


<p>A</p>  <p>DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT</p>	<p>DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES</p>
	<p>Meeting Type: Workshop Meeting Meeting Location: City Council Chambers Meeting Date: Monday, November 24, 2008 Meeting Time: 6:40 pm</p>

A workshop session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Marjorie Fisher on Monday, November 24, 2008 at 6:40 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Roll call and Pledge of Allegiance was done earlier in Special Session.

A. DOVER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES:

Andrea Elliot presented the School Board with additional information regarding the 2009-2010 Program of Studies and changes that will be made over the next few years. Substantial changes will be made in credits needed to graduate and different types of diplomas that will be awarded to students in the next few years.

***Dover High School Topics : Increased Credit Requirements
Differentiated Diplomas***

- A. Review of Other NH High Schools Graduation Requirements (Handout #1)
- B. Dover Proposal Graduation Requirements (Handout #2)
- C. Examples of Phase In – Class of 2011, 2012, 2013 and beyond (Handout # 2)
- D. NH Technical Advisory #16 – allows tiered diplomas
- E. Review of Other States Credits and Differentiated Diplomas (Handout #3)
- F. Review of Other NH Schools Differentiated Diplomas (Handout #4)
- G. Dover Proposal for Differentiated Diplomas (Handout #5)


HANDOUT #1

- A. Review of Other NH High Schools Credit Requirements
 - 1. Somersworth – 26 credits
 - 2. Portsmouth – 26 credits
 - 3. Spaulding – 26 credits
 - 4. Timberlane – 20-25 (differentiated)
 - 5. Pelham – 26 credits plus community service (differentiated by courses and GPA)
 - 6. Nute – 20-28 (differentiated)
 - 7. Pinkerton – 20-22 (differentiated)
 - 8. Epping – 20-25 (differentiated)
 - 9. Fall Mountain – 20-28 (differentiated)
 - 10. Bedford – 24-25 plus 60 to 80 hours “real world learning”

Handout #2

Dover High School Proposal and Phase In Plan

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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The transition to a new schedule will include a change in the graduation requirements for students at Dover High School. The increasing graduation requirements will be phased in over the next four years.

Year of Graduation	Total Credits Required
Class of 2010	20
Class of 2011	22
Class of 2012	24
Class of 2013	26

Courses completed outside of Dover High School (Dover Adult Learning Center, Virtual Learning Academy, a degree granting college or other approved and accredited programs) may be accepted for credit towards the requirements for a high school diploma with **prior approval** of the Principal or Dean of Instruction.


Required Credits	Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics (including Algebra I)	3 credits	3 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Social Studies (Wd Cult/Global Studies, Economics, Civics/American Govt, US History)	2 ½ credits	3 credits	3 credits	3 credits
Science (one credit each in physical sciences and biological sciences)	2 credits	2 credits	3 credits	3 credits
Fine Arts Education	½ credit	½ credit	1 credit	1 credit
Computer Education	½ credit	½ credit	1 credit	1 credit
Wellness (Wellness, Health, elective)	1 ½ credits	1 ½ credits	1 ½ credits	1 ½ credits
Electives (all of the above departments along with World Languages and CTC)	6 credits	7 ½ credits	6 ½ credits	8 ½ credits
TOTAL	20 credits	22 credits	24 credits	26 credits

Beginning in 2009-2010, students will be expected to enroll in eight credits per year. Students entering DHS as freshmen in 2009-2010 must earn a minimum of six credits to be promoted to grade 10, twelve credits to be promoted to grade 11, and eighteen credits to become seniors.

Handout #3

Differentiated Diplomas and Graduation Requirements– Other States

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A. Indiana

1. General - 20
2. Core – 20 with more core requirements and fewer elective
3. Academic Honors – 22 with no courses under a “C” and overall average of 3.00

B. Massachusetts

Local Graduation Requirements Are Detailed in a Report by MA Department of Education

Malden - *The Massachusetts Department of Education has released a report detailing the local requirements for graduation from public high school.*

Based on information provided by each district, the report shows that:


- *Nearly all Massachusetts local and regional public high schools require their students to take and pass four years of English classes*
- *Eighty-seven percent require at least three years of history*
- *Seventy-eight percent require three years or more of mathematics*
- *Two thirds require at least three years of science, and*
- *One third require students to pass a foreign language requirement*
- *This report refutes assertions that the MCAS tests are the "sole requirement" for graduation.*

Commissioner of Education David P. Driscoll said, "At a time when some say that passing MCAS tests should not be the 'sole' graduation requirement, it is clear to me that too many people are not aware that all graduation requirements but one are set by the local school districts. The fact is that passing a standards-based English and math test is the only state requirement, and all remaining ones, the vast majority of rules for graduation, are local."

"I want to re-emphasize that state law calls for students to pass an academic test to qualify for a diploma. Our students need to leave high school with stronger skills in English and Math. In my view, this is a minimal standard of accountability, one that is attainable, and one that is fair and reasonable to the people of the Commonwealth who have supported Education Reform with \$7 billion of new money since 1993."

The report surveyed all Massachusetts public comprehensive high schools, vocational-technical schools, and charter high schools.

Twenty-six of the thirty vocational-technical and county agricultural high schools in the state list graduation requirements in years rather than credits. Of those schools

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100% require four years of English, 100% require a minimum of three years of math, 76% require at least three years of science and 72% require three or four years of history.

Eight of the 11 charter high schools list graduation requirements in years. All eight require four years of English, at least three years of science (half actually require four years), and three years of history. Seven of the eight require four years of math and have a foreign language requirement.

- C. Oregon – students must pass state reading, math, and writing test or prove they have the equivalent skills to qualify for a diploma (locally graded work samples may be used for students who cannot pass the state exam)
- D. Washington – students must pass state reading, writing, math and science test as well as complete Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan, and local credit requirements. Students have five state funded opportunities to pass the test. Parents can appeal scores and there are several state approved evidence based alternatives for students who have not passed.
- E. Middletown, Rhode Island


For the Class of 2010 and each successive class:

- English 4 units
- Mathematics 4 units**
- Social Studies 3 units
- Science 3 units
- Wellness* 3 units
- Fine/Performing Arts .5 unit
- Capstone Course*** .5 unit
- Electives 6 units
- Total: 24 units**

*Encompasses physical and health education

**One of the mathematics credits may be in an elective course where there is application of mathematical skills and concepts as described in the *MHS Program of Studies* and explicitly mapped to the State’s mathematical Grade Span Expectations (GSEs).

***For some students, the Capstone may be embedded in a core content or academic class in lieu of enrolling in a Capstone Course.

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Handout #4

Review of NH Differentiated Diplomas

1. Timberlane – 20-25 (differentiated)

Department	Standard Diploma	Technical Diploma	Scholastic Diploma
Arts	.5	.5	1
Comp Tech	.5	.5	.5
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3 with Alg II
Science	3	3	3 with Chem or Physics
Add'l Math/Sci			1
Social Studies	3	3	3
World Lang	Optional	Optional	3
PE/Health	2	2	2
Tech Conc.		3.5-5.5	
Open Electives	6	1.5-3.5	4.5
TOTALS	22	23	25

2. Nute – 20-28 credits

Nute High School Diploma – 28 credits

- English 4 credits *Grade level English classes*
- Math 3 credits *Must include at least 1 credit of Algebra*
- Science 3 credits *Physical Science, Biology, and one other science*
- Social Studies 3.5 credits *US History, Geography/Civics, Economics or Marketing*
- Physical Education/Health 1.5 credit
- Computer Education 1 credit
- Fine Arts .5 credit *Art, Band, Music, Drama, Graphic and Drafting Trades*


Elective Courses 11.5 credits Total required for graduation = 28 credits

Milton School District Diploma – 20 credits, intended for students who have attended 8 semesters of high school but are at risk of dropping out before completing the 28 credits required for a Nute Diploma. **NOT ELIGIBLE** to participate in the Nute graduation.

3. Pelham – 26 credits plus community service (differentiated by courses and GPA)

Standard Diploma

English	4 Credits	Freshman English, Sophomore English American Literature, One World Literature course
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Social Studies	4 Credits	World Geography, Western Civilization Economics/Civics, U. S. History
Math	3 Credits	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II Or Integrated I, II, and III
Science	3 Credits	Integrated Science I and II, One other science elective
Fine Arts	1 Credit	From art and music courses; Creative Writing; Oral Communication; Fashions; Successful Sewing: Clothing, Quilting and Crafts. Graphic Arts; Floral Design.
Health	1 Credit	
Physical Education	1 Credit	Participating and completing two seasons of an NHIAA sponsored sport at PHS satisfies this requirement.
Computer Application	1 Credit	Passing a Computer Information Technology test at PHS allows students to enroll in an advanced computer course.
Open Electives	8 Credits	Courses may be selected from any other of the school's course offerings.
Community Service Learning	40 hours	10 hours for each year at PHS

Honors Diploma: 3.33 GPA

Honors with Merit: 3.33 GPA, 32 credits, 2 credits in World Language, four credits in L-1 or L-2 sciences, L-1 or L-2 Algebra II

Honors with Distinction: 3.67 GPA, 32 credits, all L-1 cored academic classes, 3 credits in World Language, four credits in L-1 or higher science and math, five honors or AP courses

4. Fall Mountain 20-28 credits


Standard – 20 credit based on NH State minimum requirements

Regular – 28 credits

Honors – 28 credits with 3.0 or higher GPA

5. Epping - 20 to 25

Students will need to meet the criteria below and have a plan for successful completion of the diploma requirements by the start of the second semester of their senior year.

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1. Basic Diploma – this diploma is awarded in special circumstances and is based on the State of New Hampshire Requirements for a High School Diploma. Administration approval is required to be considered for this diploma.

2. Standard Diploma – this diploma meets the established Epping High School minimum graduation requirements.


3. Honors Diploma – students must meet the credit requirements listed below; have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better; and have been enrolled in two or more Honors/AP courses.

**STANDARD DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:
SUBJECT CREDITS**

- English 4
- Math (including Algebra I) 3
- Science (must include Biology & Physical Science) 3
- Social Studies (must include World Cultures, Civics & US History) 3
- Physical Education 1
- Health ½
- Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music) ½
- Computers ½
- Electives 7
- TOTAL 22 ½**

**HONORS DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:
SUBJECT CREDITS**

- English 4
- Math (must include Algebra I, II and Geometry) 4
- Science (must include Biology and Physical Science) 3
- Social Studies (must include World Cultures, Civics and US History) 3
- World Languages (must be in same language) 3
- Physical Education 1
- Health Education ½
- Fine Arts (Art/Music/Drama) ½
- Computer Education ½
- Electives 5½
- TOTAL 25**

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Handout #5
Dover Proposal

Realizing that some students may struggle to meet the increased graduation requirements, Dover High School will move to a multi-level diploma beginning with the graduating class of 2011.

Basic Diploma - By application to the administration and recommendation of counselors and case managers, some students may be approved for a 20 credit “Basic” diploma which meets the state minimum requirements for high school graduation.

The “Standard” Dover High School diploma will reflect the total credits required during the phase in program (22 for Class of 2011, 24 for the Class of 2012, 26 for Class of 2013 and beyond.

In addition, Dover High School will award a “Diploma with Distinction” to any student who exceeds the standard requirement by two or more credits (24 or more for Class of 2011, 26 or more for the Class of 2012, 28 or more for the Class of 2013 and beyond.

?????Question of including proficiency on NECAP or GPA for Diploma with Distinction

Beth Setear asked if study halls would still be used. Andrea said that there would be no study halls. Prep work should be easier for teachers now. They will have 3 preps each semester.

Carolyn Mebert noted that she would like the diploma to be based on academics only. Discipline should not be considered when determining what type of diploma a student should receive.

Debi Migneault was asked how staffing would be affected with block scheduling. She doesn’t anticipate any additional staffing until at least 2013. Andrea noted that DHS currently has 94 study halls. They will become classes.

Marjorie Fisher asked Dr. O’Connor if there would be any restrictions with staffing because of the DTY Master Agreement. He responded that their prep period would need to be the same amount of time as a class period.

Doris stated that she would like the homework policy reviewed so that the students are not overrun with homework. Ms. Migneault responded that the students would only be taking 4 classes and 2 would be core subjects.

B. CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT:

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**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

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Audra Lurvey introduced members of the Cable Adhoc committee. Parks Christenbury, Aviva Grasso, Doug Dede were in attendance to answer any questions that the School Board might have. Dr. O'Connor discussed the documents given before the last meeting. Dorothea thanked the committee members for volunteering their time on this project. She stated that she is concerned more than normal because of the tax spending cap and the cost of the staff employment. Ms. Grasso answered questions from the School Board including if personnel costs are covered. She responded that there is money in the budget for personnel and there should be no lost to the Dover School District. Dorothea asked if we would be able to accomplish all that is outlined in the budget. Ms. Grasso responded that we would. Franchise fees have been accumulating and there is money available. Ms. Hooper also asked if there was a provision for an OPT out if needed. Ms. Grasso said that there is a provision for 90 days OPT out if requested. Doris Grady asked what we currently pay for Channel 22 and the webmaster. Doug Dede said that until this year, there was no separate account for this project. Annie Dove, Dover's technical director, has done work and has been paid by the City of Dover. People working the cameras were paid out of city funds administrative budgets. All taxpayers were paying their salaries. The franchise fee was 3% the first year and will be 2.75% in the second year. He continued that it is unlikely that it will go down, even in this economy. People are more apt to stay in and take advantage of their cable, than to go out. There is a chance that the money in the Franchise fee fund will not be there immediately. If that were the case, the City Council would make an extension from the general fund until the money comes in. This would in essence, be a loan. Mrs. Grady said that when she spoke with City Manager Joyal, there was \$150,000 in the account. Now, there is \$100,000 in the fund. \$50,000 has been spent somewhere. When she asked the City where it was spend, they said that it was spent on the Webmaster. In reading the contract, it states that the School District would be responsible for Channel 22, the middle school, and eventually the high school. She just wants to know what the figure is to cover these costs. Mr. Dede responded that Channel 22 has been in existence for quite a while. When there is another channel to handle the education, this will be the school's channel and the school will be responsible for the cost. Right now, the school will only be responsible for its portion of the use. Marjorie Fisher asked Mr. Dede again what the cost would be for the webmaster and Channel 22 and he responded that he didn't know. Dr. O'Connor said that he will get the answer to her question.

Mrs. Grady asked Jim Amara to go to the podium to discuss the program and to help to determine the costs of the programs. After investigating programs, it was recommended to him that the broadcasting program be started at the City level. Allow this program to operate without bugs. It might take a year or so. After it is running smoothly, it will be time to introduce into the high school. He has spoken to people in other towns about their experiences and costs. Studio should be approximately 2500 sq feet. There should be 2 or 3 integrated cameras at a cost of approximately \$250,000-500,000. A van that would go to

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sporting events, would cost \$170,000-250,000. \$4,000-6,000 in digital editing equipment, \$25,000 in office equipment, \$25,000 in office furniture. Personnel costs could exceed \$1000,000, including a director, secretarial help, and teachers. Sponsorships might also be available. There should be 6-8 month lag time after the bid is awarded. Busiest time is April-June. The slow time, which would be the best time to do this, would be the winter. Doris Grady asked if the two phases would be the best way to go. Mr. Amara responded that all people he consulted agreed with that way to begin the program. Mrs. Fisher asked if \$105,000 would be a low estimate for the teaching portion of the program. This would be an accurate estimate, but doesn't include benefits. The industry is flat now, so there might be a qualified person available at a lower cost.

Beth Setear asked about the contract and who would be responsible for plumbing, electrical and other maintenance issues. Dr. O'Connor stated that it is similar to the current lease the School District has at the McConnell Center. We would be responsible for all expenses with the exception of major issues. We would be responsible for anything within the building. Ms. Setear also asked about the 2 year vacancy notice. Would we be responsible for the payment of the bond also. Dr. O'Connor responded that we would be responsible for it. Mrs. Fisher asked if we received written confirmation about the state aid. Laurie Verville responded that we haven't received notification yet.


Mr. Christenbury spoke about savings that we would have related to construction. Most would be done in-house. This is a considerable savings from going to an outside contractor. There might be a 100-150% markup. We will buy and install all in-house. He also stated that the studio would need to be running before it was brought into the school. There could also be grants coming from Liberty Mutual, Measured Progress, etc. that would help considerably.

He also wanted to reiterate that there is an Opt out clause in case the economy doesn't turn around and the school district needs to back out.

Dr. Mebert asked about the costs of equipment. Some of this equipment would be paid for by the City Council and we would need to repay them. Many of the items, including the van, would not be purchased for quite a while. Only basic equipment would be purchased to start the program. Comcast doesn't care if we get assistance from other companies. They don't need to be consulted.

Dr. O'Connor questioned whether we were talking about 3 or 4 classes were available to us. He has heard that one of them was being rented to another party. Mr. Christenbury verified that it is 4 rooms.

Dorothea Hooper is concerned that the state will suspend some programs and funding will be pulled. It seems like an ambitious program and we might get in over our heads. She wants to make sure that the project will be finished. Mr. Christenbury said that it all hinges on information that Laurie Verville will be providing based on what she hears from the state. He also said that if something happens and aid is reduced in the future, we can make changes

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to reduce costs. Dorothea also noted that we might not be able to count on the City Council for funds in the future, because of the tax cap.

Doris Grady was concerned that the state aid of \$24,000 was for 5 years and the projections are for much longer than that. The aid is still being subtracted. The figures are mainly guesses. The \$120,000 is a small figure to run the program. The City Council and School Board, or at least representatives from both, should meet to discuss the program. Doris also requested a document that listed revenues and expenses for a 5-10 year period. She believes that \$120,000 would be too low a figure. Ms. Grasso said that the School District wouldn't be paying occupancy fee. This money would be coming out of franchise fees.

Mr. Christenbury stated again that the program would be paid for by Comcast cable users, and not tax payers. Ms. Grasso also noted since the program would be completed in phases, there would be fewer costs for personnel. Mrs. Grady also stated that there would be liability paid for by the School District for all visitors, etc. There are still a lot of questions on this program and it is not ready to be signed at this point. Marjorie Fisher requested that we have a workshop with the City Council, School Board and members of the franchise committee. Dr. O'Connor said he would speak with the City Manager to see if a meeting could be arranged with representatives from all sides. Attorney Krans should also attend the meeting. Dorothea asked if an attorney had reviewed the contract. Allan Krans, the City Attorney, drafted the contract so it has the best interests of both parties.


Doris Grady asked if the school or city would be responsible for the project. Mr. Christenbury said that the school would have authority over the project. Marjorie Fisher asked what would happen if costs were more than a franchise fee. The options would be to Opt out or to scale back so that it would cost less. The future School Boards may choose to expand the program. Mr. Christenbury continued to say that this program is what you make of it.

C. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER ANIMAL SCIENCE AND WELDING PROGRAMS:

Jim Amara discussed the two new proposed CTC programs that had been outlined at the last School Board meeting. Mrs. Grady asked if enrollments were increasing. Jim responded that they were increasing overall and within specific majors. Numbers may decrease next year with block scheduling, because they can schedule only a limited number of students. Mr. Amara also noted that the Middle School program is generating a great deal of interest. Dorothea Hooper complimented Mr. Amara, saying that she is very pleased with the direction of the CTC Program. She is happy that he finds all of the available money he can, before he goes to the School Board with requests. Beth Setear asked for additional costs related to these new programs which are listed below.

Cost Projections for 2009-2010.

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Item:	Funding Source:	\$ Cost: Projected
Equine Instructor/Salary	Local	\$ 34-38 K
Supplies and Materials	Perkins Grant	\$ 10 K
Transportation (180 days)	Local/ State Funded 75%	\$ 16-17 K
Facilities Use, Veterinary Clinic	Perkins Grant	\$ 30 K
Additional Insurance Rider	Local	\$ TBD
Health Benefits (Single)	Local/Single with 12% increase	\$ 8K

Total Perkins Contribution \$40 K

Mrs. Grady asked Mr. Amara if he had heard from the electrical union. He responded that he had not, but had heard from General Electric. They would like DHS to teach entry level works. They are making digital meters which will replace old style spinning ones. They will be producing them for the entire country.

G. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:50 p.m., Audra Lurvey moved, Carolyn Mebert seconded, to adjourn. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Respectfully submitted,

BETH SETEAR SECRETARY
November 24, 2008