

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor, Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in Regular Session on April 13, 2015.

Citizens Forum: A citizen spoke against a proposed change in by-laws concerning the use of Robert's Rules of Order in conducting meetings. The change from shall to may weakened the rules in the eyes of this citizen.

Moved up on the agenda: 1. The Board recognized the Dover High School Ice Hockey Team for winning the state championship.

2. Director Christine Boston introduce Ms. Genovese and Ms. Mattingly who presented a power point on the Dover Family School Alliance. This group was formed 3 years ago and has become recognized as one of the best parent/educator group in the state. The goal was to unite parents and teachers of special needs students with educating and professional development as its goals. They were asking the Dover School Board to agree to a Memorandum of Understanding with this group as a first step in moving into an official non-profit group and for 2 school board members to join their Board of Directors. While some questions (space for group, P.O. Box, language) and some suggestions were made (Opt-out clause, annual renewal), the Board noted that the group was an invaluable resource and fills a void in the district.

A modification of the existing DAC Hiring and Advancement Policy to clarify the vacancy and posting procedures was requested by Ms. Strand. This was tabled until the next meeting.

Policy Adoptions: The change in the By-Laws of the Dover School Board was approved. Also approved were policies on Extended Learning Opportunities, Extended Travel, Earning of Credit, the High School Certificate of Achievement for Handicapped Students and Assessment.

Capital Reserve Resolutions: These 3 capital reserve resolutions moved \$30,000 into Curriculum, \$60,000 into Facilities, and \$15,000 into Technology.

City Finance Director, Dan Lynch assisted the Board in altering the budget appropriation.

Old Business: 1. JBC Update (Ms. Greenshields) ----3 community events (presentation and tour) were held at the high school. At this point the committee is studying 3 options for the high school, renovation, part renovation and addition, or a new building. Each chosen would be at the same location of the current building.

2) Superintendent Evaluation ---Chair Russell summarized the evaluation process. Interviews with board members and a survey were positive. Dr. Arbour met her 3 goals (budgeting, establishing relationship with community leaders, and strategic planning). The Board will negotiate with Dr. Arbour for a 2 year extension of her contract. Future goals will be established.

New Business: 1. Energy Performance Contract Consultation --- Dr. Arbour would like to hire an independent consultant prior to going out to bid. Such a consultant would help write the bid, review bid protocols and develop a contract. This would be similar to what was done with the Garrison roof project. This was recommended by the City Manager.

2. Google Apps ---Garrison School principal and Technology Committee Chairperson Beth Dunton presented information on Google Apps. Google Apps provide online storage for students. It is free and easy to use. Dover owns its own domain which allows for privacy. It will be the main form of communication with students and used K through 12. It will also allow student information to be archived for future use. Next year will be a learning year for some but many are already using it. This can be a huge saving for the district.

Ms. Taylor presented the condition of accounts. She is anticipating an increase in revenue in catastrophic aid, Medicaid, and increased tuition payments.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Arbour reported that Smarter Balance is going well. Reminded parents to register their children for kindergarten at this time. She reported on visits to Woodman Park and Horne Street students. Noted the Garrison Roof has been patched. Stated she was humbled by some of the comments on the survey and gave credit to administrators and staff for their help during her first year in Dover.

Committee Reports ---1. Curriculum Committee: STEM and STEAM were discussed at the meeting. New STEM teachers at the elementary schools are doing a great job. Fran Meffen was a STEAM presenter. Board member Greenshields felt that the school and STEAM committee were working independently of each other. Feels the workgroup should be working with what is already in the district.

Ms. Paradis presented CTC information indicating that students are career ready when they leave their programs.

2. Wellness Committee: The committee took information from UNH cooperative extension that was timely and distributed it to principals. The committee will be reviewing the curriculum at the next meeting to confirm that all requirements are met.

School Board Matters of Interest: School Board Chair Russell commended the middle school cheerleaders for their award winning season, the DMS Drama Club for their performance of Little Mermaid and the Dover High Winter Guard for winning their 10th competition.