

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report #2

The Dover School Board met in regular session December 8, 2014.

Citizen's Forum: Residents came to the podium to comment on the following:

- 1) Support for Dover School Family Alliance. Requested a spot on the January School Board agenda to discuss their relationship with the board or as a non-profit to increase awareness of the special needs child and provide proper instruction.
- 2) The alleged bullying of a School Board member by other members.
- 3) The alleged bullying of School Board members by people in the public.
- 4) Support for the current School Board

Student Representative Report: None given. Student had basketball practice.

Board member Grady requested and was given time to respond to comments made during Citizen's Forum. At that time she denied any collusion with former Councilor Michael Crago nor had she leaked information from non-public meetings. She stated there was a report in Concord at the Supreme/Superior (both were mentioned) Court on these issues. She also denied knowing anything about the signs of support that were posted around Dover.

Policy Changes/Proposals: Physical Restraint Policies – the Board questioned some of the changes of these policies . Superintendent Arbour stated that the policies were a combination of the NHSBA and Drummond Woodsum recommended policies that are compliant with new state regulations. The Board tabled the policies until they could get more answers to questions such as training of staff.

Superintendent Budget Presentation: presented with binders of information as well as a power point.

This was an initial presentation to identify the following:

- 1) A time-line for the budget which must be adopted by February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) How Board priorities have been driven the budget.

- 3) The work of the Ad men in developing needs and priorities.
- 4) Projected expenses that will have to be met (retirement, insurance, health care, salaries, etc.).
- 5) Projected revenues from local, state and federal funds (tuition, adequacy funds, CTC funds, adult education, impact fees, etc.).
- 6) Special revenue such as cafeteria, Perkins, Special Education, Alt school, and rental fees.
- 7) Introduced staff changes that should be made. Including assistant principals in two of the elementary schools, additional coaches, a floating nurse, and additional classroom teachers.
- 8) Non-employment items such as supplies, telephone, travel, postage, and repairs.
- 9) Support services which include office help at the SAU office, IT staff, utilities, et.

To sum things up, Dr. Arbour made the following suggestions:

- 1) Additional workshops for School Board.
- 2) Consider additional staff requests.
- 3) How should Capital Reserves be handled this year?

A schedule was set up for budget discussion. The Board will be meeting every Monday until the budget is ready for adoption.

Finance Director, Karen Taylor, went over the November Condition of Accounts and submitted bills to be paid.

Committee Reports: Board member Sarah Greenshields gave a report on the JBC. The committee approved the HMFH contract on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Funds have already been appropriated and available. There will be educational vision sessions in December and January by a committee composed of 30 to 50 people (staff, students, administration, JBC members and members of the public.

Board member Carole Soule McCammon reported that the Wellness Committee has drawn up a statement of purpose, its role within the district, and how to foster accountability within the district. She also reported that former School Board member, Dr. Paul Butler, addressed the committee on concussions.

School Board Matters of Interest:

Mrs. Greenshields asked the Board to give the DFSA time on the January agenda.

School Board Chair, Amanda Russell, stated that disagreements on a Board are common and such differences of opinion should not be considered disrespectful. She hoped the workshop on communication in January will improve future differences. She also thanked the Superintendent, staff and administration for their hard work on the budget.

Russell also announced that Kim Lyndes, DMS Principal, has been nominated for Principal of the Year.

Vice-Chair Betsy Andrews Parker once again noted that she would be happy to meet with any board member who felt disrespected in order to iron out any conflict.

Meeting was adjourned.