

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee
Meeting of December 2, 2025

Members Present: Angie Johnson
 Jeff Cassidy
 Lindsay Nie
 Kevin Crotty
 Mary Lowder

1) Call to Order

Angie Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Middle School Library and suggested amending the agenda to move Item #6 to after Item #3.

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to amend the agenda. Mary Lowder seconded.
25-21 VOTE: 5 - 0

2) Community Comments - Amelia Landau, Sherborn Sustainability Manager, introduced herself to the Committee members and looks forward to working with the Committee on savings through energy efficiency, grants, etc.

Several Sherborn parents were in attendance to voice their frustrations with the frequency of the Wednesday early releases at the elementary schools.

3) Student Council Representative Update

4) Superintendent Comments - Superintendent McCoy spoke about contract negotiations and the recent safety meeting for parents.

- Professional Growth Study
- Grade 9 Technology Pilot - the Administration is proposing extending the Middle School 1:1 device program to next years 9th grade class. There was consensus from the Committee to approve the pilot.

5) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY26 Monthly Update - will be provided to the Committee next week, there are no significant changes to report.

6) Discussion Items

- Proposed Change to Policy ECAF: Security Cameras in Schools (1st read) - Security Cameras in Schools (1st read) - in order to promote a secure and orderly environment for all students, the administration is proposing the installation of security cameras on school buses. Cameras would strengthen the Administration's capacity to respond to safety and behavioral issues. To enable the Administration to move forward with this initiative, Policy ECAF needs to be revised to include "school transportation vehicles".
- Draft HS 2026-27 Program of Studies - John Smith provided a summary of changes to the Program of Studies and answered questions.
- Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements - the Administration asked for member input on what information is needed to make a decision on new requirements since the MCAS exam is no longer required by the State.

Approved 2.3.26

- Student Proposal for HS Therapy Dog - the steps to proceed were discussed including fundraising options. The Committee members gave the student group consensus approval to continue with research of costs and feasibility of the program.

7) Action Items

- FY27 Operating Budget version 1.0 - \$30,550,188 or 5.03%.
Key Budget Drivers: salary reserve for contractual negotiations to cover FY27-29 and 15% increase placeholder for healthcare. The excess revenue from FY26 of \$150,000 has been allocated to decrease the budget amount.
Out-of-District: DESE has required a change in accounting for OOD placements in order to more accurately recognize the expenses of these placements in the appropriate district for purposes of state reporting. The Regional Agreement places the financial responsibility of placement costs with the Town where the student resides. Historically, the total OOD cost has been budgeted in the Town's budgets with none at the Region. Going forward, all costs of a student's placement will be recorded in the district they would attend if they were in-district and the Region will assess the "net costs" to each Town through their annual Regional Assessment of the OOD placements in 6th grade through the age of 22.

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to approve the FY27 Operating Budget version 1.0 as presented.

Kevin Crotty seconded.

25-22 VOTE: 5- 0

- FY27 ACED Recommendations - the Advisory Committee for Extra-Compensatory Duties (ACED) met on November 13, 2025, reviewed all submissions and voted to move the following proposals forward for funding consideration:
 - Educator Mentor: ratio 0.75; \$1,200/mentor (grant funded)
 - Senior Project Advisor: ratio increase to 4.0; \$1,600 increase
 - DECA: ratio 3.0; \$4,800 addition
 - Medical Club: ratio 1.0; \$1,600 addition
 - Boston Trip Coordinator: ratio 0.5; \$800 addition
 - Green Team: ratio increase to 1.0; \$800 increase
- TOTAL: \$9,600
- Additionally, the HS Department Chairs submitted a proposal to increase their stipend ration from 5.5 to 7.0. The ACED vote was 3-3. The job responsibilities and compensation for Department Chairs is part of the larger conversation around the District's K-12 Instructional Model involving the Professional Growth Study/audit, and changes may be recommended by Administration in the coming months.

Jeff Cassidy made a motion to approve the ACED Appendix C Recommendations totaling \$9,600 as presented. Kevin Crotty seconded.

25-23 VOTE: 5- 0

8) Consent Items

- Regional School Committee minutes of November 4, 2025

Approved 2.3.26

- Approval of HS Athletics Overnight Field Trips - Boys ice hockey to Martha's Vineyard over February vacation for a tournament.
- Approval of Advisory Committee adding Volleyball as a Fall Sport in 2026 - Volleyball will be self-funded for two seasons: JV2 level for Fall '26, JV1 level for Fall '27, and Varsity for Fall '28 (full funded by athletic department budget).
- Approval of DS Gridiron Donation - \$8,200 for two football coaches.

*Lindsey Nie made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mary Lowder seconded.
25-24 VOTE: 5 - 0*

9) Informational Items

- Dover School Committee Minutes of October 21, 2025
- TEC Collaborative Q1, October 2025
- TEC Collaborative Q4 May 2025
- ACCEPT Collaborative Q1 October 2025
- ACCEPT Collaborative Q4 May 2025

10) Next Meeting February 3, 2026

11) Adjournment at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis