Dover School Committee

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Dover-Sherborn Library

6:25PM

Dover-Sherborn Middle School Library

Livestream via Dover-Sherborn Cable Television

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Consent Items** **A.R**
   - Approval of Field Trip out of State (Grade 4)
3. **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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Deb Reinemann, Principal
Jim Carnes, Assistant Principal

MEMO:
TO: Beth McCoy, Superintendent
FROM: Deb Reinemann
DATE: March 4, 2026
RE: Out of state field trip, grade 4, June 3, 2026

Ms. McCoy

We are requesting approval for an out-of-state field trip on June 3rd to the Museum of Work & Culture in Rhode Island as an alternative to our planned visit to the Tsongas Industrial History Center.

We made extensive efforts to keep this trip within Massachusetts, beginning early in the fall. Our initial planning was stalled when National Park Service programming was paused during the federal government shutdown (October 1 - November 12). Once programming resumed, there was an overflow of requests as well as a shortage of staff (holidays, furloughs, layoffs etc). The remaining available dates presented additional challenges. Initial dates conflicted with MCAS testing or overlapped with the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip.

Rather than abandon the field trip altogether, we identified the Museum of Work & Culture as a strong academic alternative. The museum focuses on immigration, labor history, and the industrialization of New England, with particular emphasis on the French-Canadian families who moved to mill towns in the Blackstone Valley. Through immersive exhibits and age-appropriate programming, students explore themes of migration, working conditions, community life, and cultural identity; all directly aligned with our social studies standards on immigration and the development of industry in the Northeast.

In terms of budget, the museum is a more cost-effective option than our original plan. The only anticipated expense, covered by the parents, would be transportation, and we would confirm bus pricing prior to finalizing arrangements.

This proposal preserves the educational intent of the trip while addressing the scheduling barriers we encountered in Massachusetts, and provides our students with a meaningful, standards-aligned experience.

The trip requires a nurse to attend for Medical needs within the student population. The trip will be dependent on appropriate licensure for our nurse to work out of state. We are investigating this requirement.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deb Reinemann, Principal