

DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the March 2, 2023 Meeting

Members in attendance: Jerry Chen, Melissa Herman, Cam Hudson, Gordon Kinder, Sara Cadena Kinney, Janet McCormick, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith, Woody Weiss

Others in attendance: Dawn Fattore, Regional Schools Business Manager; Beth McCoy, Regional Schools Superintendent; Maggie Charron, Regional Schools Committee; Dan Sichel, Sherborn Advisory Committee

Location: on-line, via Zoom

Ms. Herman called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Regional Schools Budget

Ms. Fattore presented the fiscal 2024 budget summary. 80% of the operating budget is wages and salaries, which are currently under negotiation for the coming year, so the figures presented at this meeting are estimates. As in past contract years, the estimated increase is budgeted under “Other Expenses”, and when actual numbers are available they will appear as adjustments to the actual accounts. Other expected changes in the v2.0 budget will be healthcare (expected to increase 9-11%) and salaries (reduction due to senior staff retirees replaced by new hires). Other staff changes include a Literacy Consultant moving from being grant-funded to being funded through the operating budget. There has been a net reduction in Special Education staffing of 0.6 FTE. An Athletic Trainer position is being added.

The bottom line for the v1.0 operating budget calls for a total increase of 3.85%, or \$1,041,258. Dover’s share increases 3.55%, or \$459,527. However, enrollment and census changes will shift the funding ratio in Dover’s favor. When the v2.0 budget is voted on March 7 it is expected that Dover’s assessment will see little or no change from FY23.

The capital request for FY24 has been reduced to a single item: \$1,200,000 to replace all seven roof-mounted air handlers at the High School. It looks likely that the new units will be all-electric, reducing natural gas usage. They are investigating whether the Region can apply for a Green Communities grant.

Asked how enrollment projections are arrived at, Ms. Fattore said that historical trends are pretty stable and gave examples of common entry and exit grades between the public and private schools.

Ms. Charron said that space at the Middle School is tight: every room is fully-booked all day. They are performing a space needs assessment and there may be a request in the future for extra or reconfigured space.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary