

Report of the **Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**

Judi Miller, Chair (Sherborn)
Mark Healey, Vice Chair (Dover)
Angie Johnson, Secretary (Sherborn)
Maggie Charron (Dover)
Kate Potter (Sherborn)
Colleen Burt (Dover)

The mission of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee (DSRSC) is to ensure that our nationally recognized, high-performing school system continues to provide innovative teaching and learning experiences that inspire and support all students on their individual educational journeys. Dover and Sherborn members of the DSRSC are elected by Dover and Sherborn citizens, respectively, on a rotating basis of one member each year for a three-year term.

Enrollment

As of October 2023, enrollment in the Dover-Sherborn Regional School District (the District) was 1,111 students.

District Strategic Plan

Superintendent McCoy had used her entry plan data to develop and propose a five-year Strategic Plan in spring 2023. This plan, adopted in September 2023, prioritizes both rigor and innovative practices to prepare students for an ever-evolving world. It aims to challenge and support every student, fostering a growth mindset through comprehensive programs and a welcoming environment. The plan champions educator development through collaboration and professional growth opportunities, while seeking family and community partnerships to realize a shared vision. In addition to direct and “whole child” student support in pursuit of academic and extra-curricular excellence for all, it commits to evaluating and optimizing facilities to ensure the safety and sustainability of learning spaces. It seeks at all times to provide a dynamic educational environment. The clear vision, mission, and goals of this Strategic Plan ensure sound and actionable progress in the coming years.

Academic Outcomes

The District remains one of the leaders in the Commonwealth in terms of academic outcomes for our students.

Next Generation MCAS testing results for 2023 were as follows:

- **English Language Arts:** Eighty-six percent of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average 58%).
- **Mathematics:** Eighty-eight percent of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average 50%).
- **Science and Technology/Engineering:** Eighty-six percent of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average 47%).

In 2023, 223 students took Advanced Placement (AP) courses in 15 subjects. In testing,

95% of the student scores were 3 or above, qualifying those students to earn equivalent college credit at most institutions.

Seventy-nine percent of the class of 2023 took the SAT, with mean test scores of 657 for Evidence-based Reading and Writing and 652 for Math.

In addition to its focus on strong academic outcomes, the District remains firmly committed to ensuring the social-emotional wellness of its students and continues its work with “Challenge Success” (www.challengesuccess.org), which has encouraged our schools to consider the whole child in their definition of success.

Leadership and Faculty

During the 2022–23 school year, we were fortunate to have Superintendent Elizabeth McCoy and Assistant Superintendent Denton Conklin accept positions to lead the District. They continue to build relationships and drive programming as their leadership was renewed into the current (2023–24) academic year.

Additionally, Ann Dever-Keegan, previous Dover-Sherborn High School (DSHS) Assistant Principal, was appointed as Interim Principal of Dover-Sherborn Middle School (DSMS) on July 1, and Timothy O’Mara, former DSHS guidance counselor, has taken the Interim Assistant Principal position for DSHS. Superintendent McCoy and Principal Smith continue to work hard to support the new leaders and strengthen the Regional Schools’ collaborative leadership for grades 6–12. Retirements at the District in 2023 included a number of educators and office staff: Lori Alighieri, Ellen Hyman, Deidre Clancy-Kelley, Susan Connelly, Maria Laskaris, and Susan Barss. We wish each of these dedicated professionals all the best in their retirement and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to our students and community.

Finance

The DSRSC thanks the citizens of Dover and Sherborn for their continued generous support of the schools. The District’s Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget is \$27,972,450 an increase of \$948,727 (3.51%) over the FY23 budget. Operating expenditures include: salaries and benefits, including other post-employment benefits (\$23,490,675); buildings, grounds, and utilities (\$1,272,950); debt service (\$789,400); transportation (\$1,039,200), and other expenditures (\$1,380,315). State aid covered \$3,091,741 of these operating expenses. Revenues from student activity fees (\$45–\$75 per student); parking fees (\$300 per permit); and athletic fees (\$335 per sport, with a cap of \$1,340 per family) covered \$361,175 of these expenses. Remaining expenditures are funded generously through local taxes. The District’s E&D (Excess and Deficiency) account submitted for certification as of June 30, 2023, is \$1,126,642. This account operates under Massachusetts General Laws in a manner similar to a town’s Free Cash.

The DSRSC is grateful for the incredible support it received in both time and money from the Dover-Sherborn Boosters, the Friends of the Performing Arts, the PTO, POSITIVE, the Alan Thayer Mudge Memorial Fund, and the broader community. These groups continued to generously support us in 2023, and their contributions are critical to maintaining our excellent programs.

Contractual Agreements

In June 2023, a three-year teachers’ contract, set to begin in September 2023, was negotiated and approved by the three local and regional school committees and the Dover-Sherborn Education Association (DSEA). The Educators’ Agreement (Agreement), effective through August 31,

2026, fairly and sustainably accommodates the educational standards we expect for our students while providing support for the high-quality services expected from our educators. At the same time, it acknowledges the constraints affecting town, state, and federal budgets. We are grateful for the continued cooperation between the Town and District leadership and the DSEA, and we believe the Agreement achieves its three fundamental goals of supporting our students effectively, creating fair working conditions for our employees, and ensuring sustainable costs for our taxpayers.

Facilities

Our buildings and grounds represent a major educational investment by Dover and Sherborn for now and the future. To protect this investment, the DSRSC has a long-range capital maintenance and improvement plan for the physical assets of the district-wide campus. The DSRSC works with the finance committees and select boards of both towns to determine how to best fund upcoming capital expenses required to maintain the facilities and equipment coming off warranty from the 2005 construction and renovation project. Capital projects completed in summer 2023 included work at DSHS. In Lindquist Commons, bathroom renovations included new hand dryers and motion-sensor faucets for sustainability. In the school's math wing, new environmentally friendly flooring introduced a low-maintenance alternative which will save significant incremental labor hours each summer. Funding for the projects completed in 2023 was provided through use of the District's E&D funding. Looking forward, we anticipate the need to update the turf field and track. In addition, we continue to work cooperatively with sustainability groups from both towns, and to investigate funding opportunities available through the State's Green Communities Designation and Grant Program. This program supports communities in achieving environmental goals through energy efficiencies and reducing life-cycle costs in buildings and construction.

Membership

Dover resident Colleen Burt joined the DSRSC for a three-year term, replacing Lynn Collins who had served a three-year term. The DSRSC is thankful for her service.

Visit www.doversherborn.org to keep up with changes, school events, or to contact our staff or school committees.