

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report #2

The Dover School Board met in regular session March 11, 2013.

Citizens Forum: One speaker urged the school board to bring in a tax cap budget.

Resolutions: The Dover High School Girls Swim Team was recognized as state champions.

Consent Agenda: After the introduction of two new principals (Peter Driscoll at the high school and Beth Dunton at Garrison School) in the district, the Consent Agenda was passed.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Jean Briggs-Badger reported on Kindergarten registration, teacher workshop day, course selection at the high school, concerts, outside speaker (author Ginger Katz), Robotics Team success, high school play, PTA meetings, charitable events, and varied social events.

Student Representative Report: Matthew Palczynski was recognized by the board for his achievement as a National Honor Society scholar. He reported on spring sports, band concert, Poetry contest, Pi Day, Key Club and Student Council.

Committee Reports: there were none

Policy – Changes – Proposals: First Reading

1) Any complaints/concerns regarding the Superintendent, School Board decisions/practices or interactions between the School Board and City of Dover shall be directed to the board Chair. Any request for information requiring more than 120 minutes of time could come back to the board for approval. All information gathered would be shared with the entire board. Chair D'Andrea stated that this was to do away with duplicate requests during their busy budget time. One board member stated she felt this was a discriminatory policy and discouraged board member questions. She felt it also stifled her right as a duly elected board member. She also questioned why the minutes of a non-public meeting were sealed and she was unable to see them after missing the meeting. Chair D'Andrea indicated that no one was stopping board members from speaking with constituents and the intent of the policy was to avoid repetitious requests. Secretary Andrews-Parker noted that the policy was based on other community policies. It was tabled until the 2nd reading.

2) Allowing advertising in the schools in order to bring in revenue. Prior to this, no advertising was allowed in Dover schools. Now, with the need for funds, the board is thinking of allowing carefully monitored advertising in the schools to increase the flow of revenue. Other districts seem to be in the same boat. Mr. Limanni, the district Business Administer, noted that this revenue could help save a job or program as well as doing away with some student fees. No action has been taken as yet but this policy change would allow a move forward. It was tabled until the 2nd reading.

Old Business:

1) Superintendent Briggs-Badger reported that the Nottingham and Barrington numbers of tuition students have gone down and that we will lose \$814,000 in tuition. Students have other options now as districts are competing for tuition students for revenue.

2) Mr. Amara, CTC Director, addressed the issue of cutting the guidance position within his program. He noted he could use Perkin Grant monies as well as what would be saved by his resignation to fund that position.

3) Board members discussed all the financial losses they have to contend with (adequacy funds, N.H. Retirement funding, drop in tuition monies) , the deep cuts already made in staffing and programs, and where there could be additional savings. The Board voted to present the current budget they have produced which would require an override by the Council.\

New Business:

1) The senior graduation date has been set for Wednesday, June 10 at 7PM at the Whittemore Center at UNH.

2) Mr. Limanni presented the scholarship and trust balances as of Jan. 31, 2013.

3) Mr. Limanni announced two training classes for staff interested in getting a bus driver's license to transport students. There is currently one 14 passenger bus and one 7 passenger van available for transport. Mr. Amara also confirmed there is a 15 passenger CTC bus available. The Board passed this proposal.

4) Mr. Limanni reported on the condition of accounts for February.

School Board Matters of Interest:

Request for a Joint Adequacy Committee Report.

The Board adjourned.