



DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Budget Workshop #1
Meeting Location:	Media Access Room (Rm 306) McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, January 3, 2017
Meeting Time:	7:15 pm

A workshop session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Amanda Russell on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 7:15 p.m. in the media access room in the McConnell Center for the purpose of discussing the FY18 school district budget.

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

Also present were Elaine Arbour, Superintendent; Libby Simmons, Business Administrator; Paula Glynn, CIA Director; Patrick Boodey, Principal WPS; Christine Boston, DHS Principal Peter Driscoll, Pupil Personnel Services Director; Kimberly Lyndes, DMS Principal, Beth Dunton, Principal GES, Patty Driscoll, Interim Principal HSS, Louise Paradis, CTC Director, Deanna Strand, DALC Executive Director, Jeffrey Myers, Technology Director.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Carolyn Mebert led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CITIZEN'S FORUM: No one addressed the Board.

D. FY 2018 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS: The Board was provided with copies of the evening's presentations to include in their budget binders. The presentations are all archived with the meeting minutes.

As decided earlier, administrators will be presenting on their programs on different evenings allowing more in depth review of different areas of the school district. Presentations on this agenda are for the Business Office, Special Education, Curriculum, and Technology.

Business Office: After Business Administrator Libby Simmons provided an overview of the business office budget, the Board asked for clarification regarding transportation increases which Ms. Simmons responded that both bus companies would be providing the district with new busses. The Board expressed concern with the adequacy settlement and legal fees associated with the law suit. Dr. Arbour commented that she would be contacting communities who also benefitted from the suit to request assistance with legal fees. Several members of the Board felt the City should be contacting communities affected to request reimbursement of legal fees. It was determined that this would be discussed at the January 26 JFC meeting.

Dr. Mebert asked Ms. Simmons to continue to search for ways to combine services with the city, possibly providing additional savings.

Special Education: After Ms. Boston's presentation, Mr. Lahr asked how the addition of an additional case manager would affect Dover Middle School. Ms. Boston responded that this would allow 8 case managers for the 4 grades located at DMS for a total of 11 special educators.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked if the Alternative School could take more tuition students if there were more space and teachers to which Ms. Boston responded that most districts do not want to send



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their students since it is so costly. They are all trying to be more creative so that they can keep their students in their own districts. Dr. Mebert inquired about the graduation rate at the Alternative School. Ms. Boston stated that 2 students graduated last year with 3 on target to graduate this year. Dr. Mebert asked if there was follow-up with students after they graduate to which Ms. Boston responded that Dover does not, but she believes the state follows up on all special education students. She will look into a follow up process for Dover.

Dr. Mebert asked if students require a diagnosis to receive services. Ms. Boston responded that it depended on the situation and some do not have a diagnosis. These students are not included in the numbers provided.

Ms. Boston noted that nurses see/treat an average of 43 students per day and their duties are very different from school nurses of years ago.

Ms. Russell asked how Dover compares to the state average for out of district placements. Dover is 4% compared to a state percentage of 2%.

Curriculum: After Ms. Glynn's presentation, Dr. Mebert stated that a program called Growth Mindset is currently funded by SEED and asked if it should go into the general budget so that SEED can provide funding for other services. Ms. Glynn responded that she would research the cost of including in the general budget.

Technology: Mr. Myers presented a PowerPoint on Information Technology and hoped to answer the question asked by the Board regarding the needs and cost of bringing technology up to date. He stated that he is trying to find a balance between ideal and reasonable. He commented that numbers in his PowerPoint represent growth and change from past practices.

Ms. Morrison asked if there is a support person at each school to which Mr. Myers responded that there are no longer IT personnel specifically located at each school since he believes that this increases redundancy. He added that the Help line has changed and teachers are now able to access support quickly if an emergency occurs. Mr. Myers commented, and Board members agreed that IT training is lacking for staff.

Dr. Mebert suggested using CTC students to help with IT support. She felt that students would be a good resource it would be a win-win for all involved. Mr. Myers agreed with her.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked how much would it cost to have a system where students and teachers would have better access to technology providing better teaching and learning.

Mr. Myers responded that the advanced age of most computers is the largest barrier to better access. Much of this will be fixed when the new high school is open, but that is too far in the future. Mr. Myers stated that he would need at least \$40,000 for new equipment and still has more



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assessment to complete. He added that there should be four times the current budget for security since the wireless is used at such a high level.

Mr. Myers stated his desire to embrace the “bring your own device” concept for students and this would need to be done over time due to costs. To do this, all would need accounts and greatly increased internet speed.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked why the DMS internet is not upgraded to which Mr. Myers responded that it is due to project prioritization.

Ms. Andrews Parker asked to see follow-up at the next meeting for plans for replacement over the next few years including costs to fix labs, laptops, etc.

Mr. Holt commented that there is no easy way to fix everything. He questioned the request for an IT Integrator when there is still too much IT to replace and recommended delaying for a year and using funding to replace older equipment.

Dr. Mebert stated that she believes that several area schools, including Rochester, have received large grants for technology. Mr. Myers stated that he has looked into E-Rate, but has not researched grants at this time.

Dr. Mebert stated that the reason chromebooks were purchased a few years ago, was because software is constantly being upgraded and students liked them so that information could be shared in the cloud. Mr. Myers stated that they have been working well.

Ms. Andrews Parker stated that students need consistent access to online services since everything is now online. The District should be able to access email, MMS, internet, etc.

Mr. Holt commented that the infrastructure is most important and it seems that based on what he has heard this evening, professional development is inadequate in every area. He agrees it's a difficult process with many moving parts. Everyone should take some responsibility including updating their technology as needed.

Mr. Myers noted that the wireless and network have been stable this year. The issue has been with the machines. The issue at the high school is competition with students for network access. He is continuing to research the cost of all needs.

E. MATTERS OF INTEREST: Mr. Holt requested that all future presentations use large print to make it easier to read. Ms. Russell announced that the School Board will review proposals from executive search and recruitment companies at the January 9 meeting for the upcoming Superintendent Search. At every meeting in January, there will be a public hearing so that community members can provide input on qualities in a new Superintendent for the Board and the search company.



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F. ADJOURNMENT: Carolyn Mebert moved, Matt Lahr seconded, to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**