Approved 4/2/24

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Dover School Committee
Sherborn School Committee
Meeting Minutes January 30, 2024

Present:

Dover School Committee
Liz Grossman
Jeff Cassidy
Goli Sepehr
Jessie Hole

Sherborn School Committee
Dennis Quandt
Christine Walsh
Amanda Brown
Becca Hammond
Kristen Aberle

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Judi Miller
Colleen Burt
Kate Potter
Angie Johnson
Mark Healey

1. **Call to order –** The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM in the DSMS Library.
2. **Community Comments -** There was a comment made in support of changing the school calendar to only recognize federal holidays. There were also two comments made criticizing the Administration for sacrificing academic rigor for DEI and related initiatives.
3. **Superintendent Comments -** Superintendent McCoy reviewed recent and upcoming meetings and district events. Then she discussed updates regarding each of the three district goals and each of the three superintendent goals.
4. **Assistant Superintendent Comments -** Denny Conklin spoke about the District Wide Professional Development day on November 27, 2023.
5. **Discussion Items**
   - Findings of GOALS Program Review - Kate McCarthy provided the ACCEPT Collaborative Program Review of Special Education Programming for High Needs students that was completed as a recommendation from the Special Education District Review and answered questions from Committee members. The current program that is located at Pine Hill will be moved to Chickering because the students involved in the program are now all from Dover.
   - Update from Policy Subcommittee - Angie Johnson reviewed the proposed policy for METCO non-voting representation on the school committees. There will be an official first read of the policy put on the agendas of the upcoming individual school committee meetings.
   - Calendar Task Force Report for 2024-25 District School Calendar - members of the Task Force provided an overview of the work done over the past 9 months. The goals of the Task Force include: maintaining academic excellence and the continuity of learning for all students; providing opportunities for students to learn about various holidays/observances throughout the school year; honoring the diverse religious and cultural practices of community members; and adhering to state and federal regulations relative to mandated holidays and instructional time. The Task Force engaged in the analysis of data from

community survey results, student and staff attendance rates on holidays, school calendars of comparable districts, the impact of additional no school days on the length of the school year and the schedules/child-care needs of families, and State/Federal requirements. Task Force proposals were: 1) no holidays - remove all non-federally mandated holidays; 2) status quo - maintain the current calendar; or 3) add Diwali, Lunar New Year, and Eid Al-Fidr to the current calendar. After discussion, Committee members agreed to organize a workshop to further review the data and to have their questions answered. Dennis Quandt, Judi Miller, Goli Sepehr, and Christine Walsh will work to schedule the workshop.

6. **Action Items**
7. **Consent Agenda**
    - September 12, 2023 minutes

There were motions to approve the Consent Agenda.
RSC: motion by Mark Healey, second by Kate Potter
Vote in favor: Judi Miller, Angie Johnson, Kate Potter, and Mark Healey. Colleen Burt abstained.
SSC: motion by Christine Walsh, second by Becca Hammond
Vote in favor: Dennis Quandt, Christine Walsh, Amanda Brown, Kristen Aberle, and Becca Hammond
DSC: motion by Jeff Cassidy, second by Goli Sepehr
Vote in favor: Goli Sepehr, Jeff Cassidy, and Jessie Hole. Liz Grossman abstained.

8. **Informational Items**
    - Proposed Increase of TEC Reserve Fund
    - Update on Food & Nutrition Services
    - DESE District Review
9. **Items for April 2, 2024 Meeting**
10. **Adjourn at 9:22 pm**

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis