

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in regular sessions April 11, 2011.

During Citizen's Forum a representative of the DEOP (office personnel) described the contents of their contract (the money part) and asked that the school board approve a four year contract that includes a stipend for members at the top of the salary scale. For the 28 members this would be at a cost of \$31,000.

Also during Citizen's Forum, students from CATA (local charter school) requested funds to supplement the difference between the state's allocation and what it actually costs to educate each student.

The School Board recognized the DHS Ice Hockey team for an outstanding season.

Teachers implementing Dover's Growing Readers program, in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, discussed the advantages of the "local teacher developed" program:

1. Continuity of the curriculum in all city schools
2. Successful differentiation of instruction
3. Literacy facilitators assigned to each school
4. The use of benchmark assessment with immediate feedback

Staff also noted what needed to be improved which included:

1. Need for more professional development
2. Need to refine the alignment of curriculum between grades
3. More technology available to amass data
4. Better scheduling

The next step would be to develop a writing curriculum along the same lines.

The school board approved the DEOP contract with a vote of 6 to 1.

A job share and an extra year of leave were pulled from the consent calendar while a board member cited the board's lack of information concerning funds. The Superintendent noted it would not cost extra money to approve job sharing and extended leave staff do not cost the district.

Superintendent Briggs-Badger reported that 2 of our schools (DMS/Horne) made adequacy in reading. Horne street made it in math also. Seventeen DHS students were named Granite State scholars. She also noted a list of additional awards and honors won by students throughout the district.

Committee reports indicated that there are funds unexpended in both the Media Center and Horne Street School projects.

Business Manager Verville reported the reallocation of unspent funds to curriculum development.

Athletic Director Wotton requested that summer school attendance allow for reinstatement of eligibility for athletics in the fall.

An update on Nova Net was given by the Dean of Instruction at DHS. Staff presented the use of the interactive math lab, results of the study island program, and the Algebra core class. These programs combine the regular curriculum with intensive remediation. Read 180 and Systems 44 (Scholastic) targets non-proficient readers coming into the high school. The diagnostics indicate there has been significant improvement in student achievement. The Board questioned why so many students are reaching the high school without adequate reading skills. About 70% are indicated as Special Education students. The question remained as to why this was not attended to in the elementary schools. It seems that students make progress until the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and then the skills drop off. This lack of reading skill impacts all other curriculum. The Superintendent outlined the intervention programs that have been put in place at the grade school level and was confident that we are moving in the right direction.

A staff member at the high school explained the on-line course recovery program which is running smoothly.

The Board approved a schedule of early release days for professional development. A board member asked why so many resources were requested for teacher training rather than being diverted to the students. It was explained that much of today's curriculum materials are connected with technology and needed for classroom instruction and communication with parents.

The last item was to present class deletions (for one year) to the Program of Studies due to low enrollment and waivers for others that they want to combine or run with low enrollment.

