



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting #1
Meeting Location: Media Ctr. (Room 306) McConnell Center
Meeting Date: **Monday, January 9, 2017**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Amanda L. Russell called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the McConnell Center Media Center.

B. ROLL CALL: Present were Amanda Russell, Keith Holt, Matt Lahr, Carolyn Mebert and Michelle Muffett-Lipinski. Betsey Andrews Parker and Kathy Morrison were excused.

Also present were: Superintendent Elaine Arbour, DHS Principal Peter Driscoll, CIA Director Paula Glynn, GES Principal Beth Dunton, WPS Principal Patrick Boodey, HSS Interim Principal Patty Driscoll, CTC Director Louise Paradis, DMS Principal Kim Lyndes, IT Director Jeffrey Myers, Athletic Director Peter Wotton, Fosters, parents, citizens.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Keith Holt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. PUBLIC HEARING ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: No one addressed the Board.

E. CITIZENS' FORUM: The following people spoke:

- David Sullivan, Meridian Dr, spoke in support of coaches and against decision to terminate them. He distributed text from the Athletic Agreement to the School Board. He discussed potential consequences for students in a similar situation.
- Stacy Champagne, Dover, spoke in support of coaches and against decision to terminate them. She spoke on behalf of the football boosters and distributed a complaint/request for reconsideration to the School Board that is included in the archived items.

E. AGENDA APPROVAL: Keith Holt moved, Michelle Muffett-Lipinski seconded to move M. a. and M. e. until after the Student Report and remove M. b. from the agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0**.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Discipline Hearing #5, December 5, 2016
2. Special Session #9, December 5, 2016
3. Regular School Board Meeting #12, December 12, 2016

Ms. Russell noted a change in the minutes of December 12. Remarks made by citizen Carole Soule McCammon were amended.

Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Matt Lahr seconded approval of the minutes as amended. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0**.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Correspondence:

a. Improving Peer Review in Science: UNH Student Dylan Schiff

2. Resignations/Retirements:

a. Suzanne Strange

3. Leaves of Absence: none



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4. Nominations:

- a. Sara Rochefort

5. Extended Travel (Student Trips): none

6. Donations:

- a. January 9 donations

Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Matt Lahr seconded to approve the consent agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0.**

H. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: DHS Student Representative Jahmilha Crook stated that a dress code policy discussion is underway. Students believe that they should be allowed to wear hats depending on specific teacher rules. The spring dress code is also being discussed. Ms. Crook continued to say that the students would like more options for community service. This initiative is called, "Let's Make a Difference". Midterms are being held next week.

I. POLICY-CHANGES-PROPOSALS: none

J. POLICY ADOPTION: none

K. RESOLUTIONS: None

L. OLD BUSINESS: none

M. NEW BUSINESS

a. Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program

Kim Lyndes, Justin Pagnotta and Kate Schulten provided information on the SOS Prevention Program that will be piloted by a group of approximately 100 8th grade students at Dover Middle School. This program will be important for teacher to receive feedback and will provide students with tools to use when speaking with other students. There is no cost to this program and is already used by 43 NH schools. Connor's Climb is sponsoring this program.

Dr. Mebert asked for the student screening process to which Mr. Pagnotta responded there would be a 7-question questionnaire used to assist counselors. If a student responds in the affirmative regarding suicide, proper authorities would need to be contacted. Parents are also a part of the program and resources can be shared with them including providing names of therapists. Dr. Mebert expressed her concern for total informed consent. Principal Lyndes added that there is an option to opt out if parents would prefer that their student not participate in the program.

Ms. Muffett-Lipinski stated her appreciation and inquired if it could be shared with lower grades to which Ms. Lyndes responded that they may do that after the pilot program. The program is approved for grades 6-8.



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b. DTU Collective Bargaining Agreement—pulled from agenda

c. DHS Program of Studies

Mr. Driscoll summarized changes to the 2017-2018 DHS Program of Changes. Carolyn Mebert moved, Michelle Muffett-Lipinski seconded to approved the DHS Program of Studies. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0.**

d. FY18 Budget Presentations

Elementary—Patrick Boodey, Patty Driscoll and Beth Dunton presented the PowerPoint for the elementary schools. The group stated repercussions with a reduction in budget including loss of teachers, poor superintendent candidates, loss of relationship with UNH, non-compliance with minimum standards of NH, increase in class size, and lack of interventions.

Dr. Mebert commented that state minimum standard are only a recommendation and not a requirement. She added that the state would be required to pay for these positions if they mandated them.

Mr. Boodey respectfully disagreed stating that he does not believe that the minimum standards are optional. The District has tried to request waivers in the past but there can be repercussions to doing this. Dr. Mebert agreed with Mr. Boodey, but noted that unfortunately the City Council does not allow additional funding for the additional positions recommended in the minimum standards. She continued to say that this is a problem for tax cap communities.

Dr. Arbour added that she has contacted the DOE for clarification on this and is waiting for a reply. Dr. Mebert asked that the response be provided in writing and shared with the City Council.

Ms. Russell noted that Dover will be more on the radar if the District returns to noncompliance. She added that she would like to document years when positions were added.

Dr. Mebert commented that the District should be continually making the case that it is largely underfunded and other communities are receiving more adequacy. The portion of tax dollars in Dover going toward education is not in the favor of the School District.

Dover Middle School—Kim Lyndes presented information on Dover Middle School. She commented that there has been a great deal of growth at DMS in the past 3 years. Any reductions made would most likely be at the 5th and/or 6th grade level. Ms. Russell asked if extra staffing at DMS has made a difference to which Ms. Lyndes confirmed that it had. She is especially appreciative of the SRO who has made a huge difference. Ms. Lyndes commented that a reduction in noon supervisors would mean the elimination of recess for students.

Dover High School—Peter Driscoll shared information with the Board about the impact on DHS of a tax cap budget. He added that the high school will be starting the re-accreditation process soon and this creates other challenges.



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Mr. Driscoll added that there is somewhat of a domino effect with budget implications. The high school feels the impact of the middle school and the middle school feels the impact of the elementary level.

Career and Technical Center—Louise Paradis summarized the CTC and recent and future growth of the programs. She also discussed the Perkins Grant that provides supplementary funding for the CTC. She noted that much of the Perkins Grant funds professional development so that proper licensure is obtained.

Athletics—Peter Wotton summarized data on athletic teams at DHS and DMS. Dr. Mebert asked if there is outside funding for Unified sports. Mr. Wotton responded that initially there was some funding from groups such as Special Olympics. This money is no longer available and there is a need for fundraising. Dr. Mebert suggested that Mr. Wotton look into the Wentworth Douglas Hospital Fund which he confirmed that he would do.

Mr. Wotton reviewed the cost for students to participate in athletics. Ms. Russell commented that the costs can be significant for families with multiple students and multiple sports. She encouraged the public to support the penguin plunge and thanked Mr. Wotton for online registration.

e. Transportation Bid

Dr. Arbour summarized the options for the Board. Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Matt Lahr seconded to award the Transportation Bid to First Student. Option B was selected as the choice of the Board. A **roll call VOTE PASSED 5/0**.

f. Waive the Bidding Process for the Superintendent Search

Ms. Russell read policy DJE—Bidding Process and stated that there is an emergency situation due to the time needed for the search and therefore the bidding process should be waived. Considerable time is also needed to complete the budget and a delay in the search by proceeding with the bidding process could be harmful to the search.

Carolyn Mebert moved Michelle Muffett-Lipinski seconded to waive the bidding process for the superintendent search. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0**.

g. Selection of a Superintendent Recruitment Company

Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded to table the selection of a company for the superintendent search until Tuesday, January 17 Special Session. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0**.

Ms. Russell asked Board members to review the information sent by companies and send questions to Ms. LaFleur so that answers can be provided prior to the next meeting. A decision will need to be made at the next meeting so that the process can be started. A posting can be



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released prior to community focus groups. The Board requested that a copy of the advertisement/posting for the last superintendent search be added to agenda materials for the January 17 Special Session.

Ms. Russell encouraged the public to attend any School Board meeting in January and provide input regarding qualities of the next superintendent since there will be a public hearing early in each meeting in all January meetings.

h. December Condition of Accounts

Ms. Simmons summarized the condition of accounts and she noted that she added a line item on the both the revenue and expense side for the fiscal year 17 adequacy settlement that was a budget adjustment made to the general fund based on the resolution. Ms. Russell commented that the resolution has not been resolved and stated that the Board is still awaiting legal counsel on the resolution. She questioned the validity of the City Council approving a resolution without it first coming from the School Board. This issue will be discussed at the Joint Fiscal Committee.

N. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded to direct the Superintendent to pay manifest #17-G in the amount of \$5,484.40 for FY16 and \$2,809,179.61 for FY17 for a total of \$2,814,664.01 for the period of December 13-January 9. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 5/0**.

O. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Arbour reported on the following topics:

1. Schools and SAU office will be closed on Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King Day.
2. The DMS Chamber Singers will be performing at the Wentworth Douglas Hospital on Martin Luther King Day.
3. DHS exams begin on January 17 and continue until the end of the week.
4. There will be a Teacher Workshop Day on Monday, January 23rd.
5. The DMS Spelling Bee will be held on January 20th.
6. Kindergarten and 1st grade registration will begin in early March. More information will follow and be posted online and in Fosters.
7. She, along with along with Ms. Russell, Louise Paradis, Kim Stephens, a parent, student and two elementary teachers attended the State Forum on School Governance. This was a focus group type of event and very beneficial.
8. Budget questions should be sent to SAU by Wednesdays of each week so that they can be answered by Fridays of each week. IT questions raised from the last meeting will be answered with next week's budget questions

P. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Q. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST:



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Ms. Muffett-Lipinski asked for next steps regarding the football coaches issues. She would like to keep retaliation out of the discussion. She understands that the Board can't overturn legally, but feels it's an important discussion and important to respond. Ms. Russell agreed that it is important but the Board would need to check with legal counsel prior to any response. She felt that it was regrettable that the names of coaches were no longer anonymous since they were printed in a newspaper.

Ms. Muffett-Lipinski requested data (SAT, Smarter Balanced, etc.) to assist with the budget process and to help to justify the budget. She would like to know how certain new positions affected student achievement. Other Board members agreed with this and thought would be helpful. Dr. Mebert provided an example of how data could help with the budget process. (Have the recently added Dean positions affected students? Is there better attendance, behavioral statistics, etc.?). Ms. Russell added that it would be helpful to share this information at the City Council budget presentation.

Mr. Holt is supportive of this and recommended formulating a list and noted a tax cap budget is off the table in his mind at this point. The negative impact to the community of budget reductions needs to be shared with the City Council at the JFC meeting.

Mr. Holt challenged the Professional Development committee which was scheduled to meet on January 10, to quantify items such as attendance, discipline, general health, and wellbeing of students.

R. ADJOURNMENT: Michelle Muffett-Lipinski moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded adjourning the meeting at 9:55 pm. An oral **VOTE PASSED 5/0.**