

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in Regular Session on May 12, 2014.

Citizens Forum: One citizen challenged the Board on adopting Common Core standards. She stated her concerns over the level students were required to meet in mathematics and the degree of government control.

Moved to the head of the Agenda, the board approved a STEAM Academy to meet this summer under the direction of Fran Meffen.

Consent Agenda: Approved

Student Representative: This is Matt's last report as he is a graduating senior at DHS. He announced "Empty Bowls" at the high school. The public is invited to pick out a bowl created by an art student and fill it with Soup. You can then keep the bowl. Additional activities at the high school are a poetry contest, the performance of Our Town by the Drama Department, spring recitals and concerts, awards and banquet nights and high school graduation on June 17th.

Policy Adoptions: Multiple school board policies were vetted by an attorney at the N.H. School Boards Association. Some of the suggestions for updating policies raised questions by Board Member Grady. These included the process in evaluating administrative contracts, evaluation of the superintendent, adding guardian to sentences mentioning parent, does this policy comply with state law, and parents who home-school do not meet the criteria for special services. Causing the most discussion was the policy on class size. It was determined that the local policy is lower than the state standard.

Resolution: The Board authorized funding of the Dover Adult Education budget.

Old Business: Vice-Chair Parker gave an update on the superintendent search. She went back to the original committee process and the procedure taken the second time around. It included a site visit where co-workers and supervisors described the present candidate as a leader, collaborator, decision maker, methodical and calm under pressure.

Business Administrator Karen Taylor gave the Board an update on the budget which will be presented to the Council this Wednesday. Some questions arose as to whether any surplus could be used to fund their capital reserve account (s).

New Business: 1) Approval of the agreement with the Para Professional Association. Adopted 7 to 0. 2) Approval of handbook changes. Adopted 7 to 0. 3) Elementary enrollment update. To keep classes under 25, the Board approved the hiring of 2 additional elementary school teachers pending Council approval of the School Board budget. 4) Waiver for high school courses with under 11 students enrolled. Many of these classes will be merger with others. Approved 7 to 0.

Business Administrator Taylor gave an update on the bus contract. She noted that there was a need to look at the schedules to prevent students from staying on the bus too long. She is studying data and indicated that there was no quick fix.

The food service contract was approved 7 to 0.

Ms. Taylor gave the monthly condition of accounts and requested the board approve payment of bills.

Committee Reports:

a) DALC graduation is June 16 at 6:30 at DHS. A summer schedule is on their website. Dates for testing are in June and August.

b) Wellness Committee -- there is a need to work on policies to get them to conform with state and federal policies. Menu selections will be discussed this week. A Brownie troop has approached the committee with their concern that there is no recess period at the middle school.

c) Technology Committee --- they are working on a draft for their 5 year plan.

d) JBC ---- their will be a meeting this week.

Board Matters of Interest:

Board Member Grady, who wore a hat during the meeting, announced it was to advertise Operation Hat Trick being supported at Dover High. This is a non-profit organization to support our wounded warriors. Citizens wanting similar hats may contact Mr. Wotton (Athletic Director) at DHS