

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of March 5, 2024

Members Present: Judi Miller
Maggie Charron
Angie Johnson
Colleen Burt
Mark Healey

1) Call to Order

Judi Miller called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments - there was a comment from a parent who expressed that she felt frustrated and ignored by the Pine Hill School Administration and the Superintendent in respect to her concerns about multiple turnovers of the Spanish teacher, the consistent absence of the teacher of one of her children, and the hiring process for the new principal.

3) FY25 Dover Sherborn Regional School Budget Hearing

Dawn Fattore presented the FY25 Budget. Budget drivers include: contractual payroll increases of approximately 3% across all bargaining units in addition to step and lane increases for educators ranging from 4-9%; staffing changes/retirements which are offsetting the salary increases; one new staffing position plus increases in existing part-time positions; continued funding provided for OPEB Liability Trust; increase in healthcare premiums of approximately 10%; level enrollment; and continued trend budgeting for operating accounts.

The proposed FY25 Operating Budget is \$28,877,195 which is \$904,655 (3.23%) greater than FY24. Dover's assessment increase is \$313,187 (2.42%) and Sherborn's is \$404,364 (3.61%).

4) Discussion and Vote to Certify FY25 Operating Budget

Maggie Charron made a motion to adopt the FY25 budget in the amount of \$28,877,195 which is reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of \$3,995,108 for a net amount to be assessed to the member town of \$24,882,087 (comprised of \$24,157,887 in operating expenses and \$724,200 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. Colleen Burt seconded.

24-03 VOTE: 5 - 0

Mark Healey made a motion to approve the utilization of \$230,000 of June 30, 2023, certified Excess & Deficiency funds for the FY25 Budget. Angie Johnson seconded.

24-04 VOTE: 5 - 0

5) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY24 Monthly Report
 - Revenues: the initial Chapter 71 reimbursement payment has been received and reflects an 80% reimbursement rate (FY23 was 79.55%). This is less than anticipated (90%)

Approved 5.7.24

and reduces the positive variance in this line item by approximately \$60,000. The projected fees from athletics have been revised to reflect anticipated spring participation and the impact of the family cap on collection of fees.

- Salaries: there are no changes since the last report.
- Expenditures: there are no changes since the last report.
- Capital Projects Update:

6) Discussion Items

- Capital Projects Update: the bid for the roof air handlers replacement was posted on February 28th and will be opened on March 27th. The Bleacher/Press Box renovation bids have been opened and the Administration is working with the lowest bidder to finalize a contract for a start date of June 24th.

7) Action Items

- Policy: METCO Representative to the School Committee - second read

Colleen Burt made a motion to adopt the METCO Representative to the School Committee Policy as presented. Maggie Charron seconded.

24-05 VOTE: 5 - 0

8) Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes: January 16, 2024 and February 6, 2024
- Donations - \$10,000 from the Alan Thayer Mudge Foundation for educators' attendance at the South by Southwest EDU Conference; a Jupiter Tenor Saxophone valued at \$699.99 from Michelle Covell; \$710 from the Sustainability Task Force towards a new water fountain with a water bottle filler; \$5,462.50 towards a storage pod unit for use by Open Fields and DS Drama programs; and \$1,250 from Boston Children's Orthopedic Surgery Foundation to cover physician medical services for home football games this past fall.
- Annual Vote on MA School Choice Law
- Approval of HS Overnight Field Trip - 14 students to attend the Tisch College of Civic Life's Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC) Program at Tufts University, April 5-6, 2024.

Angie Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Items. Mark Healey seconded.

24-06 VOTE: 5 - 0

9) Informational Items

- DSHS Newsletter
- DSMS Newsletter
- Sherborn School Committee Minutes of November 14, 2023

10) Items for May 7, 2024 DS Regional School Committee Meeting

11) Adjournment at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis