



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Special Session #15
Meeting Location:	Media Center (Rm 306), McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	Monday, May 7, 2018
Meeting Time:	6:30 P.M.

- A. A special session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chair Amanda Russell on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Media Center (Rm 306) of the McConnell Center.
- B. **ROLL CALL**: Present were Amanda Russell, Keith Holt, Kathy Morrison, Zak Koehler, Matt Lahr, Carolyn Mebert and Andrew Wallace. Also present was: Business Administrator Libby Simmons and Superintendent Bill Harbron, Jeff White, Patrick Boodey, Fosters.
- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**: Matt Lahr led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. **CITIZEN'S FORUM (LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**: No one addressed the Board.
- E. **CONSENT AGENDA**
1. **Correspondence**:
 - a. Adolescent Fiction Writing
 2. **Resignations/Retirements**:
 - a. Melinda Harrison—GES Music Teacher
 - b. Christopher Inman—HSS School Counselor
 3. **Leaves of Absence**: none
 4. **Nominations**:
 - a. Teacher nominations
 - b. Administrator nominations
 5. **Extended Travel (Student Trips)**:
 - a. Skills USA National Leadership Conference to Louisville, KY, departure date of 6/25—Final Approval
 6. **Donations**: May 7 Donations

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

Dr. Mebert stated her appreciation for the expression of positive experiences by most teachers in their resignation letters. All agreed.

Keith Holt moved, Matt Lahr seconded to move C&W Negotiations Process up in the agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

G. C&W NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS: Moved up in the agenda.

Ms. Simmons asked for approval to begin negotiations for contract renewal of C & W Services. The Board agreed that Mr. White and C & W have done exemplary work and the District is fortunate to have them as a contracted service. Mr. Lahr asked if Mr. White would most likely still be employed by C & W to which he responded affirmatively. Mr. Holt commended C&W for their service and added that he is impressed by everything they do for the District.



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Carolyn Mebert moved, Keith Holt seconded to enter into negotiations with C & W Services. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

F. FY19 GENERAL BUDGET DEBATE:

Dr. Harbron provided a budget update and his recommendation for items to reduce the \$500,000 requested by the City Council from the budget. The SAU cabinet and the leadership team provided input to Dr. Harbron for his recommendation.

Ms. Simmons discussed the recommendation to not fund \$115,000 in capital improvement projects as a budget amendment request. In order to do that, the Board would need to request the Council amend the budget. This would move funds from capital reserve to the school education fund with the bottom line remaining the same.

Ms. Russell commented that the money hasn't been placed yet since it isn't July 1, so this shouldn't be needed. She requested a legal opinion on this.

Ms. Morrison stated that she is disturbed that technology and paras are on the reduction list. Dr. Harbron clarified that his hope is to purchase IT equipment from FY18 funds. He added that he believes the IT department would be ok for now without the addition of another IT support staff. He will review para positions to determine where the reductions would occur. Dr. Harbron noted that his priority is the curriculum department since they are understaffed.

Mr. Wallace agreed that reduction of paras would be a loss and asked for the opinion of the leadership team, who agreed with Dr. Harbron. Dr. Harbron added that there may be additional funds later in the hiring season depending on the cost of new hires. He noted that the budget is the best guess as to what is needed now.

Mr. Lahr asked for the DMS plan without an additional special educator to which Dr. Harbron responded that the model will remain as it is this year, instead of making a change. He added the change in coordinators to Deans should also make a difference.

Mr. Holt agreed with the thoughts of others and expressed appreciation to the City Council for working with the School District. Others echoed his sentiments about the Council.

Dr. Harbron commented that if there is additional funding in the JBC projects, technology should be the priority investment, freeing up funds for different things.

Dr. Mebert suggested use of computer science students to help with computer intervention work. Dr. Harbron agreed and has met with a CTC teacher on this option.

Later discussions will determine if IT or para positions are more of a priority.



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Ms. Russell noted that withdrawing money from CIP is a step backward and would like money added if funds are available.

She added that she believes the Board should support the decisions of the administrators and agrees that the Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning is crucial.

The number of Barrington and Nottingham students was discussed noting that the numbers are low now but will most likely increase providing more revenue. Dr. Mebert recommended send photos or videos of the new school to promote and increase in tuition students.

Keith Holt moved, Zak Koehler seconded to approve recommendations as outlined for budget reductions. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.

Carolyn Mebert moved, Matt Lahr seconded to approve the resolution contingent on a positive legal opinion. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**. Ms. Russell read the resolution into record.

K. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST:

Dr. Mebert stated that SEED prize patrol distributed awards to teachers who had submitted requests today. Since 2011, over \$100,000 has been awarded to teachers for many good causes. She added that the annual fundraiser will occur on June 2 at Cocheco Country Club.

Mr. Koehler informed the Board that the senate added SB 193 in its original format and is worse than the previous version. It will need to go to the House and if approved, will go to the governor for signature. Mr. Koehler asked citizens and Board members to call their representatives to ask that they do not support the bill.

Dr. Harbron added that it has been killed 3 times before and continues to move forward and is a movement to privatize education. There would be no cap on income and no accountability. Dr. Mebert stated that it may be helpful to ask Senator David Watters for his opinion on what would be most beneficial since he believes there still be some room for negotiation. She added that she has heard that Governor Sununu would like to pass this prior to the visit by Betsey Devos. Dr. Mebert stated her hope that lawsuits would be filed if the bill passes.

Mr. Koehler stated that if this passes, taxes will be much worse for all. Mr. Wallace noted that the biggest obstacle will be making sure all are in attendance who would vote against the bill.

Ms. Russell stated that it is bike to school day on Wednesday at Woodman Park School.

L. ADJOURNMENT: Keith Holt moved, Zak Koehler seconded to adjourn the Special Session at 7:21 p.m. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0**.