

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in Special Session February 12, 2015.

No one spoke at Citizen's Forum.

The first order of business was to present the budget for 2016. Adoption was moved and seconded. Board member Doris Grady explained why she would not be supporting the proposed budget. Her reasons included: the lack of number of tuition students coming into the high school, added administrators, new hires, and the feeling that district enrollment will go down.

School Board Chair Amanda Russell noted that many of the "new" hires were actually hiring back of former staff positions that had been previously cut. She also explained that some of the hires would be replacing more expensive contract services. She was pleased that they were able to contribute monies to Capital Reserve Funds and meets state requirements. Finally the budget brings us back to minimum standards and allows the district to go forward once again.

While the budget is currently a little over \$55,000, the Board expects that once revenues and tuitions are solidified the budget will fall under the tax cap.

Both Chair Russell and Secretary Kathy Morrison congratulated Superintendent Arbour, Business Administrator Karen Taylor, and the entire administrative team for working together to work out a solid budget. The budget passed 5 to 1.

Other areas of business included a report on the roof project at Garrison School.

Under Board Matters of Interest, a progress report on the superintendent's evaluation was given and Mrs. Grady voiced her displeasure at the lack of public interest in attending board and City Council meetings.