

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in regular session on October 6, 2014.

Citizen's Forum: Middle School Guidance Counselor Fran Meffen invited the Board to visit the STEAM after-school enrichment program now in progress. She went over some of the curriculum being offered to students.

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Doris Grady asked that the minutes from the September 8th and 22nd be tabled as she wished to have more information included prior to approval. It was suggested that she provide the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent with the information she wished added to the minutes for approval at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda: Passed without discussion.

Student Report: This report included the food drive held at the high school and the up-coming Lip Sync contest being held to benefit the programs provided by the CAP organization of Strafford County.

Old Business: A) & B) Superintendent Arbour introduced representatives from both the Synergistic and Johnson Control Companies who gave presentations on how their companies would approach savings in providing energy for the district. The Synergistic Company's approach was more behavioral training staff in how to save using the equipment already in the schools while the Johnson Control Company was more concerned about upgrades to the equipment installed. The Johnson Company has been working with the city side for the past 10 years. There was also a representative from our current maintenance company discussing how they would work with such companies. C) There was a lengthy discussion concerning the STEAM Committee which has approached the Board concerning the establishment of a STEM School. The Board seems to be unanimous in their feeling that the idea should have been brought to them a lot sooner so they could be involved in the process. The discussion that followed determined the following:

1. The Board needs to look at what the current group has found out in their research of STEM schooling.
2. Who are the people now serving on the current committee studying STEM.
3. How might we include STEM in our current curriculum.
4. The State of N.H. is already including STEM teaching in their educational goals.
5. There is a need for some sort of workshop to better understand just what STEM includes.
6. The Superintendent needs to make this a priority for this school year.

After much wordsmithing, a motion was passed by the Board: A working group will implement STEAM into our current curriculum and make recommendations to the Board for future growth. The group will be composed of school employees, members of the public, stakeholders, and experts. It would meet during the 2014-15 school year and give their recommendations to the Board in July of 2015. If the group cannot finish the task in that time-frame there will be the possibility of an extension. This motion passed 6 to 0.

D. Due to difficulties with hiring and determining staff need, Dr. Arbour sat down with City Manager Michael Joyal to discuss the budget schedule. They agreed that a May date for approval of the school budget would be very helpful. The Board approved this amended schedule.

New Business: In conjunction with surrounding school districts, the school calendar for the 2015-16 school was approved.

The Nottingham School District has indicated their desire to begin a conversation concerning their tuition contract with Dover which expires in 2016.

The Board also approved the DEOP Job Classification Change, student tuition rates for 2014-15, as well as the September Condition of Accounts and Quarterly Special Funds Report for the 1st Quarter of the Fiscal Year as presented by Ms. Taylor.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Arbour has hit her 90th day mark in Dover. She discussed some of the challenges being dealt with that include:

- a. Transportation: both timing and maintaining buses.
- b. Phone calls not being answered.

- c. Issues dealing with construction and traffic.
- d. Technology --- an audit of the entire district will be made.
- e. Lunch payment issues ---students not billed correctly.

Committee Reports:

1. Secretary Kathy Morrison reported on the Technology Committee. The committee went over the plan sent to the state, discussed teacher training in new Chrome Books, went over the testing program, and indicated that elementary school students would be taught basic keyboarding.
2. Board Member Sarah Greenshields reported on the JBC for the high school. There has been a second interview of the 2 finalist firms. The JBC will be meeting this Thursday and may have a recommendation for the Board at that time.

School Board Matters of Interest:

Board Chair Amanda Russell reminded the Board that the JFC will be meeting on October 15th at the McConnell Center and there will be a joint board meeting with Nottingham and Barrington on the 28th at the high school

The Board adjourned!