

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper

Re: School Board Report 3

The Dover School Board met in regular session December 12, 2011.

A school board member requested that the Secretarial Job Reclassification be pulled from the consent agenda and tabled. The board opposed this request and the consent agenda was passed.

During the Superintendent's Report, Jean Briggs-Badger thanked the members of the board who were not re-elected for their service to the district. These board members declined any gifts requesting monies be spent on a book to be donated to the school library. They did accept poinsettias as a tangible thank you for their service.

Other items reported included: the giving tree at the high school, the ribbon cutting at Horne Street School, the high school choral group performing at Strawberry Banke, Psychology students reading Christmas stories to elementary students, athletic news, holiday concerts, PTA meetings, business donations to school projects, the CIP meeting with the City Council. Concerning the latter, the School Board was informed about the need for a feasibility study as well as the possible use of impact fees.

The DHS student representative reported on the success of the high school food drive and the upcoming annual Penguin Fund.

Under committee reports, Dr. Appel reported on the Curriculum Committee which heard from the DMS Music Department concerning the hardship involved in curtailing the music program. Mrs. Grady reported on the Horne Street JBC which is still waiting for its Certificate of Occupancy.

The DMS principal brought forth a policy change regarding the criteria for getting on the honor roll. This policy would raise the standards for both honors and high honors. A couple of School Board members objected strongly to this tightening of

policy. They also questioned why the criteria should be more stringent than the high school's policy. After strong statements of objection, the superintendent reminded the board that they, in essence, had already approved the change by passing the handbook in a prior meeting! This was just an attempt by the school administration to make the policy fit the change already made. This was tabled.

A Primex update was reported on which included working with suggestions made when Primex studied our schools and made suggestions to increase safety. The suggestions that were being either acted on or deemed not practical at this time due to funding included:

1. Someone at the front entrance to screen people entering the school
2. Exterior lighting (at some schools it might affect neighbors)
3. Fencing of play area (this will be done at Garrison)
4. Enforce the ban on propping open outside doors
5. An alarm system for outer doors
6. Classroom doors locked when empty
7. Restricting access to roof areas
8. Training staff to use inside gates to block off areas of the school when public events are being held
9. Relocation of dumpsters (Horne Street School)
10. More security cameras (this will have to wait for funding)

The principal of DHS reported on a survey concerning the high school environment and culture given to teachers. Teachers responded positively concerning visible administration but did not feel support from the School Board or City Council. The principal suggested that they might invite more participation to school events to change this perception. She also noted that a newsletter outlining to parents the achievements of the students and more press releases might be valuable.

Mr. Amara, CTC Director, asked for board permission to move on with the ROTC partnership with Portsmouth. It was noted that a second instructor would have to be hired and some monies used for transportation. The estimate was that it

would require about \$75,000 to keep the program going. The board approved this agreement.

The board voted to accept the draft of the school calendar for next year.

Under items of interest:

1. Chairman Mebert sung the praises of Superintendent Briggs-Badger and CTC Director Amara for their forward thinking and achievements. She went on to list the accomplishments of this board in a wide variety of areas. She finished with how honored she was to serve the children of Dover.
2. School Board Member Grady also cited a long list of accomplishments by the board saying good job done, farewell and good luck.