



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Workshop #1
Meeting Location:	Media Center (Rm 306), McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	Monday, October 24, 2016
Meeting Time:	7:00 P.M.

- A. A workshop of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chair Amanda Russell on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:04 P.M. in Room 306 of the McConnell Center.
- B. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Amanda Russell, Betsey Andrews Parker, Keith Holt, Kathy Morrison, Michelle Muffett-Lipinski, Matt Lahr and Carolyn Mebert. Also present was: Superintendent Elaine Arbour and Business Administrator Libby Simmons, Christine Boston, Patrick Boodey, Peter Driscoll, Patty Driscoll, Beth Dunton, Jeffrey Myers, Louise Paradis, Deanna Strand, and Paula Glynn.
- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Betsey Andrews Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. **CITIZEN'S FORUM:** No one addressed the Board.
- E. **DISTRICT GOALS DISCUSSION** Ms. Russell stated that her opinion is that the Board should choose goals that can be achieved in the next year or two. Goals that need longer for achievement will be addressed in the strategic plan or with the Nellie Mae grant.

Mr. Holt summarized the document that was included with agenda materials. His belief is that one of the district goals should be to define a list of data (data calendar) that should be reviewed on a regular basis. The Board determined that it would be helpful to categorize the items with most emphasis being placed on items that were data-related. Items in this category include:

- Teacher/staff retention
- ESL population shift/trend
- Alternative School trend
- Mental health issues
- Reasons for students to leave Dover/going to private schools
- Number of students enrolling in Dover schools/Enrollment in general
- % of tax dollars going to school district (Dr. Mebert will share)
- New information regarding climate and culture
- Is current technology meeting the needs of the district? Sufficient support and PD for staff?
- Change in school structure (possible change in grades in schools, space in schools)
- Mental health issues tracking
- Attendance numbers including tardies and dismissals
- Effective Program evaluation
- Testing tracking system
- Assessment

Dr. Arbour commented that the Professional Development Committee would be taking on much of the work of the data team. School Board member Matt Lahr is a member of that committee.

Strategic planning and the Nellie Mae grant will help to focus on climate and culture. There will be Board representation on the Strategic Planning committee.



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Ms. Muffett-Lipinski suggested a tour of each school while school is in session to provide more information to the school.

Ms. Andrews Parker added that data can show how space should be used to support teaching. Dr. Arbour agreed and stated that the strategic plan will provide some of this data.

The DHS/CTC construction project has provided a great deal of information on people's thoughts on teaching and learning which will be helpful.

Ms. Muffett-Lipinski asked Ms. Boston to provide numbers of "push ins" and "pulled outs" and how many students are diagnosed for socio-emotional disorders and their grade level. This could help with earlier diagnosis and intervention.

Dr. Mebert reminded the Board and public that Lynn Lyons will be speaking at Dover Middle School on the topic of anxiety.

Mr. Holt requested that another district goal would be to be the change of school start and stop times. Research shows that times should be changed to reflect students' needs for success.

Others agreed that it is an important topic. Dr. Mebert cautioned that research should be evaluated carefully since it's a complicated issue. Some of the research is not good and better analysis should be found.

Ms. Andrews Parker believes that Dover is lagging behind other districts in certain areas. This should be researched and made a goal if needed with budgeting included if necessary.

Dr. Arbour added that Dover should plan with schools who send students to Dover including Rochester, Somersworth, Milton, Farmington and Marshwood.

Ms. Russell emailed superintendents a few months ago and has not received a response from many of them. Her fear for later times is that students will stay awake later and therefore not receive additional sleep.

Mr. Holt stated that Oyster River is making their decision on the start times on November 4. They have 6 different options in which to choose.

Dr. Arbour stated that one of priorities of the administrators is to have more professional development time and perhaps this can be part of the conversation regarding later start times and when professional development could be included in the day.

F. BUDGET PROCESS AND ASSUMPTIONS DISCUSSION Dr. Arbour shared Leadership Team priorities including good pay for staff, sufficient IT hardware, personnel to provide IT



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support, adequate mental health resources, more special education staffing to deal with more complex needs, additional ESL staffing, smaller class sizes.

Items the School Board would like to prioritize in the budget:

- Additional busses
- Additional Capital Reserve Funds (Music, etc.)
- Additional teachers
- Additional LDAC services
- Additional Guidance
- Continued support of DPD-SRO's at DMS and DHS
- Sufficient IT
- Human Resources Director
- Continued cooperation of Schools and City-Appreciate viewpoint that needs of the City are more important than needs of each department
- Focus on maintaining and hiring of qualified teachers and administrators

Dr. Mebert commented that there is a SEED supported Professional Development program that has data that can show how valuable the program is and perhaps the District will be able to cover the funding in future years.

- G. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST:** Mr. Holt asked to add the District Mission and Vision Statement on the November 14 regular School Board meeting since it should be reviewed annually.

Ms. Morrison asked for clarification on the crossing guard at Dover Middle School. Principal Lyndes commented that the job of the guard is to make sure the busses arrive and leave on a timely basis so that they can make elementary runs.

Ms. Russell commended the marching band and sports teams for their fall successes and wished them all luck in the end of their seasons.

She also made a statement regarding the termination of volunteer/assistant football coaches at Dover High School. Ms. Russell stated that the Board and Superintendent understand that the public would like additional information regarding the recent coaching issue. Since it is a personnel issue, an official statement will be released by the district. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Russell respectfully requested that the focus as a community be on the team and the remainder of the season. She congratulated the team on their recent win and wished them well in the playoffs. Ms. Russell thanked those who have stepped in to assist with the team through the remainder of the season.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded to adjourn the special session at 8:10 pm. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**