

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in regular session August 11, 2014.

Citizen's Forum: No one spoke

Approval of Agenda: After moving a couple of items, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for July 14th regular session were approved.

Minutes for May 16th non-public were approved and unsealed.

Consent Agenda: Pass without discussion after Secretary Betsy Andrews Parker recused herself from the vote (was friends with a couple of people on the consent).

Old Business: 1) Moved up for discussion was a Strategic Plan update. This kicked off a discussion on what options were available to the board. There is a need for a plan to identify needs over a 5 year period and develop consistency within the district schools. There are companies that will charge a fee to aid in developing such a plan (ex. Primex). Mrs. Grady stressed the need to come up with measurable goals with accountability. She noted it should be kept simple. Mrs. Parker-Andrews indicated the need to complement the city plan by marketing the schools and adding to positive economic development. Mrs. Lipinsky commented on looking for trends in education and using the expertise of the administrative team. 2) Superintendent goal setting became the next topic indicating that goal setting must be completed by Sept. 1st. She is currently working on a 90 day plan examining the growth in schools, student assessment, the budget and communications. 3) The CIP plan will include the CTC and high school project which will come to 18 million (including funding from the state), Dunaway Field, a facilities fund, a school roof, cafeteria upgrades (equipment replacement, furniture, and changes in the kitchens. It will also include upgrades in information and technology and curriculum development. The board discussed whether or not Garrison School could be expanded for an increase in classrooms. 4) The topic of a school board/superintendent training session came up. As a member of the

School Boards Association, Dover could get free sessions on school climate and culture, goal setting, evaluation of superintendents, and legal issues.

New Business: 1) The superintendent and Business Administrator, Karen Taylor, are working on a budget schedule to be introduced to the Board on the first meeting in December. Mrs. Andrews-Parker a Saturday workshop to concentrate on the budget without a time crunch (late night meeting). Other board members rejected the idea of a line by line examination of data preferring that the admen are better equipped to do that. 2) The Taylor reported on the July condition of accounts, a Special Fund update, state and federal funding, and the facilities operation. Under Special Fund Special Education Director, Christine Borden, reported on the Alternative School. The school has a new director, all teaching staff is returning, there is a new thrust on more positive re-enforcement with increases in mental health and substance abuse attention. Mrs. Boston would like to see an increase in enrollment (more Dover students). 3) Under Facilities Operations the custodial manager and facilities director showed the Board a series of slides showing what had been done to classrooms, cafeterias, and grounds over the summer. They also announced that they had partnered with the city in changing the types of chemicals used on the fields. 4) Reporting on elementary enrollment and related arts, the elementary schools have reached equality in class sizes. A 4th grade teacher at Woodman Park was moved into the kindergarten adding another session. Class sizes seem to be in the mid-20's.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Arbour discussed her activities during her first 30 days. She is up to date on her entry plan, continues to meet both educational and community people, has been tackling plans for the next budget, examined various district plans, and is reminding people of proper procedures to be followed in the district. She announced a meeting to take place concerning the SEED program. Dr. Arbour also raised the concern of some parents concerning the financial strain being put on families in supply requests and transportation fees. She would like to see fees reduced.

Committee Report: Chair Amanda Russell reported that the JBC for the high school has received bids. The committee has been meeting every other week. They will be starting interviews.

School Board Matters of Interest: 1) Chair Russell thanked the teachers who were setting up their rooms at the middle school (on their own time) and came out into the hallways to aid students with lockers. 2) On August 29th, at the CTC, Governor Maggie Hassam will be signing HB1350 and SB335 to fund the CTC renovations. Local and state officials have been invited. 3) Chair Russell rode a few of the bus routes to examine their difficulties (ex. Tying up traffic on Dover Point where there are only 2 spots to pull over). She thanked the bus driver.

Meeting was adjourned.