



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 9, 2009**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

DRAFT

Chairperson Marjorie Fisher called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Monday, March 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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

Also present were; Superintendent John O'Connor; Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Director, Jean Briggs-Badger; Business Administrator, Laurie Verville; Dustin Gray, Garrison School Principal; Mal Forsman, Horne Street School Principal; Patrick Boodey, Woodman Park School Principal; Larry DeYoung, Dover Middle School Principal; Debi Migneault, Dover High School Principal; Sandra Crosson, Director of Pupil, Personnel Services; Student Representative to the School Board, Julia Huggins, Peter Wotton, Athletics Director; DTU President, Deb Hackett; Dover High School Girls' Swim and Dive Team Members; Dover High School Scholastic Art Award Winners; Staff; Citizens; and the Fosters' Reporter.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Beth Setear led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to suspend the rules to bring items **L.1. and L.2., Resolutions of Recognition**, forward in the agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

L. 1. Beth Setear read the resolution of recognition into the record:

Dover High School Girls' Swim and Dive Team

WHEREAS the Dover High School Girls' Swimming and Diving team, a group of fifteen student/athletes and one coach, joined together in late November as group of aspiring athletes, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team, on Saturday February 14, 2009, was crowned NHIAA State Champions at the University of New Hampshire's Swazey Pool, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team demonstrated hard work, sportsmanship, perseverance, and character throughout the season , and

WHEREAS members of the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team won five individual events, and

WHEREAS members of the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team continue to excel academically and athletically, and



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WHEREAS the Dover High School Swimming and Diving Team finished first as a team at the NHIAA State Meet of Champions, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team was made up of the following student-athletes: Heather P. Beardsworth, Rachel Busby, Lindsay Carper, Mandy Carper, Carrie A. Carville, Jessica H. Fieseher, Rebecca Langlois, Amber Long, Chesley Long, Sarah N. Parker, Jessica A. Parratto, Maria G. Quarin, Alexandra R. Roscoe, Novina G. Surusa, Claudia Wigger, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team has won a third New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls State Championship, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team has brought great pride, recognition, enthusiasm, and honor to themselves, to their parents and families, to Dover High School, and to the City of Dover,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dover School Board applauds, honors and recognizes the many achievements of the Dover High School Girl's Swimming and Diving team and the coaches

L. 2. Dorothea Hooper read the resolution of recognition into the record:

Dover High School Scholastic Art Award Winners

WHEREAS Dover High School was represented by twenty-eight of our finest art students on February 8, 2009 at Pinkerton Academy for the NH Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School students have demonstrated hard work, creativity, dedication, character, and artistic excellence, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School students submitted both individual works of art and portfolios specifically for eligibility for college scholarships, and

WHEREAS the Dover High School participants were Olivia Alex, Lily Bowen, Samantha Harrington, Molly Rogers, Abby O'Connor, Jerrica Demers, Alex Mason, Forrest Knight, Michelle Zany, James Blouin, Kai Fukunaga, Sean Kontos, Becky Langlois, Jayne Ward, Stephanie Schlim, Taylor Lane, Liam Dublin, Natalie Kovalcik, Novina Surasa, Shayna Duffy, Sophia Lupi, Hannah Whitcomb, Brittney Baumgardner, Sarah Gibbs, Megan Kenck, Lynsie Kane, Sam Woodman, Colby Mamagonian, Paulina Singer, Suzanne Hearn, Michelle Welch, Carmen Fernandez, Crystal Dittmar, and



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WHEREAS the Dover High School student artists have brought great pride, recognition, enthusiasm, and honor to themselves, to their parents and families, to Dover High School, and to the City of Dover,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dover School Board applauds, honors, and recognizes the many achievements of the Dover High School Scholastic Art Award Winners

C. CITIZENS' FORUM:

- 1) Joy Koblenzer, 3 Emery Lane, presented a petition with over 100 signatures of Dover Citizens who. Along with her, were concerned about the possible reduction of classroom teachers.
- 2) Laurie Relinski, 131 Mast Road, also voice her concern with the possibility of larger class sizes next school year. She quoted information taken from the State of New Hampshire Department of Education website that places Dover at 158th of 163 districts reporting student/teacher ratios. Ms. Relinski commented that, in addition to high class sizes at Garrison, she was very concerned because foreign language is no longer being offered at Dover Middle School.
- 3) Tracy Aubin, 8 Pondview Drive, stated she supported the position of the previous two speakers. Her daughter Peyton also spoke in support of retaining classroom teachers to keep class sizes manageable.
- 4) Pat Sorinson, 3 Westwood Circle, expressed concern for the children of Dover and challenged the Board to submit a budget for the highest possible increase allowed under the tax cap. Ms. Sorinson asked Board members of the current percentage the Board was requesting. Ms. Ms. Fisher explained that Citizen's Forum was not the place for dialogue, but added that she felt all those who raised concerns regarding budget cuts would be "happy" when they heard the Board's budget recommendation later in the evening and asked Ms. Sorinson to wait until then and her questions would be answered. Ms. Sorinson asked that the Board submit a budget that would give the school system as much of an increase as possible under the tax cap.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve the following minutes:

- a. **Regular Session #2, February 9, 2009**
- b. **Nonpublic Session #6 – February 11, 2009 (Student Discipline)**
- c. **Nonpublic Session #7, February 12, 2009 (Student Discipline)**
- d. **Nonpublic Session #8, February 16, 2009 (Legal Issues)**
- e. **Budget Workshop #3, February 16, 2009**
- f. **Nonpublic Session #9, February 23, 2009 (Personnel)**
- g. **Budget Workshop #4, February 23, 2009**

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

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Correspondence:**



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- a. **Dover Parents Music Club letter dated January 21, 2009 re: Rental Request - Waiver of Time**
- b. **Granite State Open letter dated February 11, 2009 re: Rental Request – Waiver of Time**
2. **Resignations/Retirements:**
 - a. **Toni Shaheen, Woodman Park School, Music Teacher**
 - b. **Susan Daigneault, Dover High School, Guidance Counselor**
3. **Leaves of Absence:**
 - a. **Allison Friend-Gray letter dated February 17, 2009**
4. **Nominations:**
 - a. **Sheet 1: Nomination and Election of Coaching Positions (Carver to Towle)**
5. **Extended Travel (Student Trips):**
 - a. **Preliminary Approval, DHS Trip to France, April 2010**

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve the consent agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Dorothea Hooper recognized Dover High School Guidance Counselor, Susan Daigneault's, letter of retirement, and thanked her for her fine service to the high school for the past 10 years. "She has been a guidance counselor; she also served as department chair. She showed strong leadership at the high school level and did what all the guidance counselors do: Prepare them for what happens after public school. My congratulations to Sue. She'll be sorely missed."

Doris Grady recognized Toni Shaheen's letter of retirement. Ms. Grady stated, "At this time of year, we very often read, with a heavy heart, similar to the following statement. 'It is with profound regret and gratitude that I tender my retirement to the Dover School District as the music teacher at Woodman Park School, effective June 30, 2009.' It is with regret that we as a Board accept the resignation of Toni Shaheen from our music department. Even the building itself will be weeping as the footsteps of this lovely lady are not heard in the halls." Ms. Grady went on to praise her enthusiasm and the excitement she created in the classroom and her caring nature for all children as major assets. She continued, "The children left behind will never be able to experience your superior educational qualities. How sad it will be for them. How sad for our educational community. We'll all miss you." Ms. Grady ended by thanking Ms. Shaheen for her positive contribution to the Dover Schools and noted the entire community wished her the very best.

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

- Report on Marge Mercereau's production of Footloose, a production with the Garrison Players, over the past weekend. He thanked Ms. Mercereau for her outstanding job.
- Peter Wotton will discuss athletic team successes during this past tournament season.



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- Final report of April field trip to France was missing from the packets as it was submitted too late. The Superintendent noted he has reviewed the packet and all looks good. The item will be on the Agenda April 12th for the trip leaving on April 16th.
- Dr. O'Connor discussed the impact of snow days on the 2008/2009 calendar. After addressing the six snow days taken so far this winter, the current last day of school this year is June 24, 2009. A letter, prepared in consultation with the DTU President, Deb Hackett, will be sent to all staff tomorrow to advise the new date for the last day of school. Principals will be instructed to provide the information to parents and families.

Superintendent O'Connor then invited Peter Wotton to address the Board to report on the many successes of the Dover High School athletic teams during this past tournament season. The five building principals then shared items of interest that have happened or are upcoming in each of their schools.

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

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Julia Huggins reported on the following items:

- The School Newspaper, *The Wave*, released its first issue last Friday.
- A new club has started led by student Jon Haight. It is the Investments Club. They meet once a week and learn about and track stocks.
- The Senior Class is pleased with the June 18th graduation date.
- Students have been talking about budget worries and the talk of cutting the music department. If cuts are required in the future, a great number of teachers and students are worried music will be affected and ask the Board to keep all of the music programs and AP classes in the budget.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Professional Development Committee, Dorothea Hooper Reporting: Ms. Hooper gave the following report:

"The Professional Development Committee met February 18th at the SAU office.

Mrs. Jean Briggs-Badger, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, chaired the meeting. She distributed the evaluation results on the science training done at the January early release day. Discussion revolved on how to get more teachers to complete their evaluations and how to improve presentations. Those who did respond cited the value of hands-on experience and use of materials and knowledgeable presenters. Other staff felt that groups were too large with too many grade levels with which to work. Some suggested a longer, summer presentation might be better.

I would like to stress that the district is not bringing in outside presenters unless the cost is covered by a grant. This workshop, to comply with government mandated programs, came under Title II and was funded with federal and DINI funds. No local tax money was involved.



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The main part of the meeting focused on plans for the March 20th, Teacher Workshop Day. The committee received copies of registration forms, evaluation forms, and a schedule for the day's workshops. It was suggested that there might be more opportunities for grades K – 2. There will be a lot of opportunities for teachers to gain training on some of the newer technological equipment now in classrooms. There is also a lot of stress on literacy training.

There was a discussion on the use of an electronic survey of the workshops on "survey monkey" an electronic device that will also tabulate teacher responses. The thought was to make it easier for teachers to respond and give important feedback.

Our next meeting will be on March 18th."

2. Curriculum Planning Council, Dorothea Hooper Reporting: Ms. Hooper gave the following report:

"Chaired by Jean Briggs-Badger, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, the Curriculum Planning Council met March 5th at Dover Middle School.

The Physical Education/Wellness/Health Department gave an update to the council. Greg Brown gave an overview of the elementary program. A major concern is the lack of time with students receiving physical education only once a week and kindergarten youngsters every other week. He also reported on an insert being worked on for report cards. The staff wants to better illustrate what each child's grade means and outline the skills taught rather than just using a check system. Students at that level are being exposed to more life-long activities such as golf and tennis. Greg expressed a need for additional training for the staff teaching the health component of the curriculum and also for "First Tee" and Project Adventure training. There was no request for any major purchase but a need for more updated videos for the 4th grade growth and development unit was expressed.

Peter Wons and Patti Brown reported on the middle school curriculum. Again there is a focus on life-long activities as they have improved and refined the curriculum enhancing it with technology. The negatives they noted were an increase in class size that calls for more supplies and a lack of field space. They had a modest request for funds to attend the NHAPHERD Conference.

MJ Hippert reported on the recent "Penguin Plunge" at the High School to help fund the cost of Special Olympics. Staff saw a more manageable class size Semester II. There is a new sound system in the gym which is a nice addition to the program. Health students surveyed indicated they had made positive changes in their personal health as a result of instruction. Indoor Physical Education is difficult since the folding door in the gym is inoperable. They expect a curtain to be installed during April vacation. Block scheduling is expected to cure some of the time problems the department has in getting to Bellamy field. There was an expressed need for some new equipment for Project Adventure units as well as money for staff to attend further training workshops.



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Sandie Crosson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, introduced the Guidance Department update. Beth Lent represented the elementary school illustrating some of the objectives of their curriculum. Basically they give them the tools to handle real life situations such as feelings, getting along, and bullying. Allison Hart traced the curriculum through the middle school which picks up on those issues introduced at the elementary level and further deals with caring, sharing, and conflict resolution. Added to that are the more advanced themes by 7th and 8th grade of sexual harassment and career/college exploration.

Sally Thorn explained that going into the classrooms at the high school level is how they approach curriculum. How To Be Successful at DHS is presented to freshmen and includes bullying, substance abuse, and academics. Sophomores are presented with Thinking About Careers and a unit on Depression and Suicide. Juniors begin thinking about college and job search. Seniors get information on college and non-college options. Much of the counseling at the high school level is one-on-one focusing on academic success, student difficulties, and college and job preparation.

The last item on our agenda was a review of the six year cycle, 2008-2014 that was being studied for possible revision.

Our next meeting is April 2nd.”

3. Dover Adult Learning Center, Doris Grady Reporting: Ms. Grady gave the following report: Dover Adult Learning is in the early process of selecting the new director to replace Jim Verschueren. A committee has reviewed applications and the field has been narrowed down to about ten candidates. The committee will meet again within the next week or two.

4. Joint Building Committee, Doris Grady Reporting: Ms. Grady gave the following report: The Joint Building Committee is close to ending the Woodman Park Project and ready to start Horne Street. Current JBC members are waiting for the City Council to select members for the Horne Street JBC and the School Board will follow.

I. POLICY CHANGES - PROPOSALS:

1. DATA TECHNICAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION: Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to table the job description until the April School Board meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

J. POLICY ADOPTIONS: None.

K. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS: Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to direct the Business Manager to pay manifest #09-I in the amount of \$2,760,775.83. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

L. RESOLUTIONS:



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1. **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION – DHS GIRLS’ SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM:** See Above.

2. **RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION DHS SCHOLASTIC ARTS AWARD WINNER:** See Above.

M. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **ATHLETIC ACADEMIC POLICY:** Peter Wotton discussed the revised Athletic Academic Policy with the Board. “We’ve come around full-circle with this policy. We heard from the Board that the policy put forth earlier was too lenient; others felt it was too strong. We’ve done a great deal of research in terms of what other school districts are doing in other Class L schools and schools in the Seacoast area, so we haven’t just focused our research, if you will, on Class L schools. As a result, with the change to Block Scheduling, administrative team feels like it’s in the best interest of the students to keep the current policy that we have, the 2.0 GPA policy. The only change would be in their contractual obligations in that policy, the afterschool study hall, which again, we’re losing funding for that and we’re not able to require that from our students at this time.”

Ms. Setear asked if there was a statement in the current policy concerning the number of classes that students need to pass in addition to having the 2.0 GPA. Mr. Wotton stated that was correct and added, “The current policy that we have right now, states that a student has to pass at least 4 courses, which is the state standard. When they pass 4 courses, they must also have a 2.0 GPA. That’s currently. As we move forward, we would also hold to the NHIAA standard and we would keep the 2.0 policy. Under the block, the NHIA standard changes a little bit. You have to pass 2 classes. Keep in mind, the policy we put forth before was a 67 – the student couldn’t have any more than one grade below a 67. I know I spoke to a couple of Board members and a few individuals from our community called up. They were concerned that we were lowering our standards in the last policy you folks saw. I explained to a number of people, it wasn’t a lowering. It was a changing. Simply a changing of the policy.” Mr. Wotton that gave “extreme examples” under the policy submitted originally. A student could have had upwards of a 3.1 GPA, pass all four courses under the block and not be eligible. “I want to go on record: We weren’t asking to lower the policy. Foster’s Daily Democrat reported that we were looking to lower the policy. I think that’s a misstatement, a misinterpretation. In no way, shape, or form, were we asking to lower the policy before. We were looking to change it because we were going to a block schedule and because our afterschool study hall didn’t exist any more.”

Ms. Grady noted the elimination of afterschool assistance due to lack of funds and stated, “I’d be willing to bet...that the staff at the high school would be available if any student went to them and said, ‘You know, I’m not quite making it. Would you help me?’ I’m sure they’ll be there for them. And, if they won’t, then their next-door neighbor will, I am sure. Once major change here I see, and personally I think it’s fair, for all students to be placed in the same situation. That is, finally, once approved, extends to students who participate in extra curricular, co curricular activities, which provide a contractual stipend. Then that puts all students in the high school in



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the same range and it just doesn't become an athletic policy. It becomes an academic policy. I like that part."

Dr. Wotton added, "The only difficulty is insuring, some teachers can't stay, so I think it's tough to have our students expect that a teacher can stay. Some have daycare issues. Others have other jobs that they go to, so that can be a difficult thing. I do know that our Student Council talked about supporting that and that might be something that we might come back in the summer and say, 'We've got a way to do this.' I think that afterschool study hall is good for a number of reasons. One, it's a carrot in front of our student's noses that says, 'You know what? You aren't going to keep up your grade, we are going to keep you after school for a period of time.' But I don't think we've got that framework down right now to be sure that's going to take place. I sure hope that it does and I sure hope the Student Council comes forward and we can work with them." Julia Higgins confirmed the Student Council supported the decision to stay with the current standards and that both the Council and National Honor Society want to work together to set up an afterschool study hall. This will help them earn community service hours, too. Ms. Grady agreed it would be a good idea for those students to earn community service credit for when they apply to colleges.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to adopt the new Athletic Academic Policy. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

N. NEW BUSINESS:

1. SET DOVER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATE: Principal Migneault requested the School Board approve the recommended 2009 Senior Graduation Date of June 18, 2009. The date meets the requirement of the 175 school days for graduating seniors with one additional day as a "cushion" if the District should experience another school closure due to inclement weather. Ms. Migneault also advised that June 18th was the last date available for both Lundholm Gymnasium at UNH and Hampshire Hills, site of Project Graduation.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve June 18, 2009 as the graduation date for the DHS class of 2009. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

2. MID-YEAR PROMOTION PROPOSAL FOR DOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL: A motion was made and seconded to table this item until the April meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

3. AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. THOMAS & DOVER GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY TEAM: Athletic Director, Peter Wotton, requested the Board approve an additional two year agreement with St. Thomas Aquinas High School for a cooperative girls' ice hockey team. Mr. Wotton explained NHIAA rule dictates both schools must agree to two-year partnerships and must be reestablished every two years. Dover and St. Thomas just completed a successful two-year partnership and would like to continue for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 athletic seasons.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to approve an additional two year agreement with St. Thomas Aquinas High School for a cooperative girls' ice hockey team. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0 (Ms. Hooper stepped out)**.



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4. MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE DATA REVIEW (ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS): A motion was made and seconded to table this item to a future School Board meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

5. AWARD BID FOR FOLD-UP GYM CURTAINS: Business Administrator, Laurie Verville explained the history of inspection and repair estimates solicited for repairs to the divider curtain, motors, and controllers located in the high school gymnasium. The inspection company informed the District it would cost in excess of \$5,000 to perform some repairs, and since the equipment is original to the building (40+ years) work would not be guarantee. Additionally, the inspection company indicated it could cost up to \$17,000 to replace and demolish the existing curtain. Ms. Verville stated she solicited bids from six companies to perform the necessary work and requested the Board award the bid for a replacement gym curtain at Dover High School to the low bidder, Jaypro Sports, Inc, of Hooksett in the amount of \$12,348.00.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to award the bid for DHS gymnasium curtain replacement to the low bidder, Jaypro Inc, in the amount of \$12,348.00. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

6. FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET APPROVAL: Dr. O'Connor reviewed his final proposed budget with the Board.

The Dover School District 2008/2009 Adopted Budget was \$42,978,335. Not all of that money was raised by the local tax payers. That total is divided into two parts.

- 57% Local Taxable Portion: \$24,296,444
- 43% Other Sources of Revenue: \$18,681,891

In late January, it was announced the cost of living increase was to be used in the next budget tax cap formula was 3.8%. Although no vote was taken, nor any resolution adopted by the City Council to maintain a 2% increase, Council members spoke during meetings and indicated they would like to hold the 2009/2010 budget to a 2% increase. Based upon that spoken direction, the District went on to produce a budget based on the 2% requirement.

The Dover School District Tax Cap Formula applies only to the 57%, the local taxable portion, of the School District budget. 2% of last year's taxable portion is \$694,139. Added to the previous year's local taxable portion, the 2009/2010 budget local taxable portion may increase to \$24,990,583.

Dr. O'Connor then reviewed the District's 2009/2010 revenue sources: Adequate Education Funding from Governor Lunch will increase from \$5.2 million this year to \$6 million (or approximately \$800,000 in additional funds) coming to Dover.

Dr. O'Connor went on to state, "The "new money" is based upon the new formula developed by the legislature in Concord to cost out an adequate education per child in New Hampshire. That was mandated by the State Supreme Court. This is law – the law says, based on the new



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formula, Dover will receive approximately \$6 million. I believe the children of Dover are entitled to that money to be used for educational purposes. Thus we are putting together our budget that shows an increase in our revenue by approximately \$800,000, plus an increase in our taxable portion of our budget of approximately \$850,000, to bring our total new money in the budget to \$1,654,886.00. That includes tax cap money plus the new revenues that will come in. So we are looking at a net increase of \$1.654 million. That will bring our new budget total up to \$44,633,221. We have met the 2% cap that was mandated by the Council and we have done so, looking at a variety of potential eliminations and so forth. What has helped us in this budget is the added revenue coming in to us in the way of adequacy. That will offset any of the potential losses that we have talked about in the past, all those cuts that we looked at last week.”

Superintendent O’Connor continued: “Please keep in mind, the budget process is not like any other that we’ve done in the past. It is still fluid. We still do not know about potential increases in the retirement system that are being passed on from the state obligation to the cities and municipalities. That could represent anywhere from \$75 to \$100,000. There still are two labor contracts that have not been settled. That could have an impact as well as additional stimulus money that could come to us. All could have an effect on our final budget. The budget that I am asking you to approve tonight represents \$44,633,221.”

Ms. Grady stated, “John, we’ve gone through this for about four evenings. We are seven elected members of this Board. We’re elected to represent 4,000 students...there’s been all kinds of statements in the newspapers and on television, that the Governor was talking about taking our money, handing it to the city. I don’t believe the Governor can do that. There is a law in the state of New Hampshire that says that adequacy money goes to the School Department. So, somebody wants to take it away from us, I think seven people here are going to go and fight for it. I think this is what, what you’ve presented tonight, is what we need to represent this department. It’s what we need to represent all of the students and give them the very best education that we can, and avoid as many of those cuts that we talked about and had all the city in an uproar for the last month or so. I don’t think that we can base our budget on what another body is saying is what we can rut it with. You and your administrators have met. You’ve come up with a figure. You presented it to us. You as educators feel this is what we need to represent us. I am in favor of it. I shall vote for the budget you’ve presented tonight.”

Ms. Ulinski Schuman added, “I just want to make something clear on this. We’re going to vote on this budget tonight, once we figure out what we’re getting for money from everybody and what we’re getting...with our contracts that are in negotiation now, what the retirement system costs, then we’re going to have to potentially come back and make cuts?” Dr. O’Connor agreed that was a possibility, or there may be an opportunity to make economies within the budget. It will depend upon the amount of money being discussed. Ms. Grady noted that the Board encounters the same problem each does not vote until late June. Additionally, retirements are unknown this early in the year and money may be available after senior teacher retirement are taken.

Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to accept the Superintendent’s proposed budget of \$44,633,221. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**



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7. UPDATE ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE PURCHASE: Business Administrator, Laurie Verville provided Board members with a chronology of events ranging from October 2006 to the present in the selection and purchase of a financial management program:

CHRONOLOGY OF SELECTION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

10/5/06-Verville met with representative of Interware Development (current provider to the city)
2/21/07-Verville met with Rochester BA and had demonstration of Munis program
3/1/07-Verville and SAU #11 bookkeeping staff met with ADSPro representative for product demonstration
9/20/07-SAU staff attended Unifund Summit in Tyngsboro, MA
10/12/07-SAU staff met with reps from Interware Development for product demonstration
12/13/07-Quotes obtained by Dan Lynch, Finance Director, from MuniSmart Systems
12/20/07-Quote obtained by Dan Lynch from Unifund
1/7/08-Review of quotes conducted by Annie Dove, City's Director of Information Technology
3/12/08-Held joint meeting with City Manager, Lynch, Dove, Chris Roberge and I to discuss process for financial management program
3/17/08-District obtained sample of RFP from Goffstown School District
3/18/08-Met with Lynch as a follow up to the 3/12/08 meeting
5/12/08-Members and employees established to serve on Focus Group
5/30/08-Timeline and schedule established to release RFP and implement service
6/13/08-First Joint Stakeholder meeting held
7/2/08-Second Joint Stakeholder meeting held
7/9/08-Received message from Lynch that document (RFP) was being polished up
7/9/08-Received a draft RFP
7/31/08-RFP hardware and software requirements were reviewed and approved by Chris Roberge
9/25/08-SAU staff attended Unifund Summit in Westford, MA for networking, assessment and demonstrations.
10/3/08-Received lengthy update from D. Lynch on RFP status but document not ready to release yet. He has concerns with obtaining a product that meets City and School needs.
11/7/08-Verville met with City of Somersworth and Somersworth School District for a Unifund presentation.
12/16/08-Inquired about status of release of RFP from Ann Legere, City Purchasing Agent. She is not involved with the process.
1/15/09-Inquired about status of release of RFP from Dan Lynch
1/29/09-L Simmons, R LaFleur and City of Dover employees met with Unifund reps for product demonstration.
2/6/09-Management Letter from Melanson Heath requires City to obtain a capital asset tracking program. Lynch acknowledged issue in response letter.
2/24/09-Met with Dan Lynch and requested copy of the amended *draft* RFP. Lynch advised Verville that his focus per City Manager was to concentrate on the budget.



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 9, 2009**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

Ms. Verville warned that the need to issue an RFP is urgent as the current software support will no longer be available in the next school year. She further advised that she may be coming to the Board soon to request that the District release an RFP immediately so that we can be ready for budget development in a new system by September 2009.

O. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.
An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Setear, Secretary
BS/kgb