

## **DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, 7 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Mary N. Antocci  
Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair  
Raymond J. Chalk, Vice Chair  
Catherine M. Kabala  
Joseph M. Pietrzak  
Elaine M. Rabbitt  
Stephanie A. Reed

Jack Bugar, Student Representative, was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Karen Ares, Terri A. Caffelle, Doris Dono, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, John D. Paire, Kathleen E. Pastore, Mary A. Pierangeli; teachers Diane Seibold, Brooke Beverly, Kevin Foley, Melissa Pastorello, Katie McQuade; students from Charlton Elementary School: Kyle Barkus, Kennadie Balcunas, Madelyn Creelman, Talia Davis, Addison Dono, Jaxon Leonard, Nicolaus Mikulecky, Emma Roemer, Chyanne Sherwood, Shayley Szela, Lillian Terry, Kara Trevarthan; Greg Balukonis, Dudley Town Administrator; media representatives Debra LaPlaca, Telegram, Rich Earle, audio-visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

### **I. Call to Order**

The chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Following the pledge, the chair called for a moment of silence in honor of a Shepherd Hill student who died.

### **III. School Spotlight – Charlton Elementary School**

Representatives of the Charlton Elementary School *Choose to Be Nice Club* offered the committee the highlights of their first year of operation. The first grade students recounted their visits to the district office, the Overlook assisted living facility, and projects that included adopting a soldier stationed in Afghanistan.

### **IV. Executive Session “...to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation...”**

The chair entertained a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Dudley-Charlton Teachers’ Association, consistent with M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) Holding these discussions in open session may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee’s bargaining position.

This motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 7:12 p.m.

The committee returned to open session at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Balukonis joined the committee as the municipal representative in the negotiation of a successor to the **Agreement Between the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District and the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association, 2013-2016.**

Mr. Chalk assumed the chair, and said the committee will take the first item of new business for a vote.

**New Business**

- A. Consideration to Approve Agreement Between the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District and the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association, 2016-2019 (Vote Required)

Mr. Chalk entertained a motion to approve the Agreement Between the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District and the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association, 2016-2019. This motion was made by Mrs. Kabala, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak, and approved by a vote of 6-1-1.

Voting in favor were Mrs. Antocci, Mr. Balukonis, Mr. Chalk, Mrs. Kabala, Mr. Pietrzak, Mrs. Reed.

Opposed was Mrs. Rabbitt.

Mrs. Aucoin abstained.

Mrs. Kabala thanked everyone involved in negotiating this contract saying to get a contract by the end of the school year is remarkable.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

- A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday May 11, 2016*

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by J. Pietrzak to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2016, was approved by unanimous vote.

- B. *Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, May 11, 2106*

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the minutes of the executive session as corrected by Mrs. Rabbit, was approved by unanimous vote.

**II. Approval of Warrant**

Warrants totaling \$339,453.97 were distributed and signed by a majority of members without comment or questions:

Warrant #62	\$167,461.76
Warrant #61	<u>\$171,992.21</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$339,453.97</b>

**III. Citizens' Forum**

No one spoke at this time.

**IV. Communications**

1. Mr. Desto received word from Dr. Perry Davis, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, that the Mass. Senate voted 37-0 to increase the regional school transportation reimbursement to \$61,021,000, which is \$1 million above the House budget. He praised Senator Ann Gobi for securing the vote of 37 members.

2. Students from grades 4 and 8 at Heritage School and Charlton Middle School will be selected to participate in the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or as it is known, the Nation's Report Card. NAEP is the largest nationally representative measure of student achievement.

3. Mrs. Aucoin read a letter received from Cherise Martinez, of Charlton, expressing frustration about the unavailability of options for before and after school care. She to consider offering some type of before and after school child care. Mr. Desto said we empathize with parents and this is a conversation the district has had. He said this is something the district can talk about going forward.

4. Mrs. Antocci reported on two items:

1. She spoke about the recent news about the first meeting of the substance abuse task force formed by the town of Southbridge is forming a substance abuse task force. The goals and objectives include recommendations from the Massachusetts Municipal Association, whose 10-point recommendations for communities include encouraging intra-community, regional and statewide collaboration, and the creation of safe disposal sites for discarding prescription drugs.

2. Mrs. Antocci shared a letter written to committee members by the parent of a district student attending Bay Path seeking information about the student's ability to participate in district programs, such as show choir.

Mr. Desto will investigate this. The committee agreed to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### **V. Superintendent's Report**

1. Mr. Desto commended Shepherd Hill Teacher John Dembkowski and the robotics team for its win in the Nothing But Net Challenge.
2. Mr. Desto spoke about Memorial Day concerts scheduled at Heritage School and Dudley Elementary School this week.
3. Dudley Middle School will hold its Eighth Grade Promotion ceremony Friday, June 17 at 5 p.m.

#### **VI. Student Representative Report**

This item was tabled.

#### **VII. New Business**

##### **B. STEAM Director Update**

Mr. Desto introduced Mrs. Ares who provided an overview of her work in the last year to support science, technology, engineering, arts and math activities in all grade levels throughout the district. Mrs. Ares said many activities were made possible with the assistance of grants. Whole Foods and Jamba Juice provided \$2,100 for raised garden beds at Dudley Elementary School. Charlton Middle School received \$2,500 from the Biogen Foundation. There are Minecraft Clubs and a Summer STEAM camp. Next year, Shepherd Hill will inaugurate its STEM Certificate Program and Global Pathways.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Update

We have an approved budget for FY 2017 by both towns, thereby negating the need for a subcommittee meeting.

D. FY 2017 Budget (*Vote May be Required*)

Mr. Desto thanked the finance committees and voters of the towns for supporting the budget. He said 80% of the students in our towns will return to the towns after college. He said approving the school budget is an investment in our district and a vote of support for our towns. Mr. Desto thanked the Budget and Finance Subcommittee for invaluable input throughout the budget process.

E. Finance Director Update (*Vote May Be Required*)

Mr. Mathieu said it is prudent to wait for actual figures from the state conference committee and update the town assessments at that time.

Mr. Mathieu did ask that the committee accept the following donations:

Target Corporation:	\$50 each to Charlton Middle School and Shepherd Hill
Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation:	\$1,000 for the District-wide Art Show
The Sage Family:	\$120

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the donations as submitted, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Rabbitt thanked Mr. Sage for his donation and for his incredible advocacy for education.

Mr. Mathieu and Mr. Desto were joined by Shepherd Hill administrative staff in a meeting with On-site Insight to discuss the facility assessment. The firm agreed to attend the committee's second meeting in June.

Mr. Mathieu said the Senate released its budget on May 17 showing Chapter 70 funding matches both the House budget and the district's budgeted revenue. The transportation budget was reduced by approximately \$31,000 for the district, and by \$1 million statewide. As previously mentioned, the Senate voted 37-0 to increase that line item by \$1 million above the House budget. Mr. Mathieu said the Kindergarten grant was not increased.

The district had been selected for an IRS audit of its 403B plans as of December 31, 2014. Mr. Mathieu said this appears to be a routine audit. He will keep the committee informed of this process.

Mrs. Rabbitt said there is one amendment still up for discussion in the Senate regarding the kindergarten grant.

F. Consideration of District Policy IHAMA, second reading (*Vote Required*)

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to waive the reading of proposed policy IHAMA was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the policy for insertion in the district policy manual with this second reading was made by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk, and approved by unanimous vote.

**VIII. Next Meeting Dates**

Mr. Desto said a community forum with ExxonMobil and the town of Charlton is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2016, which would be the committee’s next meeting date. Mr. Desto recommended move the committee meeting to another evening to allow him to attend the forum as it pertains to the water project linking schools. This affects the district. The original date was June 6, but is actually the 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee agreed to move the school committee meeting dates by waiving policy BE, Time and Place.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak to waive Policy BE in June 2016 to allow rescheduling of the meetings to Thursday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 21, and this was approved by unanimous vote.

Wage and Benefits Review Subcommittee, for school nurse contract, Wednesday, June 1, 2016, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 8 a.m.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 9 a.m.

**School Committee Meetings**

Thursday, June 9, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21, at Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

**IX. Future Agenda Items** – FY 2017 Budget, Evaluation of the Superintendent, review of student handbooks, review of School Improvement Plans, Budget and Finance Subcommittee membership, extra-curricular activities, Wages and Benefits for Support Personnel. Executive session for negotiation of contracts for Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu on the June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**X. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by S. Reed to adjourn approved unanimously at 8:19 p.m.

Items used for this meeting included the following:

Agenda, May 25,2016	Superintendent’s Report May 20, 2016	Minutes of School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2016
Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, May 11, 2016	Dudley-Charlton Regional School District STEAM Update	Finance Director’s Report May 20, 2016
IHAMA proposed for adoption	Mr. Desto’s Letter to Shepherd Hill Students	

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary