

APPROVED OCTOBER 12, 2021

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Meeting of September 14, 2021

Members Present: Maggie Charron
Kate Potter
Lynn Collins
Tracey Mannion

1) Call to Order

Ms. Charron called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2) Executive Session - Enter into executive session to discuss a complaint from David Sobol dated September 1, 2021 against the Regional School Committee and its members relative to information received in the School District's response to a public records request and to discuss a complaint from Vicki Rellas dated September 8, 2021 concerning the procedure being followed by the Regional School Committee to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of a member from Sherborn pursuant to School Committee Policy BBBE.

3) Amend Agenda - there was a request to move Community Comments to after Reorganization of the Committee.

Lynn Collins made a motion to amend the agenda. Kate Potter seconded.

21-16 VOTE: 4 - 0

4) Reorganization

Kathleen Smith asked for nominations for Chair of the Regional School Committee.

Maggie Charron nominated Kate Potter as Chair of the Regional School Committee. Lynn Collins seconded.

21-17 VOTE: 4 - 0

Kate Potter asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Regional School Committee.

Maggie Charron nominated Lynn Collins as Vice Chair of the Regional School Committee. Kate Potter seconded.

21-18 VOTE: 4 - 0

Kate Potter asked for nominations for Secretary of the Regional School Committee.

Kate Potter nominated Judi Miller for Secretary of the Regional School Committee. Maggie Charron seconded.

21-19 VOTE: 4 - 0

5) Community Comments - none

6) Reports

- Interim Superintendent Update - Kathleen Smith presented a District Overview including an update on the Staff Convocation, Opening Day, and the District Priorities.
- Assistant Superintendent Update - 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.

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- Director of Student Service - Kate McCarthy reported that the Growth Resilience Integrity & Tenacity (GRIT) Program has rolled up to the high school after several successful years at the middle school. She then gave an update on the COVID testing program in the District.
- DSHS Principal Report - John Smith highlighted the opening of school and upcoming events at the high school.
- DSMS Principal Report - Scott Kellett and Dr. Frank Tiano highlighted the opening of school and upcoming events at the middle school.
- Warrant Report

7) Financial Reports: FY21 Closeout

- Revenues - total revenues exceeded budgeted revenue by \$109,754 comprised of the following: 1) \$159,028 in Chapter 70 over expected amount; 2) \$35,616 in Chapter 71, Regional Transportation; and 3) negative variance of \$82,245 resulting from not charging for student parking last year and lower participation in after-school activities.
- Operating Budget - the year ended with a surplus of \$1,104,890 comprised of: 1) \$408,002 in salaries representing post-budget staffing changes; lower use of substitutes; savings from facilities/custodial salaries due to the vacancy in the Director of Facilities position, lower overtime needs and no utilization of summer staff; and various unfilled positions/stipends due to staffing changes and operating under the hybrid model. 2) \$85,989 in transportation costs charged to the Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund as approved by the committee as well as savings of \$100,000 from athletic transportation and regular education transportation with the later start to the school year. 3) savings in utilities of \$86,793 due to the hybrid schedule and the buildings being closed for all weekend activities. Net metering credits of approximately \$25,000 are also reflected in this line item.
- Summary - the net result of operations was a surplus of \$1,214,644. The Committee approved several uses of E&D funds for FY21 including \$355,500 for capital projects and \$210,000 for the FY22 operating budget leaving an estimated certified E&D fund balance of \$1,956,766 (7.4%) of the FY22 operating budget. The E&D and related financial schedule has been submitted to the Department of Revenue. It is anticipated that approximately \$600,000 will be returned to the Towns based on the 5% allowed E&D.
- Special Revenue/Revolving Funds - FY21 activity was provided.
- COVID-19 Related Grants - the District received and fully expended two COVID-19 related grants as of June 30, 2021: the CARES Re-Opening grant of \$279,225 and a State Coronavirus Prevention Fund grant of \$35,025. These grants were used to cover unbudgeted costs associated with the re-opening of school last fall and included technology hardware and software needs, ventilation related expenditures, PPE supplies, COVID-19 testing access and related staffing needs.
- End of Year DESE Report - the Business Office is in the process of completing the FY21 EOYR report which is used by the Department of Education to determine the Region's compliance with net school spending as well as determining the current year's Chapter 71 Regional Transportation Reimbursement.
- Annual Audit - R.E. Brown is scheduled to begin the annual audit the week of September 20th.

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- FY22 Update - the financial statements as of September 30th will be presented at the October meeting. A status of capital projects (by fiscal year) as of September 9th was reviewed.
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ESSER) Grants - the District has received 3 ESSER grants: 1) ESSER I in the amount of \$37,127 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 \$149,608 has been allocated for additional SEL contracted services and additional staffing positions as needed to assist with academic interventions. 3) ESSER III funds total \$313,761 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.

8) Policy: Face Coverings - second read

*Maggie Charron made a motion to approve the policy. Lynn Collins seconded.
21-20 VOTE: 3 - 0 - 1 (Tracey Mannion)*

9) Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2021 - add "alleged" before ethical violations under Community Comments.
- High School Field Trip - Harvard Model United Nations Program, January 27-30, 2022.

*Maggie Charron made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Lynn Collins seconded.
21-21 VOTE: 3 - 0 - 1 (Tracy Mannion)*

10) Communication

- 2021-22 School Committee Meeting Schedule
- Subcommittee Assignments
- Dover School Committee minutes of May 17, 2021
- Upcoming Meetings: DSRSC Retreat September 27, 2021 and SSC/DSC Retreat September 23, 2021

11) Items for October 12th meeting

Maggie Charron, on behalf of the School Committee thanked Anne Hovey and Michael Jaffe for their service as school committee members:

Thank you, Ms. Potter, for the opportunity to speak to the community in gratitude for the work of our former school committee colleagues.

Michael Jaffe served our Dover and Regional community over the past 5 years, spending 3 years on the Dover School Committee and 2 on the Regional Committee. During this time,

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Michael has been a fierce advocate for the needs of all children. He was the driving force behind the return to examine the School Start Time issue and was the co-chair of that Task Force for a period of time. His research skills were unparalleled and Michael could always be counted on to do his homework and to present carefully researched analysis in support of issues related to student mental health and the positive benefits that might come from providing our adolescents with a school schedule that more closely matches their need for rest. It is not an exaggeration to say that without Michael's leadership, the challenge of addressing start times would have never made it out of committee meetings. We are grateful for his work supporting all our students, and his commitment to examining our programs with a critical eye at every juncture. While Michael is no longer serving with us on the Regional School Committee, the lasting impact of his dedication to students remains evident across the region. We wish him well in his future endeavors and appreciate his continued service to the school community as a co-leader of the Guidance Advisory Council this year.

We also recognize with deep appreciation the service of our newly retired colleague, Anne Hovey. Anne has been a tireless volunteer for the Sherborn and the Regional Schools. She served 2 terms on the Sherborn School Committee as well as a year as its Chair. During that time, Anne was known to advocate for the whole child and to ensure that our schools kept student needs at the forefront of all they do. When joining the Regional School Committee in 2016, Anne used her institutional knowledge to inform all she did to serve our communities. Her thoughtful and thorough approach to sensitive matters was appreciated by all of us who worked alongside her. Anne prepared meticulously for each and every meeting, and served as a de facto Chair in her second year when our Chair needed to be away frequently to attend to unexpected personal issues, assuming those unexpected responsibilities with grace and diligence. Anne led the Regional School Committee as the Chair through the first stages of our COVID emergency and facing the need to implement remote learning; she worked collaboratively with leadership to bridge the gap between the challenges faced by a school system response to a health emergency and parents' escalating concern about the state of their children's school experience. Undaunted by this challenge, Anne transitioned to lead our Superintendent Search last fall. She collaborated with our local school district Search Team members and the search firm to conduct a thorough and thoughtful search in the midst of the ongoing health emergency. Although that search did not yield a successful candidate, Anne's graceful leadership and attention to detail has continued to serve us all as we completed the Interim Search and will begin the search for a permanent Superintendent this fall. While we are sad to lose Anne at the Regional School Committee, we recognize the long and lasting positive impact that her work has had on our school community and wish her well in the future.

Please join me in offering our appreciation to our former members for their dedication to making our community better and for the countless hours they have volunteered in service to our school, our community and most of all our children.

Scott Kellett was also recognized for his years as the principal of the middle school.

12)Adjournment at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,Amy Davis