



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting #12
Meeting Location: Media Ctr. (Room 306) McConnell Center
Meeting Date: **Monday, December 10, 2012**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

Chairperson Rocky D’Andrea called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Monday, December 10, at 7:08 p.m. in the McConnell Center Media Center.

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

Also present were; Superintendent Jean Briggs Badger; DMS Principal Kim Lyndes, Woodman Park Principal Patrick Boodey, Garrison School Principal Dustin Gray, DTU President Maybeth Anderson, Math Facilitator Patty Driscoll, WPS teacher Sharon Shea and members of her 1st grade class, parents and teachers.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Betsey Andrews Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amanda Russell moved, Betsey Andrews Parker seconded moving up the “Learning Celebration” portion of the Superintendent’s Comments in the agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Woodman Park School 1st Grade Teacher, Sharon Shea discussed the progress of Math in Focus and specifically, numeracy development, in her classroom. Student Representatives from her class demonstrated their newly acquired Math in Focus skills to School Board members and others in the audience.

C. CITIZENS’ FORUM: Maybeth Anderson, 16 Monroe St, DHS Librarian/DTU President, discussed achievements of the DHS Latin program. Latin Teacher, Jennifer Connelly, organized a competition that included 30 teams from 9 schools. DHS students placed first in the competition. She also commented on efforts of DHS French teacher, Ann Marie Staples, and the French Club. They invited DMS students to DHS for French instruction. A grant from the DMS PTA funded this.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Nonpublic Session #33, November 5, 2012
2. Regular Session #11, November 5, 2012

Betsey Andrews Parker moved, Kathy Baker seconded approval of the minutes. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Correspondence:** None
2. **Resignations/Retirements:** None
3. **Leaves of Absence:** None
4. **Nominations:**
 - Sheet 1: Nomination and Election of Aides and Secretaries
 - Sheet 2: Nomination and Election of Coaching Positions
 - Sheet 3: Nomination and Election of Staff



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5. Extended Travel (Student Trips): NONE

Betsey Andrews Parker moved, Kathy Baker seconded to approve the consent agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Briggs Badger spoke on the following items:

- Christmas concerts and events at all schools were discussed
- WPS will have the annual Polar Express which travels to Lincoln Street School in Exeter
- HSS will be traveling to Rochester Opera House to see "The Nutcracker"
- HSS 3rd grade classes will be hosting the Dover History Fair this month
- The Fisher Cats Baseball team visited HSS to introduce the Fisher Cats Reading Incentive Program
- GES thanked parents for support of the Book Fair, the Holiday Giving Tree, and the annual Holiday Sale
- GES thanks nursing students for making presentations in the lunchroom about harmful effects of soda
- Dover Police and Fire are encouraging students to bring in any non-perishable items this week to support local families.
- DMS PTA meeting will be Dec 11 with Eileen Behan speaking on Nutrition and Obesity
- DMS Guidance has an ongoing winter coat collection and welcomes all donations
- DHS has been selected for the 3rd Annual AP District Honor Roll
- DHS Granite State Challenge will compete again 16 teams in the 29th season of GSC.
- Congratulations to Ms. Boulanger and Ms. Kontos for performing at Carnegie Hall as members of Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra
- DHS' Robotics team is one of two NH teams that have been selected to receive a NASA FRC grant. Congratulations to staff and students who made this possible.
- Congratulations to DHS students Jordan Russell, David Bergeron, Paul Bergeron for making the All-State orchestra and Julia Boudreau for being selected for the All-State chorus. In addition 7 singers were selected to perform at the All-New England Choral Festival at PSU as well as the Chamber singers performing as the guest honor group. Six band students will also perform at the All-New England Band Festival at PSU.
- The DHS marching band also performed at two area parades

Amanda Russell moved, Kathy Baker seconded acceptance of the Superintendent Report. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Dover High School student representative Matthew Palczynski reported on the following items:



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- Winter sports have begun at DHS
- The marching band has one more performance in May
- The first robotics team has constructed a working prototype for upcoming competitions
- Granite State Challenge team will compete on the NHPTV competition
- Math team earned 4th place in a meet held in Somersworth
- INTERACT Club recently ended its warm clothing drive
- INTERACT and Key Club worked together on Toys for Tots wrapping drive
- NHS and Key Club helped out at the Garrison Holiday Breakfast
- Student Council will be starting a canned food drive that will run from January 28th until February 1st
- The Student Council is asking the School Board to consider allocating funding for a library aide so that students have access to the library all day instead of just 3 blocks.
- The Student Council would also like Honor's Passes reinstated at DHS. These passes allow honors' students to go to restrooms and/or library without a pass

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dr. Appel provided the following report on the Curriculum Planning Committee Meeting held on December 6:

The Curriculum Planning Council meeting of December 6, 2012 was devoted to the status of the mathematics program in the Dover schools. Three years ago many facets of the mathematics program were in a shambles. There was considerable dissatisfaction in the community with the textbooks used in the grade and middle schools and poor coordination between the middle and high schools in dealing with transition between their respective programs.

Then, the decision was made to adopt the Math in Focus (MIF) series of texts, a more demanding and rigorous program. The task of preparing students, teachers, and parents for dealing with the change was formidable. But Dover had the extreme good fortune of being able to assign that task to mathematics specialists Patricia Driscoll and Karen Berg. The program is now in its second year in the first six grades and will soon cover the full middle school. Patty and Karen had to analyze the demands made at each grade of teaching the new material while bringing students up to speed on the MIF material in the earlier grades that they had missed. They had to work intensively with teachers both to explain the MIF approach and build enthusiasm for the idea that the job could be accomplished. They had to deal with the fact that for most parents the MIF approach was different from what they were familiar with. Their work in organizing meetings with the appropriate audiences and explaining the program has been impressive.

Parental support for the program is high (in the words of Principal Boodey -"over the moon"). Teachers are becoming more comfortable with the program and there is an increased consistency in expectations and teaching practices. As Patty and Karen acknowledge, there is still a good deal of work to be done, particularly in remediation and differentiation of instruction, so that all students can fully profit from the virtues of the MIF program but it appears that



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Careful planning is paying off and the adoption of MIF is leading to a successful unification of mathematics instruction at the grade and middle school level and an expectation on the part of the high school teachers that the students they will be seeing in the future are well prepared for a strong high school program.

The high school mathematics department reports that all teachers are referencing competencies in their lesson plans. They are working intensively at aligning the Common Core with current competencies. Participation in the AP program is increasing with 76 students taking the calculus AP exams. In the 2014-15 academic year (when all Dover freshman students will have had experience with MIF) it is hoped that Honors Algebra I can be added.

I. POLICY -- CHANGES – PROPOSALS:

a. IHBG Home Education Instruction

Superintendent Briggs Badger provided information about the changes in the policy stating that the regulations around home education have been reduced. This is now very little oversight by the district. The language brings the District into compliance with the state law.

Amanda Russell moved, Kathy Baker seconded tabling Policy IHBG for a second reading to the January School Board meeting. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

J. POLICY ADOPTION: none

K. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS: Amanda Russell moved, Kathy Baker seconded to direct the payment of manifest #13-F in the amount of \$4,484.78 for FY12 and \$3,838,507.53 for FY13 for a total of \$3,842,992.31. The time period for payments was from 11/6/12 to 12/10/12. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

RESOLUTIONS: None

M. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Capital Reserves Funds Discussion

Business Administrator Mike Limanni and Superintendent Jean Briggs Badger provided information on a resolution on Capital Reserves Funds that was presented at a recent City Council meeting. Ms. Briggs Badger explained the resolution, stating that the City Council had changed what the School Board had approved asking that there be a 15% limitation in spending for 5 years. The City Council will be voting on this resolution on December 12th.

Ms. Russell hopes that the Council tables this item until the Board and Council have a discussion prior to the vote. Mr. D'Andrea agreed.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked why the School Department is given this restriction and other departments are not.



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Mr. Limanni explained that the Council's rationale is that change to the resolution will allow funds to accumulate. He continued to say that this change will cause further restraint of the budget.

Mr. D'Andrea added that this change is not needed since the Council, as well as the School Board, would still need to approve an expenditure from these funds.

Ms. Briggs Badger and Mr. Limanni are requesting that the language change is stricken from the resolution and approved.

Ms. Andrews Parker commented that these capital reserve funds are the fiscally responsible thing for the School District to do. They would help eliminate the peaks and valleys in the budgets.

Ms. Briggs Badger reviewed policies and talked with Fire Chief Richard Driscoll and found that the Fire Department was not held to any type of restriction.

N. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Introduction of New DTZ (Formerly UNICCO) Facilities Director Jeff White—Tim Knowles

Tim Knowles introduced Jeff White, who will be his replacement as he takes on a new leadership position with DTZ (formerly UNICCO). Mr. Knowles explained the selection process and Mr. White discussed his background. He has a background in construction and after was employed by the Marriott Corporation for 14 years. His most recent position was with the Boston Ritz-Carlton and prior to that, was employed at the Boston Copley Plaza.

Ms. Andrews Parker commented that at Horne Street School (her children's school), UNICCO has done a great job.

Mrs. Grady added that Mr. White will have tough shoes to fill with the departure of Mr. Knowles in this position.

2. Dover Adult Learning Center Update—Deanna Strand

DALC Executive Director Deanna Strand shared some DALC success stories. Ms. Strand presented information through handouts highlighting areas of enrollment and funding. She has been looking at opportunities to reduce the expense of the program to the Dover School District and has had some success. Somersworth has agreed to provide Dover with \$3500-\$5000 and is meeting with Rochester Superintendent this week. She has potentially reduced the \$175,151 in administrative costs to \$96,000 through her efforts. Even this year, there is a \$11,000 increase in grants over last year. These grants help provide revenue to the school budget to offset the cost of the program.



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Ms. Strand stated that 60 Dover High students received some or all of their education at Dover Adult Learning Center. 28 received their GED or adult diploma, which lowered Dover's drop-out rate.

Ms. Strand stated that for 40 years, Dover Adult Learning Center has been the educational partner of the Dover School District. All DALC programs occur in Dover, either at the McConnell Center or at Dover High School. Ms. Strand discussed enrollment by town and stated that all programs are extensions of programs in Dover. Non-residents enhance DALC programs by adding enrollment to classes, providing more class options. Out of town students also pay a higher tuition rate which provide support for underfunded services like GED testing and childcare. Ms. Strand and her Office Manager focus most of their efforts on Dover programs.

Overall, DALC is largely used by Dover residents, but some towns who have higher enrollment in Dover Adult Learning supplement the cost of programs.

Ms. Strand stated that her greatest desire would be for a ten-year renewal of the memorandum of understanding when it expires in five years. She added that for a relatively small investment, a tremendous reward is gained and the whole community benefits from a better educated population.

Mrs. Grady added that Dover Adult Learning Center has transformed lives, while providing fresh starts and new opportunities for students. They become better workers, citizens and family members after having attended DALC. Mrs. Grady provided statistics including the following: In the past 40 years, 6,800 people became high school graduates due to DALC. Last year, over 4,000 accessed the educational testing programs. Each year over 50 inmates from the Strafford County House of Corrections earn GED's. Adults volunteer time each year to the SCHOC, providing opportunities for inmates.

She continued to say that DALC provides a safety net for teens that would ordinarily drop out of school. Each year, more than 50 16-17 year old students complete high school through alternative education.

3. Café Services Update—Frank Gillespie and Chris Faro

Café Services District Manager Chris Faro introduced Dover Food Services Director Frank Gillespie and Dover Assistant Food Services Director Josh Applebee to the School Board. They both provided personal background information and updated the Board on changes made to the food service program.

Mr. D'Andrea commented that his son attends Dover Middle School and is happy with the changes.

Ms. Baker agreed, stating approval from her granddaughters. She suggested that, according to her granddaughters, the only area for improvement would be pizza. Ms. Russell commented that her son loves the pizza.



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4. Approve Draft 2013-2014 School Calendar

Ms. Russell commented that all the feedback that she received has been positive and most parents have said they prefer the additional teacher workshop days over the Early Release days. Her only concern is the inequity in the amount of instruction in related arts. Elementary related arts classes that meet on Fridays meet fewer days per year.

Mrs. Grady commented that she still has trouble with the reduced student days and had thought that the change made last year from 180 to 177 students days was for one year only,

Betsey Andrews Parker moved, Amanda Russell seconded to approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/1 (Grady opposed)**.

5. Month of November 2012 Condition of Accounts—M. Limanni

Mr. Limanni presented the November condition of accounts to the School Board stating that as encumbrances are made, the bottom line changes and becomes more accurate. If any Board members have questions at any time, they should not hesitate to email him.

Mrs. Grady asked if the \$200,000 that was requested to be held from last year's impact fees was included in the Condition of Accounts. Mr. Limanni responded that money from impact fees was used to pay debt service which is not indicated in the report. He added that the District would try to reduce spending by \$200,000 to make up for it. We can return it to fund balance or pass a resolution to reduce the appropriation of impact fees. General funds would need to be appropriated to pay debt service which could be done in a second resolution. Mr. Limanni stated he would have a better idea of the condition of funds toward the end of February.

O. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST:

P. ADJOURNMENT: Amanda Russell moved, Kathy Baker seconded, to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

Superintendent Briggs Badger and other's handouts have been archived with these Minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsey Andrews Parker, Secretary
BAP/ral