

To: Dover City Councilors

From: Dorothea Hooper

Re: School Board Report (7/12/10)

The Dover School Board met on Monday, July 12th. This was the first board meeting for the new Superintendent Mrs. Jean Briggs-Badger. As is routinely done annually, she was authorized to sign documents for the district.

DHS principal, Debi Migneault, gave a report on summer school. Forty-two students ended up taking classes to recover credits.

Athletic Director, Peter Wotton, gave a report from the Athletic Transportation Committee which advised that athletes be charged \$75 for transportation for each sport at the high school until the 3rd at which point transportation would be free. Middle school students would be charged \$40 per sport. There would be waivers available for students eligible for free and reduced lunch. The purpose of these fees would be to generate the \$50,000 necessary to pay for buses. After some discussion of capping the cost per family and the impact of these fees on the number of students who might drop out of athletics, the board approved the recommendation with a vote of 4 to 2.

A change in the range of salaries for administrators was brought to the board. Some board members objected to changing the range because, even though it did not have a direct impact now, bringing in new administrators might be more costly (depending on what part of the range became a salary offer). Others argued the need for the district to be competitive (involving a possible \$15,000 increase) when the need arises to hire new administrators. The change in salary ranges passed 4 to 2.

The board gratefully accepted the presentation of Woodman Park signage from the P.T.A.

The bulk of this meeting concerned what to do with the additional monies the School Board now had available to spend. These monies included the \$250,000 returned by the city and an additional \$98,000 that had not been taken away by the state (state retirement system) giving them a total of \$348,000 with which to work. Superintendent Briggs-Badger came with a list of priorities developed by the administration within the district.

Principals Patrick Boodey, Woodman Park, and Dustin Gray, Garrison presented enrollment figures for grades 4th and 1st respectively. These classes were already up to 25 and 27 not including the usual spike in enrollment in August and September. Aside from the 2 new teachers requested (\$60,00) due to this enrollment, the admen also felt that 6 literacy interventionists at 4 hours a day at Horne Street, Garrison and at DMS would be more effective than 2 reading specialist. They also requested the return of audio-visual aides at reduced hours. The recommended list focused on instruction and literacy.

Some board members were concerned about other issues:

1. Restoration of a late bus

2. The number of literacy programs (and money spent) that have been introduced over the years still leaving schools in need of improvement
3. The emphasis on remediation for students not judged proficient on standardized tests while student who are judged proficient are just reaching the low standards set in standardized tests.
4. Reorganization of the DMS (prompted by Title 1 requirements)

While some board members wanted to tie their overall educational concerns to the restoration of budgetary funds, others wanted to give approval to the administration's priorities and save other concerns for a later discussion. Eventually these priorities did get board approval.