

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor Ward 4

Re: School Board Report #2

The Dover School Board met in regular session December 9, 2013.

Citizens Forum: No one spoke

Item L2 on the agenda was moved up to allow the board to recognize the achievements of the Dover High Volley Ball Team. These young women became state champions in Division 1.

Consent Agenda: approved without discussion. Included resignations, retirements, nominations, and two field trips.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Fernandes noted there would be a School Board orientation next Monday for new and returning board members. He also reported that he was meeting with staff and budget work was well on its way.

As part of the Superintendent's report there were presentations by Paula Glynn, Curriculum Director, Kim Lyndes, Dover Middle School principal and Peter Driscoll, Dover High School principal on the Response To Intervention program being implemented in the classes. This is a program that has students taking short tests to indicate where they might need extra help academically and giving teachers information to meet these needs. This becomes a screening tool to give student support. The focus at this point is on math. The major difficulty is finding the time and staff to provide this service. At the middle school they are using the 30 minutes they have routinely used for enrichment services.

The CTC Director reported on the varied activities going on in that program which included: visitations to manufacturing plants, a visit by Jeanne Shaheen to the girls engineering class, winning 2nd place in Dover's Holiday Parade (Cosmetology), Animal Science students overseeing the Petting Zoo at the Deerfield Fair, setting up Farmers Markets at the high school, and partnering with local business.

Student Report: Fall sports are wrapping up as winter sports begin. The high school vocal group performed at the Festival of Trees. The Student Council is coming up with ideas to increase school spirit.

Committee Report: Dover Adult Ed was reported on by board member Grady who noted that a new test will be replacing the former GED test. It will assess 5 content areas (reading, writing, Math, Science and social studies).

Policy Adoptions: Items a through o were approved without discussion.

Paid bills

Resolutions: Chair D'Andrea distributed framed certificates of appreciation to departing board members (D'Andrea, Baker, Butler) and announced that a book would be donated to each elementary school in their name.

Old Business: Secretary Andrews-Parker announced the formation of the search committee for superintendent selection. Everyone that volunteered was accepted. There are 19 people at this point but there may be an addition from the para-professionals, students, and Chamber of Commerce. Andrews-Parker also noted that she had been in touch with the New Hampshire School Boards Association. They have offered to give us assistance in the search. It was moved to accept this with a cap on fees.

New Business: A presentation on New Hampshire Community Colleges was made by a representative of Great Bay. There are 7 community colleges serving state residents with a focus on career education. Many of these students take their first two years at the community college and then move on to a four year institution for the rest of their education. Each community center is unique in their offerings. Fourteen per cent of Great Bay is from Dover.

The school calendar for 2014-2015 was approved.

The Superintendent briefly announced the results of a demographic study that concluded that the student population would remain the same for the next ten years. This will be discussed in more depth at the School Board Orientation next Monday evening.

Business Manager Taylor reported on federal/state funding and the current condition of accounts.

Matters of Interest: Vice-Chair Russell read the varied activities going on in the district for students and noted it was nice to have student recognition at these activities.

Board member Greenshields thanked the Council for inviting School Board members a tour of the city.

Board member Grady read comments on each board member leaving and noted their talents, achievements, and contributions to city education.

Meeting was adjourned.