

APPROVED JUNE 9, 2020

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Meeting of May 5, 2020

Members Present: Anne Hovey
Maggie Charron
Judi Miller
Kate Potter
Michael Jaffe
Lynn Collins

Also Present: Dr. Andrew Keough, Superintendent
Elizabeth McCoy, Assistant Superintendent
Dawn Fattore, Business Manager
John Smith, DSHS Headmaster
Scott Kellett, DSMS Headmaster

1) Call to Order

Ms. Hovey called the virtual meeting to order at 5:00 pm and read the following into the record: Good evening. My name is Anne Hovey and I am the chair of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee. This Open Meeting of the Dover-Sherborn regional 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."

For this meeting, the Dover-Sherborn regional 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. Please be aware that anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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.

For community comments, please virtually raise your hand and wait to be called on. When you speak, please begin by stating your name and street address.

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.

We invite everyone to stay and listen to the entire meeting, but also understand that many of you are unable to do so and may have to leave the Zoom call. We appreciate that you have taken the time to participate in this most important process and we encourage you to reach out to your school committee reps at any time.

School Committee members, please remember to virtually raise your hand when you would like to speak. Always begin by stating your name.

Before we get to the important business of this meeting, I'd like to say a few words....

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As has been said over and over again... we are in uncharted territory. And it's really challenging- for everyone- in a myriad of ways. People we are used to seeing everyday are facing difficulties and obstacles about which we may not even be aware. We are all in uncharted territory, many of us facing monumental, potentially life-changing circumstances, and most of us are under an inordinate amount of stress. But even in this time of adversity- in fact, because of this time of adversity- it's important to remember that we are all trying to do the best we can. In terms of our school district, we are all trying to do the best we can for all of our students. We may not always agree- and that's okay- but what we disagree about are the details; we all agree that our common goal is to do the best that we can for our students, our teachers, our district, and our community.

Thank you to the many parents who have taken on a much greater role in their child's education and who have reached out to support others as we learn more about blended learning together. The community support during this time has been truly incredible.

Thank you to administrators, staff- and everyone else- who have gone above and beyond to make sure the district keeps running smoothly and that our students and families are safe and provided for during this crisis. You may be behind the scenes, but your efforts are valued and appreciated.

Most importantly, this is National Teacher Appreciation week. At this time, I'd like to express a heartfelt thanks to all our children's teachers who are taking on new challenges to teach and, more importantly, connect with their students. You are truly the heart of this school and we appreciate all that you do. You are respected, you are loved and we are grateful for all you do. The cliched phrase "it takes a village" to raise a child is particularly relevant right now. As this crisis enters each new phase, let's continue to work together to support each other in our efforts to do the best we can for our students- and for our teachers and each other.

2) Community Comments - none

3) Reports

- DSHS Headmaster Report - Mr. Smith provided an update on upcoming events at the high school and the plans that are being made to adjust them for everyone's safety.
- DSMS Headmaster Report - Mr. Kellett provided an update on upcoming events at the middle school and the plans that are being made to adjust them for everyone's safety.
- Warrant Report

4) Consideration of Remote Learning Grading - Mr. Smith presented the Administration's recommendation for grading students. For full year courses students will receive a final letter grade based on the following weighting:

- Semester One: 72%
- Quarter 3 (through closing of school): 18%
- Quarter 4 (remote learning): 10% - remote learning will be graded on a Pass/Fail scale. Students earning a Pass will receive a grade of 100% for grade calculation purposes. Students earning a Fail will receive a grade of 0%.
- Courses that typically contribute to a student's GPA will continue to do so in the same manner at they would in any other year.

For Semester Two courses - students in courses that meet for only Semester 2 will receive a final grade of Pass or Fail for each course and the course will not contribute to a student's GPA.

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The recommendation was made based on surveys of students, faculty, and area schools as well as the number of weeks of in-class vs virtual learning. Students can make up any work they have outstanding from Term 3 in-class work. There will be no finals this year.

There was discussion about the proposal including concerns about students that use the 4th quarter as an opportunity to catch up from a slow start to the year or those students that would like the option to receive a letter grade in classes vs the pass/fail option. Others voiced their concern that many students are facing challenges that make remote learning extremely challenging. Ms. Collins stated that she trusts that the Administration's proposal is in the best interest of the students but she does not feel she has enough information to vote on it.

Maggie Charron made a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation for high school grading for the 2019-20 school year.

20-12 VOTE: 4 - 2 (Michael Jaffe and Lynn Collins)

Mr. Kellett presented the Administration's recommendation for grading students: for remote learning students will receive a Pass/Fail grade for each course. For the final grades - the first two quarters will contribute 72% of the grade, the in-class portion of quarter 3 will contribute 10% and the remote learning time will make up the final 10%

Kate Potter made a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation for middle school grading for the 2019-20 school year.

20-13 VOTE: 4 - 2 (Michael Jaffe and Lynn Collins)

5) Financial Reports

FY20 Operating Update as of April 30th

- Revenues - The cancellation of the spring sports season at the High School resulted in a decrease in Athletic Fees of approximately \$90,000 which was offset by the savings in spring coaching stipends of approximately the same amount. There will be additional revenues in Chapter 70 funds of approximately \$5,000 from an update in school choice enrollment and approximately \$18,000 in additional FY19 Chapter 71 revenues. The Chapter 71 revenues are due to the supplemental budgets passed by the State Legislature in FY20 but attributable to FY19 activity.
- Salaries - with the previously reported post-budget staffing changes and now the closure of school, we anticipate a positive salary variance of at least \$200,000. The remaining substitute and custodial overtime balances will not be utilized.
- Expenditures - the Region will recognize a savings of approximately \$116,000 on transportation based on the 61 days of remote learning. This is in addition to the already projected positive variance of \$277,000 in transportation (from the use of funds from the RTRF), \$150,000 in active health insurance costs, and \$70,000 in utility costs. These are partially offset by negative variances to date in SPED services of \$110,000 and \$19,500 in higher Norfolk County Retirement contributions due to an update in the reallocation of expenses between the General, Food Services and Community Education funds.
- Other - Due to most Towns having not been able to hold their Annual Town Meetings, all regional school districts have been instructed to complete the necessary request packet by June 1st to allow for a 1/12th budget approval process to begin in July, 2020 and to continue until the member towns complete the budget approval process.
- Additional OPEB information - the next step in the process for the OPEB Trust Fund is approval of the investment policy. Due to the long time horizon for the investment the

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sub-committee in consultation with the District's advisory recommends the Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services Growth Strategy. This allocation will be reviewed quarterly. There was discussion about the timing of investing the initial allocation given the volatility of the market recently.

Lynn Collins made a motion to approve the investment policy recommendation of the advisory. Maggie Charron seconded.

20-14 VOTE: 6 - 0

- 6) Boys Ice Hockey Request for Co-op Varsity and JV Team w/Weston HS** - Ms. Sullivan requested the renewal of the current cooperative boys ice hockey team with Weston High School for the next two seasons and the formation of a DS & Weston Junior Varsity team. The MIAA has approved the JV team and Weston would be charged \$1,000 per student athlete to participate in the team as well as all bus costs.

Maggie Charron made a motion to approve the renewal of the Varsity Cooperative Boys Ice Hockey team with Weston High School for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. Lynn Collins seconded.

20-15 VOTE: 6 - 0

Maggie Charron made a motion to approve the formation of a Junior Varsity Cooperative Boys Ice Hockey team with Weston High School for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. Michael Jaffe seconded.

20-16 VOTE: 6 - 0

- 7) Girls Ice Hockey Request** - Ms. Sullivan requested that Dover Sherborn High School relieve their duties as host school in the girl's ice hockey cooperative team with Hopkinton High School. For the 2020-21 season, DSHS will have two returning varsity players and one rising 9th grader while Hopkinton is projected to have 7 returning varsity players and 5 rising 9th graders. Hopkinton has added the girls ice hockey program to their 2020-21 budget as the host school. DSHS will be charged \$1,500 per player.

Maggie Charron made a motion to approve the new formation of the Girls Ice Hockey Team with Hopkinton as the host school. Kate Potter seconded.

20-17 VOTE: 6 - 0

- 8) Proposed Changes to 2020-21 Student Handbooks: First Read** - Mr. Smith reviewed the proposed changes to the high school handbook which include: updated language due to new start times/schedule, clarification that absence due to injury or illness that are not eligible to practice or represent Dover-Sherborn in a school sponsored activity as a participant or spectator without supportive documentation or Administrative approval, and inclusion of changes/updates to policy where necessary.

Mr. Kellet then reviewed the proposed changes to the middle school handbook which include: updated language due to new start times/schedule, inclusion of Specialty Subjects and World Languages Mastery Based Reporting Rubric, homework guidelines replacement for homework policy, and inclusion of Chromebook Use Procedures and Guidelines. The changes will be voted on in June.

- 9) Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2019, March 3 and April 28, 2020

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*Michael Jaffe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Lynn Collins seconded.
20-18 VOTE: 6 - 0*

10)Adjournment at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,Amy Davis