

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report #1

The Dover School Board met in Special Session March 4, 2013 to discuss the proposed 2014 budget.

Mr. Limanni reviewed the past budget meetings reminding the board of what had been the proposed cuts to reach a tax cap budget. He focused on the contingency funds (such as transportation and utilities) that had been reduced for savings in the budget.

The board approved the Energy Savings Policy Adoption, cutting the Dover High School hall monitor, and the SAU restructure which provided a savings of \$133,484.

There was a long discussion concerning charging for high school transportation and increasing the high school athletic fees. Several board members felt this placed too high a burden on parents. Increased athletic fees did not pass.

Some questions arose concerning the monies expended on Special Education and the Alternative School. Mr. Limanni reminded the board that sending students out to other programs is far more expensive.

A question arose concerning the possibility of dropping a guidance counselor at the high school level. The possibility of dropping specialists at the elementary was also discussed.

Attendance incentives were discussed to cut down on the cost of substitute teachers.

Board members were vocal about keeping All-day Kindergarten in place as well as busing at the high school.

Board members made it clear in the discussion that they did not favor any of the cuts they had made in the budget. The newly formed revenue committee also

made cut suggestions that they did not like to recommend. There was also some discussion that the board, after having made massive cuts to reach a tax cap budget, might ask for an override by the City Council for the amount left.