

APPROVED OCTOBER 26, 2021

Dover School Committee Meeting of September 28, 2021

Members Present: Sara Gutierrez-Dunn
Colleen Burt
Mark Healey
Liz Grossman

Also Present: Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent
Beth McCoy, Assistant Superintendent
Dawn Fattore, Business Manager

1) Call to Order

Sara Gutierrez-Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm via ZOOM.

2) Community Comments - none

3) School Committee Vacancy - the position will be posted and applications will be taken for the next two weeks. An appointment will be made with the Board of Selectman at their October meeting. In the interim, a new secretary needs to be nominated.

*Sara Gutierrez-Dunn nominated Mark Healey as Secretary. Colleen Burt seconded.
21-15 VOTE: 4 - 0 via roll call*

4) Reports

- Superintendent Update - Kathleen Smith presented a District Overview including an update on the Staff Convocation, Opening Day, and the District Priorities. Additionally, MCAS results were released last week. Statewide results show critical insight into impact on student learning since beginning of pandemic. Families will receive scores after September 30th. The review and analysis of Chickering's results will be presented at the October meeting.
- Assistant Superintendent Report - Beth McCoy reviewed the professional development done by faculty and staff over the summer as well as highlighted the plans for the upcoming Leadership Retreat as well as professional development for the rest of the school year.
- Principal's Report - Dr. Reinemann reviewed her report and answered questions.
- Warrant Report

5) FY21 Monthly Budget Closeout

- Salaries - there was a positive variance of \$98,851 in salaries. One additional classroom teacher and several regular educational assistants were added. Savings from post-FY21 budget staffing changes covered the additional classroom teacher costs. The positive variance represents the .6 adjustment counselor position that was eliminated from the SEL Center and replaced with an academic coordinator. This savings was partially offset by additional OT support for the pre-K program. Custodial salary savings were realized due to the vacancy in the Director of Facilities and custodial positions, lower overtime needs, and no utilization of summer staff.
- Expenditures - a surplus of \$97,181 was realized representing savings in utilities, educator related course reimbursement/professional development requests, and general supplies,. The TEC oil bid price for FY21 was \$1.4346 and provided a savings as the budgeted price was \$2.60 based on Warrant Committee guidance. Special Education services were over budget by \$11,899.

APPROVED OCTOBER 26, 2021

- Out-of-District - costs exceeded budget by \$603,799. There were nine new placements during the year resulting in a negative variance of approximately \$590,000. Due to the spring closure in FY20 there was an additional \$50,000 worth of summer services incurred. The current COVID guidelines for transportation led to a net increase in transportation costs of approximately \$80,000 to date as vans were limited to two students. Over the course of the year, ACCEPT issued several transportation credits (one relating to cumulative surplus, one COVID-19 related) in addition to reimbursing the District approximately \$60,000 for transportation services we had to arrange due to driver shortages. These credits resulted in a positive variance of \$36,736 in transportation costs as of June 30th. The negative tuition variance of \$640,000 will be offset by circuit breaker reimbursement of \$1,094,158 (75% reimbursement rate).
- Summary - The overall results from school operations was a negative variance of \$407,767. After circuit breaker there will be a turn back to the Town of \$686,391.
- Special Revenue/Revolving Funds - a summary statement of FY21 activity was provided
- COVID-19 Related Grants - Sherborn received two main grants to cover unbudgeted costs due to COVID-19. One of the grants was allocated to municipalities to be used across all operating departments. The Town of Dover allocated school expenses for 156 iPads (\$46,644) needed for K-3 as well as an additional 30 laptops (\$33,630) for educators against the municipal grant. The CARES Re-opening grants (\$225 per student, \$110,700 total) was used to cover the costs of PPE, AFC contract costs for testing access, additional facility items such as the rental of tents, additional staffing for nursing, remote learning center and educational assistants, software needs for remote learning as well as additional school supplies and had an end date of June 30, 2021. A State Coronavirus Prevention Fund grant in the amount of \$12,950 which was used to purchase additional student technology devices.
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ESSER) Grants - the District has received 3 ESSER grants: 1) ESSER I in the amount of \$20,000 has been allocated to cover costs associated with social emotional learning assessment tools, summer services provided to students as needed due to the hybrid school year and staffing for COVID-19 related testing protocol. 2) ESSER II in the amount of \$85,841 has been allocated for additional SEL contracted services and additional staffing positions as needed to assist with academic interventions. 3) ESSER III funds total \$170,448 and have an expenditure period through September 20, 2024. The Administration is in the process of completing the initial application for this grant which requires at least a 20% allocation to mitigating lost instructional time. In addition, it has a requirement of soliciting feedback from multiple stakeholder groups in the planning of grant activities/expenditures. A high level budget submittal for the initial application will be completed by the October 4th due date.
- FY22 Budget Update - Based on enrollment as of July 13th, it was determined that a section needed to be added to both 1st and 2nd grade. In addition, the second physical education position was increased from .7FTE to .9FTE and .2FTE was added to the second FLES educator position. In an effort to address impacts from the FY20 school closure and the FY21 hybrid model, a .5FTE Math Specialist and a .5FTE SEL Specialist were added to support the students at Chickering. These positions are being shared with Pine Hill and for FY22 will be covered by grants.

6) Mask Policy - second read

Colleen Burt made a motion to approve the mask policy as presented. Liz Grossman seconded, 21-16 VOTE: 4 - 0 via roll call

APPROVED OCTOBER 26, 2021

7) Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2021 - Sara Gutierrez-Dunn requested several edits to the minutes.

Mark Healey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Colleen Burt seconded.

21-17 VOTE: 4 - 0 via roll call

8) Communications

- 2021-22 Meeting Calendar
- Subcommittee Assignments
- Sherborn School Committee Minutes of June 16, 2021
- Regional School Committee Minutes of June 8, 2021

9) Adjournment at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis