

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**REGION'S BUDGET HEARING**  
**March 8, 2022**  
**6:30 pm**

**Location**

**Dover- Sherborn Middle School Library**

[YouTube.com/doversherborncabletv](https://www.youtube.com/doversherborncabletv)

1. Call to Order
2. Community Comments

**\*\*FY23 DOVER SHERBORN REGIONAL SCHOOLS BUDGET HEARING\*\***

3. Discussion and Vote to certify FY23 Operating Budget **A.R.**
4. Reports:
  - Superintendent Update
  - Warrant Report
5. Financial Reports
  - FY22 Monthly Financial Report
6. Annual Vote on MA School Choice Law **A.R.**
7. Consent Agenda **A.R.**
  - Approval of Minutes February 1, 16, 2022
  - Donations
8. Communication
  - DSHS Principal's Report- John Smith
  - DSMS Principal's Report – Frank Tiano
  - Sherborn School Committee November 16, 2021 Minutes
9. Items for May 3, 2022 Meeting
10. Adjourn

*Note: The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may, in fact, be discussed and other items not listed may also be raised for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

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# The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn

157 Farm Street

Dover, MA 02030

Phone: 508-785-0036 Fax 508-785-2239

[www.doversherborn.org](http://www.doversherborn.org)

*Commitment to Community*

*Equity and Excellence*

*Respect and Dignity*

*Climate of Care*

Kathleen Smith, J.D., Interim Superintendent

Elizabeth M. McCoy, Asst. Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator

Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee  
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator  
DATE: March 4, 2022  
RE: FY23 Operating Budget Final Approval

As we move to certify the FY23 Budget following the Public Budget Hearing, the following motions are presented for action by the Committee.

## FY23 Operating Budget

Motion to adopt the FY23 budget in the amount of **\$27,023,813** which is reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of **\$3,570,544** for a net amount to be assessed to the member town of **\$23,453,269** (comprised of **\$22,618,069** in operating expenses and **\$835,200** in debt expenses) and that the Treasurer be authorized to certify this budget in the apportioned share of each town based on the statutory method.

Motion to approve the utilization of **\$110,000** of June 30, 2021 certified Excess & Deficiency funds for the FY23 Budget.

## Remaining Budget Meetings

With tonight's approval, the Committee's work is completed with the next steps being at the town level.

Dover's Warrant Hearing is scheduled for **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm. An abbreviated budget presentation will be shared for both the operating budget and capital requests. In addition, we will be presenting the capital request and related IMA to the Dover Selectmen on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Dover's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** and the Town Election on **May 16<sup>th</sup>** (the capital request will be a ballot question).

Sherborn Advisory's Public Hearing on the Warrant is scheduled for Saturday, **March 26<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30am. The Advisory Committee covers all budgets so we have no formal presentation except for our capital request. We will be presenting the capital request and related IMA to the Sherborn Select Board on **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. Sherborn's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for **April 26<sup>th</sup>** and the Town Election on **May 10<sup>th</sup>** (the capital request will be a ballot question).

We will be happy to answer any questions at Tuesday's meeting.

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Kathleen Smith, JD, Interim Superintendent

Elizabeth M. McCoy, Asst. Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator

Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

To: Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee

From: Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent

Date: March 4, 2022

RE: Superintendent Update

I will be providing a verbal update at the meeting on the following items:

- Mask Optional Roll Out as of 3/7/22
- Communication Consultant Project Update
- Central Office Audit Update
- Systems Leadership for Equity Position Paper
- Meeting with METCO students & POSITIVE Group DSMS

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Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator

Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Regional School Committee  
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator  
DATE: March 4, 2022  
RE: FY22 Approved Warrants

The following Accounts Payable Warrants were approved by one of the Committee’s designated signers:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1130	1/30/2022	\$370,770.32
1129	1/30/2022	\$487,027.31
1137	2/6/2022	\$28,569.35
1138	2/13/2022	\$164,961.64
1147	2/21/2022	\$363,872.58
1148	2/23/2022	\$51,801.96

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Kathleen Smith, J.D., Interim Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator

Elizabeth M. McCoy, Asst. Superintendent

Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Regional School Committee  
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator  
RE: FY22 Operating Update  
DATE: March 4, 2022

Attached please find:

- a. General Fund Revenues as of February 28, 2022
- b. Status of Appropriations as of February 28, 2022

*Note: As in previous years, the financial narrative will be rolling with new/updated information in bold.*

## Revenues

**The current statement reflects the return of funds (\$642,691) to the two Towns based on the certification of the Region's E&D as of January 24<sup>th</sup>. The February assessment payments were reduced by the applicable amounts. The actual net revenue variance is shown at the bottom of the statement for your reference.** The small variance in Chapter 70 is due to student enrollment in school choice districts and charter schools that were not included in preliminary cherry sheets. **As noted in our last meeting, we have received our first Chapter 71 transportation payment which reflects an 80% reimbursement of our FY21 transportation costs. Based on this we are reflecting an approx. \$110,000 positive variance (this is being applied to the FY23 budget through the use of E&D).** We are projecting no variances in athletics or activity fees. As a reminder, the high school activity fee is \$75 as approved by the Committee in the last budget cycle. **We have adjusted projected bank interest as interest rates have continued to decline.** We will review all activities as the year progresses and adjust projections accordingly.

## Operating Expenditures

### Salaries

The majority of salaries for FY22 have been encumbered. **The current statement recognizes savings from various extended leaves resulting in the increase in the positive variance in Teacher, Classroom and Guidance line items. We are pleased to announce we have filled the vacancy in the Business Office (encumbrance reflected) however we continue to have an open custodial position resulting in positive variances.** The negative variance in School Leadership represents the transition costs associated with the Middle School principal position. The costs associated with the addition of the Middle School Academic Specialist (included in Teacher, Classroom) is offset by savings from post-budget staffing changes. **We have utilized additional grant funds to offset the negative variance in Educational Assistants. In addition, there is an EA position just filled that has yet to be encumbered.** We have added additional nursing support across all four schools. The Region's portion of the added costs is \$27,500 and is reflected in the negative variance on the Medical/Health Services line. The majority of stipends have been recorded including all coaching positions. Custodial overtime and substitute costs are expensed as incurred. Due to several long-term leaves, we are seeing a negative variance in the Substitutes line item as those placements are encumbered **however this is being offset in salary savings from various extended leaves as noted above.**

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## Expenditures

At this time we are not projecting any material variances in operating expenses. We have encumbered employer related health insurance expenses and based on the October 1<sup>st</sup> subscriber enrollment are on target with the FY22 budgeted amount. In addition, we are on target to contribute our funding goal of a minimum of \$100,000 to the OPEB Trust Fund based on the balance remaining in the retired employee insurance budget line item. **The current statement reflects a contribution of \$125,000.** Utility projections are reflected but could fluctuate given the variance in operations since March 2020.

## **ESSER Grants**

We submitted our application for the ESSER III grant (\$313,761) on October 4<sup>th</sup> and received the initial approval last week. The budget focuses on activities related to student learning loss and other student social/emotional issues arising from the COVID pandemic. The main areas include providing additional technology support for high school students, additional educational support for individual student needs including summer services, training for educators on addressing learning loss and additional social/emotional learning supports. We are continuing to evaluate students and are communicating with other stakeholder groups to determine any other issues that need to be addressed and can amend our budget as appropriate as the grant period extends to September of 2024.

## **FY21 Wrap-up**

The Region's EOYR was filed with DESE by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. We are required to undergo a compliance audit each year to ensure our data reporting is in-line with their directives. This will take place prior to the March 31<sup>st</sup> filing deadline.

Our auditors completed their field work. We have been delayed in completing the FY21 Audit but hope to have the final financial statements ready to share with the Committee in April.

We will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at Tuesday's meeting.

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School District**  
**General Fund Revenues**  
as of February 28, 2022

	<u>FY22</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>EST. TO BE</u> <u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>OPERATING</u> <u>VARIANCE</u>	<u>% OF</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
DOVER ASSESSMENTS	\$12,693,092	\$8,154,440	\$4,895,731	(\$357,079)	-2.81% *
SHERBORN ASSESSMENTS	10,205,111	6,271,842	4,218,881	(\$285,612)	-2.80% *
CHAPTER 70, net	2,404,773	1,625,083	760,484	(\$19,206)	-0.80%
CHAPTER 71 (Transportation)	499,965	304,880	304,880	\$109,795	21.96%
H/S ATHLETIC FEES	255,000	192,250	62,750	\$0	0.00%
H/S PARKING FEES	52,500	44,004	8,496	\$0	0.00%
H/S ACTIVITY FEE	22,500	9,150	13,350	\$0	0.00%
M/S ACTIVITY FEE	11,250	7,425	3,825	\$0	0.00%
MISC REVENUE	5,000	713	4,287	\$0	0.00%
BANK INTEREST	20,000	3,011	5,000	(\$11,989)	-59.94%
NON-CASH ACTIVITY	0	0	0	\$0	na
E&D UTILIZATION	210,000	0	210,000	\$0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$26,379,191</b>	<b>\$16,612,798</b>	<b>\$10,487,684</b>	<b>(\$564,091)</b>	<b>-2.14%</b>
				\$78,600	net of E&D turnback

\*Reflects excess FY21 E&D returned to Towns

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School District  
Status of Appropriations as of February 28, 2022**

				<u>OPERATING</u>		<u>% OF</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
	<u>FY22</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u> <u>THRU 2/28</u>	<u>ENCUMBRANCES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>PROJECTED</u>	<u>VARIANCE/</u> <u>BUD. REMAINING</u>	
<b><u>SALARIES</u></b>						
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	22,090	14,703	8,973	23,676	(1,586)	-7.18%
SUPERINTENDENT	212,121	137,498	71,975	209,472	2,649	1.25%
BUSINESS AND FINANCE	210,647	105,411	70,190	175,602	35,045	16.64%
DISTRICTWIDE INFORMATION MGMT	229,811	150,154	78,419	228,574	1,237	0.54%
SPED/GUIDANCE ADMINISTRATION	543,521	306,746	212,941	519,688	23,833	4.38%
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP - BUILDING	737,169	494,946	262,283	757,229	(20,060)	-2.72%
ACADEMIC LEADERS	147,414	69,815	72,471	142,285	5,129	3.48%
TEACHERS, CLASSROOM	9,985,367	4,999,902	4,903,768	9,903,670	81,698	0.82%
TEACHERS, SPED	1,701,898	837,705	808,625	1,646,329	55,569	3.27%
SUBSTITUTES	110,000	133,502	52,284	185,786	(75,786)	-68.90%
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS, SPED	525,051	263,239	219,174	482,413	42,638	8.12%
LIBRARIANS	235,326	117,663	117,663	235,326	0	0.00%
BUILDING BASED PD	38,250	47,289	0	47,289	(9,039)	-23.63%
GUIDANCE	1,031,931	511,408	496,290	1,007,698	24,233	2.35%
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	217,013	108,506	108,506	217,013	0	0.00%
MEDICAL / HEALTH SERVICES	167,306	97,493	104,621	202,114	(34,808)	-20.80%
ATHLETICS	433,825	252,145	169,709	421,854	11,971	2.76%
OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES	184,559	84,591	94,268	178,859	5,699	3.09%
CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES	789,449	464,715	290,756	755,470	33,979	4.30%
<b>TOTAL SALARIES</b>	<b>\$ 17,522,749</b>	<b>\$ 9,197,431</b>	<b>\$ 8,142,916</b>	<b>\$ 17,340,347</b>	<b>\$182,402</b>	<b>1.04%</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>						
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	40,500	25,288	21,900	47,188	(6,688)	-16.51%
SUPERINTENDENT	55,000	33,951	15,738	49,689	5,311	9.66%
LEGAL SERVICES	38,000	21,544	8,456	30,000	8,000	21.05%
DISTRICTWIDE INFO MGMT	86,225	79,734	9,311	89,045	(2,820)	-3.27%
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP - BUILDING	84,000	36,772	30,365	67,137	16,863	20.08%
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	28,185	9,652	7,718	17,369	10,816	38.37%
SPED SERVICES/SUPPLIES	123,500	52,539	51,195	103,734	19,766	16.00%
LIBRARIES & MEDIA CENTER	4,775	3,382	0	3,382	1,393	29.18%
COURSE REIMBURSEMENT/PD	92,900	30,257	1,500	31,757	61,143	65.82%
TEXTBOOKS	54,235	22,313	8,524	30,837	23,398	43.14%
LIBRARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL	29,800	19,640	3,002	22,642	7,158	24.02%
INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT	81,700	34,150	16,540	50,690	31,010	37.96%
GENERAL SUPPLIES	157,575	65,501	19,819	85,319	72,256	45.85%
OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	19,500	5,302	5,863	11,165	8,335	42.74%
CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL TECH.	136,574	136,319	5,371	141,690	(5,117)	-3.75%
GUIDANCE	41,100	20,039	2,379	22,418	18,682	45.45%
MEDICAL / HEALTH SERVICES	8,800	2,735	494	3,229	5,571	63.30%
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	984,350	411,669	587,833	999,501	(15,151)	-1.54%
ATHLETICS	224,500	106,217	33,292	139,509	84,991	37.86%
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	58,000	20,916	4,214	25,130	32,870	56.67%
MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS	585,250	252,529	159,726	412,254	172,996	29.56%
MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS	60,000	26,845	2,009	28,853	31,147	51.91%
UTILITIES	566,100	293,524	242,994	536,518	29,582	5.23%
ER RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	751,893	730,223	0	730,223	21,670	2.88%
ER INSURANCE ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	2,817,950	1,860,009	938,918	2,798,927	19,023	0.68%
ER INSURANCE RETIRED EMPLOYEES	770,000	432,026	333,000	765,026	4,974	0.65%
OTHER NON EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	79,530	85,917	0	85,917	(6,387)	-8.03%
LONG TERM DEBT RETIREMENT	815,000	0	815,000	815,000	0	0.00%
LONG TERM DEBT SERVICE	61,500	30,750	30,750	61,500	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$8,856,442</b>	<b>\$4,849,741</b>	<b>\$3,355,909</b>	<b>\$8,205,650</b>	<b>\$650,792</b>	<b>7.35%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>\$26,379,190</b>	<b>\$14,047,172</b>	<b>\$11,498,825</b>	<b>\$25,545,996</b>	<b>\$833,194</b>	<b>3.16%</b>



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Kathleen Smith, JD, Interim Superintendent

Elizabeth M. McCoy, Asst. Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator

Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

From: Kathleen Smith  
Interim Superintendent

Date: March 4, 2022

RE: School Choice

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Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 12 requires local school committees to vote annually as to whether or not the district will participate in School Choice.

Our school committees have historically voted not to participate in School Choice.

Should the committees decide not to participate, the recommended motion is:

Move to have the Dover Sherborn Regional Schools not participate in School Choice program for the 2022-2023 school year.

## DRAFT

### Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee Meeting of February 1, 2022

Members Present: Kate Potter  
Maggie Charron  
Lynn Collins  
Tracey Mannion  
Judi Miller  
Angie Johnson

#### 1) Call to Order

Kate Potter called the virtual meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

#### 2) Community Comments - none

#### 3) Reports

- Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Report - Kathleen Smith presented an update from her office including vaccination rates, testing options, and recommendations for unmasking.
- Warrant Report

#### 4) Financial Reports: FY22 Monthly Report as of January 26th

- Revenues - there are no material variances to report at this time.
- Salaries - due to several long-term leaves, there is a negative variance in the Substitutes line item as those placements are encumbered.
- Expenditures - utility projections are reflected in this statement but could fluctuate given the variance in operations since March 2020.
- Special Revenue/Revolving Funds - the summary of activity to date is reflected on the attached statement as of January 31st.
- ESSER Grants - there is nothing new to report at this time.
- FY21 Wrap-Up - the FY21 audit has been delayed so presentation of final financial statements will be shared at the April meeting. The June 30, 2021 E&D certification was received, the towns have been notified of the turn-back and reduced February assessment payment. The turn-back totaled \$642,691.

#### 5) ACED Recommendations - the following additions have been recommended by the ACED Committee: 1) change in name for the CAPAY to ASU: Asian Student Union, \$0; 2) add Knitting Club 1.0 ratio, \$1,511,33; and 3) move 10 volunteer coaches to 10 Assistant Coaching positions, \$30,226.60.

*Maggie Charron made a motion to accept the ACED Recommendations. Lynn Collins seconded.*

*22-01 VOTE: 6 - 0 via roll call*

#### 6) Athletic Fee - as discussed in December, in connection with the ACED recommendation to add 10 assistant coaching positions to Appendix C of the DSEA Contract, the administration is proposing an increase in the student athletic fee of \$35 per athlete per season to cover the added expenses. The recommended family cap will be \$1,340. The total projected increase in revenues is \$29,750.

## DRAFT

*Judi Miller made a motion to approve a per season athletic fee of \$335 with a family cap of \$1,340 effective July 1, 2022. Lynn Collins seconded.  
22-02 VOTE: 6 - 0 via roll call*

### 7) FY23 Budget

- *Operating* - the following adjustments have been made since the last meeting:

#### *Revenues (accounted for in assessment calculation)*

• increase in FY23 Chapter 70 Governor's Budget	(\$107,326)
• increase in FY23 Chapter 71 Governor's Budget	(83,628)
• increase in HS Athletic fees	(29,750)
• utilize E&D to apply FY22 revenue surpluses to FY23	0

#### *Expenditures*

• salary reductions from retirements/staffing changes	(18,400)
• Website and Financial System upgrades	15,000
• salary reductions from educator retirement/staffing change	(153,875)
• salary reductions from educator retirement/staffing change	(57,500)
• addition of staffing, net of existing position conversion	91,750
• allocate additional EA position to grant funding	(31,500)
• revised budget for addition of Adjustment Counselors	(15,000)
• addition of Floating Nurse, net saving of substitute budgets	37,200
• approval of additional Assistant Coaches in Appendix C	30,226
• decrease in Employee Health Insurance based on FY23 rates	(240,000)

Total (expenditure adjustments)	(\$342,099)
FY23 Operating Budget	\$27,131,913

The FY23 Operating Budget represents an increase of \$752,722 or 2.85% over FY22.

- *Capital* - given the larger request for capital projects this year, the administration is moving forward with utilizing an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with Dover and Sherborn. A draft is included in the packet. There have been no changes to the estimates provided for each project at December's meeting.

### 8) Review of 2021 Town Report - there were a few minor corrections suggested.

*Maggie Charron made a motion to approve the 2021 Town Report. Lynn Collins seconded.  
22-03 VOTE: 6 - 0 via roll call*

### 9) Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes: December 7, 2021
- Donations - Leaders - \$125; Needham Bank for METCO Program - \$1,200; and Patriots Foundation - \$1,000.

## **DRAFT**

*Angie Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Lynn Collins seconded.  
22-04 VOTE: 6 - 0 via roll call*

### **10)Communication**

- DSHS Principal's Report
- DSMS Principal's Report
- Dover School Committee minutes of November 23, 2021

### **11)Items for February 16, 2022 meeting**

### **12)Adjournment at 8:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,Amy Davis

## DRAFT

### Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee Meeting of February 16, 2022

Members Present: Kate Potter  
Maggie Charron  
Lynn Collins  
Angie Johnson  
Tracey Mannion

#### 1) Call to Order

Lynn Collins called the virtual meeting with Sherborn Advisory and Dover Warrant to order at 7:01 pm.

#### 2) FY23 Budget Discussion

Assumptions: regular school operations (in-person 5 days a week) with level enrollment; compliance with Towns' budget guidance; alignment with District's Strategic Plan; and continued assessment of student needs in post-COVID environment.

#### Budget Drivers:

Payroll and related benefits represent approximately 80% of the operating budget:

- contractual agreement increases of approximately 2 - 2.25% across all bargaining units in addition to step and lane increases for educators ranging from 4-13%%
- several new staffing positions for FY23
- salary savings from retirements/staffing changes
- no increase in healthcare costs based on provider changes resulting from the exit of Fallon
- continued funding provided for OPEB Liability Trust utilizing phased in cost share savings (full phased in by FY24)
- Norfolk County Retirement assessment increase of 7% however still below the FY21 actual costs

Continued trend budgeting for all other operating accounts, as prudent, given the impact of COVID on operations over the last two fiscal years;

Student enrollment by member town impacts the annual assessment percentage. The FY23 operating and capital assessment percentages reflect increases of .13% and .18% respectively for Sherborn.

The proposed FY23 Operating Budget totals \$26,188,613 which represents an overall increase over FY22 is \$644,622 (2.44%). FY22 increase over FY21 was \$226,751 (0.87%):

- Dover's assessment increase is \$266,304 (2.10%) compared to a \$13,529 decrease in FY21;
- Sherborn's assessment increase is \$288,762 (2.83%) compared to a \$186,752 increase in FY21:
- FY22 Town Assessments were reduced by \$642,691 (Dover \$357,079/Sherborn \$285,612) due to post-budget and COVID related savings from FY21 operations.

Dawn Fattore took questions about the proposed budget from Advisory Committee members.

## **DRAFT**

Capital Budget project requests include:

- roof restoration for the Middle School (including gym) and Lindquist Commons;
- boiler replacements for the High School and Pump House;
- security system upgrade for Lindquist Commons;
- classroom dividing wall for the Middle School (to provide an additional classroom);
- continued flooring replacement in classrooms at the High School.

Funding sources for the capital projects are:

- roof project of \$1.575 million funded through an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with the two Towns; and
- remaining projects totaling \$367,500 to be funded with Excess & Deficiency (E&D) funds.

There was discussion about the suggested funding sources. The Warrant Committee, Advisory Committee, as well as other decision makers in both towns will meet to discuss the IMA and other funding options.

**3) Adjournment at 8:32 pm.**

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis

# *The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn*

*Memo from  
Kathleen A. Smith, Interim Superintendent*

To: Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

From: Kathleen A. Smith, Interim Superintendent

Date: March 3, 2022

RE: Donations

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I respectfully request the Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee accept donations from:

- DS Varsity Field Hockey for volunteer Tom McGill \$2,156
- Mudge Foundation \$8,300  
(Auditorium Lighting Board replacement)

## DSMS UPDATE

### SIP Goals Updates

#### **Goal 1: *Health and Wellbeing of Students and Staff***

As we transition to mask-optional on our campus next week, we are proud to be aligned with the DS High School, Pine Hill, and Chickering school communities in adopting the slogan of ***Respect the Choice*** to help remind us of our commitment to support each other no matter how we may appear to be different. While this change will be a relief to many, we realize that it will be a source of concern for others and we want our students, staff, and families to know that we need to ensure that their choice is respected by everyone in our school community. This simple message embodies our district's core values -*Commitment to Community, Equity & Excellence, Respect & Dignity, and Climate of Care* that we strive to uphold on a daily basis and is proudly represented by the image below.

#### **Goal 2: *Innovative Teaching and Learning 2.0, Merging the lessons of the pandemic with what we know to be the best in learning and teaching.***

Our school council and staff are working on our School Improvement Plan with an eye towards refining our efforts in providing data driven, tiered academic and social interventions for next year. Our efforts will continue to align these processes with our district initiatives and our fellow schools.

### **Department Updates**

#### English:

Sixth grade students studying literature in book clubs, with a focus on themes of adversity and perseverance. Students are learning important skills necessary for working with others, they are analyzing literature by making connections, creating discussion questions, visualizing and illustrating scenes, and drawing conclusions about characters with a variety of character traits, by providing evidence from the text. At the end of this unit, students will write a multi-paragraph essay focusing on an important theme from their book club novel.

Seventh grade students created a creative writing piece of their choice by using the figurative language learned to culminate the unit. After the February break, students will be exploring the essential question "How do challenging environments propel an individual to persevere?" by examining Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water*.

Eighth grade students are reading the classic *Of Mice and Men* while exploring the themes of power and the American Dream. In addition, they have recently completed a research project in conjunction with the Social Studies departments. After researching a self-selected topic they feel passionate about, students are writing argumentative essays that they will send to a government representative, or other person in power, who might be able to make a change.

#### Science



**6th:** Grade 6 science wrapped up our Astronomy unit this month. Highlights included spending time on comets and asteroids. Included in our assignments were the technological advances for tracking and preventing asteroid strikes and the prospect of mining in space. Each student did a comparison of three famous astronomers including a biography and Venn diagram. The earth science unit is now underway with new vocabulary and a detailed drawing assignment on the earth's layers.

**7th:** With an understanding of mitosis, students hypothesized reasons for why gametic cells have half the amount of genetic material as somatic cells. After collaborating with drawings and sharing ideas, the students correctly identified the process of meiosis. With an understanding of cell division, students began planting Fast Plants. With a better understanding of fertilization and heredity in the coming weeks, they will be able to interpret the results of pollinating the Fast Plants.

**8th:** February was exciting for the 8th grade. The students performed a lab on splitting water into Hydrogen and Oxygen and then conducting a flame test to see the reaction of burning each element. The month is being wrapped up on the writing of this unit's lab report. Students seem to have enjoyed all of the lab activities within the matter and chemistry unit.

## **Math**

**6th:** Our 6th grade students just completed a unit on integers , absolute value and using these concepts in the real world. Next up is the beginning of our unit on customary and metric measurement systems. We welcomed the arrival of Ms. Ehle's baby girl and Ms. Molly McGill who is Ms.Ehle's long term substitute until the end of May.

**7th:** 7th grade math students are applying their knowledge of solving equations to solve real world problems. They are learning how to solve word problems using and documenting algebra steps. This includes how to: create mathematical expressions to reflect the story, understand what a variable represents, as well as how rules and variables can help mathematicians make decisions. We will next be introducing the math concept of inequality statements and how to solve and graph solutions to inequality problems.

**8th :**Our 8th grade students prepared for, took, and reflected on a cumulative Mid-Year Exam just before February break. To demonstrate and use their knowledge of percents, fractions and collaboration some of our classes created a cookie recipe and baked the cookies in their class. They were delicious!

**Math Counts Competition:** Ten students competed in the 2022 Regional MathCounts competition on February 17th. Four Dover Sherborn Middle School students were selected to represent the Metrowest Chapter at the State Finals to be held at Wentworth Institute on Saturday, March 5th. The four person team includes Michael Yang, Siming Chen, Jonathan Shen, and Shantanu Tiwari. Congratulations to all our DSMS participants in the Matn Counts Competition !

## **Physical Education**

Our students are starting our Olympic/Paralympic unit which will run through March. Students will be engaged in an olympic sport (basketball and hockey) as well as Paralympic sports- Sitting volleyball, Goalball,

Health Education: Wheelchair basketball and Volt hockey (wheelchair accessible) Our students with physical disabilities would like their peers to know how they play competitive sports. JB Harvey created a 3 minute video of him skiing with Tetra skis.

7th graders are designing "Respect the Choice" posters to support our school community as we transition to our mask choices after March 7th. We will be beginning our nutrition unit after the February break.

8th graders recently created "Resilience" FlipGrids encouraging their classmates to stand strong when facing disappointment, adversity, or personal challenge. We will be learning Hands-Only CPR/AED skills after the February break.

### **Social Studies:**

**6th grade:** Students have explored the formative experiences of the ancient Israelites, from their early migrations to their kingdoms in Canaan to the formation of diaspora communities. Students have compared and contrasted their culture with those of other ancient civilizations, and studied the unique ways in which monotheism has influenced the world. Our unit concludes with building connections to Christianity and Islam as shared Abrahamic traditions.

**7th grade** students will begin a unit on Latin America. This unit looks at several important issues: migration and immigration, and the deforestation of the Amazon and other rainforests. All classes will host a debate about whether the rainforests should be preserved or deforested, and look at the issue of immigration from several different perspectives.

**8th grade:** Students have just completed their persuasive letter writing project- a joint curriculum effort between Social Studies and ELA classes. This authentic learning project is the culmination of our units on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The process provided the opportunity for students to sharpen content knowledge about citizenship and government, research skills in terms of selecting reliable and readable sources, writing skills in terms of planning and organizing a multi-paragraph business letter and life skills in terms of mailing and letter etiquette. After teacher evaluation and one final chance to fix errors, we head to the mailbox in mid March and will send these letters to their intended recipients. Students are completing their study of the Bill of Rights and learning about Supreme Court cases and creating music videos in teams about an assigned case.

### **Fine and Performing Arts:**

4 MS students will represent us in the MMEA Easter District Junior Festival Ensembles on March 11th and 12th. The ensembles are a select group of musicians grades 7-9 from our school and surrounding communities.

The DS music department performed at the Chocolate Cafe event on March 6th, a fundraiser sponsored by FOPA (Friends of the Performing Arts), and featuring ensembles from both the middle school and high school.

The MS visual art department will be participating in the DS Musical Art Show, an exhibit that will be on display during the High School production of Beauty and the Beast. This exhibit will showcase art from DS students from the elementary, middle, and high schools, and we are excited for its return after a 3 year hiatus.

## **Technology and Engineering**

### **DS 6-12 Girls Who Code Club:**

### **Technology Literacy/Computer Science:**

### **Technology Literacy/Computer Science Grades 6 and 7:**

### **Engineering Grade 8:**

## **World Language**

### **Sixth Grade Latin**

The sixth graders have embarked on their independent research project, choosing a topic of Roman culture, society, or history that sparks their interest, with the aim of creating essential questions that will guide them to a place where they will be able to teach and engage their classmates about their chosen topic. They have learned how to describe objects and feelings and are moving on to learning how to express actions in the various tenses.

### **Seventh Grade Latin**

The seventh graders are pulling together their research on Rome's impact on the environment in order to create group projects that connect the various issues to each other and to the poetry of Ovid. They have completed Ovid's rendering of the Icarus and Daedalus story and learned how to summarize Latin in Latin, using the syntax necessary to the task. They are now moving on to Ovid's Creation cycle, which will have more apparent ties to Rome's impact on the environment.

### **Eighth Grade Latin**

The eighth graders have completed their first cycle in the epistolary unit and are now jumping into the poetry of Catullus. The [Catullus Unit](#) will have them reading Latin poetry in the original, responding to each poem in Latin via a poetry journal, gaining close reading skills, analyzing literature, and synthesizing it all in a project that will have them connecting more personally to the poetry of a modern poet writing in the 1st century CE..

**Sixth Grade Spanish:** Students are applying grammar concepts while working on different topics of social justice. Interpretive mode: they are analyzing different stories, interpreting authentic videos from kids in different countries and their different experiences (educational, access to technology, housing, etc). Presentational mode: They are answering guided questions showing at the same time their comprehension skills. Interpersonal: they are collaborating, sharing, and discussing their ideas and opinions with partners, small groups, and the whole class. Culture: They are learning about the different costumes, values, and attitudes in different Hispanic cultures. They are contrasting and comparing with their own culture. We are connecting the four modes with the [world readiness standards](#) for learning languages and the Identity and diversity standards from the [Social Justice Standards](#).

**Seventh Grade Spanish:** We continue to travel to Ecuador and learn about different types of housing. Students Have created virtual tours of "their homes" for a future student host from Ecuador. While touring the different parts of the house they are applying different grammar concepts to describe their place and favorite spaces in the houses. Interpretive mode: they have read, listened to, and watched authentic videos of Ecuadorian families and their homes. Presentational mode: Creating a virtual tour. Interpersonal tour: Performing different situations with partners in class. Culture: Compare and contrast housing, lifestyle, values from the Hispanic culture and their own culture.

### **Sixth Grade French**

Before February break, 6th gr French students learned about Mardi Gras celebrations. The class watched videos, made masks and created French recipes for the traditional "king cake" served. At the end of the week, classes celebrated with homemade king cakes. Students are now learning about housing and neighborhoods. They are working towards designing a floor plan and a neighborhood.

### **Seventh Grade French**

*A la maison.*

Objectifs:

In this chapter students learned to

- Talk about their chores
- How to describe a house
- Tell where things are
- Answer the following questions:
  - Do / Did your parents ask you to do chores?
  - Which chores are the worst?
  - Which chores do you prefer?
  - Do / Did your parents give you an allowance? How much was it?

They also learned how to use the *passee compose* (past tense) to describe a past event.

### **8th Grade French**

Before February break, 8th gr French students learned about Mardi Gras celebrations. The class watched videos, made masks and created french recipes for the traditional "king cake" served. At the end of the week,

classes celebrated with homemade king cakes. Students are now starting a unit on the French government. Students have learned basic vocabulary and the structure of the government. Students are also learning how to speak and write in the future tense in order to run a campaign for a position in the French government.

### **Library**

Nonfiction booktalks to Mrs. Fiore's 6th grade English classes

20 Book Challenge Club meets on Days 1 and 5, first and second lunch

Library aides continue to work H blocks

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TO: Kathleen Smith JD, Interim Superintendent  
FROM: John G. Smith, Principal, DSHS  
RE: Principal's Monthly Report  
DATE: March 8, 2022

### **Principal's Reflections:**

As we transition to a new phase of mask optional for school and activities beyond the school day, there will likely be questions of how can we get back to where we were before the pandemic. While the pandemic definitely disrupted our lives, the "normal" flow of school and took away some student opportunities at different points, I think it is important to remember what the high school and the district have continued to do during this unprecedented time. DS established a strong and robust hybrid model that required synchronous instruction from teachers as well as expectations for extra help that has been a hallmark of our school culture. We were also among the first schools to return to a full five days of instruction for student learning. At the same time last spring, the High School went through a full three day accreditation visit from NEASC. Considering the fact that we were still in a hybrid model, making all these meetings and observations work was no easy feat. Our students sat for their Advanced Placement exams while we moved to semester based grading to account for fewer instructional minutes. To round out the school year, we had a traditional prom for our seniors and were able to hold both senior awards ceremonies and a full graduation on the Nora Searle Field.

This fall, while still masked due to state requirements we resumed full five days in school and held full athletic, drama, music and club activities in person. We successfully navigated this while keeping our Covid numbers impressively low and with minimal disruptions to athletic contests as well as fall productions. We fully engaged in an equity audit with NYU to ensure that all students receive an excellent education free of any inherent bias, discrimination or unequal opportunities. We also worked on addressing improvements as recommended by the NEASC visiting team and their Board of Directors. This involves the writing of a full report to NEASC due later this spring. We revamped and streamlined the observation and evaluation procedures to ensure that feedback was timely, effective and aligned with school and district goals. We also introduced a whole new schedule with a flex block at the end of the day to create greater opportunities for student support student/teacher engagement and social and emotional well being. Our teachers continued their curriculum work by adding two new courses in Financial Literacy (fall of 2021) and Forensics (fall of 2022).

As the winter approached, all schools in the Commonwealth saw an increase in Covid infections with new strains of the virus. This caused us to postpone our typical midyear exam schedule to ensure students and teachers could focus on maintaining momentum with the curriculum and getting healthy instead of the typical stress associated with these larger exams. We came through

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that latest outbreak with minimal disruption of teaching and learning for both students and our faculty. Our communities stepped up to greatly increase testing opportunities as well as testing materials. A number of our students and their advisor participated in an in person Model UN symposium and we were proud to send three DS musicians to the MMEA Music Festival. Over the recent break, we sent a small group of students to the Island School to conduct research on island turtles and other marine wildlife. In April we will be sending a group of students to National Parks in Utah, Nevada and Arizona. We are also participating in our typical Tufts Inquiry Project as well as our math league teams and our mock trial. While we may have had some restrictions to some of our events, our rigorous curriculum and enrichment activities have continued as expected. Our students and our teachers have been resilient and determined. We recently faced heartbreaking loss of a beloved student yet we continue to move forward educating our kids to the best of our ability while also providing the necessary social emotional support that is critical in today's world of education. Our teachers and administrators are exhausted but also determined to do what is best for students and what is expected in our communities. I am proud of what we have accomplished during this very challenging time and I am excited to see what will do in the future for our students.

### **HS Events:**

Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> - Chocolate Café- Lindquist Commons

Thursday March 17-19 Spring Musical- Beauty and the Beast

Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> - First day of spring sports

### **Guidance:**

GUIDANCE MARCH NEWS

### **Course Selection:**

Course Selection for the 2022-2023 school year is closing on March 21<sup>st</sup>. All students will meet with a counselor individually through Flex Block (grade 9) and English classes (grade 11) or individually through sophomore seminars between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> for a course registration appointment. Parental sign off must be completed by April 14<sup>th</sup> so that course numbers can be the most accurate to create the master schedule.

### **SATs at DSHS:**

SATs are being offered at DSHS on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. They will run from approximately 7:40am-12:30pm or longer with extended time.

### **Sophomore Seminars:**

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Sophomore seminars are running through the month of March. We have had to reschedule our SBIRT screening and SOS lessons to a little later in the month. Sophomores will also be meeting with their counselor during seminar time to talk about courses for junior year.

### **Individual Appointments:**

Individual appointments for sophomores are finishing up and counselors will be starting appointments with juniors.

### **Local Scholarships:**

Local scholarships will be available beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>; emails will go out to students and families as the date approaches.

### **Music and Drama Update:**

Three students (Sam Ma, Arden Caldicott, and Eric Liang) represented DS in the MMEA All State Festival Ensembles on March 2nd and 5th. These students joined a select group of high school musicians from across the state to perform at Boston's historic Symphony Hall. One student (Yasmine Nee) will represent us in the MMEA Easter District Junior Festival Jazz Band on March 11th and 12th. The jazz band is a highly selective group of musicians in grades 7-9 from across our district.

The DS music department performed at the Chocolate Cafe event on March 6th, a fundraiser sponsored by FOPA (Friends of the Performing Arts), and featuring ensembles from both the middle school and high school.

The DSHS drama is putting on the first high school musical on the Mudge stage in 3 years - Beauty and the Beast. We were very excited to return to the stage with our straight play, almost Maine in the fall, and are thrilled to bring music with a live pit orchestra back. There will also be a return of the DSHS art show on display in the cafeteria during the performances, and we are excited to showcase the work of our Visual Arts students from all four schools.

The Visual Art department is hosting a field trip to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art on March 25th, where students will get to experience a wide variety of artistic styles as well as learn about the presentation/use of gallery space to enhance an art piece.



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### **Athletics:**

#### Athletics School Committee Write Up 3/3/22:

The winter season has been a very successful one as 237 student athletes compete across 13 winter sport offerings. The girls swim team competed in the MIAA D2 State Meet on Saturday. Ava Yablonski & Irene Yang became state Champions in their individual events - Ava became a 6x state champion over her high school career! The girls team, which was made up of 4 swimmers (Ava Yablonski, Irene Yang, Eva Swaddipong, and Ellie Soska - most teams are made up of 7-10 student athletes), earned 5th place at D2 states. They were only 20 points away from a tie for third! The boys swim & dive team also competed at D2 States on Sunday placing 15th overall. Jeremy Lawrence took second in diving, Nate Randa placed 15th in 50 free and 100 fly, the 200 free relay placed 9th, Tim Ketryk-Simson placed 11th in 100 back, and the 400 relay placed 14th and broke the school record. Congratulations to Coach Eckles and Coach O'Mara on a great season. DS Indoor Track and field competed in D5 States and All States over the past couple weeks. DS competed in the mile, 4x800, and 4x400 in boys indoor track All states this weekend. Toby Sagar placed 9th in the mile at All States. The boys placed 5th and the girls placed 21st in D5 states two weeks ago. We have 5 student athletes that qualified for nationals in 2 weeks in NYC - Marielle Goganian and Alex Martinovich in the 400, Sawyer Garrett in the pole vault, Toby Sagar in the mile, and Jack Almeda in the freshman mile. Congratulations to Coach Bennett, Coach Mosher, & Coach Connelly on a great season! MADS Gymnastics placed 5th at sectionals on Saturday 2/26 at Algonquin. They were 0.25 points from 4th which would've qualified them for states. A great season for our DS girls on the team. Nordic competed in the state race the Wednesday before we left for break. The girls placed 15th and the boys 16th. The girls ice hockey team won the Kelly O'Leary Tournament at the start of break, beating Auburn and Woodstock Academy. The MIAA Alpine state race was on Tuesday 3/1 at Mount Wachusett. The boys placed third overall, runner ups to two big all boys private schools - so they're the public school champion in our minds! The girls had Emma Gonsalvez, Elo Lusckow, and Sarah Parish compete on the female side. The girls did not place but had a great season! Boys alpine won the league and girls came in second in the league! #16 ranked boys ice hockey will host #17 Chicopee Comp on Thursday 3/3 at Rivers at 6:30 pm, and #5 ranked girls basketball and #8 ranked boys basketball will host a double header on Friday 3/4 at 5 pm vs. Boston Latin Academy and at 7 pm vs. Shawsheen Voc Tech. If they win they'll host again for the round of 16! March Madness is here and our basketball teams have both had great seasons. Overall regular season varsity winter records are as follows:

Girls basketball 13-7

Boys basketball 16-4

Girls hockey 3-17 (Hopkinton host)

Boys hockey 9-10-1 (co-op Weston)

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Girls swim & dive 1-7  
Boys swim & dive 5-3  
Girls alpine 2nd in Mass Bay East League  
Boys alpine 1st in MBE  
Girls Nordic 4th in MBE  
Boys Nordic 5th in MBE  
Girls indoor track & field 4-1  
Boys indoor track & field 5-0\*  
MADs □ □ ♀ □ 4-5-1  
\*TVL Small Champions

Athletic advisory committee will be meeting in the next two weeks to recap the winter season.

Spring sports are now open for registration. The spring season starts on Monday, March 21st. Our current sign up numbers are as follows:

249 student athletes sign up for 9 sports:

Boys Lacrosse  
35  
Girls Lacrosse  
27  
Boys Track and Field  
55  
Girls Track and Field  
42  
Baseball  
25  
Softball  
11  
Boys Tennis  
20  
Girls Tennis  
19  
Coed Sailing  
15

We have hired a new sailing coach, Jeremy McClauey, who is a former sailor at New York Stonybrook University & has a great deal of experience coaching on the north shore. Meet the

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coach night will be the week of 3/14/22. Coaches will do a mix of in person and virtual meetings depending on the sport.

## APPROVED FEBRUARY 8, 2022

### Sherborn School Committee Meeting of November 16, 2021

Members Present: Nancy Cordell  
Dennis Quandt  
David Kazis

Also Present: Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent  
Beth McCoy, Assistant Superintendent  
Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator

#### 1) Call to Order

Nancy Cordell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm via ZOOM.

#### 2) Community Comments - none

#### 3) Reports

- Superintendent Report - Beth McCoy presented Kathleen Smith's report in her absence.
- Assistant Superintendent - Beth McCoy updated the committee on items she has been working on including: review of departmental goals with Curriculum Leaders & Department Chairs; roll out of Panorama Data Dashboard as tool for the multi-tiered system of support; discussion of proposed changes to the evaluation system and introduction of the equity audit process with faculty; and searching for substitute teachers for all four schools.
- Principal's Report - Dr. Brown highlighted recent and upcoming events at Pine Hill including the MCAS results from last spring's testing. There was a discussion about whether there are enough resources cover the interventions required by the MCAS test results. Dr. Brown will provide an update and a go-forward plan at the next meeting on after the initial stage of interventions have been completed.
- Warrant Report

#### 4) FY22 Financial Report as of October 31st

- Salaries - there are no changes to report since last month's meeting.
- Operating Expenditures - there are no variances to report to date.
- Out of District - FY22 Circuit Breaker Reimbursement totals \$360,499 representing \$286,425 for OOD tuition, \$22,633 for transportation, and \$51,441 for in-district expenses. The reimbursement rate is the full state mandated 75% including reimbursement on 25% of OOD transportation costs.

#### 5) Proposed FY23 Budget

- Operating - the first draft of the FY23 Budget was presented. The main driver of the budget, as in past years, is salaries. Overall the FY23 Budget is an increase of 4.69% over FY22.
- Capital - the flooring in the classrooms in the C wing need to be replaced. There was also discussion about air conditioning and the steps needed to get that project ready to be presented for a vote by the town. There will be additional work done in time to be discussed at the next meeting.

*David Kazis made a motion to approve the FY23 version 1.0 Budget as presented. Dennis Quandt seconded.*

*21-16 VOTE: 3 - 0 via roll call*

*David Kazis made a motion to approve the proposed FY23 Capital Plan as discussed. Dennis Quandt seconded.*

## **APPROVED FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

*21-17 VOTE: 3 - 0 via roll call*

### **6) Vote to approve tuition**

- *PreK* - for FY23 there will continue to be two options for Pre-K integrated program: 3 day rate - \$5,885 or 5-day rate - \$10,410 which is a 1% increase from FY22.
- *Non-resident* - there will be non-resident students attending Pine Hill in FY23 and the tuition rate needs to be approved.

*David Kazis made a motion to approve the 2022-23 PreK tuition as presented. Dennis Quandt seconded.*

*21-18 VOTE: 3 - 0 via roll call*

*David Kazis made a motion to approve the 2022-23 Non-resident tuition as presented. Dennis Quandt seconded.*

*21-19 VOTE: 3 - 0 via roll call*

### **7) Policy: Home Schooling IHGB** - this is the second read of the policy. There have been no changes since the first reading.

*David Kazis made a motion to approve the Home Schooling IHGB Policy. Dennis Quandt seconded.*

*21-20 VOTE: 3 - 0 via roll call*

### **8) Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2021

*David Kazis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dennis Quandt seconded.*

*21-21 VOTE: 3 - 0 via roll call*

### **9) Communications**

- Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee minutes of October 12, 2021
- Dover School Committee minutes of September 28, 2021

### **10) Items for February 8, 2022 meeting - FY23 Budget**

### **11) Adjournment at 8:49 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Davis