

## APPROVED OCTOBER 20, 2020

### Dover School Committee Meeting of September 29, 2020

Members Present: Brooke Matarese  
Mark Healey  
Leslie Leon  
Colleen Burt  
Sara Gutierrez Dunn

Also Present: Andrew Keough, Superintendent  
Beth McCoy, Assistant Superintendent  
Dawn Fattore, Business Manager

#### 1) **Call to Order**

Ms. Matarese called the virtual meeting to order at 6:30 pm and read the following into the record: Good evening. This Open Meeting of the Dover School Committee is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus."

In order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

For this meeting, the Dover School Committee is convening via Zoom App, as posted. Information on how to join our School Committee mtgs and mtg agendas were posted on the Dover Sherborn District Website and on the town calendars.

Please note that this meeting is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. Accordingly, please be aware that others may be able to see you, so please take care not to "screen share" your computer. Anything you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

Community comments are an opportunity for members of the community to be heard. We respectfully request that you please make your comments brief (2-3 minutes) and that you move the discussion forward by adding new information. Please try to avoid repeating points that have already been made.

Community comments are an opportunity for us to listen to members of the community. It is not a forum for answering questions or engaging in a debate. Once the public comment section of the meeting has been concluded, we will move on to other business and unsolicited comments from the community will no longer be permitted. This is standard operating procedure in school committee meetings across our 3 school districts.

#### 2) **Community Comments** - none

#### 3) **Reports**

- Principal's Report - Dr. Reinemann reviewed her report and answered questions.
- Assistant Superintendent Update - Ms. McCoy shared the presentation she gave to the faculty at the start of school as well as the schedule of the professional development offered during the 10 days before students arrived.
- Superintendent Update - Dr. Keough thanked the Administration for their hard work over the summer and credited the successful opening of school to the effort and preparedness of the faculty and staff. He also reviewed the Reopening Plan - Phase 2 which would bring K-3 students back in-person 4 days per week:

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- a) Guiding Principle - Education is essential to children's intellectual, social and emotional development. This can be more completely addressed with in-person education, particularly among younger students who are not yet independent learners. These benefits must be weighed against the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community and in the schools to determine when it is safe and appropriate to increase in-person learning time.
- b) Key Public Health Metrics - Community Prevalence: To support moving to the next stage of in-person learning, the combined Dover- Sherborn case rate averaged over two weeks should remain in "green", defined as < 4 cases / 100,000, for the 4 weeks prior to advancing to the next stage. This is the most recent tracking of our data (this data will also be posted to our [webpage](#) every Wednesday afternoon after being released by the state).
- c) Testing capacity: The test positivity rate in the community should be below 2% for at least two consecutive weeks, which is one indicator of adequate testing capacity. Furthermore, the school system should not be consistently exceeding the daily contracted testing capacity (currently 5/day, above what is available through primary care offices).
- d) School based spread: There should be no clusters of cases with evidence of in-school transmission. This is defined as meeting criteria for activation of the state mobile testing unit. Currently these criteria are as follows:
  - \* Two or more students/staff within the classroom group develop COVID-19 within 14 days, and transmission/exposure occurred in the classroom
  - \* More than 3% of the cohort/grade (at least 3 individuals) develop COVID-19 within 14 day, and transmission/exposure occurred in the school
  - \* More than 3% of the school develops COVID-19 within 14 days (of note – for our typical school size this would already have triggered "Red" based on the population of our district)
  - \* Three or more staff within the same school develop COVID-19 within 14 days, and there is evidence of transmission among staff
  - \* Two or more students on the same bus develop COVID-19 within 14 days
- e) Logistical Requirements - The addition of more in-person schooling days raises multiple logistical issues including available spacing in classrooms (we have committed to ensuring 5.5 feet of distancing between students in classrooms), scheduling of lunch and snacks to ensure adequate distancing while unmasked (with spacing of 6 feet and all students facing the same direction our lunchroom capacity has shrunken considerably), and coordination of bus schedules. While public health measures are an important milestone – any level of opening needs to ensure that the available physical plant can accommodate appropriate distancing and cohort sizing. Dr. Keough stated that if the current data trend holds, K-3 will be brought back for in-person learning 4 days per week beginning on October 19th.

- Warrant Report

- 6) **FY20 Budget Closeout** - The year ended with a positive operating variance of \$111,341 comprised of: a positive salary variance of 218,604 due to post-budget staffing changes, extended maternity leave, unfilled stipend positions, plus savings from unused substitute and custodial overtime salaries due to the school closure; \$34,800 savings in transportation and \$44,000 in utilities due to the school closure; offset by a negative variance of \$218,554 in Out of District expenditures resulting from a combination of new placements as well as changes in placements.

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- Special Revenue/Revolving Funds - a summary of all activity for the accounts in FY20 was provided. Ms. Fattore highlighted the playground resurfacing which was completed in June with funding from the PTO as well as the Building Rental and Unrestricted Gifts accounts.
- 7) **FY21 Update** - Faculty devices and K-2 iPads were purchased through the Town's CARES funding. The Reopening Grant CARES monies have been used to purchase PPE, rent tents, and additional staffing. The FY22 Capital Request is being developed as requested by the Town.
- 8) **Remote Learning Enrichment Center** - In accordance with DESE Commissioner Reilly's guidance, a program that allows for our students whose parents are teachers to stay in school on their remote days (with the exception of Wednesday) has been established. The program is call the Remote Learning Enrichment Center and the funding will be charged to the CARES Reopening grant. There are 9 students participating at Pine Hill and the center is being staffed by previously underemployed Extended Day staff.

*Leslie Leon made a motion to approve the Remote Learning Enrichment Center as presented. Mark Healey seconded.*

*20-14 VOTE: 5 - 0 via roll call*

### 9) **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2020

*Leslie Leon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mark Healey seconded.*

*20-15 VOTE: 5 - 0 via roll call*

### 10) **Communications**

- 2020-21 Meeting Calendar
- Subcommittee Assignments
- Regional School Committee - none
- Sherborn School Committee minutes of June 24, 2020

### 11) **Adjournment at 7:55 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Davis