

**MINUTES - PUBLIC HEARING  
JANUARY 21, 1998  
DOVER CITY COUNCIL  
DOVER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
7:00 PM**

Members Present: Councilor Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Perry, Mayor Wil Boc, Councilor Rawding, Councilor Landry, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Reese, Councilor Jalbert

Members Absent: Councilor Berry

**1. Resolution RE: Bond Authorization – Construction of a New Middle School. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request**

Mayor Boc stated that this is the second public hearing on this issue. He stated that the City Council will vote on this issue on 1/28/98. He stated that people will have another opportunity to speak at that meeting during the Citizen's Forum. The Mayor now asked Bob Hannon to speak a little on the background and history of this issue.

Bob Hannan stated that on 5/13/85 the School Board passed a resolution to study the long range needs of the Dover School System. He stated that various committees were formed during the 1980's and submitted reports on this issue. He stated that in 1990 a Joint Space Needs Committee was formed that recommended that we acquire land and begin construction of a 28 classroom elementary school, renovate and convert Woodman Park into a Middle School, and that we renovate Horne Street School. He stated that in 1997 the Facilities Task Force was formed. He stated that there recommendation is to build a new 4 grade Dover Middle School for a cost not to exceed \$14, 562,000. He stated that this recommendation was accepted by the Dover School Board and passed on to the City Council for Action.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing on this item asking if there is anyone wishing to speak.

**Marsha Pelletier**, 94 Back River Rd., a State Representative for Ward 4, 5 and 6, stated she also represents many teachers. She stated that we need to serve the needs of all the students. She stated that we emphasize the part about the beginning and the end, but what comes in the middle is also important. She further stated that as the parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader she wants to see smaller class sizes. She stated that we will all profit from whatever our children become.

**Dana Lynch**, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber endorses the bond appropriation of \$14.5 million for construction of a new middle school. He stated that the need for a 4 grade middle school is obvious. He further stated that the Chamber

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endorses the State court system. He secondly stated, that as a Dover businessman and an engineer, he wholeheartedly supports Scott Rawding's ideas regarding the management of the construction project. He stated that thirdly, as a parent of two children in the Dover School system, he supports this item.

**Robin LaFleur**, 14 Sunset Drive, President of Woodman Park's PTO, stated that they fully support the project.

**Jeanne Walcek**, 15 Grady's Lane, stated that she supports the 4 grade middle school.

**Valerie McKinney**, 12 Nile Street, stated that she supports the building of a 4 grade middle school. She stated that she has been approached by 25 or 30 people of Dover to discuss this issue. She stated that people were concerned about how this would affect them personally, their own economic goals. She stated that we need to keep our current schools in good condition. She stated we must ensure that these plans are long range. She also stated that she feels the City Council needs to work for fair and equitable contracts for the City employees. She stated she would like the City Council to form a committee made up of City Council, School Board and citizens to make a master plan for the City of Dover to take us into the next 5, 10 or 20 years. She lastly stated that we must take care of our most valuable resources in Dover, our human resources.

**Donna Capern**, 1 Mulligan Drive, stated that she and her family moved to Dover a year ago based on an relocater's assessment of this community as a good place to live and a good place to educate her children. She stated that two other professional families have followed due to a positive recommendation. She stated that she strongly supports the building of a new middle school.

**Karen Hiller**, 10 Grady Lane, stated that we have entered the informational age and hopes that the new school will the tools to prepare them for the future.

**Odessa Rahn**, Central Avenue, stated that about a year ago a City lot worth \$100,000 was sold for \$13,000. She stated that we [the City] bought a lot assessed at \$84,000, and we paid \$300,000 for it. She asked why? What is going on? She stated that we need to go slow on this. She asked Mayor Boc if he fights for democracy or just for the union people?

**Stephanie Dematteo**, 6 Tennyson Ave, stated that building is only going to get more expensive. She stated that building the 4 grade middle school is necessary as well as having public kindergarten in Dover.

**Barbara Visciano**, 185 Locust Street, stated that she has lived in Dover for 10 years and wants to continue to be positive about how Dover sees its children. She stated that the building of this new middle school is important.

**Virginia Mentel**, 11 Governor Sawyer Lane, stated that the building of this new middle school is a necessity.

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**Art Burke**, 2 Union Street, asked if the Board has a sketch of the proposed school?

Dr. Daley stated that we have a conceptual sketch.

**Art Burke** continued, stating that the public needs to see this sketch to see what they are spending \$13 million on.

Mayor Boc stated that no one knows what it is going to look like right now, because an architect has not been selected, we only have conceptual drawings.

**Art Burke** continued, suggesting that we preserve the gymnasium.

Mayor Boc stated that the Joint Building Committee has been formed. He asked for any more comments. He stated that this is the City of Dover's School, the Council and the School Board has no ownership in it.

[The JBC will next meet on 1/27 in Dr. Daley's office to interview possible architects]

**Mike Milinsky**, Middle Road, member of the Facilities Task Force, stated that he supports the new middle school. He stated that when touring the present facilities they discovered some areas of the present school are or should be condemned. He stated that the land they choose to build the school on is perfect.

**Mr. Payotte**, Old Stage Road, stated that the Council is all ex-School Board members. He asked what voice does the average person have? He stated that there are a lot of questions that need answers. He stated that he is for the school, but we are moving too fast. He stated that everyone is afraid to speak out against this issue. He further went on to discuss kindergarten, City employee wages and taxes. He lastly stated not to forget the poor tax payers, living on a fixed income.

**Greg Burdwood**, 1 Cedar Brook Drive, stated that he is a tax payer and he is in favor of this middle school. He stated he knows what it means to live from paycheck to paycheck. He further stated that we have put off the conditions of the schools for too long. He stated that this should be at the top of the list. He stated that our kids need a safe environment.

**Peggy Kesnick**, 9 Woodland Road, stated that the need for this school is very well documented. She stated that she sees this a tremendous opportunity for us to do right for our kids. She stated that as a tax payer she can't think of a better way to use her money.

**Diane Day**, 9 Hubbard Road, stated she doesn't want her taxes raised but supports the building of the middle school. She also stated that she urges the Council to look carefully and make the right decision for our City.

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**Larry Tetreau**, Arch Street, stated that he is strongly in favor of the middle school. He stated that he has lived here for 10 years and this is a community issue and a four grade middle school would be very positive for this community. He also stated that second, as a parent of an elementary student in Dover he believes that the new school is necessary.

**Harold Clark**, stated that he supports the new four grade middle school but feels that kindergarten needs more looking into.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

KAREN L. LARSON  
CITY CLERK