To: Dover City Council

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor Ward 4

Re: School Board Report

The Dover School Board met in regular session October 5, 2015

Citizen's Forum: David Martin spoke in favor of going back to the ward system in electing school board members.

Consent Agenda: Included the retirement of staff member Ann Marie Staples, a trip to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art by the Art Club, and 2 donations (Liberty Mutual $1,500 and Kohl's $500) to the DHS Road Race. Approved 7 – 1.

Student Representative Report: Daniel Provencal-Fogerty reported that the Advisory meetings instituted at the high school were giving a student a voice in school activities and function. He also noted that Spirit Week was successful as was Homecoming.

Old Business (moved up): Budget Priorities – Dr. Arbour reviewed the budget priorities from last year and asked for input by the Board for the FYI17 budget being developed. Vice-Chair Andrews-Parker wanted to keep the CIP and STEM as a priority and asked if there was a way for the district to help families with the cost of technological equipment (buying in bulk). She also considered teacher salaries and contract negotiation as well as busing priorities.

Board Member Greenshields added Strategic and Technology planning continue to be a priority.

Board Member Morrison focused on lowering class sizes.

Chair Russell added more space to the list.

Board member Muffett-Lipinski suggested a deadline for members to submit priorities (next Monday, Oct. 12) with a ranking and with input from administrators.

Vice-Chair Andrews-Parker noted how much had been accomplished since last Board had questions concerning some of the dates which included holidays and workshop days. Dr. Arbour noted the questions and will take them back to her meeting with colleagues.

Board member Grady noted that there had been a decrease in enrollment since August.

New Business (moved up): 1) 2016-2017 School Calendar—Dr. Arbour reviewed the proposed calendar that had been developed in conjunction with area superintendents. The Board had questions concerning some of the dates which included holidays and workshop days. Dr. Arbour noted the questions and will take them back to her meeting with colleagues. 2) Superintendent Goals: There was discussion concerning a strategic plan for the district. The majority of the Board felt that the superintendent had done a great job pulling the administrative team together and that there had been little time or resources to go ahead with a plan this year. Board member Grady disagreed and felt the district had not moved forward. The Board approved the Goals for the next school year 6 to 1.

Policy Adoption: Use of physical restraint --- While not all staff are trained in proper restraint tactics there are enough teachers trained to meet the number of times this is necessary. Mrs. Grady felt all teachers should be trained in these times. Chair Russell noted that there are in-house trainers. Board member Soule-McCammon asked the words "key staff" be included in the policy so that all knew who they were. Board member Muffett-Lipinski agreed this would be a good topic for a teacher workshop. The policy passed 6 to 1.

Old Business: Transportation Update – Ms. Taylor stated that there are still on-going problems with busing, primarily with routes and time on buses. An RFP for transportation will be going out soon. The language was left open so that options could be considered. Board member Grady asked that the exhaust emissions on buses be checked.

New Business: a)Café Services Presentation – Myles Underwood and Chris Faro presented an update on food services. The company is taking a survey of administration and students. The service is working with UNH Dietetic Interns. They will be starting action stations soon as they were a big hit at the high school. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program has started at the middle school.

Board member Greenshields asked if they are able to compost (will look into it). Vice-Chair Andrews-Parker asked if students could be provided with more food and is Dover able to take advantage of the special milk program. Mr. Faro responded that they are following the USDA guidelines that have calorie restrictions and are heavy on fruits and vegetables. He also said that they are taking advantage of every program that is available but we do not qualify for the milk program.

b) Co-Chair Debbie Bodel of 68 Hours of Hunger read a statement that explained their program for children. They see to it that children that qualify for free or reduced lunches have enough to eat over the weekend. The program provided 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners and snacks for 150 students over the weekends. The group is currently trying to collects sets of mittens and hats. Moms on the Run donated $15,000 to the program.

c) Ward discussion: Board member Soule-McCammon stated that the School Board represents all students in the district and did not feel that a return to wards was necessary. Board member Grady disagreed and felt that the ward system better serves the students and she also indicated she did not favor the City Manager/Council form of government. She also felt that the students had not been the prime focus of the Board for the past few years. Vice-Chair Andrews-Parker indicated that both systems seem to cost the same in time and money. Also, with the advent of social media, campaigning became a bit easier. She commented on the difficulty to get candidates for elections and preferred to have a system that did not pit one school against another. Chair Russell and Board member Muffett-Lipinski both supported at-large elections.

d) Approval of Tuition Rates: Ms. Taylor, Business Administrator, summarized the Nottingham tuition rates which the Board approved.

e),f),g): Ms. Taylor gave updates on quarterly scholarships, trust funds, special funds, September condition of accounts and the close out of accounts. She estimated that the Board may be able to return $40,000 to the city General Fund.

f) Cafeteria Tables: The bid for tables went to School Outfitters at Horne Street School and Virco for the Alternative School.

g) Payment of Bills: was approved.

h) Superintendent's Report: on web site archived with minutes.

i) Committee Reports: there were none.

j) School Board Matters of Interest: Mrs Grady announced she had attended her 75th class reunion from Berwick Academy.

Ms. Taylor presented an update on the Garrison roof project. A few punch items are being taken care of and the walk-through will occur soon. She anticipates there will be about $90,000 left from the project.

Meeting Adjourned.

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