

Dover School Committee
Meeting of October 21, 2025

Members Present: Goli Sepehr
Kate Cook
Jessica Hole
Kevin Bielke (remote)
Sally Firnstein, METCO member (remote)

Also Present: Beth McCoy, Superintendent
Denny Conklin, Assistant Superintendent
Dawn Fattore, Business Manager

1) Call to Order

Goli Sepehr called the meeting to order 5:32 pm.

2) Community Comments - none

3) PTO Update - activities and initiatives for the coming school year were reviewed.

4) Superintendent Comments - Superintendent McCoy spoke about recent the dedication of the new turf/track project, the start of Educator Contract Negotiations, and an upcoming update to parents on Safety/Drilling. Assistant Superintendent Conklin reviewed the recently released MCA test results from the prior school year for the District.

5) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY26 Monthly Report
 - Salaries - the majority of salaries have been encumbered resulting in variances in several line items due to post FY26 Budget staffing changes.
 - Expenditures - the savings in SPED, Services reflect the movement of outside SLP services to an education position. The FY26 heating oil bid came in at \$2,225 per gallon (budget estimated \$2.75/gallon).
 - Out-of-District - there are 22 placements which is 5 more than budgeted. The total negative variance in tuition costs is approximately \$800,000: \$415,000 from new placements and \$475,000 from known placements not included in the budget based on one-year impacts, offset by \$90,000 of savings from placement changes. Transportation costs are also estimated to be over budget as well. FY26 Circuit Breaker has been posted and the Town will receive \$1.9 million.

6) Discussion Items

- FY27 Budget Development Guidance Discussion - the FY27 first draft budget will be presented at the next meeting. The Administration asked for input from the Committee members on their priorities.

7) Action Items

- FY27 Capital Plan - a draft of the 5-year capital plan was provided for initial approval and submission to the Town's Capital Budget Committee. There are no capital requests for FY27. The Administration plans to engage an engineering consultant to develop a timeline and more accurate cost estimates for the HVAC equipment at Chickering.

Approved 11/18/2025

*Jessica Hole made a motion to approve the 5 Year Capital Plan as presented..
25-12 VOTE: 4 - 0 via roll call*

8) Consent Items

- PTO Request for use of Cafeteria
- Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2025
- FY26 Grants - IDEA-SPED 240 \$176,159; Early Child SPED Entitlement 262 \$8,930; Title I \$12,487; Title II \$5,881; and Title IV \$10,000.

*Kate Cook made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jessica Hole seconded.
25-13 VOTE: 4 - 0 via roll call*

9) Informational Items

- October Enrollment
- Regional School Committee minutes of June 10 & September 9, 2025
- Sherborn School Committee Minutes - June 3, 2025

10) Items for November 18, 2025 - FY27 draft budget

11) Adjournment at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis