DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Type:	Regular Meeting #1
Meeting Location:	Media Ctr. (Room 306) McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	**Monday, January 8, 2018**
Meeting Time:	**7:00 pm**

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Amanda Russell called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the McConnell Center Media Center.

B. ROLL CALL: Present were Amanda Russell, Keith Holt, Kathy Morrison, Zachary Koehler, Matt Lahr, Carolyn Mebert, and Andrew Wallace.

Also present were: Superintendent Bill Harbron, Business Administrator Libby Simmons, PPS Director Christine Boston, CTC Director Louise Paradis, DHS Principal Peter Driscoll, DMS Principal Kim Lyndes, GES Principal Beth Dunton, WPS Principal Patrick Boodey, HSS Principal Patty Driscoll, CIA Director Paula Glynn, IT Director Jeffrey Myers, Athletic Director Peter Wotton, WPS Dean Greg Brown, DALC Executive Director Deanna Strand.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Andrew Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. CITIZENS' FORUM: No one addressed the Board.

E. AGENDA APPROVAL: Matt Lahr moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded to approve the agenda as presented. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Regular Meeting #12, December 11, 2017

Carolyn Mebert moved, Zachary Koehler seconded approval of the minutes. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Correspondence:** none
2. **Resignations/Retirements:**
3. **Leaves of Absence:** none
4. **Nominations:** none
5. **Extended Travel (Student Trips):**

a. DHS Student Leadership Conference-March 15

6. **Donations:** January 8 Donations

Keith Holt moved, Andrew Wallace seconded to approve the consent agenda as amended. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Ms. Russell thanked the donors for their generous contributions to the Dover School District.

H. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Noah Schwartz provided his report stating that students would like to congratulate and thank the newest School Board members as they start their term. They recognize the sacrifices they make for the community and they are vitally important to the education system as the budget process begins and the district starts the transition to the new high school.

Mr. Schwartz congratulated seniors going through the college application process. Mr. Schwartz noted that he believes the Board can continue to balance the interests of the student and taxpayer when determining and forming the budget.

I. POLICY-CHANGES-PROPOSALS: none

J. POLICY ADOPTION:

a. JICD—Student Discipline and Due Process—Keith Holt moved, Zak Koehler seconded to approve policy JICD as presented. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

K. RESOLUTIONS: none

L. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Budget Presentation and Discussion

Dr. Harbron thanked all administrators for their assistance with the budget work to date and with the presentation. He stressed that the budget presentation would focus on two models. One was last year's budget with additional contractual obligations and the second was with additional staffing to begin implementation of the District's strategic plan. Proposals are not based on compliance, but on the strategic plan. Compliance in the District is good at this point. He reminded that the budget is for the purpose of providing programs and services to students. He believes that the budget will end up somewhere in between the two models.

Dr. Harbron and Ms. Simmons presented the budget via PowerPoint and it is archived with these minutes and can also be found on the District website at www.dover.k12.nh.us/about_us/business_office/budget. CIA Director Paula Glynn, PPS Director Christine Boston and IT Director Jeffrey Myers also presented portions of the budget.

Board members asked questions below based on the budget presentation.

Ms. Russell asked for clarification on debt service impact on the operating budget. She believes the debt service should be $2.7 million as opposed to $1.2 million as noted in the budget. Ms. Simmons responded that this subject, along with the tax levy will be discussed at the next Joint Fiscal Committee meeting with a date to be determined. Ms. Simmons will try to get an explanation of this figure from the City.

Ms. Russell also asked what specific items were not included in the budget and the reasoning behind this. She stated the process for budget questions would be similar to past years. Board members should email any questions to Dr. Harbron and Ms. Simmons by Wednesday of each week and responses to the questions will be emailed to all Board members by Friday which will also be included in meeting materials.

Dr. Mebert asked for the cost of specific items that were included in last year's budget for compliance. She asked for the amount that was allocated and the amount actually spent. She also asked for potential savings of sharing supplies or services with the City. Ms. Simmons stated that some items can be purchased with the City, but others are specific to the School District and difficult to purchase together.

Mr. Koehler suggested considering services such as trash and recycling to potentially save money. Ms. Simmons noted that this has occurred in the past, but they haven't been able to select vendors since the services are so different.

Ms. Morrison asked for an estimation of impact fees to which Ms. Simmons responded that the estimate for FY19 in the CIP book is $75,000. Ms. Simmons stated she will try to receive an estimate for FY18.

ESL was discussed. The number of teachers have increased over the past few years from 1 to 5 with a request for an additional teacher next year. Students are not released from services until they test out. Mr. Holt noted that the trend for ESL students is increasing nationwide and it doesn't look like it will be decreasing anytime soon.

Mr. Lahr asked about intervention materials to which Ms. Glynn responded that materials may be books or software to support students with specific challenges.

Ms. Russell stated her belief that core subjects should be integrated into the arts as opposed to the arts integrated into core subjects. She asked who would be assisting with this. Ms. Glynn stated that new dean positions would most likely do that, although it hasn't been worked out yet.

Dr. Mebert asked if some of the tasks could be handled with additional professional development as opposed to more costly administrators. Ms. Glynn stated her belief that the coaches don't have the same emphasis and do not have authority to supervise.

Mr. Koehler noted that he went through Bedford High School and they did competency based learning and their deans worked as vice principals, teachers, etc. He suggested contacting them for their input. He is in support of competency based learning and believes it is the future of learning, noting that it helped him in the past.

Dr. Harbron added that true authentic learning teams must be addressed. Professional Learning Communities need to be strengthened and go hand in hand with project based learning. He recommended the book, "Breaking with Tradition" as a tool that may be helpful.

Dr. Mebert requested definitions on phrases such as "21st Century Learning". Dr. Harbron responded that 21st Century Learning is about engaging students in authentic learning and having students taking ownership of their learning.

Mr. Wallace stated the need for leadership assessment for competency based learning. It is a massive change and stated his support of the additional deans who would be in the classroom to offer assistance and direction.

Dr. Harbron noted that positions should be added incrementally to see if each position achieves the desired outcome. Changes can be made, if not. Strong leadership is needed for District transformation.

Mr. Holt added that the challenge is how to balance this with a very tight budget. Dr. Harbron commented that Ms. Glynn is establishing a teaching and learning committee that will help with the process.

Mr. Wallace asked if the deans would be involved in vertical teaming (setting curriculum for each grade level and making sure correspond to the next) to which Ms. Glynn responded that they would.

Mr. Koehler asked if the District is contacting other districts who are using competency based learning. Ms. Glynn stated they are and visiting school is part of the work of the teaching and learning committee. Mr. Koehler offered to provide contact information for Bedford if needed.

Dr. Mebert asked is an additional $50,000 for professional development was added to the budget last year. It was determined that pockets of money from schools was combined instead. Dr. Harbron added there is information of professional development in their budget binders.

Ms. Glynn clarified that the District is in the preliminary stages of competency based grading, but creating competencies.

Ms. Russell asked Dr. Boston if the growth in special education services is due to relocation or newly identified students to which Dr. Boston responded that it is a combination of both.

Mr. Koehler asked if numbers for private school students with IEP's are from the original bill or from the amended version to which Dr. Harbron responded that they are from the original version.

Mr. Wallace asked Mr. Myers if he has considered televisions as a lower cost alternative to projectors. Mr. Myers responded that they have looked into it and are continuing ongoing assessment. He believes the TV's would last longer but bulb replacements are very affordable, so the equation has changed a bit. They are continuing to look into it.

Mr. Wallace asked which computers are included in the 1:1 computing ($432,000). Mr. Myers responded that they would be both chromebooks and Windows 10 touch screens. He added that the devices are changing rapidly to which Mr. Wallace agreed. Protective cases are not included in this cost. Mr. Wallace recommended researching the possibility of an annual fee paid by students to offset the cost of the devices. He estimated costs could be reduced by 50%.

Mr. Myers estimated that 40% of the students would provide their own device. Mr. Wallace recommended Google or Survey Monkey to obtain a more accurate number. Mr. Holt added that support and security of the devices also needs to be considered. The possibility of devices at only DMS and DHS was also discussed. Dr. Harbron noted that in his former district, 1:1 devices are needed for grades 3 and 4 also, with 1:2 for kindergarten and grade 1.

Mr. Holt noted that the District should be looking at technology use. Major investments in a specific technology is concerning due to constant changes. Dr. Harbron added that it doesn't guarantee that it will increase learning, but it is a tool that can be used daily. He added that online services may be useful for future intervention. Mr. Holt noted that infrastructure is also a major component and a concern to support everything. Ms. Russell commented that it will improve next year with the new school.

Mr. Koehler stated 1:1 will help ignite competency based learning and will help immensely with collaboration.

Mr. Wallace commented that there is a good opportunity also for students to help with IT and it can be a learning experience for them.

The Board thanked the administrators for the presentation. Dr. Harbron asked them to send additional questions, and for the next meeting, think about priorities for development of the budget and identify guidelines that the Board wishes the administration follow in development of the proposed budget.

b. Oyster River Cooperative Football Update—Mr. Wotton provided an update stating Oyster River School Board met to discuss their options. Portsmouth School District is also interested in forming a cooperative team with ORSD. They are reviewing pros and cons of each team and trying to determine which collaboration would be the best fit. They are meeting again this week to determine if they would like a cooperative program and if so, with which district. Mr. Wotton informed the Board that he has told Oyster River that the Dover School Board has not approved this yet, if Dover becomes their choice. He will provide updates as he receives them.

Dr. Mebert stated that she had heard robotics would be eliminated if the football program was approved. Mr. Wotton stated his belief that the participants would be paying for the program and robotics would not be impacted from this. Dover families would not need pay to participate.

Ms. Russell asked when results from the UNH Hut program study. Mr. Wotton will check and report back with results.

M. NEW BUSINESS

a. DHS Program of Studies Changes for 2018-2019—Ms. Russell asked Mr. Driscoll for clarification on French classes. The CP French I class is not being eliminated. The track that continues for 2 years is being eliminated with another course added to replace that class. Spanish works the same way. Students begin foreign language classes in 7th grade with a survey class.

Mr. Holt asked for clarification on the Microsoft Office class and it was determined that the version on the computer will be supported in the class.

The Board was appreciative of the new welding class at the Career Tech Center. Ms. Russell thanked Somersworth for the welding equipment since they no longer offer the course. She also stated her excitement for the sports medicine class and the location of CTC classes and their integration at the new high school.

Keith Holt moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded to approve the changes to the DHS 2018-2019 Program of Studies. An oral **VOTE PASSED 70.**

b. **Career and Technical Center Director Job Description—**Keith Holt moved, Andrew Wallace seconded to approve the Career and Technical Center Director Job Description. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

Dr. Harbron informed the Board that the position had been posted and there are applicants for it.

N. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:
Carolyn Mebert moved, Matt Lahr seconded to direct the Superintendent to pay manifest #18-G in the amount of 3,540,752.40 for FY 18 and 20,093.13 for FY17 for a total of $3,560,845.53 for the period of December 15-January 8. A roll call **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

O. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
Dr. Harbron reviewed his report that was included with agenda materials. Board members stated their continued appreciation for Dr. Harbron's report.

P. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Dr. Mebert stated the GES JBC project is moving forward and elected Dennis Ciotti as Chair and Carolyn Mebert as Vice Chair.

Ms. Russell informed the Board that the DHS JBC is on time and on budget. Finish work is continuing, courtyard landscaping has begun, windows installed and tested, fundraising committee continues to meet. Donations will continue to be brought to the Board. A sub committee is going to be formed for the grand opening celebration which will occur sometime after school opens, possibly in October.

Q. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST: **—**Mr. Holt summarized SB 193 and stated it passed and is at the Fiscal committee. A joint letter with the Mayor is being drafted that affirms the City's concerns. There are major concerns with the NHSBA, ACLU, etc. It would be debilitating to public education and should be a concern for everyone. Mr. Koehler noted an amended bill was passed and is equally bad. Mr. Wallace added that there is a hearing on January 16 at 1:30 pm and the public is encouraged to attend. Ms. Russell will talk with Mayor Weston and follow up with letters.

Dr. Harbron commented that it would be preferred if Board members and Councilors testify instead of educators since they represent a different faction.

Dr. Mebert asked the public to write to state senators or representatives. Ms. Russell noted that one email click makes it easy to send to the entire group. This information is shared on Mr. Holt's Facebook page with a link. Mr. Wallace recommended calling representatives and noted that votes can change at any time.

R. ADJOURNMENT: Carolyn Mebert moved, Matt Lahr seconded adjourning the meeting at 9:25 pm. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**