



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Special Session #10
Meeting Location:	McConnell Center, Media Center Room Rm. 306
Meeting Date:	Monday, July 30, 2012
Meeting Time:	6:30 P.M.

- A. ROLL CALL:** Present were Kathy Baker, Paul Butler, Doris Grady, Ken Appel, Betsey Andrews Parker, Amanda Russell, and Rocky D’Andrea.

Also present were representatives for Café Services and Chartwells. Also, employees of Dover Food Services.

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Betsey Andrews Parker led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- C. CITIZEN’S FORUM (LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):** No one addressed the Board.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Award Food Service Bid

Mrs. Grady stated that she has researched all materials and will be supporting Mr. Limanni’s recommendation.

Dr. Appel also was satisfied with the recommendation.

Ms. Russell thanked Mr. Limanni for his efforts on this bid, but would not be supporting the recommendation. She has heard from sources and through experience that the food quality is not as good as it could be. For some students, the meals provided at school are the only ones they will receive and she wants to be sure that the students will receive the best food possible. She would be in support of Abbey Group. She appreciated their honest style and spoke with parents and teachers during the week who agreed with her that the best food should be the goal.

Dr. Appel requested more discussion on the subject since his second choice was Abbey Group.

Ms. Russell commented that the information that she has received is based on comments from staff at the school for which she works. She has heard on various occasions that she shouldn’t eat the food and it seems that students are throwing away a great deal of food.

Mr. D’Andrea wanted to be sure that staff would not be losing their jobs. Mr. Limanni assured him that they would not be.

Mrs. Grady added that she also did some research and heard the opposite of Ms. Russell’s comments. A school district that she contacted stated that they should stay away from Abbey Group. She felt that all of the groups were good, but thought that the company was located too far away in Vermont and she would always prefer to do



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business within the community. Her choice, Café Services, would be using local vendors.

Mr. D'Andrea responded that he thought that all of the companies would be doing that. His opinion was that Abbey Group may try to do better since they are trying to build more business in New Hampshire.

Ms. Andrews Parker stated that she liked the ala carte items of Café Services, but was concerned with packaging and waste and that it isn't consistent with the district's "green" initiative. She doesn't believe the district should focus on Human Resources, but on the quality of food. She has heard poor things about the food from neighboring schools. She agrees that Abbey Group had an honest approach and liked the universal free breakfast. They have a good menu that is more in line with her thoughts for the middle and elementary schools. She also liked getting parent's involved.

Regarding Chartwells, Ms. Andrews Parker stated that she had concerns about such a large company, although she liked the unlimited fruits and vegetables. Presentation was great and high schools would do well, but unsure about elementary schools with this company.

Mr. Limanni made a point of clarification stating that Chris Farro, of Café Services, has served on the District wellness committee. He recused himself from meetings and Mr. Limanni feels that it is unfair to eliminate his company from contention because of his involvement as a parent. He separated himself from the process and was professional regarding the bid process.

Ms. Andrews Parker commented that this information came up after the fact and was full disclosure, not a personal attack.

Ms. Baker asked Mr. Limanni why the Abbey Group had a "slight" edge on food quality. Mr. Limanni responded that after looking at references, he heard more about food quality from references for Café Services and Chartwells. He didn't receive comments on food quality from Abbey Group. He felt that all companies had strengths and weaknesses. They are three different companies.

Mr. D'Andrea asked if Mr. Limanni's final recommendation was based on the bottom line only. Mr. Limanni state that references played a part, but much of it was bottom line. He felt that much of the vendor's success would be related to the District.

He continued to say that it was a close decision and all three are good choices.

Mrs. Grady commented that his award is just for one year and the remaining four years would be contingent on the success of the first year.

Ms. Russell asked how a director would be hired. Mr. Limanni responded that there is more flexibility with the larger companies. He stated that working with all three companies on the RFP was a great experience. There may be more of a local presence from Café Services for management.



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Ms. Russell stated her concern is for the consistency of food quality. She only has one frame of reference. She commented that there would be reduced waste if the quality of the food is better and students prefer it.

Mrs. Grady added that students typically create waste anyway. The best situation is to minimize the waste, but students will always throw food away.

Ms. Russell is concerned with the students who don't have a choice. School breakfast and lunch may be their only option and their food for the day.

Paul Butler moved, Doris Grady seconded to approve the Business Administrator's recommendation adopting Café Services as our food vendor for next year. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 3/3 (Russell, Andrews Parker, Appel opposed, D'Andrea abstained)**

Mr. D'Andrea abstained from the vote because he was unable to attend the meeting where each company presented to the School Board.

Record Note: After the meeting, it was determined that in Robert's Rules, a motion where the result is a tie, fails. Therefore, this vote is invalid and another vote will take place on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

E. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST: none

F. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Russell moved, Paul Butler seconded to adjourn at 7:17. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky D'Andrea, Chairperson
RD/ral