

Dover School Committee
Meeting of February 3, 2026

Members Present: Goli Sepehr
Kate Cook
Jessica Hole
Kevin Bielke
Martha Castle

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

1) Call to Order

Goli Sepehr called the meeting to order 5:31 pm in the DSMS Library.

1) Superintendent Comments

- Proposed Shifts to Elementary Instructional Schedule - Superintendent McCoy reported the key findings and planned changes based on the study which addressed how the school day can better support academic achievement and social-emotional development while meeting MA DESE instructional requirements. The updated schedule would standardize elementary specials (6 specials, 1x/week), strengthen social-emotional learning, enhance alignment with math and ELA programs, refine WIN blocks, and create a more cohesive and predictable daily structure. The changes reduce transitions, strengthen core instruction, and improve coverage of required instructional frameworks. The elementary Spanish program will transition from a proficiency-based model (FLES) to an exploratory model (FLEX).
- Instructional Leadership Study - this study assessed whether current leadership structures provide sufficient instructional support, meaningful supervision and evaluation, and job-embedded professional learning by drawing on feedback from K-12 educators, research on effective instructional leadership, and practices in comparable districts. The proposal based on the key findings of the study refocuses elementary coaches on classroom practice, provides additional time and compensation for middle and high school instructional leaders, and adds two K-12 Curriculum Coordinator positions (STEM and Humanities). These roles are intended to strengthen vertical alignment, support curriculum coherence, coach instructional leaders and educators, and ensure sustained instructional improvement aligned to District goals. Superintendent McCoy informed the Committee that due to the fiscal constraints facing both Dover and Sherborn, the Administration will postpone the addition of the Curriculum Coordinators to FY28.

The Administration took questions and comments from members of the Committee. There was consensus to have the Administration consider adding one of the Curriculum Coordinator positions for FY27. The budget impact would be \$28,000 for PH and Chickering, \$56,000 for the Region.

2) Community Comments - the members took comments about the proposed changes.

2) Adjournment at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Davis