



**Dover School
District**

SCHOOL BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Superintendent Search Committee—Public Forum
Meeting Location:	Media Access Center, McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	January 4, 2014
Meeting Time:	9:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee was called to order by Michelle Muffett-Lipinski on Saturday, January 4, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in the Media Access Room, McConnell Center.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Committee members Michelle Muffett-Lipinski, Robin LaFleur, Kim Lyndes, Beth Dunton, Peter Driscoll, Linda Smart, Bob Berry, Rob McGann, Fran Meffen, Dot Hooper, Allan Krans, Beverly Shadley, and Ron Cole.

Ms. Lipinski welcomed the public and provided guidelines for comments for forum. Each committee member introduced themselves.

Citizen's Forum:

1. Valerie McKenney, 30 Oak St—spoke as a 30-year educator. Incoming superintendent should be well paid in order to attract suitable candidates. The successful candidate should also have experience as a superintendent or a great understanding of the Dover community. He/she should also have a good set of ethics and be able to withstand pressure from School Board and City Council. The superintendent should not spend too much time talking with the School Board since this time would be better spent on the actual job. It is the job of the superintendent and not the School Board to manage the district. The superintendent should support leadership and allow them to grow by offering sufficient professional development. The goal of the committee should be to hire a superintendent for long-term (5 years). The first year is an adjustment year. Process should be transparent but it would be illegal for committee members to discuss personnel since privacy needs to be protected before the process is complete.
2. Carolyn Mebert, 254 Dover Point Rd—Agreed with Ms. McKenney. Would like a budget built to support excellence. The new superintendent should have a good grasp of data and how to use it. There should be a better support of professional development, especially with new curriculum. Should also be strong with technology. There should be a tech plan in place that outlines goals for the district.
3. Christine Sykes, HSS parent—Dover is at a tipping point and there needs to be a greater focus on education. She has friends who are moving out of Dover because of the school district. There needs to be a strong, dynamic, innovative leader and someone who will be able to handle the high school project. The City needs to be supportive of the choice.
4. Catherine Cheney, Ward 5 City Councilor—pleased that parents and community members are completing the survey. The City needs a superintendent who is focused on children. Is supportive of the interim superintendent if he chooses to apply. Strong ethics are needed, as well as accessibility. She agrees that a 5-year commitment is needed.
5. Karen Weston, 42 French Cross Rd, Mayor—participated in last search, suggests providing scenarios to candidates, would like someone who is progressive and not satisfied with the status quo. Agrees that a 5-year commitment is necessary and the successful candidate should have a long term plan for the District. The superintendent will need to think outside of the box, have



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experience, strong social skills, accessibility, supportive of staff, available to the community, well-rounded, problem solver and be able to make instantaneous decisions. The superintendent also needs to be able to “sell” the community and be accountable. The City Council and School Board need to work together to promote Dover.

6. Don Medbery, 3 Covered Bridge Lane—would like committee members to take notes, due diligence, think of employees as assets, good manager, experienced, ask questions and listen to answers, think out of the box. Decision to hire superintendent should be done by the entire committee, in the open and not in back rooms.
7. Jill Brooks, 60 Cushing St—decreased political climate, check past relationships with previous employing School Board and community, good relationship with City Council and School Board, true leader
8. Michelle Holt-Shannon, Dover Parent—agreed that employees are assets; successful candidate needs vision and will support staff, values transparency, uses information to help school district. She commented that the group, Dover Listens, has broad conversations about what the community wants. She stated there are events on January 30 and February 8 to see what people want to see from Dover in terms of education.

Committee member Linda Smart stated that the information regarding the search is posted on the Dover School District Website.

Ron Cole added that all residents should pay attention to what is happening in the community and in the schools even if there are no longer children in the school system.

Dot Hooper stated that it is a 2-way responsibility to receive and give information to the public. The committee has tried to do everything publically and to get input from the community.

Fran Meffen added that the timeline is quick since potential candidates will be performing job searches soon.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.