



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Joint Dover/Barrington /Nottingham Meeting
Meeting Location:	Media Ctr. Room 305
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm

A joint Barrington/Nottingham/Dover workshop session of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chairperson Rocky D'Andrea on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 305 of the McConnell Center Media Center.

A. ROLL CALL: Present were Rocky D'Andrea, Doris Grady, Amanda Russell, Betsey Andrews Parker, Kathy Baker, Ken Appel. Paul Butler was absent.

Also present were Superintendent Jean Briggs Badger; Barrington Interim Superintendent, Howard Colter, Incoming Barrington Superintendent, Gail Kushner, Barrington School Board Members David Gibson, Deborah McNally, Michelle Antosiewicz, Moira Taylor and Scott Francisco; Nottingham School Board Members Phil English and Susan Levenson, Barrington Business Administrator Vicki Drouin, Christine Boston, Dover High School Principal; James Amara, CTC Director, Sally Thorn, Guidance Director; Jon Altbergs, Dean of Instruction; Patrick Boodey, WPS Principal and Michael Limanni, Business Administrator.

Kathy Baker moved, Amanda Russell seconded suspending the rules and moving to item D. on the agenda. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0**.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: See above.

C. CITIZENS' FORUM: See above.

D. DISCUSSION: WHAT DOVER OFFERS, FUTURE NEEDS AND SURVEY RESULTS

School Board Information Packet

- Barrington/Nottingham Enrollment
- Tuition History
- Barrington/Nottingham AP Course Enrollment, Graduation Statistics
- Course Enrollment Breakdown
- NECAP Comparison
- DHS School Activities Calendar
- Dover Dropout Percentage
- Special Education Child Count
- Dover Projected Enrollment
- Six Year CIP
- Student/Parent Survey Results
- Nottingham Choice Survey

Mr. D'Andrea started the meeting by stating the purpose. The Dover School Board would like input from Nottingham and Barrington to make sure that Dover is meeting the needs of their students. He would like to schedule two meetings each year for updates on this topic.



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Ms. Briggs Badger reviewed the handouts that were distributed to participants (Listed above).

Barrington/Nottingham

Enrollment

HS Tuition Students

	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Barrington, NH						
DOVER	419	390	364	333	291	273
OYSTER RIVER		3	9	17	30	46
COE-BROWN	62	67	69	77	76	88
CATA/SHS/PHS/OTHER	5	9	4	1	1	1
TOTAL HS ENROLLMENT BARRINGTON	486	469	446	428	398	408

HS Tuition Students

	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Nottingham, NH						
DOVER	172	146	142	143	127	125
OYSTER RIVER	0	0	0	0	0	0
COE-BROWN	47	64	62	67	96	98
CATA/RAYMOND/OTHER	20	12	16	17	7	27
TOTAL HS ENROLLMENT NOTTINGHAM	239	222	220	227	230	250

Ms. Briggs Badger noted that the decrease of enrollment is a concern for Dover. She would like to find ways to try and make Dover more desirable and would like input from the Board members in attendance.



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Tuition History

2006-2007

	Tuition Rate	*Enrollment	Total Tuition
Barrington Tuition	\$ 9,495.62	403	\$ 3,881,377
Nottingham Tuition	\$ 9,110.52	180	\$ 1,523,777
Other School District	\$ 9,166.43	8	\$ 60,395

2007-2008

	Tuition Rate	*Enrollment	Total Tuition
	\$10,019.78	391	\$3,637,696
	\$ 10,082.28	144	\$ 1,370,509
	\$ 10,199.53	6	\$ 50,372

2008-2009

	Tuition Rate	*Enrollment	Total Tuition
	\$10,310.35	365	\$3,565,426
	\$ 9,759.53	145	\$1,352,129
	\$10,953.61	5	\$ 38,400

2009-2010

	Tuition Rate	*Enrollment	Total Tuition
	\$ 10,707.30	329	\$ 3,469,143
	\$ 10,710.62	143	\$ 1,512,759
	\$ 11,864.92	7	\$ 69,344

2010-2011

	Tuition Rate	*Enrollment	Total Tuition
	\$10,726.57	281	\$3,034,592
	\$10,707.08	129	\$1,338,260
	\$12,584.16	10	\$ 122,625



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2011-2012		
Tuition Rate	**Enrollment	**Total Tuition
\$10,966.85	273	\$2,993,950
\$10,946.92	124	\$1,357,418
\$13,398.91	8	\$ 108,234

**October 1st Estimate

Another concern for Dover is the loss of approximately \$1 million in tuition due to decreased enrollment.

Ms. Briggs Badger reviewed Advanced Placement enrollment for Barrington, Nottingham, and Dover students.



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Barrington AP Course Enrollment from 2011-12			
650	AP BIOLOGY	2	Barrington
463	AP CALCULUS AB	2	Barrington
464	AP CALCULUS BC	3	Barrington
136	AP LANG & COMP	0	Barrington
140	AP LIT & COMPOSITN	1	Barrington
141	AP LIT & COMPOSITN	1	Barrington
465	AP STATISTICS	3	Barrington
466	AP STATISTICS	0	Barrington
719	AP US HISTORY	1	Barrington
Nottingham AP Course Enrollment from 2011-12			
650	AP BIOLOGY	0	Nottingham
463	AP CALCULUS AB	0	Nottingham
464	AP CALCULUS BC	0	Nottingham
136	AP LANG & COMP	0	Nottingham
140	AP LIT & COMPOSITN	1	Nottingham
141	AP LIT & COMPOSITN	2	Nottingham
465	AP STATISTICS	0	Nottingham
466	AP STATISTICS	1	Nottingham
719	AP US HISTORY	0	Nottingham
Dover AP Course Enrollment from 2011-12			
650	AP BIOLOGY	11	Dover
463	AP CALCULUS AB	9	Dover
464	AP CALCULUS BC	30	Dover
136	AP LANG & COMP	11	Dover
140	AP LIT & COMPOSITN	11	Dover
141	AP LIT & COMPOSITN	17	Dover
465	AP STATISTICS	20	Dover
466	AP STATISTICS	7	Dover
719	AP US HISTORY	11	Dover

TOTAL GRADUATION CLASS OF 2011 = 337

Barrington Seniors	# of Graduates	# did not graduate	Returned to complete in following school year 11-12
73	69	4	2 of 4 returned
Nottingham Seniors	# of Graduates	# did not graduate	Returned to complete in following school year 11-12
25	25	-	-

3 Year Rank in Class Placement for Barrington Seniors

2008-09	77 seniors	Rank calculated on 373 students	3 Barrington students placed in top 25
2009-10	91 seniors	Rank calculated on 390 students	1 Barrington student placed in top 25
2010-11	73 seniors	Rank calculated on 337 students	8 Barrington students placed in top 25

3 Year Rank in Class Placement for Nottingham Seniors

2008-09	31 seniors	Rank calculated on 373 students	1 Nottingham student placed in top 25
2009-10	42 seniors	Rank calculated on 390 students	3 Nottingham students placed in top 25
2010-11	25 seniors	Rank calculated on 337 students	3 Nottingham students placed in top 25



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Ms. Briggs Badger discussed the courses offered at Dover High School, along with the number of students enrolled in Nottingham, Barrington and Dover. There are 124 Nottingham students, 270 Barrington students, and 1020 Dover students enrolled in the courses listed. A total of 28% are Barrington and Nottingham students.

Ms. Briggs Badger reviewed the NECAP comparison results listed below. Students were tested in math, reading and writing.

NECAP COMPARISON FALL 2011 -DOVER, BARRINGTON, NOTTINGHAM, STATE

																		TOTAL % PROFICIENT			
	DOVER				BARRINGTON				NOTTINGHAM				STATE								
	LEVEL				LEVEL				LEVEL				LEVEL				Dover	Barr.	Nott.	State	
SUB	4	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	4	3	2	1					
M	0%	32%	28%	38%	0%	26%	36%	38%	0%	25%	41%	33%	2%	34%	27%	37%	32%	26%	25%	36%	
R	18%	48%	21%	12%	14%	46%	32%	14%	3%	54%	29%	43%	30%	47%	15%	9%	66%	60%	57%	77%	
W	0%	37%	48%	12%	0%	30%	57%	11%	0%	22%	58%	19%	0%	42%	46%	9%	37%	31%	22%	46%	

- 4 = Proficient with Distinction
- 3 = Proficient
- 2 = Partially Proficient
- 1 = Substantially Below Proficient

The Dover High School Activities Calendar was reviewed by Ms. Briggs Badger, along with the dropout percentage.

DOVER Dropout Percentage					
	Enrollment	Earned	Dropped	Total	Annual
2009-2010	Fall 2009	GED	Out	I	Dropout %
Dover	1562	16	10	26	0.64%
Barrington		5	4	9	0.26%
Nottingham		3	0	3	
Total %					0.90%



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2010-2011	Enrollment Fall 2009	Earned GED	Dropped Out	Total	Annual Dropout %
Dover	1487	22	25	47	1.68%
Barrington		3	1	4	0.07%
Nottingham		2	2	4	0.13%
Total %					1.88%

If a student earns a GED, they are not considered a dropout.

Ms. Briggs Badger reviewed the Special Education Count from October 2011. There are 59 preschool students, with 48 being identified and 11 typical. There are 13.64% special education students at WPS, 9.87% at GES, 8.66% at HSS, 14.9% at DMS, and 15.25% at DHS. Of the 232 identified students at DHS, 56 are Barrington students, 31 are Nottingham students, and 139 Dover students.



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Dover, NH SAU#11 Projected Enrollment

School District: **Dover, NH SAU#11**

11/28/2011

Enrollment Projections By Grade*																			
Birth Year	Births	School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2006	358	2011-12	40	319	330	313	278	262	297	291	253	290	378	347	351	356	0	4065	4105
2007	358	2012-13	41	290	341	337	315	275	265	302	299	255	416	337	313	355	1	4101	4142
2008	348	2013-14	42	282	310	348	339	312	278	269	311	301	366	370	304	316	1	4107	4149
2009	377	2014-15	43	305	302	316	350	336	316	283	277	313	432	326	334	307	1	4198	4241
2010	368	(est.) 2015-16	44	298	326	308	348	347	340	321	291	279	449	385	294	338	1	4295	4339
2011	361	(est.) 2016-17	45	293	319	333	310	315	351	346	330	293	400	400	348	297	1	4336	4381
2012	363	(est.) 2017-18	46	294	314	325	335	307	319	357	356	332	420	356	361	352	1	4429	4475
2013	363	(est.) 2018-19	47	294	315	320	327	332	311	324	367	358	476	374	321	365	1	4485	4532
2014	367	(est.) 2019-20	48	297	315	321	322	324	336	316	333	369	514	424	338	325	1	4535	4583
2015	365	(est.) 2020-21	49	295	318	321	323	319	328	342	325	335	529	458	383	342	1	4619	4668
2016	364	(est.) 2021-22	50	295	316	324	323	320	323	334	352	327	481	471	413	387	1	4667	4717

*Projections should be updated on an annual basis. Based on an estimate of births Based on children already born Based on students already enrolled

Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations*									
Year	PK-4	K-4	K-6	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	9-12
2011-12	1542	1502	2090	2633	1131	834	543	1975	1432
2012-13	1599	1558	2125	2679	1121	856	554	1975	1421
2013-14	1633	1591	2138	2750	1159	881	612	1968	1356
2014-15	1652	1609	2208	2798	1189	873	590	1989	1399
2015-16	1641	1597	2258	2828	1231	891	570	2036	1466
2016-17	1615	1570	2267	2890	1320	969	623	2068	1445
2017-18	1621	1575	2251	2939	1364	1045	688	2177	1489
2018-19	1635	1588	2223	2948	1360	1049	725	2261	1536
2019-20	1627	1579	2231	2933	1354	1018	702	2303	1601
2020-21	1625	1576	2246	2906	1330	1002	660	2372	1712
2021-22	1628	1578	2235	2914	1336	1013	679	2431	1752

Projected Percentage Changes			
Years	K-12	Diff.	%
2011-12	4065	0	0.0%
2012-13	4101	36	0.9%
2013-14	4107	6	0.1%
2014-15	4198	91	2.2%
2015-16	4295	97	2.3%
2016-17	4336	41	1.0%
2017-18	4429	93	2.1%
2018-19	4485	56	1.3%
2019-20	4535	50	1.1%
2020-21	4619	84	1.9%
2021-22	4667	48	1.0%
K-12 Change	602	14.8%	

See "Reliability of Enrollment Projections" section of accompanying letter. Projections are more reliable for Years 1-5 in the future than for Years 6 and beyond.

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Ms. Briggs Badger commented that Dover is the fastest growing community in New Hampshire.

Dover Business Administrator Mike Limanni discussed the six year capital improvement plan. On the plan for Dover High School is the Media Center and auditorium. Funding would be from reserve funds (Impact fees and franchise fees)/debt. The projected cost is \$2,230,000 and it is included in FY2013. The Regional Career Technical Center and the DHS renovation and Dunaway Field renovation will both be funded with debt and will \$12 million for the CTC and \$20.5 million for the DHS renovations and fields. They are planned for FY16 and FY17.

The student/parent survey was discussed. This survey was intended to show the Dover School District why students in other districts would either choose or not choose Dover High School. The answers ranged from academics to sports to extracurriculars, etc. There were approximately 95 8th and 9th grade students and their parents who completed the survey.



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Student and parent please respond: If you have chosen to attend Dover High School, why? (Please comment)	Person completing survey:	
	Student	Parent
it has good choices that i want to do.	8th Grader	
I am still deciding, it has a good sports program	8th Grader	
I am still deciding. It has many class oppertunities, a good sports program, and classes that can count for college credits.	8th Grader	
I can't afford to pay for any other school.	8th Grader	
I am uncertin if Im going to Dover yet	8th Grader	
i like the programs	8th Grader	
I chose to go to Dover High School because there is more choices then most schools.	8th Grader	
more oppurtunities	8th Grader	
more intristing clasis	8th Grader	
Dover is free, more electives, oppurtunities, bigger	8th Grader	
more intristing clasis	8th Grader	
It has a wider vairity of career choices and things that i want to be whae i grow up.	8th Grader	
I have chosen to attend Dover High School because it is much bigger then Coe Brown, I also feel that it will prepare me better for college, and lastly, I feel I will have many more choices and options if I attend Dover.	8th Grader	
Because it seemed more enjoyable than Coe Brown	8th Grader	
I choose to attend Dover High because it has a vairity of classes that Coe Brown doesn't offer. I hear it has very good Honors classes. My cousins have all gone to Dover and loved it.	8th Grader	
it has alot of class choices.	8th Grader	
it has a lot of job oppurtunities	8th Grader	
	8th Grader	
its big and has a lot of career oppurtunities	8th Grader	
I have not decided, i might be interested in Dover high because they have career choices that I am very interested in.	8th Grader	
I have chose to attend Dover High School because I want a bigger school and Dover has a lot more to offer.	8th Grader	
Yes I have chosen Dover high School. Other family members went there and there is a large range of class to pick from.	8th Grader	
I have choosen to attened dhs because I believe it is a great school that one can use to the best of ones abilities.I think that everyone can find a place in this school and feel accompished.	8th Grader	
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I have chosen Dover High School because it has a wide variety of courses and electives. It also seems like a very nice school and all the teachers seem very nice.	8th Grader	
I have choose to go to dover because, I think going to a big school is helpful in life and I also think that it is good to have other choicies for your carear	8th Grader	
I have chosen to attend Dover High School because it has more career paths and because it has more interesting courses and places you where you belong within the schooling system.	8th Grader	
	8th Grader	
I chose Dover because its a big school and has a lot of electives to choose from.	8th Grader	
i believe that dover will give me a wide future oppurtunities.	8th Grader	
i have chosen to attend dover high school because it has a lot more of choice than my other option and im interested in ROTC at dover which is very important for me and there are a lot of classes i would like to take at dover.	8th Grader	
I chose Dover High School because of its amazing culinary courses and its great reputation.	8th Grader	
This school has a lot of options for me and the social experience seems fun.	8th Grader	
career tech options available		8th Grader
Advanced classes, particularly in the science (AP Bio, Anat & Phys, Zoology), Class L sports, diversity of students body	9th Grader	9th Grader
		9th Grader
We chose Dover because of the diversity of the student body. The tech department provides multiple options. The cost is affordable.		8th Grader
Most of my friends chose Dover High.		9th Grader
The opportunities available for strong career orrriented learning through technical center and the diverse cultural growth.		8th Grader
The horse and small animal program		8th Grader
DHS has a lot to offer students, many career choices to explore		8th Grader
It's close and the teachers are outstanding/ Football and sports	9th Grader	9th Grader
The wide variety of classes available is very alluring. Dover has it all!	9th Grader	8th Grader
It's the most convenient for our family; there are no other busing options from Barrington to other High Schools.		8th Grader

Student and parent please respond: If you have chosen NOT to attend Dover High School, why not? (Please respond)	Person completing survey:	
	Student	Parent
if i do move i would not go to dover.	8th Grader	
I do not have a problem with Dover, it is just that both of my brothers go to Coe Brown and so i would feel more comfortable there. I also like the environment and would feel a lot better going to a smaller school	8th Grader	
i am not going to dover, im going to Coe Brown. i am not going to dover because i think that Coe Brown will give me a better career.	8th Grader	



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My siblings are going to Coe Brown and I would rather go to Coe Brown.	8th Grader	
I want a school with small class sizes.	8th Grader	
I didn't decide to go to Dover because Coe Brown was for one closer, and i really had no presonal interest in a large school i'd rather have a small school, that's just me. Dover i have no problem with except for the size.	8th Grader	
I am going because I am interested on their sports and activites, as well as the fact that my family goes there.	8th Grader	
I am not going because I'm moving.	8th Grader	
Coe brown was the 3rd best best school, dover was bottom two	8th Grader	
Too big and teachers only "care" about the top notch kids	8th Grader	
I am frightened of the size and consider my other option a more academically-based school, and that is what I focus on.	8th Grader	
I was accepted into Coe brown, and I would rather go to a smaller school.	8th Grader	
I got into Coe-Brown, and was expecting to got to Coe-Brown anyway.	8th Grader	
	8th Grader	
I do not like large schools	8th Grader	
I wiss to aten CBNA because my family has atended that school, and I like smaller schools	8th Grader	
because the classes r to long	8th Grader	
I am not going to dover high school because I like smaller schools better than big schools. It's easier to find everything in small school than in a big school so I wouldn't be late for any classes.	8th Grader	
I chose a different school because after I did a shadow day there I could just picture myself going to that school.	8th Grader	
I have applied to other schools, and I am still awaiting a response. I like Dover High School, but I feel like I would do better in a smaller, more personal school.	8th Grader	
I have not chosen to attend Dover High School for no other reason than the fact that I found another school that better suits my needs and plans for the furtre.	8th Grader	
because im going to coe-brown and dover is to big	8th Grader	
Student and parent please respond: If you have chosen NOT to attend Dover High School, why not? (Please respond)	Person completing survey:	
	Student	Parent
My sister said coe-brown was fun.	8th Grader	
I have not chosen to attend Dover High School, because I will feel more comfortable in a smaller, more academic school like CBNA.	8th Grader	
My parents would rather have me go to Coe-Brown Northwood Academy.	8th Grader	
I belive that Coebrown might be a better option for me because they have a better class system then the schools.	8th Grader	
Well i dont want to go because other schools are the better ones for me.	8th Grader	
	8th Grader	
i have chosen to go to CBNA because it is small and my parents are making me.	8th Grader	



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i did not choose to attend dover because coe-brown is easier to understand and fit in with. i also think that coe-brown would give me more oppertunities.	8th Grader	
I have decided not to go to dover high because I wish to atend Phillips Exter acadamy, which alines it's self with my academic wishes.	8th Grader	
I have chose to go to Coe Brown Northwood Academy because I have siblings theat attended that school. I also know my way around the school and I have met and worked with some of the teachers.	8th Grader	
My parents believe that Coe Brown offers a better quality of education and would give me a better chance at a well-paid job and good college. Also, Phillips Exeter Academy is my first choice for a school.	8th Grader	
I think that Dover High is great school with a lot of oppurtunities, but I believe that another school would suit my personal interests and hopes a little better.	8th Grader	
School and class size is too large		8th Grader
We chose not to send our daughter to Dover High School because of the size of the school and she would not have daily access to study hall / Case manger without her having to leave a core class. My daughters interests will bring her back to Dover or Sommersworth for the Vocational offerreings. So she gets the best of both worlds.		9th Grader
My child felt dover might be too big for her, but struggled with the decision.		8th Grader
Too large, not enough incentives to do well in school		9th Grader
school size, test scores		9th Grader
Smaller class size and a dedicated college preparation climate		9th Grader
CBNA seems to have a better culture and climate (very important to me). Seems more "family" oriented. Students seem PROUD to go to CBNA.		9th Grader
Declining quality. Too big. Time for the other towns to build their own high school.		9th Grader
Student and parent please respond: If you have chosen NOT to attend Dover High School, why not? (Please respond)	Person completing survey:	
	Student	Parent
When we attended the open house of a different school, we were given all the info that we needed on what was available and what would be expected of our son. When we attended the Dover HS open house, we received no info other than go online and look it up. I did and didn't find a comprehensive list of what would be expected, what the classes where that would be available, etc. They didn't make us feel like they cared about our son very much. Having a council of high end students tell us how great it all was didn't help either. They were all leaders in some way, of course they are going to paint a bright picture. The tour that we took was confusing and hard to navigate where you were in the school. Without a map of the place, I couldn't tell how big it truly was or if there was a specific wing for specific classes. We may still go with Dover, we haven't completely decided yet..		8th Grader
We selected not to go to Dover High because we wanted smaller class sizes and larger variety of extra curricular activities. We wanted a college preparatory environment that holds both teachers and students accountable. In addition, we wanted a caring environment that values service to the community.		9th Grader



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class size, no money is being put towards the HS, want a better environment for my kid, better SPED program at other HS		8th Grader
Believe there will be more academic support at the school she will be attending. Smaller school size is important to us. Physical location of the school also played a part in the decision since the bus ride would have been very lengthy. Quality of instruction in the two schools I believe would have been equal.		8th Grader
When we went for open house, the focus of the tour and discussion was on the CTC. While my child may take a course at the CTC, it was not of primary interest to us. When we returned from the tour, I barely had time to speak to the math department head about the course track my son would take since he is taking Algebra in 8th grade. Others in the curriculum fair were already packing up. The condition of the physical plan was also unappealing. We have heard the hallways can be very crowded and some of the class sizes very large as well. Having one night for all incoming 8th graders was a little overwhelming. Coe-Brown did separate nights for each town. The students felt more comfortable asking questions.		8th Grader
Too many drugs and drinking on Campus, our middle child attended Dover High, the drug culture is why he started taking drugs, our youngest wasn't going to go there-NO WAY		9th Grader
Student and parent please respond: If you have chosen NOT to attend Dover High School, why not? (Please respond)	Person completing survey:	
	Student	Parent
My first child attended DHS, and I found the staff to be somewhat young and inexperienced. The Guidance Dept seemed somewhat disconnected and unconcerned with my child. I felt that the behavior issues at DHS, although a priority for the administration, were also a distraction from the day-to-day needs of the majority of their student population.		8th Grader
Looking for an environment with smaller class sizes and high academic expectations for students, also where we live it's a very long bus ride for my student to get to DHS.	8th Grader	
Poor administration.		8th Grader
Size of school and lack of budget support for needs of a school district this size. My child was not interested in CTC or sports...and class size and resources only seem to get attention at the elementary level in Dover. .		9th Grader

UNDECIDED		
leaning towards not going due to large size of school		8th Grader
i have not decided.	8th Grader	
I am still undecided because of class size, electives, sports, classes, and programs. I believe i could benefit from both academis but have yet to decide witch suites my academic wishes.	8th Grader	
I have not yet chosen but I am considering Dover High School. I feel that this school has a variety of resources and classes that help prepare a student for a successful future.	8th Grader	



**DOVER SCHOOL
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Nottingham School Board Chairperson Phil English discussed the last page in the handout. Nottingham contracted Dr. Smith of UNH to formulate a survey intended to determine the importance of choice in high school. 89% of students surveyed determined it was very important. The overall impression of Dover High and Coe Brown were surveyed by students. The survey showed that for 74% of the students surveyed, Coe Brown was the school of choice, for 14% DHS was the school of choice and for 12%, another high school was the choice. The draft of the survey came out in early February and the final version will be over 100 pages and be sent to the Dover School Board.

Mr. English commented that Nottingham is now transported students to Coe Brown, as well as Dover.

Mr. Colter stated that he is appreciative of the effort to collect data and impressed that Dover asked for the meeting to determine what can be done to make Dover more attractive to students.

Ms. Briggs Badger thanked the school districts for taking the time to talk with Dover.

Mrs. Grady stated major concerns with as to why they need to meet. When the contract was signed in 2003, it was stipulated that DHS enrollment could not exceed 1575. At this time, enrollment is lower and she is wondering where the students are going. She is interested in “selling” Dover to Barrington and Nottingham students.

Mrs. Grady noted that Oyster River picked up 46 students and Coe Brown picked up 88. “What are they doing that we aren’t doing to get students?”

Ms. Andrews Parker asked to hear changes from the Barrington and Nottingham.

Ms. Briggs Badger commented that there are some things that the district can’t change. If a Barrington student prefers a small school, there is nothing that can the district can do to encourage the student to choose DHS.

DHS Principal Christine Boston discussed Dover High School. She stated that DHS has much to offer including:

- Honors and Advanced Placement classes, general, college prep
- Large variety of choices for classes
- Dual credit options. A student could leave DHS with close to an Associate’s degree
- Performance arts choices
- Trying to give DHS a small-school feel with teams in freshman and possibly sophomore years. More personalization with teams and get the best of both worlds
- The greatest strength is the number of options in all areas.



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DHS Dean of Instruction Jon Altbergs added that he feels that most students prefer a larger school. He wants to make sure that students are choosing a high school based on facts and not perception. He would like to do a better job of publicizing the strengths for DHS.

Ms. Boston added that for the second year in a row, there is a DHS senior attending Harvard and this year there are two National Merit Finalists from DHS. These statistics are similar to results that are achieved from local private schools.

DHS Guidance Director, Sally Thorn distributed pamphlets that introduced the DHS Guidance department to the Barrington and Nottingham school board members. There are programs that are specifically focused on post-secondary plans including 4-year plans, classroom presentations, evening presentations for 9th and 11th grade students and parents. There is information for parents on the website specifically for Guidance, as well as a Facebook page. In addition, approximately 60 colleges usually visit DHS to meet with students. There is also a presentation specifically for seniors regarding life after high school. There is also multiple college credit classes offered.

There are expanding initiatives in the guidance office. Three counselors are working on expansion of post-secondary initiatives and three counselors work specifically on areas relating to school climate. They are trying to establish focus groups based on survey data on safety and tolerance and what current students think of DHS.

New things include:

- Working with the English department to help students with college applications and essays
- Federal grants to offer bus trips for college visits
- Work with academic departments to imbed this guidance information in their regular classes
- Peer mentoring program that pairs upper classroom with younger students who need help transitioning to DHS
- Student Ambassadors
- Alternatives for students who need a different way to complete college (because of change in dropout age)

CTC Director Jim Amara spoke on behalf of CTC programs:

- In the last 5 years, 5 new career tech programs, including Biotechnology, Equine, Pre-engineering, LNA, firefighting, expanding animal science program. Firefighting academy is the only one in New Hampshire at this time.
- CTC offers a strong integration of academics and applied learning. These programs are a good way for students to learn what is good for them and what is not.
- The CTC also offers a strong exploratory program in freshman and sophomore years. A student can test a class for one quarter to see if it's something that they would like to continue.



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- The plan motivates many students to come to school. Many students who are in the firefighter academy become voluntary firefighters. Others participate in other ways, such as taking care of the animals on weekends.

Mr. Amara invited any board members to visit the CTC for a tour or talk to students and teachers.

Mr. English stated that he was surprised by the number of students who choose Coe Brown. One of the problems is lack of communication with the Dover School Board, which should occur a few times a year. They meet with Coe Brown twice a year. Ms. Briggs Badger offered to schedule meetings to make sure the meetings are planned.

Ms. Levenson commented that bussing for Nottingham students to Coe Brown was voted on as a warrant article at a meeting. 3 busses transport to Dover and 2 go to Coe Brown.

Ms. Baker asked if DHS could go to Nottingham and Barrington earlier to meet with students, similar to the time when Coe Brown does them so that students will have more time to make a decision.

Ms. Thorn responded that they can go anytime. Typically they go to the schools when Nottingham and Barrington request that they go.

Ms. Boston noted that October and November are busy months for sending middle schools due to NECAP testing and the Thanksgiving holiday.

Barrington board members stated that all dates for visits and tours by Coe Brown and Dover were very close.

Mr. Altbergs stated that they are trying to provide two different things. One is to provide early contact and give information to students and the other is to obtain course requests. There is too much to do in October to balance everything. DHS administrators will be talking with counselors from sending schools to determine the best time.

A Barrington representative stated that survey results are the same as to when she attended DHS. It doesn't seem to have a good reputation. It seems to be easier to be accepted to Coe Brown than it has been in the past. Coe Brown has a good academic reputation and class size is smaller. She was impressed with Dover's Career Tech Center though.

Mr. Gibson stated that the perception is that key when choosing a school. Their board doesn't direct students where to attend and that for the most part, the decision is made within the student's home. Coe Brown and Oyster River both provide good communication. Dover should be informing sending school parents what they have to offer. There is certainly great class diversity, but the perception is that Coe Brown is a college preparatory school. He added that a few Advanced Placement classes don't make a college prep school. Many parents do



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like extra-curricular activities and sports. There are many students who choose Dover enthusiastically. He noted that Dover needs to give the story that students and parents can relate to.

Ms. Russell commented that her daughter, who will not take AP classes and most likely not take any CTC classes, but she is 100% sure that she will be prepared for college. She is happy with the education and still feels there is a small school feeling. "She is safe and getting the education and attention that she needs."

Mr. Gibson recommended that she share the story with students. He wouldn't be concerned with differenced with Dover and Coe Brown since they are very different schools. He would be more concerned with the differences between Dover and Oyster River.

Mr. Colter added that the Oyster River principal told him that he was directed by the OR School Board that he needs to try and recruit up to 200 students from Barrington. A few years ago, ORSD did not want more students, now there is no longer a limit. This would have a huge impact on Dover.

Ms. Kushner stated that 10 years ago, when she was employed by Dover, very few students were allowed to go to Coe Brown or Oyster River. It is becoming more competitive and small schools are being "wooded".

Ms. Briggs Badger added that when the contract was negotiation in 2003, there was a cap. Now there should be a floor.

Mr. Francisco stated that he has an 8th grade student and as a parent, hasn't been reached out to by Dover. Students have been contacted, but parents tend to influence students, since many students at that age, do not understand course choices.

He would like to see more information directed toward parents from the schools. He's not sure if this is the correct perception, but hasn't been sold anything else.

Mr. Limanni asked about the impact of a friend's decision. Barrington reps responded that it's a factor that could come into play. He also clarified that Barrington currently only busses to Dover.

Ms. Taylor commented that her son was overwhelmed by the open house at DHS. It was a student led tour and the student could not answer all of the questions. The tour that he took at Coe Brown was led by an adult who could answer all questions. She recommended that Dover might want to consider trying to present a smaller feel when doing open houses.

Ms. Boston asked if students feel they belong in one school more than another, based on the school they are coming from. It was determined that this was not an issue.



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Mrs. Grady stated that at some time in each student's life, they will need to transition whether it is in high school or college. College classes are much larger than a high school class. She also added that Dover's CTC has a new program where college credits can be earned. There are new policies also that would allow students to graduate prior to the completion of four years.

She added that students who are involved in CTC programs, have a higher percentage of completing college than pure academics.

Mrs. Grady asked if Coe Brown and Oyster River accept identified students. It was determined that both accept identified students and Oyster River has blind admissions and there is no entrance exam.

Mrs. Grady asked Barrington representatives if they are planning on building a new high school. Their website shows what's been done to date, regarding the construction of a new high school. She would like to know their intentions and time frame.

Mr. Gibson responded that the timeline has been modified. The items on the website have been fully funded. The global issue of building a new high school is still undecided. The trend seems to be that the high school population will be increasing. Some residents like to have a choice of schools. It is on hold for the foreseeable future. The earliest vote would be spring of 2014. Realistically, it would be closer to 2016 or 2017. All options are being researched.

Mr. D'Andrea asked for interest in representation on the DHS planning committee from Barrington and/or Nottingham. The committee will be meeting about once a month for 18 months or so to look at structural needs and to lay the groundwork for a joint building committee.

The committee will be looking at what a 21st century high school looks like and what best practices are. This committee will be recommended at the March 12th school board meeting.

Ms. Levenson asked what Dover is looking for in students. She would like an untarnished assessment of students and what skills need to be improved. What strengths and weaknesses they have. Some of this information can be obtained from NECAP scores.

Mr. D'Andrea wanted to make sure the message is clear that Dover cares about the students that currently attend DHS.

Mrs. Grady stated that she would like all students from Barrington, Nottingham and Dover on an even keel. Professional development days may be used for similar work so that this may happen. This would make students more secure.

Mr. D'Andrea stated that Ms. Briggs Badger's door is always open and any comments can be sent to the Board.



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Ms. Andrews Parker asked if Dover can make a presentation to the Barrington and Nottingham school boards. This might help parents and students to make choices. They responded that their meetings are very small, and a budget hearing may be a better forum to communicate information.

Ms. Boston would like to attend parent forums to discuss DHS programs. Mr. Gibson suggested she contact Mike Powers to schedule times. Mr. Gibson also suggested that she may want to go to the 5th grade welcome.

Ms. Levenson recommended that DHS representatives attend "Nottingham Day". The entire town usually attends and it might be a good way to communicate with families. Mr. English also commented that if Ms. Boston would like to be included in a SB meeting, she should contact them and they can add her to the agenda.

Ms. Russell asked if it would be beneficial for students to travel to Nottingham and Barrington schools to talk with students and parents. At this point, students are the only audience.

Mr. Gibson noted that their attendance for open houses is about 90-95%. DHS may want to be represented at the open house which occurs 1st week in October.

It was suggested that Dover start advertising in the Barrington library, Calef's and other local places. They can post flyers for plays and musical events being held at DHS. This might help them to take ownership of the town.

Mrs. Grady stated that meetings used to alternate between Dover and Barrington. It is a good idea to rotate and try to encourage parents to attend. Nottingham can be included in the rotation also.

Tentative meeting to be held on Monday, October 29th. Barrington will host and the location will be either Early Childhood Center or Barrington Middle School.

H: ADJOURNMENT: Amanda Russell moved, Kathy Baker seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. An oral **VOTE PASSED 6/0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Betsey Andrews Parker, Secretary
Dover School Board