



**CITY OF DOVER**

## JOINT ADEQUACY FUNDING COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Joint Adequacy Funding Committee Meeting  
Meeting Location: Superintendent's Conference Room, McConnell Center  
Meeting Date: **Thursday, May 2, 2013**  
Meeting Time: **6:00 PM**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. D'Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: City Manager Joyal, Mayor Trefethen, Councilor Weston, Superintendent Briggs Badger, School Board Chairperson D'Andrea. In addition, State Representative Verschueren, Senator David Watters, Robin LaFleur, Fosters

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Joyal moved, Dean Trefethen seconded allowing approval of April 11, 2013 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Trefethen stated that there may be good news regarding adequacy. Information should be shared carefully.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### Legislative Update—Rep. Verschueren/Sen. Watters

Representative Verschueren provided history of Dover's adequacy issues. He stated that in 2010 with the new formula, Dover was one of the communities who received an increase. Over time, the system should have been leveling off. Communities, who were getting too much, would get less and communities who were getting too little, would receive more.

Dover is in a somewhat unique situation because of growing enrollment. The 5% is no longer enough.

The major challenge for Rep. Verschueren and Senator Watters is how to present to the legislature without looking like other communities are being attacked.

Rep. Verschueren credited Dr. Mebert for data collection and distributed a spreadsheet that they had compiled from data from the state. The data was almost identical to data generated by Dr. Mebert. Rep. Verschueren stated that he and Dr. Mebert preferred that language, "Inadequately funded" replace underfunded when possible.

Rep. Verschueren explained a spreadsheet with data from 29 communities. The proposal would provide supplemental adequacy grants to communities who meet all of the following criteria:

1. The municipality's estimated adequacy grant for FY14 is less than their calculated preliminary grant for FY14
2. The municipality's total ADM used to calculate their FY 14 adequacy grant is greater than the municipality's total ADM used to calculate their FY13 adequacy grant



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3. The municipality's free and reduced lunch eligible ADM used to calculate their FY14 adequacy grant is greater than the municipality's free and reduce ADM used to calculate their FY13 adequacy grant; and
4. The municipality's free and reduced lunch eligible ADM is equal to or greater than 10% of the municipality's total ADM for FY14

In FY14, a municipality that meets the criteria above would receive a supplemental adequacy grant equal to \$1,749.15 multiplied by the municipality's growth in free and reduced eligible ADM as compared to FY13. Using these criteria, 7 communities would qualify for supplemental grants totaling approximately \$637,390 in FY14.

This proposal may give the legislature a starting point for finding ways to solve the problem.

Senator Watters commented that the spreadsheet is not a final document and should be considered preliminary.

He has spoken with senators and is trying to approach people who may be able to help. His message is that the formula is good, just not applied fairly.

He has found that senators have agreed to look at and work on it. They have commented that they recognize a problem and want to try and find a solution in this budget cycle.

It will be a difficult process because of a \$100 million budget shortfall.

Senator Watters presented hypothetical situations:

1. It is difficult to select a small group of communities.
  - Can the cap be raised for each of 2 years of the budget?
  - most likely wouldn't be feasible because it would be too costly
  - The spreadsheet offers a fallback solution

Senator Watters stated that republican colleagues have all been very helpful. At the very least, groundwork has been laid for moving forward.

Mayor Trefethen commented that even if funding isn't offered, awareness has been raised for the issue.

Senator Watters stated that he has been impressed by the problem solving in the Senate.

Rep. Verschueren agreed with Senator Watters that the attitude in the legislature is more about how to fix the problem than on politics.

Ms. Briggs Badger added that she has been talking with Senator Nancy Stiles since fall and the issue is also on her radar.



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Ms. Briggs Badger stated her appreciation for the work everyone has done so far.

Senator Watters stated that if there is an amendment, there will be people who will present them. He felt that there could be some movement on this issue in this budget.

Mr. Joyal added his appreciation to Senator Watters and Rep. Verschueren for their efforts and offered to them if needed.

Councilor Weston spoke to the Governor recently and her opinion has changed dramatically. She stated that she never realized how unique Dover's situation is and how large the financial impact is. Councilor Weston's impression was that she would try to help Dover financially in some way.

There will be an executive meeting on May 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with Attorney Volinsky to discuss strategy. The meeting will be held at the SAU in the McConnell Center.

**5. CITIZEN'S FORUM: None**

**6. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m. An oral **VOTE PASSED**.