



**CITY OF DOVER**

## JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**  
Meeting Location: **Media Access Center, McConnell Center**  
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 15, 2012**  
Meeting Time: **6:00 PM**

**Present:** Mayor Trefethen, Deputy Mayor Carrier, Councilors Cheney, Crago, Hooper, Weeden, and Weston. School Board Vice Chairperson Russell, School Board Members Appel, Andrews Parker, Baker, Butler, and Grady.

**Absent:** Councilors Garrison, Spuler, and School Board Chairperson D'Andrea,

**Also Present:** City Manager Joyal, General Legal Counsel Krans, City Clerk Lavertu, Superintendent Briggs Badger, and Business Administrator Limanni.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. February 1, 2012

Ms. Andrews Parker moved to accept the Minutes; seconded by Deputy Mayor Carrier.  
Vote: Unanimous.

### 3. BUDGET DISCUSSION & COUNCIL GUIDANCE

Ms. Russell read Mr. D'Andrea's email to the Committee. She said the School Board has tentatively cut \$1,267,049 from the budget, which is \$828,318 short of meeting the tax cap. She spoke about other cuts being considered and the effect it would have on the students and the school ratings.

Superintendent Briggs Badger gave an overview of the handouts of the School Board's January 6, 2012 straw poll on proposed cuts, and January 13, 2012 list of proposed cuts.

Ms. Grady said the School Board has just started the budget process, and stated again that these were tentative cuts at this point.

Mr. Limanni explained the tax cap figures and how they were calculated.

Mayor Trefethen suggested that the School Board come up with a budget that conforms to the tax cap, and then present a prioritized list of the things that if the Council gave them "x" amount of money it would put items back into the budget. He spoke the Council's Goal to look into consolidating services between the City and School.

Councilor Cheney said she is not pleased with the list of cuts on the handouts, and she understand that the Council has no say in what is being considered, but she said she would be voting for a budget within the tax cap.

Councilor Crago started a discussion on the perception that teachers gave themselves a raise and didn't buy new books for the students. He spoke about large class sizes when he went to school in the 50's.

Superintendent Briggs Badger said the teachers didn't get COLA increases for the past three years. She said they did receive STEP increases.

Mr. Limanni said they are willing to do anything to give the people the correct perception on how the money is spent.

Ms. Russell spoke about State and Federal mandates, and mainstreaming special education children.

Councilor Hooper said these answers need to be given to the Councilors' constituents to help correct misconceptions.



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Councilor Weston said she doesn't see any program cuts on the list. It was her understanding that they were going to look at cutting music, foreign language, and the pre-school program. She said this adds to the misconception she's hearing from the City. Superintendent Briggs Badger discussed the possibility of losing accreditation if they cut too many programs. Mr. Limanni reminded the Committee that the School Board has had only one budget workshop meeting.

#### **4. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

No discussion.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trefethen closed the meeting.

**DRAFT**