

Approved 5.13.24

Dover School Committee Meeting of March 14, 2024

Members Present: Liz Grossman
Jeff Cassidy
Jessica Hole
Martha Castle
Goli Sepehr

Also Present: Beth McCoy, Superintendent
Denny Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

1) Call to Order

Liz Grossman called the meeting to order 6:30 pm.

2) Community Comments - none.

3) FY25 Dover Schools Budget Hearing

Dawn Fattore presented adjustments to the FY25 Budget: transfer of Connections (GOALS) Educator from Pine Hill \$67,708; additional EA's for Connections Program \$32,353; reduction of one K classroom section based on enrollment (\$67,533); reduction of one K EA based on enrollment (\$28,153); utilize ESSER III funds to offset portion of new path curriculum (\$17,000), and OOD placement change due to Connections move to Dover (\$110,000) for a total decrease of (\$122,625).

FY25 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%; decreasing enrollment (25 classroom sections vs 26 in FY24); and continued trend budgeting for operating accounts.

The proposed FY25 Operating Budget is \$11,302,838 which is \$524,197 (5.57%) greater than FY24: in-District increase over FY24 is \$381,697 (4.64%) and Out-of-District increase is \$142,500 (5.57%).

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to approve the FY25 Budget in the amount of \$11,302,838 as presented. Jessie Hole seconded.

24-02 VOTE: 5 - 0

4) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY24 Monthly Report
 - Salaries: there are no changes since the last report
 - Expenditures: there are no material variances to report.
 - Out of District: Due to the increase in placements, tuition costs are projected to exceed budget by approximately \$920,000, comprised of \$600,000 from new placements and \$485,000 from changes in placements, offset by \$165,000 of savings from students leaving and graduating early. Transportation costs are projected to exceed budget by approximately \$90,000. Total projected OOD costs exceed budget by approximately \$1.0 million but is fully covered at this time by FY24 CB reimbursement.

5) Superintendent Comments - Beth McCoy provided a brief update on recent and upcoming events in the District.

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6) Discussion Items

- Proposed Revisions ACCEPT Collaborative Agreement: 1st read
- Continued Discussion of 2024-25 School Calendar - committee members shared their thoughts on the school calendar question after the working group meeting and response from Town Counsel. There was consensus that regardless of the final decision of the committees the policy must be made easily understandable and students/families should be educated about all holidays.

7) Action Items

- Annual Vote on MA School Choice Law - MA General Law requires local school committees to vote annually as to whether or not the district will participate in School Choice (receive school choice students).

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to have the Dover School not participate in School Choice program for the 2024-25 school year. Goli Sepehr seconded.

24-03 VOTE: 5 - 0

- Approval of Student Opportunity Act Plan - The Student Opportunity Act (SOA), enacted in 2019, requires every district to set clear targets for improving disparities in achievement among student groups and develop a three-year plan to implement evidence-based strategies to meet those target. Denny Conklin presented the Dover SOA Plan highlighting the district's chosen evidence-based programs as well as the strategy to engage parents/caregivers and other stakeholders.

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan as presented. Goli Sepehr seconded.

24-04 VOTE: 5 - 0

- Policy: METCO Representative to the School Committee 2nd read -

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to approve the METCO Representative to the School Committee Policy as presented. Jessie Hole seconded.

24-06 VOTE: 5 - 0

- PTO Request for use of Chickering School for Fundraiser - the Chickering PTO requested permission to use the Chickering School on May 4, 2024 to hold the Biennial Spring Auction and to serve alcohol at the event pending approval by the Town of Dover.

Martha Castle made a motion to approve the PTO request as presented. Jessie Hole seconded.

24-07 VOTE: 5 - 0

8) Consent Items

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- Approval of Minutes: January 16, 2024

*Goli Sepehr made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jeff Cassidy seconded.
24-08 VOTE: 5 - 0*

9) Informational Items

- Chickering Newsletters
- Regional School Committee minutes of February 6, 2024
- Sherborn School Committee minutes of February 6, 2024

10) Items for April 2, 2024 Meeting - math and literacy curriculum

11) Adjournment at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis