

APPROVED JANUARY 24, 2017

Dover School Committee
Meeting of November 22, 2016

Members Present: Adrian Hill, Chair
Henry Spalding, Secretary
Brooke Matarese

Also Present: Bill McAlduff, Interim Superintendent
Karen LeDuc, Assistant Superintendent
Dawn Fattore, Interim Business Manager
Christine Smith, Director of Special Education
Laura Dayal, Principal
Deb Reinemann, Assistant Principal

1) Call to Order

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 8:30 am in the Chickering Faculty Library.

2) Community Comments - none

3) Reports

- a) Principal's Report - Ms. Dayal highlighted items from her report and answered questions from the committee members.
- b) Assistant Superintendent Report - Dr. LeDuc highlighted items from her report.
- c) Interim Superintendent Report - Mr. McAlduff updated the Committee on the following:
 - SPED Out of District report as of November 18th - the FY17 budget projected and included costs related to 37 students. The current OOD number of students is 39 which reflects 4 students new to Dover and 2 students that returned to the in-district program.

4) FY17 Monthly Financial Report - The Status of Appropriations as of November 4th was provided which reflects several budget line item transfers to better align expenses within function code categories. There is currently a negative salary variance related to educator salaries is approximately \$147,000 and offset by \$16,000 of positive variances from Central Office and Leadership positions. The report reflects encumbrances made for heat and electricity based on historical usage and current supply charges. There is an anticipated positive variance for heat costs of \$42,000 based on a favorable price of oil secured through the TEC bid (\$1.63 per gallon).

5) FY18 Proposed Operating Budget - Mr. McAlduff presented the draft FY18 Budget. There are two important trends plus one ongoing process that are the major drivers of the budget. First, enrollment is projected to continue to rise for the 2017-2018 school year. After a seven year period where in six of those seven years enrollment decreased, enrollment the last two years has grown by 2.3% and 3.1% respectively. It appears that trend will continue into next year assuming next year's Kindergarten cohort is similar in numbers to this year's group.

At this point, especially in light of the fact that three classroom sections were added this year (the costs of which are reflected in the proposed budget), the grade by grade projections indicate that class size will remain consistent moving into next year given the current number of class sections. More up to date Kindergarten numbers will be available by the middle of December.

The second trend driving this budget is the Out of District Special Education component. Between FY2011 through our latest report for FY2017 actual expenditures for OOD tuition has increased by over 70% or by more than \$1.2 million. It should be noted however that Circuit Breaker reimbursement, during this same time period, has grown by 2.5 times the amount received in FY11 or by approximately \$750,000.

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The FY18 proposed budget reflects a decrease (from FY17) of a little more than \$100,000 in OOD tuition. However, that decrease is countered by a similar increase in the cost of OOD transportation, a trend that is being watched very closely. Further, it is important to understand that the proposed costs are based on the most up to date information as of November 18, 2016.

There is a very important process that is currently ongoing that will be the third major driver of this budget. Included in this proposed budget is an estimate for the potential settlement of all school employee contracts as well as funding for potential wage increases for all non-union employees. All four union contracts expire at the conclusion of this school year and non-union wage increases are considered on a year-to-year basis. Another important note is that the cost of teacher step movements and teacher salary column changes as well as the costs of longevity payments, for all staff that are eligible, are included.

The proposed FY18 Budget calls for a total increase in funding of \$392,728 dollars or a 3.96% increase which the Administration believes meets the Warrant Committee's request for a level services budget. The proposed budget does include the funding of an additional 0.3 FTE for the cost of Year 5, of the six year incremental plan, to develop a comprehensive Grade K-5 FLES program at Chickering School.

6) Consent Agenda

a) Meeting minutes of October 18, 2016

Ms. Matarese made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Spalding seconded.

16-21 VOTE: 3 - 0

9) Communications

a) Regional School Committee minutes: October 4, 2016

b) Sherborn School Committee minutes: October 11, 2016

10) Items for January 24th meeting - FY18 Budget, ELA curriculum presentation

11) Adjournment at 9:40 am

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis