kindergarten becomes mandatory. Dr. O'Connor advised that a lawsuit has been filed to reverse mandatory kindergarten without funding. Therefore, he does not believe kindergarten will be mandatory until the lawsuit is resolved.

Dorothea Hooper asked if anyone knew the current cost of private kindergarten. Dr. Mebert stated it would cost around \$150 per week.

The next area examined was **Supplies and Textbooks**. Dr. O'Connor cautioned that the schools already charge a "user fee" in that classroom lists are sent home to parents asking for supply donations.

Using Current Enrollments:

Elementary

\$50 fee x 1403 = \$70,150

\$100 fee x 1403 = \$140,300

Middle School

\$75 fee x 1096 = \$82,200

\$150 fee x 1096 = \$164,400

High School

\$100 fee x 1603 = \$160,300

\$200 fee x 1603 = \$320,600



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Board members were not in favor of charging fees for academics and noted that it would be an “administrative nightmare” to keep track of billing, who has paid, who has not, etc. if these kinds of fees were implemented.

The Superintendent then presented various scenarios for charging fees for non-academic programs:

Band/Chorus/Colorguard

High School
 100 x \$100 = \$10,000
 100 x \$200 = \$20,000

Middle School (Band)
 280 x \$100 = \$28,000
 280 x \$200 = \$56,000

Elementary School (Band)
 142 x \$100 = \$14,200
 142 x \$200 = \$28,400

High School Clubs

Current School Year Participation
 659 x \$100 = \$65,900
 (300 x \$100 & \$25 Additional)

Athletics

Current School Year Participation
 862 x \$100 = \$86,200
 (350 x \$100 & \$75 Additional)

Dr. O’Connor provided the total cost of the athletics programs for this school year totaling over \$325,000:

2008/2009 School Year Athletics Allocation

Transportation:	\$89,500
Coaches:	\$192,415
Officials:	\$44,007
Total:	\$325,922

It was once again noted that athletics already incur many “user fees” for participation in their sports and additionally, Booster Clubs fundraise for a large number of expenses.



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Questions were raised about how a family with multiple children in multiple programs could afford to pay hundreds of dollars in fees. Dr. O'Connor explained how families with multiple students or participating in multiple programs could be charged less for each additional child or program. He acknowledged, however, fees could potentially run into upwards of a thousand dollars in these cases.

Dr. O'Connor then provided information on personnel costs:

Average Salary & Benefits by Classification

Teacher: \$76,936
 Paraeducator: \$18,334
 Secretary: Full Year \$63,799
 School Year \$42,140
 Administrator: \$124,232
 Non-Union: \$81,904
 Sup't & BA: \$132,478

Total Compensation for Personnel

- Teachers: \$22,198,976 76%
- Secretaries: \$1,343,837 5%
- Paraeducators: \$2,761,006 9%
- Administrators: \$1,757,128 6%
- Non-Union: \$1,084,026 4%

(Includes Superintendent & BA)

Total: \$29,144,973

Dr. O'Connor then reviewed the NJROTC Program. The District currently budgets half of one instructor's salary and benefits (\$58,993 in next year's budget). He also advised the Navy had just today approved the District's request for a waiver to run the program with only one instructor in the 2009/2010 school year. The Navy has put the District on notice because the target enrollment for a high school of Dover's size is 100 students. The **NJROTC enrollment history** was discussed:

School Year	NJROTC I	NJROTC II	NJROTC III	NJROTC IV	Total
04-05	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	52
05-06	34	22	n/a	n/a	56
06-07	39	12	8	1	60
07-08	26	11	8	2	47
08-09	18	21	4	6	49



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Dr. O'Connor agreed some of the reason for the lower-than-expected enrollments might include the District's short-term commitment to the program. Ms. Fisher agreed a long-term commitment, 5 or 10 years, might help to increase enrollments.

Ms. Grady expressed her displeasure that NJROTC was once again being discussed for elimination. She questioned the wisdom that in a school of 1700 students, the cost for staffing band for 40 students costs \$99,000 while the high school implements the NJROTC program for more students (50) at a cost of less than \$60,000.00.

The Superintendent ended his presentation on a positive note. He provided the current amount contained in the budget for class reduction teachers:

Class Reduction Teachers

Garrison:	\$50,765
Horne Street:	\$51,890
Woodman Park:	\$51,890
Total:	\$154,545

He explained that these teachers had originally been funded by Federal Grants, but the money had been drying up over the past few years and Districts were advised to fund these positions locally. However, after surveying federal project managers throughout the state, it was found these positions will be funded by grant monies. Therefore, this amount can be deducted from the total amount the Board must eliminate from the budget to come in at the 2% tax cap:

Total to be Reduced:	\$821,117
Class Reduction:	(\$154,545)

Revised Total to be Reduced: \$666,572

\$666,572 is the amount remaining to be cut from the Superintendent's proposed budget.

Discussion:

Chairperson Fisher asked how many new positions were included in the budget. There was some confusion as to whether the Superintendent was requesting over \$1,000,000 in new personnel. Superintendent O'Connor stated the administrators had requested that amount in new positions; However, the budget includes only "Priority 1" positions.

(RECORD NOTE: Priority I positions actually included in the budget are listed below)



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POSITION DESCRIPTION	FTE	SCHOOL	SALARY	BENEFITS	OTHER	TOTAL
<i>ADD GED Options Educator</i>		DHS	15,000.00	1,147.50	-	16,147.50
<i>ADD Project Lead the Way Instructor</i>	4.00	DHS	7,500.00	1,095.75	-	8,595.75
<i>ADD Animal Science Teacher</i>	1.00	DHS	39,106.00	25,948.00	-	65,054.00
<i>ADD Related Arts Teacher To be used by all Elem schools for Full Day Kindergarten</i>	0.50	ELEM	23,872.83	22,341.02	-	46,213.85
<i>ADD ESOL Teacher</i>	1.00	ELEM	47,746.00	27,540.58	1,400.00	76,686.58
<i>ADD Technology Integration Expert and technician (paraprofessional)</i>	1.00	GES	23,711.94	6,953.31	-	30,665.25
<i>ADD Kindergarten Paraprofessional</i>	1.00	GES	15,878.36	6,337.56		22,215.92
<i>ADD Kindergarten Teacher</i>	1.00	GES	47,746.00	27,540.58	1,400.00	76,686.58
<i>ADD Kindergarten Paraprofessional</i>	0.50	HSS	9,265.50	708.81	-	9,974.31
<i>ADD Literacy Aide</i>	1.00	HSS	15,878.36	6,337.56	-	22,215.92
<i>ADD Kindergarten Teacher (increasing .50 teacher to 1.0)</i>	0.50	HSS	25,108.20	5,468.07	-	30,576.27
<i>ADD Kindergarten Paraprofessional (increasing .50 para to 1.0)</i>	0.50	WPS	9,265.50	819.73		10,085.23
<i>ADD Kindergarten Teacher (increasing current .50 teacher to 1.0)</i>	0.50	WPS	22,556.48	5,096.06	-	27,652.54
TOTAL NEW STAFF REQUESTS			302,635.17	137,334.53		442,769.70
Personnel Change <i>Add 50% local funding (formally Perkins Grant) for Culinary Arts Aide</i>	0.50	DHS	5,800.00	443.70	-	6,243.70
TOTAL OTHER			5,800.00	443.70	-	6,243.70

Board members asked if the Superintendent had received a response from the Commissioner of Education for a waiver of an assistant principal at Garrison Elementary School. Dr. O'Connor stated no response had been received to date. Although Board members questioned the need for Assistant Principals, Behavior Specialists, and Psychologists at all of the schools, Dr. O'Connor stated there are currently 2 ½ psychiatrists covering all 5 schools and, in his opinion, the District should have 4. Dr. O'Connor referred Board members to a memo written by Principal Boodey and passed to each of them this evening referring to the need for the Behavior Specialist position at Woodman Park School.

Ms. Hooper offered her opinion she did not feel the District should charge fees for any academics. She noted she was not sure she would even be in favor of athletic fees since it seemed that parents were already paying them informally. She added she would



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consider fees for transportation, and perhaps kindergarten, but not academics. Britt Ulinski Schuman agreed with Ms. Hooper stating she did not support fees for core curriculum. Dr. O'Connor stated some students already pay fees and referred to the art program as an example.

Ms. Grady reminded that once the School Board approves the budget, it is really up to the Superintendent to manage the funds. He can come to the School Board for direction. Ms. Grady then requested the Superintendent prepare three lists, similar to those prepared last year, for the Board to review at the next budget meeting. The lists are to identify 1. MUST haves; 2. Really Need; and 3. Wish List items. Dr. O'Connor agreed he would do that but noted he really needed to hear from the Board whether certain things are "sacred." He articulated he believes he heard the Board had 4 or more votes to expand the Career Technical Center and Kindergarten, Additional necessities include program enhancements to accommodate the 18-year old law and an additional teacher for the growing ESOL population in our District. The Superintendent will work with his administrators to put together a list on how to eliminate \$666,000.

Dr. O'Connor then asked if there was an interest in initiating fees, and, if there is, he will also prepare more accurate numbers. Ms. Grady suggested the Superintendent provide the three lists first. THEN the Board will look at fees.

The Superintendent warned the vast amount of the \$666,000 will be cut from personnel. There will be no cuts to supplies since they have been reduced to the minimum during past budget preparations. He also noted the Board could vote to delay the new curriculum implementation for Reading and World Language. He warned, however, that these have already been pushed back from 7 to 10 years and will continue to "back-up" the District's curriculum review plans.

Ms. Grady stated, "we have our hands tied." She explained that the City Council has requested a 2% increase as the bottom line, and after all the work the Board will do, the budget will go to the Council and the School District will have to use whatever money they approve for running the system.

Marjorie Fisher asked if step increases were included in the budget. Dr. O'Connor explained that, although the DTU and DEOP Unions are currently negotiating for contracts that expire in June, step increases are included in the budget. Cost of living increases are not included for these two bargaining units.

(RECORD NOTE: Pertinent portions of RSA 273-A:12 are provided for clarification)
RSA 273-A:12 Public Employee Labor Relations; Resolutions of Disputes – Paragraph VII. For collective bargaining agreements entered into after the effective date of this section, if the impasse is not resolved at the time of the expiration of the parties' agreement, the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shall continue in



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force and effect, including but not limited to the continuation of any pay plan included in the agreement, until a new agreement shall be executed. Provided, however, that for the purposes of this paragraph, the terms shall not include cost of living increases and nothing in this paragraph shall require payments of cost of living increases during the time period between contracts.

Ms. Grady lamented, “How do we do a budget when we don’t know what our revenues are?” Dr. O’Connor agreed that it made the process difficult and stated it was the same way last year.

Ms. Hooper reminded parents who are “distressed” about class sizes that there may be personnel cuts and class sizes will grow.

Dr. O’Connor reiterated that he will bring in three lists for the next budget workshop scheduled on February 16th. He will also bring recommendations for deleting the \$666,000 necessary to meet the 2% tax cap.

E. OTHER: Board Member Britt Ulinski Schuman stated that she would be concerned about expanding programs at the Career Technical Center (CTC) (approximately \$200,000) but not funding full day kindergarten. She feels that kindergarten is a core program while the new CTC programs are not. Dr. O’Connor reminded everyone that the Career Technical Programs generate revenue and he asked Jim Amara to provide additional information about the Center.

James Amara, Director of the DHS Regional Career Technical Center, provided information requested by Board members:

1. Enrollment Data for New Programs:

a. Health Science/LNA (08-09) First Year	Projected 09/10
Grade 11- 24 students	Grade 11- 38 students
Grade 12- 15 students	Grade 12- 24 students
b. Animal Science (08-09)	
Grade 11- 33 students	Grade 11- 30-40 students
Grade 12- 25 students	Grade 12- 33+ students
c. Biotechnology (08-09)	
Grade 11- 6 students	Grade 11- 10+ students
Grade 12- 4 students	Grade 12- 6+ students
Externship-9 students	Externship- 10+students
d. Welding Technology	
Grade 11&12- 0 students	Grade 11&12- 10-15 students

2. Program Offerings/ Comparison

Dover High School	Rochester	Somersworth
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Automotive	X	X
Culinary	X	X
Building Trades		X
Marketing		X
Welding		
LNA/Health		
Cosmetology		
Computer Technology		
Electrical		
Animal Science		
Biotechnology		
Pre-Engineering		
Auto Collision		

3. NEW Program Costs:

a. Welding Technology	\$17, 265	Transportation/PNS
Double Block		
b. Biotechnology	\$17,265	Transportation-Great Bay CC
I and II-Double Block	\$57,000	Salary
	\$ 4,000	Supplies
c. Animal Science	\$17,265	Transportation-Myhre Clinic
	\$30,000	Equine Facilities (Perkins)
	\$ 5,000	Supplies
	\$65,054	Salary w/benefits
d. Health Science	\$17,265	Transportation/Clinical
	\$70-80,000	2 + instructors American
		Red Cross LPN's classroom
		Clinical (8:1 ratio)

4. TOTAL Program Costs

09/10 Proposed CTC Operating Cost with all New Program Costs (does not include standard CTC staff salaries and administrative)	\$478,100
08/09 Updated Tuition Revenue	\$552,000

Mr. Amara stated his belief that it is, “a Win/Win situation for students and taxpayers-the more CTC can grow, expand and ATTRACT AREA STUDENTS the greater the rewards. When we succeeded in our ability to generate revenue, the entire district benefits; elementary, middle and high school.”

Mr. Amara then shared the following additional information with the Board:

“In July of 2007 I was asked to assume the position of Director of Dover High School’s and Regional Career Technical Center. In my conversations with the Superintendent



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and members of the Dover School Board it was my understanding that my primary mission was based on the following directives:

1. To organize and revitalize the CTE Center and its offerings by raising the level of awareness amongst students, parents and community members and view career and technical education as an integral and important part of the total high school experience.
2. To introduce new and relevant 21st century offerings that reflect the needs of students, industry, business and the community.
3. To outreach to community organizations, business and industry to participate and become actively involved in developing and improving CTE programs at Dover High School.
4. To seek and secure value-added resources that would complement and expand CTC offerings and programs.
5. To improve the image, morale and operation of the CTC center amongst faculty, administrators, school boards and the community at large.

During the past 18 months I believe that the Dover CTC and its staff have not only met the above expectations but have exceeded them in way that have been both innovative, cost effective and a model for other CTC centers to emulate.

With the above in perspective I would like to highlight the many accomplishments that the Dover CTC team has started and which are about to come to fruition. These accomplishments would be in serious jeopardy as result of insufficient funding.

First, our year and half of negotiations and discussions with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard regarding a future Welding program will be in jeopardy due to lack of transportation funding. During this period of time we have involved over twenty (20) leaders from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and state employment representatives from New Hampshire and Maine who have devoted many hours to achieve our planned concept. We have worked together to help overcome the many obstacles inherent in setting up this kind of program on a secure naval base while putting forth the needed resources with respect to equipment, supplies, materials and staff at no cost to the district. To not fund our transportation portion and responsibility is both disconcerting, awkward and a waste of a valuable community resource. It should be noted that this will be the only high school program of its kind located on a government military site in the United States; a model that will undoubtedly be studied and replicated over the years.

As all are well aware our Animal Science program is our largest program major with over sixty (60+) students participating with one instructor. It is also our most profitable CTC tuition program. In the 08/09 school year the program enrolled a total of 26 area tuition students, reflecting a tuition income of \$113,917! With our proposed expansion and the addition of the Equine Science component it is my belief that the percentage of students



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attracted to this program from Dover as well as area schools will increase significantly within a short period of time. If the past is indicative of the future this could be one of our most profitable revenue generating programs! Duplicating the technical expertise, equine facilities, and equipment that our students will have access to would be impossible to replicate on the Dover campus. Furthermore, our plan to integrate the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) certified instructional component into our equine curriculum will enhance the spirit of community service for our students. It is my understanding that there are only 4 NARHA certified programs conducted at the high school level throughout the country; the benefits to such an arrangement are both wide and diverse.

We have demonstrated that Career and Technical education is for everyone. Our Biotechnology Academy and Pre-Engineering Academy have attracted the best and brightest of our student population. It has introduced students to the many knowledge based career areas of the 21st century. Preparing students and making them aware of these new and emerging technologies is critical for our school, our region and their future. Students in our Biotechnology Academy program are given the opportunity to experience a true college- level course off campus, in an environment that is state-of-the- art, while accumulating up to six (6) transferable college credits. The equipment, facilities and technical expertise cannot be duplicated; to put this program in jeopardy would not be prudent at this time; a partnership and resource such as this would be extremely difficult to replace.

Our Health Science/LNA program is one most highly subscribed and cost effective programs that we offer. Our second year has the potential to attract up to seventy (70+) students with an average cost of \$1,000 per student! A cost per student that is one of the lowest that I am aware of for this area. Utilizing the resources of our contracted services provider, the American Red Cross, Wentworth Douglass Hospital and many local health agencies has given us the ability to develop one of the most comprehensive Health Science/LNA programs in the state of New Hampshire. Successful completion of the program will lead to state certification and immediate employment for those students who wish to pursue a career in the health field.

In addition to the above, measurable and positive indicators for all of our CTC programs have taken place amongst the faculty, students, parents and community. A sense of pride and enthusiasm for their work and effort has started to permeate throughout the team. As Dover High School moves to increase its graduation credits for students and develop a viable dropout prevention program, the Career and Technical Center will most assuredly play a vital role in helping students achieve their goals while meeting their individual needs.

In closing, I fully realize that the Dover School District is under tremendous pressure and in conflict with respect to its educational demands and its fiscal realities. The decision to



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eliminate or reduce funding for any program is always difficult. However, eighteen months ago your directive to improve and expand CTE programs that were meeting student and regional needs, that were cost effective and entrepreneurial while utilizing the resources of the community are about to come to fruition. We are at a very important juncture with respect to our CTC future, a future that all of you shared with me and the community eighteen months ago. This is not the time to reverse our progress or become stagnant in our goal to make this the premier Regional Career Technical Center of New Hampshire.

CTC is basically self supporting with respect to operating costs. Tuition revenues will subsidize new and expanded programs. Transportation of students to Center is reimbursed by New Hampshire Dept. of Education. Expansion of CTC programs that attract tuition students generates high revenue!"

Ms. Hooper and Ms. Grady both expressed their appreciation with what they both believed to be a job well done by Mr. Amara.

Ms. Ulinski Schuman asked, "How are we evaluating some of these off-site classes that we have occurring? Are we having somebody look at the curriculum and make sure it is well worth our time and money? I have some concerns with the Biotechnology Program. As I think I understand, that is a course that would typically be offered in one semester in college but they are spreading it out over the year... I'm just concerned, is it being spread out in a way that is really helping our students?" Mr. Amara explained that the National Science Foundation is on the advisory committee and Northeast Center for Biomanufacturing are the ones who evaluate the curriculum. The curriculum is the same as that being taught at the Grate Bay Community College.

That is why the students are able to get 6 college credits (3 in Biotech I and 3 in Biotech II). Those 6 credits are also accepted at UNH. Mr. Amara then provided similar information on the Welding, Equine, and Health Science Programs. Britt Ulinski Schuman added, "I am just concerned about getting caught up in prestige and not on the fundamentals that are being taught." She continued that one of her constituents had raised a question about the program, wondering if the biotech curriculum had been appropriately put together. Mr. Amara stated the curriculum is the college based curriculum that has been approved by the state. He added that he might have a "dissatisfied customer" perhaps a student who is failing and asking these questions.

Ms. Ulinski Schulman then asked the Superintendent to provide her with college credit courses offered under Project Running Start. Dr. O'Connor stated he would have Principal Migneault pull together information on all of those courses and email it to the Board.

Ms. Hooper noted that students in cosmetology can take an exam to practice right out of the program. She asked if there were any other courses that allow students to take an exam and practice after completion of the class. Mr. Amara stated students who take the Health Science courses are also eligible to sit for the state LPN exam. Equine students can sit for the Massachusetts Instructor Exam (N.H. Does not have this exam).



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Budget Workshop
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers
Meeting Date: **Monday, February 2, 2009**
Meeting Time: **6:30 pm**

F: ADJOURNMENT: Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Respectfully submitted,

BETH SETEAR, Secretary
Dover School Board
BS/kgb
February 3, 2008