

To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in Regular Session on September 14, 2015.

Citizen's Forum: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Conroy both spoke of their concerns about the large class sizes at Horne Street School and added the need for equity among the elementary school enrollments.

Senator David Watters presented long-time Board member Doris Grady with a citation from Governor Hassan for her 22 years of service on the Dover School Board.

Ms. Genovese of the Dover Family School Alliance (DFSA) came before the Board to give an update on the group's efforts to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School Board and their efforts to establish themselves as non-profit group. The memorandum was compared with the ones the Board has with both DALC and the Children's Home. Questions came up from the Board concerning: 1) having a School Board member on the DFSA Board, 2) liability insurance, 3) space needed, 4) policy input 5) clarification of funding (no tax money would be used and 6) anticipated activities. The MOU would not go into affect until the DFSA has non-profit status.

Student Representative Report: The new Student Representative, Daniel Provencal-Fogarty, introduced himself and gave an update on high school activities. The Student Council is working on Spirit Week, clubs began, Detective Travaglini of the Dover Police Department gave a workshop on social media and both students and teachers approved of the building of a new high school.

STEAM: Middle School Councilor, Fran Meffen, Dave Mattingly and Jen MacNeil presented a power point on STEAM. The program had started in the middle school as an afterschool activity which they want to expand into a full program during the school day. STEAM has been described as innovative and based on inquiry and project based learning. There is strong emphasis on math and science preparing students for future study and jobs needing educated workers. There is evidence that STEAM students have higher attendance and higher achievement in school. Application, analysis, and assessment are a big part of this type of learning. The need for flexible rooms was discussed. The group intends to look for outside funding. The Board approved the concept and outline presented.

Neoscope: Dan Stamp of Neoscope presented an assessment of IT in Dover schools. The assessment concluded that the Dover School Board should have its own Active Directory that is now connected to the city but the schools are not connected. Recent failures have been related to the growth of the district and usage while the network has not grown. The technology staff seems to be overwhelmed. A more detailed plan will be coming. Neoscope has also completed

a draft of the IT Manager Job Description. Mrs. Grady did not support the description thinking it was too much and doubted anyone could do the job. Passed 5 to 1 (Mrs. Greenshields was out of the room).

Consent Agenda: Approved 7 to 0.

Policy Changes: Use of physical restraint in the Dover School District. In case of such an incident, parents would be notified by the end of the day. Passed 7 to 0.

New Business: 1) Budget Schedule ---- Vice-Chair Betsy Andrews Parker requested a budget retreat with administrators to discuss the process with new board members. Mrs. Grady cautioned that the board should wait for the determination of adequacy funding.

Energy Advisory/Procurement) RFO: Business Administrator, Karen Taylor, explained the benefit of hiring a broker to gain the best pricing for electricity. This was approved 7 to 0.

The Board suspended the rules in order to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.

The Quarterly Scholarships, Special Funds, Close Out Conditions of Accounts, Superintendents Goals and the Annual Report were not addressed. Also not addressed were the Superintendent's Report and Committee Reports but are archived with the minutes on the web site.

School Board Matters of Interest:

Mrs. Taylor provided a report on the status of busing. Goals included decreasing student time on the bus, mechanical issues, and changing of routes. Vice Chair Andrews-Parker commented that the 5 minute change makes a big difference in time.

Meeting Adjourned.