

Approved 5.2.2023

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Meeting of March 7, 2023

Members Present: Maggie Charron
Kate Potter
Angie Johnson
Lynn Collins
Mark Healey

1) Call to Order

Maggie Charron called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments - A parent from Dover shared her experience in Albania as a child whose schooling was interrupted and expressed concern with the learning loss she has observed in her own children.

3) FY24 Budget Revisions

Dawn Fattore presented Version 2.0 of the budget. Revenue adjustments reflect the increases in Chapter 70 (\$136,982) and 71 (\$13,106) based on the preliminary Cherry Sheets, use of E&D to credit the Towns for additional revenues received in FY23 that were not budgeted (\$160,000), and an increase in projected interest income based on current yields (\$20,000) for a total increase to revenues of \$330,088.

Expense adjustments include a partial funding of a yet to be finalized Human Resources support position (\$50,000) (any additional required funding will be provided with ESSER funds), savings from known retirements and staffing changes (-\$185,000), increases based on the School Committee approval of ACED recommendations (\$12,469), and an increase in health insurance premiums based on the March 2nd WSHG Board approval of a 10% rate increase (\$30,000) (vs a budgeted projected increase of 8%) for a total decrease to expenditures of \$92,531.

The FY24 Budget v2.0 totals \$27,972,540 which is a \$948,727 increase over FY23 (3.51%).

4) FY24 Dover Sherborn Regional Schools Budget Hearing

Budget drivers for the FY24 Budget include: a reserve for contractual agreement increases for bargaining units as all contracts are currently in negotiations in addition to step and lane increases for educators ranging from 4 - 9.8%; two new staffing positions; salary savings from retirements/staffing changes; increase in healthcare costs of 10%; continued funding provided for OPEB Liability Trust; and Norfolk County Retirement assessment increase of 7%.

Student enrollment (1,130 projected for FY24) by member towns impacts the annual assessment percentage. The FY24 operating and capital assessment percentages reflect increases of 1.25% and 1.44% respectively for Sherborn. The overall operating budget increase is \$948,727 over FY23. Dover's assessment will decrease by \$4,458 and Sherborn's will increase by \$715,725 over their respective FY23 assessments.

Educational Services: Staffing \$16.5 mill; Expenditures \$970,000.

Administrative/Related Support Services: Staffing \$2.4 mill; Expenditures \$2.6 mill

Benefit-related Expenses: Healthcare \$3.7 mill, Norfolk Retirement \$869,000, Workmen's comp \$98,100, Life Insurance employer share \$1,450

Capital Requests: Rooftop Air Handler (7) replacement \$1.2 mill funded through IMA with both towns; classroom floor replacement and renovation of Lindquist Commons student restrooms \$180,000 funded with E&D funds.

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Lynn Collins made a motion to adopt the FY24 budget in the amount of \$27,972,540 which is reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of \$3,808,004 for a net amount to be assessed to the member towns of \$24,164,536 (comprised of \$23,375,136 in operating expenses and \$789,400 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. Mark Healey seconded.

23-05 VOTE: 5 - 0

Angie Johnson made a motion to approve the utilization of \$160,000 of June 30, 2022 certified Excess & Deficiency funds for the FY24 Budget. Lynn Collins seconded.

23-06 VOTE: 5 - 0

5) Reports

- Superintendent Report - Beth McCoy presented an update from her office including: highlights from the HS and MS Principal reports; SPED Audit recommendation of using 4 coordinators instead of team chairs with responsibilities divided by grade (across Pine Hill and Chickering) to align services; and the FY24 budget has been adjusted to include a placeholder for expected recommendations from the consultant.
- Assistant Superintendent Report - Denny Conklin gave an update on tiered focus monitoring and the progress of the new website design.
- Warrant Report

6) Financial Reports: FY23 Monthly Report as of February 28, 2023

- Revenues - the anticipated positive variance in bank interest for this fiscal year is \$80,000.
- Salaries - substitutes reflect a negative variance due to several long-term leaves during the year; partially offset by salary savings for staff members on leaves.
- Expenditures - the current projection for the contribution to the OPEB fund will increase from \$175,000 to \$200,000 based on our updated projections as of February

7) Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes: February 7, 15, 2023
- Annual Vote on MA School Choice Law - to not participate in School Choice program for the 2023-24 school year.
- Approval of HS Overnight Field Trip - Tisch College of Civic Life's EPIIC Program at Tufts University, April 2-3, 2023

Mark Healey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kate Potter seconded.

23-07 VOTE: 5 - 0

8) Communication

- DSHS Principal's Report - John Smith
- DSMS Principal's Report - David Lawrence
- Dover School Committee Minutes of November 22, 2022

9) Next meeting May 2, 2023 meeting - SPAN-DS revival/curriculum module for Health/PE, Student handbooks, Programs of Study, School Improvement Plans

10) Adjournment at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis