

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Ward 4 Councilor

Re: School Board Report (3)

The Dover School Board met in Regular Session August 12, 2013

Citizens Forum: Councilor Michael Weeden asked the Board to support his resolution to establish a scholarship to aid parents in paying for transportation on a school bus.

Consent Agenda: The agenda passed after Board member Grady gave comments of appreciation to the CTC Cosmetology teacher who was retiring after 10 years with the district and Business Administrator Mike Limanni who has taken a position with another district. Both were thanked for their contributions to the district.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Jean Briggs-Badger reported on Camp Explorer for new Kindergarten students, various open houses in the schools, middle school orientation, first day of school will be August 28<sup>th</sup>, a \$50,000 grant received to used for school safety, and a celebration at Garrison including a time capsule. Briggs-Badger noted that this was her last board meeting and said "see you on the beach."

Matt, this years student representative, was given the honor of taking the late Ken Appell's chair, a man he greatly respected, in order to give his report. It was a moving moment for Matt who quoted Carl Sagan as his farewell.

Committee Reports: Board member Grady reported on the new semester at DALC. She mentioned some of the courses being offered, the new catalog, date (Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>) of high school enrichment courses. Detailed information is on the DALC website.

Resolution: this was the transportation resolution. There was some discussion concerning who decides "need" and how it would be funded (donations). It passed.

Briggs-Badger noted that the district would be getting \$155,000 in adequacy funds from the state this year. This money will allow the high school to hire teachers that were originally not included in the budget as well as an elementary teacher for Horne Street School at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. The superintendent cautioned the Board that enrollment at the Kindergarten level must also be watched for class size.

H.S. Principal, Peter Driscoll, discussed credits, the challenges of making a schedule adapting to constant change, and on-line courses for students.

New Business: 1) The closeout of accounts will not be up to speed until September. There is now a new accountant on staff working with the software. 2) Planning Director Chris Parker came before the Board to talk about their support for a city dialogue concerning climate and the issue of storm water in the city. The city is looking to hold 10 sessions (in groups of 7). They would provide food and set up and just wanted the Board to sponsor one night and participate. The Board readily moved and passed this request.

Handbook changes for the Alternative School were approved. Stress is now on teachable moments and less on punitive actions.

There was a request by the administration to adapt an amended budget and put additional funds in priority (Business teacher, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Horne, Social Studies and Math. The Superintendent gave an update on class size with Kindergarten an area to watch. We expect 307 tuition students next year. Principal Patrick Boodey of Woodman Park School noted that with rising enrollments and inequity between elementary schools, there would be a need to consider redistricting in the near future.

The Facilities Director and Custodian Manager reported on all the work done over the summer in the buildings and grounds in the district. Things are in good shape for the September opening.

Board Secretary Betsy Andrews Parker presented a first draft for the RFP for the permanent superintendent search. Giving the Board something to work with, she outlined a time line for this search as well as pulled together items we should

consider with whichever company they choose to work with in finding candidates and vetting them. These characteristics included: data driven decision making, student first policy, traditional/non-traditional background, visionary, education, experience with budgets, political and media skills, 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning, working with organized labor, and overseeing the building of a new high school. Board members were asked to contact the secretary individually for additions or deletions to her proposal. This will be followed up with additional discussion at the next meeting.

School Board Items of Interest:

- 1) Parents are thrilled that they can pay for lunch on-line.
- 2) The DTU contract will be negotiated for next year. Dr. Butler requested he be replaced on the negotiating committee.
- 3) Board member Grady asked about hiring a temporary secretary to help the Business Administrator complete some reports before he leaves.
- 4) Chair D'Andrea thanked Jean Briggs-Badger for her years of dedicated service to the Dover school district. The Board gave her a standing ovation.

Meeting was adjourned.