



**CITY OF DOVER**

## JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**  
Meeting Location: **Room 305, McConnell Center**  
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 24, 2012**  
Meeting Time: **7:00 PM**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

**City Councilors Present:** Mayor Trefethen, Deputy Mayor Carrier, Councilor Cheney, Councilor Crago, Councilor Garrison, Councilor Hooper, Councilor Spuler, Councilor Weeden, and Councilor Weston.

**School Board Members Present:** Chairperson Rocky D'Andrea, Vice-Chairperson Amanda Russell, Secretary Betsey Andrews-Parker, Ken Appel, Kathy Baker, Paul Butler, and Doris Grady.

**Also Present:** City Manager Joyal, General Legal Counselor Krans, City Clerk Lavertu, Superintendent Briggs Badger.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. MAY 2, 2012

Councilor Weeden moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Councilor Garrison.  
Vote: U/A.

### 3. DISCUSSION

#### A. PROPOSED SCHOOL FY2013-19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

Superintendent Briggs Badger gave an overview of the School CIP projects to the Councilors and School Board members. She answered questions regarding Garrison Elementary School renovations, saying there is a facilities fund to pay for renovations that have to be completed. She also listed the renovations that have been completed on the high school and explained the lower renovation costs in the CIP.

The formal presentation for the CIP projects will be held on October 3, 2012.

#### B. FY2012 BUDGET CLOSEOUT

Mr. D'Andrea discussed this issue and how it was brought forward. He hoped for apologies and retractions after this has been resolved. He said the City and School Board are in unison in financial policies and procedures.

Superintendent Briggs Badger talked about the budget surplus.

Councilor Weeden asked when the School Board knew about the surplus.

Superintendent Briggs Badger said they knew in the middle of May.

Councilor Weeden asked about the process for approving the use of the surplus. He said he thought the School Board knew about it before the April 18<sup>th</sup> budget presentation to the Council.

Councilor Crago said he was glad that the School had a surplus, but felt the process wasn't transparent.

School Board Member Russell spoke about the relationship between the School Board and the Council. She said if the Council had questions they should have asked the School Board and not gone to the social media and newspaper.



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Mayor Trefethen said municipal budgets are very different from a business budget. He discussed Councilor Crago's actions and his opinion that they were out of line. He said he has five councilors who do not talk to him.

Councilor Weeden asked about the \$5.2 million surplus in the City's budget and if any of it could go to the Schools.

City Manager Joyal said the Council could vote on that at any time with a supplemental appropriation. He said the \$5.2 million surplus were for construction projects that aren't underway at this time.

Councilor Weeden said he believed the members want a quarterly report from the Superintendent like the Council receives from the City Manager.

Mr. Limanni said they realized there was some confusion and their response was to create a monthly financial report for the Board.

Councilor Weston talked about the budget meetings where parents begged the Council for money, and then the School Board didn't come back to the Council to say they could buy the necessary items. She didn't think the Board was hiding it, but the Council worked hard to find money. She didn't think they did anything wrong, but it was how it was done.

Superintendent Briggs Badger said she didn't know there was going to be a surplus when she presented the 2013 budget in April. She said she wanted to move forward.

Councilor Cheney talked about the procedures of the Council through the Charter, and felt the School Board should work in the same manner. She felt the School Board Chairperson did something on his own with the School administration. She felt if the School Board knew about this it should have been made public.

Ms. Russell said the School Board only sets policy.

Councilor Hooper said the problem is micromanagement. She said the Council only has bottom line authority.

Councilor Weeden said he felt it was a good discussion and he had his questions answered.

Deputy Mayor Carrier said the Council does things without the other Councilors' knowledge. He disagreed that Councilor Weeden should have asked about this publicly at the September 12, 2012 City Council meeting, because it mushroomed with misinformation. He said it damaged the relationship between the Council and School Board. He said the Councilors shouldn't point fingers because they weren't all transparent and open.

Ms. Grady says she takes offense with some of tonight's comments. She said she has served on the School Board for 18 years. She heard the comment that past School Board members and past School Board Chairpersons were asked. She said nobody asked her if she had ever seen a list at the end of the year when there were some financial surpluses. She said she has seen a list, but wasn't sure if they were every recorded or reported in the paper. She said there hasn't been a year when the School Board has come to the fourth quarter, and it looked like there would be extra money, when it was not addressed by the School Board. She said she has done her homework and it was fine if anyone wanted to challenge her on this. She spoke about getting the parents to volunteer their time to come and speak to the Council and ask for the money. She said the Board hasn't even told the public that they have a surplus and was able to purchase the books and other items. She said she was upset, and felt the process was unfair.

Councilors discussed the need for better communication between the City Council and School Board.



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Ms. Russell discussed the need to communicate with the liaisons when there is a question, instead of going to the media.

Mayor Trefethen said it was a productive meeting, but he also felt it didn't need to happen. He said transparency does not include social media. It was not constructive.

Mr. D'Andrea talked about the comments made and how no one questioned him directly. He suggested the Joint Fiscal Committee meet in April next year. He thanked the School Board and School Administration for their service.

### **C. OTHER DISCUSSION**

#### **4. ADJOURN**

Mr. D-Andrea moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Weston.

Vote: U/A.