

Dover School Committee
Meeting of November 18, 2025

Members Present: Goli Sepehr
Kate Cook
Jessica Hole
Kevin Bielke
Martha Castle
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 6:33 pm.

2) Community Comments - none

3) Superintendent Comments - Superintendent McCoy spoke about recent and upcoming events including a METCO bus stop party and parent safety meetings. She and Denny Conklin also provided updates on the following:

- Professional Growth Study
- Elementary Instructional Study Time Study
- Literacy Update

4) Financial Reports

- Warrant Report
- FY26 Monthly Report
 - Salaries - there are no changes since the last report
 - Expenses - there are no material variances to report
 - 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.

5) Discussion Items

- Proposed Change to Policy ECAF: 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".

6) Action Items

- FY27 Operating Budget: version 1.0 - \$9,600,175 comprised of: in-district operating budget in crease of \$453,887 or 5.1% (FY26 increase was \$298,450 or 3.47%) and OOD operating budget decrease of \$2,307,000 or 90.4% due to change in budgeting.

Approved 2.10.26

Key Budget Drivers for In-District: enrollment of 441-448 students with 24 classroom sections; salary reserve for contractual negotiations to cover FY27-29; level staffing; increase in Technology Hardware of \$26,000 to begin replacement cycle for student devices; increase in Summer SPED Services of \$11,400 due to two Connection summer classrooms and more students accessing summer support; and increase in Building Maintenance Contracted Services of \$8,000 due to increase costs of preventative maintenance.

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. Due to this change, the Dover School Budget is seeing a significant reduction in OOD costs as there are less than three placements at the elementary level.

Martha Castle made a motion to approve the FY27 Operating Budget as presented. Kate Cook seconded.

25-14 VOTE: 5 - 0

7) Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes: October 21, 2025

Kate Cook made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Martha Castle seconded.

25-15 VOTE: 5 - 0

8) Informational Items

- Regional School Committee minutes of October 7, 2025
- Sherborn School Committee Minutes - September 16, 2025
- TEC Collaborative Q1 October 2025
- TEC Collaborative Q4 May 2025
- ACCEPT Collaborative Q1 October 2025
- ACCEPT Collaborative Q4 May 2025

9) Items for January 13, 2026

10) Adjournment at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Davis