

To: City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met November 8, 2010.

Director Sandy Crosson gave a report on district services for students with special needs. Among the goals of the Special Education Department is to keep class sizes small to individualize instruction. Mrs. Crosson showed a video of students at work in the classrooms.

Superintendent Jean Briggs-Badger gave thanks to the Dover Fire Department for their performance of the "Three Little Pigs" geared to fire safety for the students of Dover. She proceeded to report on various honors, participation in charity drives, meetings, seminars, information nights, competitions, picture schedule, and musical events.

The student representative reported on student council events (food drive, dance etiquette, fund raiser). Also news on the high school band and the football team participating in the finals, Student complaint about the hours of the library after school ---need more time.

Committee Reports:

- 1) Curriculum ---math report. A curriculum request will come after the budget is devised. Reported the problem caused by block scheduling in offering math courses in sequence. Math courses geared to practical knowledge of money will benefit both non-college and college bound students. Role of technology in the math program
- 2) JBC –Horne Street ---changes made daily. Nearing end of project.
- 3) Mrs. Grady resigned from the negotiations committee with the DTU. Mr Mayberry was nominated to take her place

The Board tweaked the policy on bullying in its first reading. The policy followed the School Boards Association model and is adapted to state law. It was suggested that the punishment procedures be added to the policy. Suggesting the addition of where parents could find a copy of the policy and the consequences. Also raised the question of whether the district has a policy concerning adult bullying of students. It was determined that it would be covered by the district's harassment policy.

Indoor air quality policy tabled to the next reading/meeting.

New Business: Approval of Dover High School Program of Studies. The Board was informed of the drops and additions to the course of study. Classes that have an enrollment of less than 12 students do not run. There was a change in the sequence in Algebra courses. A plethora of Advance Placement courses have been added. The Program of Studies was approved.

A high school social studies teacher explained the "Close Up Program" for students interested in government and requested a half credit be awarded for participating students. This involves a trip to Washington, D.C. A question about the cost was raised. There will be local fund raising as well as government financial assistance. There are at present 15 students interested in participating. This is an afterschool program with work and projects involved as well. It is open to all grades. Students would be working on projects in Washington. There would be interaction with students from across the country. The board requested information on the Close Up Foundation and what plans were made concerning student safety. Board approved.

Redistricting discussion: Principal Gray of Garrison School presented a brief to the board that had been discussed in committee for the past 5 months. Committee members discussed making elementary schools into regional schools with each school housing 2 grades citywide. Decided to instead recommend redistricting at this time with the movement of as few students as possible. Will bring a recommendation to the Board in January.

Business Manager Laurie Verville requested the approval of a student/parent survey of the school lunch program. Propose conducting this survey through “Survey Monkey”. Information will be distributed through school newsletters. Board approved.

The draft of the 2011-2012 proposed school calendar was presented. Suggested moving the April vacation to conform with Rochester and to accommodate the Dover athletic schedule. Tabled to December meeting.

Emergency lighting: The fire department cited the district on the need to repair lighting. Board was presented with a bid recommendation. Passed.

Natural gas bid: Metro Media Energy was the approved bid for 5 months at a fixed 74 cents.

Meeting adjourned.