



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Special Session #1
Meeting Location:	Media Center, McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	Thursday, February 12, 2015
Meeting Time:	6:30 P.M.

A. A special session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chair Amanda Russell on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Media Center of the McConnell Center.

B. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Amanda Russell, Betsey Andrews Parker, Kathy Morrison, Doris Grady, Sarah Greenshields and Carole Soule McCammon. Michelle Muffett-Lipinski was excused.

Also present were: Superintendent Elaine Arbour, WPS Principal Patrick Boodey, GES Principal Beth Dunton, CIA Director Paula Glynn, DHS Principal Peter Driscoll, HSS Principal Mike McKenney, PPS Director Christine Boston, DMS Principal Kim Lyndes, CTC Director Louise Paradis, DTZ Manager Jeff White, DTU President Greg Brown, citizen.

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Doris Grady led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. **CITIZEN'S FORUM:** No one addressed the Board.

E. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Budget Adoption**

Sarah Greenshields moved, Kathy Morrison seconded to approve the budget as presented.

Mrs. Grady commented that she would not be supporting the budget and read the following statement into record:

“Reflecting on our Code of Ethics stating that we, as Board Members need to, quote, “Render all decisions on available facts and independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups”. I have made the decision to vote “NO” on the 2016 budget as presented.

Some of the reasoning points are listed below.

1. As I read the list of new hires, it indicates that we presently have a total of \$608,889 in new positions in this budget and whereas there is a High School debt to consider, repair to Garrison roof, and remodeling Garrison, I cannot, in good faith consider over a half million dollars for these new positions.

In reading the papers presented, most of these meet the Board priorities of adequate staffing and the goal of moving forward and not backward. I do not see this as going forward for students, only personnel.

2. One of the items listed as an increase of revenue of 102,000 in Barrington alone, does not seem to be a reality. Past history of tuition students has been decreasing steadily since 2005. We are losing 61 senior students from Barrington as of the February, 2015. It does not seem we



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can regain that number in the freshman class. For example: In 2008, the numbers dropped so that there was a total loss of revenue of \$385,607.09. In 2011/12 this loss increased to \$1,033,077.27.

3. Addition of two new professional positions, transitional coordinator and school psychologist, whether transferred to IDEA monies or not are of concern to me. The Alt school has been a losing educational system financially and past reforms have not worked. This dept. has been allotted the most budget monies for the past three years and I believe we have about 3400 other students can benefit educationally with the expenditure of this money. The cost per student in this level of education within the district can be looked at as about \$40,000 per student. Needs an evaluation. In the change made 2-3 years ago, there was an added administrative position made by placing the then director in the High school and then adding a director for the alt school.

4. Numbers in our school population since October 1, 2014 have decreased as follows: Woodman Park increase of 17 students, Horne Street, down 10, Garrison down 2, Middle School down 10, and High School up 12. With daily absentees, the number could even be below the 500. Therefore before hiring two Asst. Principals at this time, it would be better to see what the October 1 enrollment is and we would be within state regulations. Our total school population remains in the 4000 range give or take 20/25 students and has for over 12 years.

5. Are we adding another position if an Asst. Principal is hired at Woodman? State regulations say that a building needs 2 guidance counselors if the numbers go over 500 as well as the asst. Principals you are considering. This appears to me that 2 full time Guidance Counselors will need to be hired at a cost of approximately 90,000 to 100,000 that does not seem to appear in the budget.

6. New staff has been added in the past few years. As of last year we added an associate Principal, guidance counselor, 1 Middle School teacher, 1 Elementary teacher, 5 HS health teacher, 4 behavior specialist Horne, 3 special education case managers. 1 Oasis aide Middle, 1 Oasis Counselor Middle, a .77 sped aide, and receptionist at the Middle School. To all parents and citizens, this should indicate that we have been hiring new as well as part time replacements over the years. My vote this evening is based on these facts and not that I want to be heard, but that I prefer to be transparent with the community and the students that I represent. Looking at some of these issues would bring about more equality in the schools I believe.”

Ms. Russell summarized the budget process and commented that the budget meets many goals. Many positions are restored positions, while others are new positions. Some positions replaced past contracted services positions which save the district money.

Ms. Russell thanked Dr. Arbour and Ms. Taylor for their efforts and for answering questions promptly and completely. She is encouraged that the District is not only meeting minimum state



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standards, but bringing other things back and adding funds to Capital Reserves which will help with peaks and valleys in areas such as curriculum and technology.

She will be supporting the budget and added there are still revenue lines that are not solidified. Barrington and Nottingham numbers will be known in early March. Tax levy and adequacy has not been finalized at this point either.

Ms. Morrison stated the administrative team did a phenomenal job and worked well together. She is proud of the Superintendent and believes the budget process went well.

A roll call **VOTE PASSED 5/1 (Grady opposed).**

2. RFQ for Roofing Consultant for Garrison School

This item had been brought back to the Board as Old Business due to unanswered questions from the previous School Board meeting. Ms. Taylor informed the Board that the invoices for the work would come after design and bid. Final payment will be given to the vendor after the project has been completed.

Steve Burns of ARM Roofing Consultants introduced himself and stated he is in his 27th year of business as an independent roof consultant and works with many large companies. His company is trying to work with more New Hampshire schools and trying to build long term relationships.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked for clarification of his role in the project.

Mr. Burns responded that the proposal covers investigation, options, what portion of the roof can be saved, drainage, best roof for situation and final inspection. There is an option to retain his company for onsite construction management at an hourly wage if the School Board desires.

The bulk of the work would take place in March to early April. After that, the project would go out to bid with a potential start of work to take place in the summer and finish at the end of July or early August.

This company is completely separate from the roofing contractor.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked if Mr. Burn's company would be stepping away from the project after the design work is done unless otherwise requested and also asked if DTZ can handle the management of the project after the design. Mr. White responded that he would look into it.

Ms. Soule McCammon asked if she was correct in assuming that their service does not include structural analysis. Mr. Burns confirmed this and added that this is a waterproofing project and structure is not being changed at all. A structural survey is not needed for this type of project and is not normally done for this type of project.



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Ms. Soule McCammon asked what would happen if anything is found. Mr. Burns responded that they do test cuts on several areas of the roof to see what is underneath.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked if onsite management is included in Ms. Taylor's recommendation to which Ms. Taylor responded that it is not. She confirmed that her initial recommendation for \$18,900 is for survey/design only.

Ms. Taylor commented that this company will help the District to select the right roof for the project. She added that this company may be requested to manage the project if it is determined that DTZ isn't able to do so.

Mr. Burns distributed a document to the Board that included a 4-point strategy. He provided an overview of the 4 points:

- Investigate and examine all options
- Complete and comprehensive specs
- Pre-Qualification of roof contractor
- Full time job site inspection

Mrs. Grady asked Mr. Burns if asbestos is found in the roof. Mr. Burns responded that they will test for asbestos and will provide documentation that it has been tested.

Mrs. Grady asked if the roof could be saved or partially replaced. She added that if it is unable to be saved, should the work be done if there is an upcoming renovation scheduled. Mr. Burns responded that he would be careful about which roofs are replaced especially if a renovation is scheduled. He doesn't believe the Garrison roof can be saved.

Ms. Taylor added that the Garrison roof is part of the CIP and funds have been appropriated for it which could have an effect on how to deal with the project.

Ms. Greenshields asked if the \$602,000 cost that is in the CIP could be a somewhat accurate estimate to which Mr. Burns responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Burns commented that a 50-year roof is somewhat unrealistic and this language is often used as a sales tool. A 20-year roof is more of a standard warranty. He cautioned the Board to be careful of language.

Ms. Morrison asked if DTZ would be able to oversee the project. Mr. White stated that he does not have a background in roofing and would think that a project like this would require someone with more expertise. Mr. Burns' company could be hired to oversee the project if that is what the School District and Board decide.



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Mrs. Grady stated she has been involved in several roof replacement projects and she appreciates that he came to talk with the Board and made them aware of certain items. She has never seen this before and is impressed with him.

Ms. Soule McCammon asked for the background of Mr. Burn's team. Mr. Burns replied that his staff are all consultants and some are structural engineers, some have construction background and others have a background in project management.

Ms. Greenshields asked if solar voltaics may be added to the roof at some point and asked if the district would have access to the information after their work was completed. She requested that this be kept in mind when doing the project.

Mr. Burns commented that this can be done, but needs to be done carefully and someone should be there to watch the interests of the District. He added that all plans and specifications would be delivered electronically to the District.

Ms. Taylor stated that if renovation is done at Garrison, an important factor will be to add roof top units for HVAC system and this would also need to be kept in mind when recommending a type of roof.

Kathy Morrison moved, Betsey Andrews Parker seconded approving the contract for ARM Roofing Consultants. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 5/0 (Grady abstained)**.

F. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST

Ms. Russell summarized the process to date and stated Ms. Lipinski has scheduled meetings with administrators, but they have been cancelled due to inclement weather. Ms. Lipinski has been gathering data and materials that will be used toward Dr. Arbour's goals.

Mrs. Grady asked if a process has been determined to which Ms. Russell responded that one had not been determined yet due to meeting cancellations.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked for an update at a meeting in March to which Ms. Russell agreed since the evaluation needs to be completed by April 15.

Mrs. Grady commented that she watched the most recent City Council meeting on Channel 22 and was disappointed that there was no representation from the public at that meeting. In addition, she was upset that there was only one member of the community at this School Board meeting. She was appalled that there was no one else in attendance considering the meeting was for the approval of an almost \$50 million budget and she has never seen this before. She is disturbed and 4000 students are being represented and there is no one from the public in attendance. She encourages people to attend both City Council and School Board meetings to see what is happening. Taxes are going up and will go up more due to the costs of a new high school and renovation to other schools and people should see where the money is going. She



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continued to say that there are 7 School Board members who are volunteering their time and she feels that no one cares what is being done with the tax money. She feels that it is a worthless position because no one listens to what Board members say. She apologized, but stated her disappointment with the situation.

Ms. Russell stated that the DHS Drama Club is presenting the musical, “Grease” on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and encourage the public to attend. Dover Cosmetology students are doing hair and makeup for the show.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Betsy Andrews Parker moved, Sarah Greenshields seconded to adjourn the special session at 7:28 pm. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Robin LaFleur, Recording Secretary

DRAFT