



Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
REGION'S BUDGET HEARING

6:30 PM

Dover-Sherborn Middle School Library

[Livestream via Dover-Sherborn Cable Television](#)

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Community Comments**
<https://meet.google.com/gre-owyp-oeu> (will close after Community Comments)
- 3. Continued Discussion on FY26 Budget**

****FY26 DOVER-SHERBORN REGIONAL SCHOOLS BUDGET HEARING****

- 4. Vote to Certify FY26 Operating Budget** **A.R.**
- 5. Financial Reports**
 - Warrant Report
 - FY25 Monthly Report
- 6. Superintendents Comments**
- 7. Discussion Items**
- 8. Action Items**
 - Use of E&D for FY26 Capital Project **A.R.**
 - Approve Adjusted FY26 Capital Project Cost for Member Town Funding **A.R.**
- 9. Consent Items** **A.R.**
 - Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2025
 - Annual School Committee Vote on MA School Choice Law
- 10. Informational Items**
 - GASB74175 – Summary of Results for FY24
 - Sherborn School Committee Minutes – November 12, 2024
 - Dover School Committee Minutes – November 19, 2024
- 11. Next Meeting May 6, 2025**
- 12. 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



Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Regional School Committee
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
RE: FY26 Operating Budget – continued discussions and V3.0
DATE: February 28, 2025

Operating Budget

Included for your review are the following:

- Summary of Budget Adjustments
- Summary of Revenue and Operating Expenditures – V3.0
- Assessment Calculation – V3.0

We are presenting a V3.0 of the Budget which reflects the following adjustments:

1. The FY26 Norfolk County Retirement System appropriation notice was received and the amount due is in line with the FY25 amount. We are removing the projected 8% increase (**\$68,000**) from V3.0.
2. Healthcare premium increases were approved by the WSHG Board on February 14th. Using a portion of surplus reserves to subsize rates for FY26, approved rates ranged from 3.32% to 6.99% depending on carrier and plan design, less than the estimated 9% increase used in V1.0. Projected FY26 employer healthcare premium expense was recalculated using the February 2025 enrollment resulting in a reduction of **\$125,000** in this line item. Adjusted increase for FY26 is 5.4%.
3. Retiree healthcare premium expense was also recalculated using February 2025 enrollment and a slight increase of **\$8,200** was needed. It is important to keep up with actual costs as not to erode the “cost savings” used to fund then annual OPEB contribution which should hold steady at \$250,000 going forward.

No additional adjustments are needed at this time. We did receive a single bid from our existing service provider for our FY26-FY28 Transportation services. We are finalizing the details and plan to bring the contract terms forward for approval by all three school committees at the Joint Meeting of the Committees on April 1st. The increase for the first year of the contract (FY26) is in line with the budget. We do anticipate moving some funds from General Education Transportation to Athletic Transportation but there is no net impact on the budget as presented.

In addition, there are many factors going on with utilities at this time including supply contract renewals at points of FY26 but we don't plan to make any adjustments at this time. Needed adjustments will primarily impact FY27.

V3.0 now represents an overall budget increase of .73%, down from 2.06% increase in V1.0.

We will be happy to answer any questions on the above or the budget in general at Tuesday's meeting.

The Dover Sherborn Schools share in the mission to inspire, challenge and support all students as they discover and pursue their full potential.

Dover-Sherborn Regional School District
FY26 Proposed Budget
Summary of Budget Adjustments

	FY25 Budget	FY26 Proposed Draft	Change \$	%
Presented December 4, 2024				
Total Operating Revenues	\$28,877,195	\$29,470,646	\$593,451	2.06%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$28,877,195	\$29,470,646	\$593,451	2.06%

FC

Presented February 4, 2025 V2.0

Revenue Adjustments (decreases Town assessments):

Increase in FY26 Chapter 70 - Governor's Budget	(\$93,346)	(accounted for in assessment calculation)
Increase in FY26 Chapter 71 - Governor's Budget	(\$25,253)	
	<u>(\$118,599)</u>	

Presented February 4, 2025 V2.0

Expenditure Adjustments:		\$29,470,646		
Salary Reductions from Educator Retirements	2305/2310/2340	(\$185,000)		
Remove V1.0 requested .3 FTE SLP, reviewed staffing and not needed	2310	(\$21,500)		
Approval of Additional Positions/Increase in Ratios in Appendix C	3510/3520	\$8,000		
		<u>(\$198,500)</u>		
Total Adjustment				
Revised Operating Expenditures		\$28,877,195	\$29,272,146	\$394,951 1.37%

Presented March 4, 2025 V3.0

Expenditure Adjustments:		\$29,272,146		
Remove V1.0 requested increase for Norfolk County Retirement - no increase for FY26	5100	(\$68,000)		
Health Insurance Premium Adjustment based on FY26 Approved Rates	5200	(\$125,000)		
Retiree Health Insurance/OPEB costs - adjust to revised calculation	5250	\$8,200		
		<u>(\$184,800)</u>		
Total Adjustment				
Revised Operating Expenditures		\$28,877,195	\$29,087,346	\$210,151 0.73%

	FY25	V3.0 FY26	Difference	% change	% Cost Share
Dover Assessment	\$13,268,125	\$13,131,279	-\$136,846	-1.03%	52.7%
Sherborn Assessment	\$11,613,962	\$11,798,286	\$184,324	1.59%	47.3%

Dover-Sherborn Regional School District

Operating Revenue Summary

FY22 - FY26

Description	FY22* Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget V3.0	\$ Change	% Change	% Total
DOVER ASSESSMENT	\$12,336,013	\$12,959,396	\$12,954,938	\$13,268,125	\$13,131,279	(\$136,846)	-1.03%	45.14%
SHERBORN ASSESSMENT	9,919,499	10,493,873	11,209,598	11,613,962	11,798,286	184,324	1.59%	40.56%
STATE AID CHAPTER 70	2,445,694	2,474,919	2,635,260	2,666,106	2,848,526	182,420	6.84%	9.79%
STATE AID CHAPTER 71	688,015	649,067	754,496	694,327	719,580	25,253	3.64%	2.47%
ATHLETIC FEES	243,751	253,105	254,725	284,750	284,750	0	0.00%	0.98%
HS PARKING FEES	45,134	41,273	52,500	52,500	52,500	0	0.00%	0.18%
HS ACTIVITY FEES	10,650	9,445	11,250	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%	0.05%
MS ACTIVITY FEES	8,910	8,235	8,820	7,425	7,425	0	0.00%	0.03%
BANK INTEREST	4,742	130,848	180,461	40,000	50,000	10,000	25.00%	0.17%
MISC	1,184	3,182	8,454	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%	0.02%
NON-CASH	17,101	924	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
EXCESS & DEFICENCY	210,000	110,000	160,000	230,000	175,000	(55,000)	-23.91%	0.60%
Total Operating Revenues	\$25,930,693	\$27,134,267	\$28,230,502	\$28,877,195	\$29,087,346	\$210,151	0.73%	100.00%

*FY22 Assessments reflect return of excess E&D of \$642,691

Based on Proposed Budget of March 4, 2025

Dover-Sherborn Regional School District

Operating Expenditure Summary FY22 - FY26

Description	FY22 Expended	FY23 Expended	FY24 Expended	FY25 Budget	FY26 V3.0	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	% TOTAL BUDGET
SALARIES & OTHER COMPENSATION	\$17,411,668	\$17,996,596	\$18,661,510	\$19,405,945	\$19,867,751	\$461,807	2.38%	68.30%
BENEFITS	4,314,045	4,340,240	4,584,207	4,855,000	5,071,000	\$216,000	4.45%	17.43%
OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,332,502	1,348,930	1,315,242	1,471,800	1,539,845	\$68,045	4.62%	5.29%
TRANSPORTATION	1,016,980	1,035,635	1,030,890	1,068,000	1,248,000	\$180,000	16.85%	4.29%
BUILDINGS & GROUND EXPENDITURES	1,180,205	1,193,510	1,304,977	1,352,250	1,360,750	\$8,500	0.63%	4.68%
Sub-total Operating	25,255,401	25,914,911	26,896,826	28,152,995	29,087,346	\$934,352	3.32%	100.00%
DEBT SERVICE	876,500	835,200	789,400	724,200	0	(\$724,200)	100.00%	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$26,131,901	\$26,750,111	\$27,686,226	\$28,877,195	\$29,087,346	\$210,152	0.73%	100.00%

Based on Proposed Budget of March 4, 2025

Detailed Breakdown of Assessments Statutory Method FY26						
	Operating %	Debt %	Minimum Local Contribution	Amounts over MLC	Non-NSS Transp.	Subtotal Minus E & D
Dover	52.70%	53.65%	6,906,488	5,959,304	657,714	13,223,506
Sherborn	47.30%	46.35%	5,942,404	5,348,369	590,286	11,881,059
	1	1	12,548,892	11,307,673	1,248,000	25,104,565
						(175,000)
						24,929,565
						(92,227)
						13,131,279
						(82,773)
						11,798,286
						(175,000)
						24,929,565
						(11,798,286)
						24,929,565

Budget Overview		Projected Revenues:
Member Assessments		24,929,565
E & D		175,000
State Funding/Local Receipts		3,623,106
Revolving Account Offsets		359,675
Total Projected Revenues		29,087,346
Total Budget Appropriations		29,087,346

Assessments	FY25	FY26	Difference	%	Enrollments as of November 1st current FY				
					FY Budget	Dover	Sherborn	Operating Assessment	Total
Operating									
	12,877,926	13,131,279	253,353	1.97%	2016	617	539	46,633	1156
	11,279,961	11,798,286	518,325	4.50%	2017	637	525	45,186	1162
	24,157,887	24,929,565	771,678	3.19%	2018	641	512	44,411	1153
Debt					2019	651	519	44,366	1170
	390,199	-	(390,199)	-100.00%	2020	662	507	43,376	1169
	334,001	-	(334,001)	-100.00%	2021	654	523	44,444	1177
	724,200	-	(724,200)	-100.00%	2022	635	521	45,076	1156
Total					2023	628	518	45,206	1146
	13,268,125	13,131,279	(136,846)	-1.03%	2024	603	523	46,456	1126
	11,613,962	11,798,286	184,324	1.59%	2025	577	508	46,826	1085
	24,882,087	24,929,565	47,478	0.19%	2026	556	499	47,306	1055

Budgets		Percentage Increases	
	FY25	FY26	Difference
Operating	28,152,995	29,087,346	934,351
Debt	724,200	-	(724,200)
Total	28,877,195	29,087,346	210,151

Assumptions:
Chapter 70/71 is Governor's FY26 Budget - Prelim. Cherry Sheets
MLC is FY26 amounts as of January, 2025
E&D Utilization \$175,000 (V1.0)

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Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
DATE: February 28, 2025
RE: FY26 Operating Budget Final Approval

As we move to certify the FY26 Operating Budget following the Public Budget Hearing, the following motions are presented for action by the Committee.

FY26 Operating Budget

Motion to approve the utilization of **\$175,000** of June 30, 2024, certified Excess & Deficiency funds for the FY26 Budget.

Motion to adopt the FY26 budget in the amount of **\$29,087,346** which is reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the amount of **\$4,157,781** for a net amount to be assessed to the member town of **\$24,929,565** and that the Treasurer be authorized to certify this budget in the apportioned share of each town based on the statutory method.

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 17th** at 7:30pm. An abbreviated budget presentation will be shared for the operating budget. Dover's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for **May 5th**.

Sherborn Advisory's Public Hearing on the Warrant is scheduled for Saturday, **March 22nd** at 8:30am. For the first time, an abbreviated budget presentation will be shared for the operating budget. Sherborn's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for **April 22nd**.

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

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Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Regional School Committee
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
DATE: February 25, 2025
RE: FY25 Approved Warrants

The following FY25 Accounts Payable Warrants were approved by one of the Committee's designated signers:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1166	2/4/2025	\$179,877.82
1176	2/19/2025	\$307,627.92
1187	2/27/2025	\$428,958.43

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Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

TO: Regional School Committee
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
RE: FY25 Operating Update
DATE: March 3, 2025

Attached please find:

- a. General Fund Revenues as of February 28, 2025
- b. Status of Appropriations as of February 28, 2025

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

Revenues

Chapter 70 and 71 revenue projections reflect the final Cherry Sheet amounts. The variance in Chapter 70 is due to increases in legislative funding in the final state budget approval (we use the Governor's Budget for our budget placeholder). **We received our first Chapter 71 transportation payment. It reflects an 80% reimbursement rate based on the reimbursable transportation reported in our FY24 EOYR report.** We are projecting no variances in athletics, parking and activity fees at this time. Interest rates remain favorable resulting in a projected positive variance in Interest Income. We will review all activities as the year progresses and adjust projections accordingly.

Operating Expenditures

Salaries

The majority of salaries have been encumbered. Custodial overtime and substitute costs are expensed as incurred.

Post-budget staffing updates to note that are reflected in the actuals to date include:

- Savings from vacancy of Human Resources Director position (\$75,000). At this time, we have enlisted various outside services to cover the key responsibilities and those expenses are reflected in Superintendent Office related expense accounts. In addition, we are in the process of posting for the Assistant to the Business Administrator and some savings is reflected based on the current assistant not working full-time.
- Increased a Middle School Wellness educator position from a .3FTE to a .6FTE to cover curriculum needs.
- Added a .2FTE English Learner (EL) educator position at the Middle School based on student needs.
- Eliminated a 1.0 SPED Educator at the Middle School based on student needs and realignment of existing programming.
- Increased Occupational Therapy coverage at the Region by .2FTE to cover services in students' IEPs.
- Variances also include the salary costs of all lane changes (placeholder not included in FY25 budget, amount to date is approx. \$35,000) and savings from post-FY25 Budget staffing changes.

Educational assistant variances reflect a reduction in two positions based on student needs. In addition, one position is being charged to the Title I grant for FY25. There are also additional savings from positions being filled after school began.

Substitute costs are currently overbudget and that variance will continue to grow as the year progresses. There are several long-term leaves occurring this fiscal year.

It is projected that there will be a positive variance in salaries for FY25 of at least **\$325,000**.

Expenditures

At this time, we are not projecting any material variances in operating expenses except as noted below. Projections for health insurance and utilities have been encumbered.

There was a post-FY25 budget change related to the World Language Lab upgrade resulting in a savings of approx. \$40,000. A more efficient, lower cost software program was selected that eliminated the need to replace the hardware in the lab. Listening and oral skill exercises can be conducted in the individual classrooms with existing devices. These one-time budgeted expenses will be removed in the FY26 Budget.

FY24 Wrap-up

The Region's EOYR has been filed with DESE. 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 31st filing deadline.

Our auditors completed their fieldwork in February. We will keep the Committee updated on their progress and the timeline for the presentation of the audited financial statements. **We are currently planning for a May presentation.** In connection with the FY24 audit, we did receive our GASB 74/75 update for inclusion in the audited financial statements. The summary report is included in the "Informational Items" section of this month's packet for your review.

Our E&D was certified on October 4th at \$796,185 (2.76%).

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, 2025

	<u>FY25</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>EST. TO BE</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>% OF</u>
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
DOVER ASSESSMENTS	\$13,268,125	\$8,589,113	\$4,679,012	\$0	0.00%
SHERBORN ASSESSMENTS	11,613,962	7,523,251	4,090,711	\$0	0.00%
CHAPTER 70, net	2,666,106	1,842,015	913,165	\$89,074	3.34%
CHAPTER 71 (Transportation)	694,327	352,024	352,024	\$9,721	1.40%
H/S ATHLETIC FEES	284,750	203,610	81,140	\$0	0.00%
H/S PARKING FEES	52,500	52,209	291	\$0	0.00%
H/S ACTIVITY FEE	15,000	16,500	0	\$1,500	10.00%
M/S ACTIVITY FEE	7,425	8,610	0	\$1,185	15.96%
MISC REVENUE	5,000	68	500	(\$4,432)	-88.64%
BANK INTEREST	40,000	101,863	55,000	\$116,863	292.16%
NON-CASH ACTIVITY	0	0	0	\$0	na
E&D UTILIZATION	230,000	230,000	0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$28,877,195	\$18,919,263	\$10,171,843	\$213,911	0.74%

Dover-Sherborn Regional School District
Status of Appropriations as of February 28, 2025

	FY25	EXPENDED		TOTAL	OPERATING VARIANCE/	% OF
<u>SALARIES</u>	BUDGET	28-Feb	ENCUMBRANCES	PROJECTED	BUD. REMAINING	BUDGET
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	22,130	14,538	7,372	21,910	220	0.99%
SUPERINTENDENT	210,879	146,297	64,265	210,562	317	0.15%
FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES	295,529	114,146	62,628	176,774	118,755	40.18%
DISTRICTWIDE INFORMATION MGMT	251,328	169,432	75,303	244,735	6,593	2.62%
SPED/GUIDANCE ADMINISTRATION	507,228	330,389	174,339	504,728	2,500	0.49%
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP - BUILDING	782,892	503,669	243,500	747,169	35,723	4.56%
ACADEMIC LEADERS	153,674	75,692	78,524	154,216	(543)	-0.35%
EDUCATORS, CLASSROOM	10,814,663	5,459,870	5,383,186	10,843,056	(28,393)	-0.26%
EDUCATORS, SPED	2,055,667	955,719	996,244	1,951,964	103,703	5.04%
SUBSTITUTES	121,300	120,979	58,642	179,621	(58,321)	-48.08%
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS, SPED	521,473	232,099	150,175	382,274	139,198	26.69%
LIBRARIANS	255,106	127,553	127,553	255,106	0	0.00%
BUILDING BASED PD	38,250	28,463	0	28,463	9,788	25.59%
GUIDANCE	1,329,236	656,106	622,618	1,278,724	50,512	3.80%
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	199,273	99,637	99,636	199,273	0	0.00%
MEDICAL / HEALTH SERVICES	251,670	131,507	128,507	260,013	(8,343)	-3.32%
ATHLETICS	550,991	346,254	192,582	538,837	12,155	2.21%
OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES	202,544	98,692	102,547	201,239	1,305	0.64%
CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES	842,113	545,725	256,911	802,636	39,477	4.69%
TOTAL SALARIES	\$ 19,405,945	\$ 10,156,766	\$ 8,824,533	\$ 18,981,300	\$424,646	2.19%
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	42,200	9,483	29,000	38,483	3,717	8.81%
SUPERINTENDENT	71,000	64,134	10,052	74,186	(3,186)	-4.49%
LEGAL SERVICES	38,000	15,000	8,250	23,250	14,750	38.82%
DISTRICTWIDE INFO MGMT	102,300	102,307	10,861	113,168	(10,868)	-10.62%
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP - BUILDING	91,550	61,908	22,602	84,511	7,039	7.69%
GENERAL ED OTHER	54,600	21,912	3,680	25,592	29,008	53.13%
SPED SERVICES/SUPPLIES	71,500	42,826	22,789	65,615	5,885	8.23%
LIBRARIES & MEDIA CENTER	4,775	4,856	0	4,856	(81)	-1.70%
COURSE REIMBURSEMENT/PD	92,900	52,780	5,050	57,830	35,070	37.75%
TEXTBOOKS & RELATED SOFTWARE	76,500	82,445	5,212	87,657	(11,157)	-14.58%
LIBRARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL	29,800	18,146	3,750	21,896	7,904	26.52%
INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT	74,800	47,983	22,093	70,077	4,723	6.31%
GENERAL SUPPLIES	161,225	108,990	22,051	131,041	30,184	18.72%
OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	19,200	11,451	11,262	22,713	(3,513)	-18.30%
CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL TECH.	188,350	107,122	51,182	158,305	30,045	15.95%
GUIDANCE	35,600	32,471	5,054	37,525	(1,925)	-5.41%
MEDICAL / HEALTH SERVICES	6,500	5,119	0	5,119	1,381	21.24%
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	1,068,000	554,583	491,457	1,046,040	21,960	2.06%
ATHLETICS	197,000	125,232	79,339	204,572	(7,572)	-3.84%
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	58,000	41,143	11,806	52,949	5,051	8.71%
MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS	589,500	397,759	172,052	569,811	19,689	3.34%
MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS	63,000	26,205	21,818	48,023	14,977	23.77%
UTILITIES	641,750	287,530	330,559	618,089	23,661	3.69%
ER RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	845,000	836,241	0	836,241	8,759	1.04%
ER INSURANCE ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	3,175,000	2,081,726	1,063,772	3,145,498	29,502	0.93%
ER INSURANCE RETIRED EMPLOYEES	835,000	392,303	450,000	842,303	(7,303)	-0.87%
OTHER NON EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	114,000	123,254	0	123,254	(9,254)	-8.12%
LONG TERM DEBT RETIREMENT	710,000	0	710,000	710,000	0	0.00%
LONG TERM DEBT SERVICE	14,200	7,100	7,100	14,200	0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$9,471,250	\$5,662,011	\$3,570,793	\$9,232,804	\$238,446	2.52%
 TOTAL OPERATING	 \$28,877,195	 \$15,818,778	 \$12,395,326	 \$28,214,103	 \$663,092	 2.30%

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TO: Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
FROM: Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
DATE: March 3, 2025
RE: FY26 Capital Budget Update

We appreciate the attendance of our Project Manager, Mark Novak of Activitas, at the Joint meeting on February 12th. We hope the Committee and Town Finance representatives found the presentation helpful in understanding the multiple components of the Turf/Track/Lights/Fencing Replacement project and the necessity in moving forward with this work. We are happy to answer any follow-up questions the Committee may have.

As we continue to move forward with the approval process, we are requesting the following motions be considered by the Committee at Tuesday's meeting.

Using the most recent cost opinion for the Turf/Track/Lights/Fencing Replacement project of approx. **\$1,950,000**, we propose the following motions for action by the Committee.

1. Use of Excess & Deficiency to offset project costs to the Member Towns

Motion to transfer \$350,000 of June 30, 2024, certified Excess & Deficiency funds to the Region's Capital Fund to cover a portion of the costs for approved FY26 Capital Projects, subject to the approval of the remaining project costs by the Member Towns.

2. Approve estimated balance of project costs to be funded by Member Towns

Motion to approve estimated remaining FY26 Capital project costs of \$1,600,000 to be funded by Member Towns based on FY26 Capital Costs Assessment percentages, Dover \$858,400 (53.65%) and Sherborn \$741,600 (46.35%).

Assuming the Towns' will proceed with the recent practice of utilizing an inter-municipal agreement to fund the project at the town level, a draft of the IMA is attached for your review. Once the project bid has been obtained and a contract agreed to, we will revise the above motions as necessary and present to each Town's Select Board for approval. The bid opening is scheduled for March 27th.

**TOWN OF DOVER
TOWN OF SHERBORN
DOVER-SHERBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

This Intergovernmental Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into under and pursuant to Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, by and among the Towns of Dover and Sherborn, Massachusetts (each a "Member Town"), acting through their respective Board of Selectmen or Select Board, and the Dover-Sherborn Regional School District (the "District"), acting by and through its Regional District School Committee (the "School Committee") by votes duly adopted on April xx, 2025, in the case of the Town of Dover, April xx, 2025, in the case of the Town of Sherborn and March 4, 2025 in the case of the District. In consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, each Member Town and the District hereby agree as follows:

1. **RECITALS.**

- a. That each Member Town is generally authorized by the Massachusetts General Laws to finance, acquire land for, construct, remodel, make extraordinary repairs to and originally equip and furnish public buildings.
- b. The District was duly established in 1953 pursuant to Chapter 71, Sections 16 to 16I, inclusive of the General Laws by the Member Towns.
- c. Pursuant to Chapter 71, Sections 16(c) and (d), of the General Laws, the District is authorized to construct, reconstruct, add to, remodel, make extraordinary repairs to, equip, organize and operate schools for the benefit of its Member Towns, and to incur indebtedness for these purposes.
- d. The District plans to expend **\$1,600,000** to pay costs of major equipment and building improvements and to pay all costs incidental and related thereto (the "Project").
- e. The Member Towns would like the option of contributing their respective shares of the cost of the Project directly, rather than to have such cost paid by the District through the issuance of its bonds or notes and then allocated annually to the Member Towns in accordance with the District Agreement.
- f. The Member Towns would like the option of raising their respective contributions towards the cost of the Project through direct appropriations, or, in the alternative, through the authorization and issuance of general obligation debt.

g. That in accordance with Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws, and the District Agreement, the Member Towns do not have the authority to borrow money to finance public school facilities of the District.

h. Chapter 40, Section 4A of the General Laws permits a governmental entity, including regional school districts and their member towns, to contract to perform jointly, or for such other governmental entity or entities, any services, activities or undertakings which any of the contracting governmental entities is otherwise authorized by law to perform.

2. **PROJECT COST AND ALLOCATION.** The total cost of the Project shall be **\$1,600,000** of which **53.65%** (which equals **\$858,400**) is allocable to the Town of Dover and **46.35%** (which equals **\$741,600**) is allocable to the Town of Sherborn, which allocation has been determined in accordance with the capital cost allocation provisions set forth in Section 4(b) of the District Agreement as a capital cost.

3. **PAYMENT OF MEMBER TOWN SHARES OF PROJECT COSTS.** Each Member Town shall pay its respective share of the costs of the Project to the District on or before **July 15, 2025**, provided that, each Member Town's obligation to pay its share of the costs is expressly made contingent upon appropriation of their respective shares of said costs under Section 2 of this Agreement at their 2025 Annual Town Meetings and, if a Member Town's 2025 Annual Town Meeting votes that such appropriation shall be funded through the issuance of bonds or notes contingent on the approval of a Proposition 2½, so-called, ballot question, the Member Town's obligation to pay its share of the costs is also expressly made contingent on the approval of a Proposition 2½, so-called, ballot question for this amount at its 2025 Annual Town Election. The absence of a town meeting appropriation by either Member Town of its allocated costs, or if the appropriation in either Member Town is contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½, so-called, ballot question, the absence of approval of a Proposition 2½, so-called, ballot question in either such Member Town, shall operate as disapproval of the proposed expenditure and this agreement shall be of no force or effect.

Upon completion of the Project, any funds contributed by the Member Towns and not expended to pay costs of the Project, shall be returned to the Member Towns in accordance with the same proportion that each Member Town contributed to the Project's total cost. All funds that are not required to complete the Project shall be returned to the Member Towns on or before the last day of the fiscal year in which the Project is completed.

4. **FINANCING OF THE PROJECT.** The District authorizes each Member Town to act on its behalf and exercise all of its legal powers and duties with respect to the financing of its respective share of the Project's cost and the issuance of bonds and notes therefore. Each Member Town's share of the Project's costs may be raised through either the direct appropriation of funds, or the authorization and issuance of its own general obligation indebtedness. The District shall obtain all necessary professional and other services necessary to carrying out the Project and shall oversee all aspects thereof. All amounts payable on account of principal and interest on any bonds or notes issued by a Member Town to finance its share of Project costs shall be paid directly by each such Member Town to the paying agent of any such bonds or

notes. The District shall not be liable for the repayment of any debt issued by a Member Town to finance its share of the cost of the Project.

5. RECORD KEEPING. As required by Chapter 40, Section 4A of the General Laws, the Member Towns and the District shall maintain accurate and comprehensive records of services performed, costs incurred and reimbursements and contributions received on account of the Project; shall provide for the performance of regular audits of such records; and shall provide periodic financial statements with respect to Project expenditures.

6. TERM. The term of this Agreement shall be one year from the date hereof.

7. AMENDMENTS. Any provision of this Agreement may be amended by an amendment approved by vote duly adopted by each of the Member Towns acting through their respective Boards of Selectmen and by vote duly adopted by the Regional District School Committee. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be valid unless duly authorized as an amendment hereof and duly executed by each Member Town and the District.

8. GOVERNING LAW. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

9. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts, all of which taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument, and any party hereto may execute this Agreement by signing one or more counterparts.

10. EFFECTIVENESS. This Agreement shall not take effect unless each Member Town shall have provided for its respective share of the costs of the Project, whether by direct appropriation of funds or through the authorization of general obligation indebtedness, by votes of their respective annual town meetings on or prior to June 30, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Member Towns by their Board of Selectmen or Select Board and the District by its Regional District School Committee, each duly authorized, have executed this Agreement under their respective seals as of the xxth day of April, 2025.

The balance of this page is intentionally left blank.

DOVER-SHERBORN REGIONAL DISTRICT,
By its Regional District School Committee

Toa Ashk, Sherborn

Colleen Burt, Dover

Angie Johnson, Sherborn

Kevin Crotty, Dover

Kate Potter, Sherborn

Mark Healey, Dover

(DISTRICT SEAL)

TOWN OF DOVER,
By its Board of Selectmen

(TOWN SEAL)

Robyn Hunter, Chair

David Haviland, Clerk

vacancy, Member

TOWN OF SHERBORN,
By its Select Board

(TOWN SEAL)

Eric Johnson, Chair

Steven L. Tsai, Vice Chair

Jedd Waldron, Clerk

Paul DeRensis, Member

Maria Neutra, Member

DRAFT

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Meeting of February 4, 2025

Members Present: Mark Healey
Colleen Burt
Angie Johnson
Kevin Crotty
Kate Potter

1) Call to Order

Mark Healey called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm in the Middle School Library.

2) Community Comments - none

3) Student Council Representative - The student representative updated the committee on recent and upcoming Student Council run events at the high school.

4) Superintendent Comments - Superintendent McCoy reviewed recent and upcoming events in the District.

5) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY25 Monthly Operating Report
 - Revenues: there are no changes to report
 - Salaries: there are no changes to report
 - Expenditures: there are no changes to report
 - FY24 Wrap-up: the auditors are scheduled to begin their fieldwork the third week of February.

6) Discussion Items

- FY26 Operating Budget - the Governor's FY26 Budget was released on January 22nd and adjustments have been made to the District's Budget to reflect anticipated Chapter 70 and Chapter 71 Cherry Sheet amounts which resulted in an increase in anticipated Revenue in the amount of \$118,599. Expenditure adjustments include: salary reductions due to Educator Retirements \$185,000; removal of requested .3 FTE SLP from Version 1.0 \$21,500; and addition of Appendix C position/ratios \$8,000 for a total reduction of \$198,500. These changes reduce the increase in the FY26 Budget over FY25 to \$394,951 (from \$593,451) or 1.37% (vs 2.06%).
- FY26 Capital Budget - the Turf/Track/Lighting Project will be presented at the February 12th meeting with Dover Warrant and Sherborn Advisory.

7) Action Items

- District Bullying Prevention Plan: 2nd read - there were multiple suggested changes so the vote will be moved to the April Joint meeting.

8) Consent Items

- Regional School Committee minutes of January 14, 2025
- Overnight Field Trip - to Boston for the MA DECA State Career Development Conference, February 27 - March 1, 2025
- Gift - \$1,500 from Children's Hospital toward medical coverage at home football games.

DRAFT

*Colleen Burt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kevin Crotty seconded.
25 - 03 VOTE: 5 - 0*

9) Informational Items

- Dover School Committee Minutes of November 19, 2024

10)Next Meeting: February 12th - Joint meeting with Finance Committees

11)Adjournment at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis

The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn

157 Farm Street
Dover, MA 02030
Phone: 508-785-0036 Fax: 508-785-2239
www.doversherborn.org



Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

To: Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee

From: Elizabeth McCoy
Superintendent

Date: March 4, 2025

RE: School Choice

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 2025-2026 school year.

The Dover Sherborn Schools share in the mission to inspire, challenge and support all students as they discover and pursue their full potential.

February 19, 2025

Personal and Confidential

Ms. Dawn Fattore
Business Administrator
Dover-Sherborn Regional School District
157 Farm Street
Dover, MA 02030

Re: GASB 74/75 – Summary of Results

Dear Ms. Fattore:

The purpose of this letter is to summarize our actuarial valuation of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School District Other Postemployment Benefits Plan (the "Plan") for the Reporting Date and Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 with a Valuation Date of July 1, 2022 and a Measurement Date of June 30, 2024 in accordance with Statement Nos. 74 and 75 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB 74/75").

How did plan liabilities change from FY 23 to FY 24?

The Total OPEB Liability ("TOL") went from \$24,304,761 for the June 30, 2023 Reporting Date to \$24,549,294 for the June 30, 2024 Reporting Date for an increase of \$244,533. Below is an exhibit detailing the change.

Change in Total OPEB Liability	
I. TOL Balance for the June 30, 2023 Reporting Date	24,304,761
II. Passage of Time (Service Cost, Interest and Payments)	1,085,189
III. Plan Benefit Changes	0
IV. Assumption Changes	(840,656)
V. Prior Period Adjustment	0
VI. Expected TOL Balance for June 30, 2024 [I.+II.+III.+IV.+V.]	24,549,294
VII. Plan Experience	0
VIII. TOL Balance for the June 30, 2024 Reporting Date [VI.+VII.]	24,549,294

As seen above, various factors cause the liabilities to change over the year. The main factors are:

- ✓ **Plan Experience** - There was no plan experience because this was an interim valuation.
- ✓ **Assumption Changes** - Decreased plan liabilities by \$840,656. For details, please see the attached report.
- ✓ **Plan Benefit Changes** - To the best of our knowledge there were no plan benefit changes

If you or your auditors have questions on this report, feel free to give us a call.

Sincerely,



Parker E. Elmore, ASA, EA, FCA, MAAA
President, CEO & Actuary

Dover-Sherborn Regional School District OPEB Plan - Summary Exhibit

Valuation Date	July 1, 2022	July 1, 2022
For the Measurement Period ending on the Measurement Date of:	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
For the Reporting Period & Fiscal Year ending on:	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
I. Total OPEB Liability	24,549,294	24,304,761
II. Fiduciary Net Position [Plan Assets]	1,638,712	1,215,626
III. Net OPEB Liability (Asset) [I. - II.]	22,910,582	23,089,135
IV. Funded Ratio [II. / I.]	6.68%	5.00%
V. Employer OPEB Trust (Contribution)/Withdrawal	(250,000)	(245,000)
VI. Pay-as-you-go Cost	821,841	786,362
VII. Money Weighted Rate of Return	14.02%	10.21%
VIII. Discount Rate	5.36%	5.06%
IX. Crossover Date	2058	2051
X. Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC)	1,704,675	1,692,391

The discount rate used to measure the Total OPEB liability was 5.36% as of June 30, 2024 and 5.06% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made in accordance with the District's funding policy. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB Plan's Fiduciary Net Position is projected to be insufficient to make all projected benefit payments to current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on the OPEB Plan assets is applied to the projected benefits payments which the Fiduciary Net Position is expected to be sufficient to cover until Fiscal Year 2058 and the Municipal Bond Rate is applied thereafter. The Municipal Bond Rate is based on the S&P Municipal Bond 20 - Year High Grade Index ("SAPIHG"), which was 4.21% as of June 30, 2024. The S&P Municipal Bond 20 - Year High Grade Index is the index rate for 20 - Year, tax exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rate of AA/Aa or higher.

The District is projected to be 39.97% funded in 30 years.

The District is expected to contribute \$250,000 annually beyond pay-as-you-go costs.

Average Premiums:

Active Health Plan (Single coverage):	1,040.41
Medicare-Supplement Plan (Single coverage):	426.73

For the year ending on the Measurement Date of June 30, 2024, there was no plan experience because this was an interim valuation.

Contributions in relation to past liabilities:	821,841
Contributions in relation to current liabilities:	<u>250,000</u>
Total Contributions:	1,071,841

Sherborn School Committee
Meeting of November 12, 2024

Members Present: Christine Walsh
Megha Kadiyala
Nathanial Jackson
Becca Hammond (remote)

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

1) Call to Order

Cristine Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm in the DSMS Library.

2) Community Comments - Doug Kingsley requested that the Committee consider taking comments at the end of meetings as well as at the beginning so items addressed during the meeting could be responded to without waiting for the next monthly meeting.

3) Superintendent Comments - Beth McCoy updated recent and upcoming meeting/events in the District including the implementation of the Shadow a Student program. Denny Conklin spoke about the math curriculum roll out as well as the 2024 MCAS results.

4) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY25 Monthly Report
 - Salaries: the projected positive variance at this time is \$200,000 due primarily to post-FY25 budget staffing changes including two mid-year retirements and several other staffing shifts.
 - Expenditures: there are no material variance to report to date except for Classroom Instructional Software. Several instructional programs were expanded to include the K-5 cohort to enhance assessment capabilities. Transportation and utility expenses have been encumbered.
 - Out-of-District: costs for FY25 placements known to date have been encumbered. Tuition costs are currently under-budget by \$160,000 however due to placement changes, transportation costs are over-budget by \$150,000. Circuit Breaker reimbursement for FY25 has been posted. Sherborn will receive \$509,786 comprised of eligible tuition costs reimbursed at 75% and transportation costs at 44%. Current year expenses charged against Circuit Breaker are \$402,205.

5) Discussion Items

6) Action Items

- Proposed FY26 Budget
 - Operating: the overall operating budget increase is \$200,475 or 2.43% (FY25 increase was 3.99%). The In-District operating increase is \$100,475 or 1.39% (FY25 was 2.73%) and the OOD operating increase is \$100,000 or 9.91% (FY25 was 14.01%). The In-District operating increase would have been approximately 5% without the savings from Post-FY25 Budget staffing changes. The draft FY26 Budget includes \$300,000 of Circuit Breaker reimbursement.
Key Budget Drivers: estimated enrollment of 369-373 students in 21 classroom sections; contractual increases of 3% is nearly totally offset by salary savings resulting

from post-FY25 Budget staffing changes; reduction of related services staffing and expenses due to move of Connections to Chickering (approx \$93,000 savings); staff increase of .2 FTE EL Educator, .2 FTE Pre-K Director and two SPED Educational Assistants (approx \$115,000 increase).

Megha Kadiyala made a motion to approve the FY26 Operating Budget as presented. Nathaniel Jackson seconded.

24-19 VOTE: 3 - 0

- Capital: there is one capital project for FY26 - replacement of library classroom floor, lower level for \$30,000.

Megha Kadiyala made a motion to approve the FY26 Capital Budget as presented. Nathaniel Jackson seconded.

24-20 VOTE: 3 - 0

7) Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes: October 15, 2024

Megha Kadiyala made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Nathaniel Jackson seconded.

24-21 VOTE: 3 - 0

8) Informational Items

- Dover Sherborn Regional Committee minutes of October 8, 2024
- Dover School Committee Minutes of September 24, 2024

9) Items for February 4, 2025

10) Adjournment at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis

Dover School Committee
Meeting of November 19, 2024

Members Present: Jeff Cassidy
Jessica Hole
Goli Sepehr
Martha Castle
Shanakawa Pereira
Also Present: Denny Conklin, Assistant Superintendent
Dawn Fattore, Business Manager

1) Call to Order

Jeff Cassidy called the meeting to order 6:33 pm.

2) Community Comments - none

3) Superintendent Comments - Beth McCoy updated recent and upcoming meeting/events in the District including the implementation of the Shadow a Student program. Denny Conklin spoke about the math curriculum roll out as well as the 2024 MCAS results.

4) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY25 Operating Update
 - Out of District: FY25 Circuit Breaker has been finalized and Dover will receive \$1,226,631 in reimbursement from FY24 expenses. Tuition costs are reimbursed at 75% and transportation costs at 44%.

5) Discussion Items

6) Action Items

- Proposed FY26 Budget
 - Operating: the overall operating budget increase is \$235,450 or 2.08% (FY25 increase was 4.86%). The In-District operating increase is \$560,450 or 6.51% (FY25 was 4.64%) and the OOD operating decrease is \$325,000 or 12.04% (FY25 was 5.57%).
Key Budget Drivers: estimated enrollment of 448-456 students in 25 classroom sections; contractual increases of 3%; addition of 1.2 FTE related to the expansion of the Connections Program; staff increase of .55 FTE for SPED related services; OOD student enrollment is based on FY25 actual placements.

Jessica Hole made a motion to approve the FY26 Operating Budget as presented . Martha Castle seconded.

24-22 VOTE: 4 - 0

7) Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes: October 22, 2024

Goli Sepehr made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with amendment. Jessica Hole seconded.

24-23 VOTE: 4 - 0

Approved 1.14.2025

8) Informational Items

- Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee minutes of October 8, 2024
- Sherborn School Committee minutes of September 24, 2024
- TEC Collaborative Quarterly Report
- ACCEPT Collaborative Quarterly Report

9) Items for January 14, 2025

10) Adjournment at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis