

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley Oxford Road, Dudley, MA 01571, 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

Rebecca Moore, 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: Lorinda Allen, Karen Ares, William Chaplin, Jeffrey Ferranti, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean Packard, Robin Parmley, Kathleen E. Pastore, Diane Seibold, Christopher E. Starczewski; Sam Bitar, Kenneth LaFerriere, Michele Lilly; media representatives Rich Earle, audio visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

*The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee will hold a **Public Hearing** at 7:00 p.m. leading to a vote on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 during the regular meeting which follows the Public Hearing.*

The chair opened the public meeting at 7 p.m. No members of the public spoke on the budget. The chair closed the hearing at 7 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the regular session to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, February 28, 2018*

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by S. Reed to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, February 28, 2018, was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

V. School Spotlight – Dudley Middle School

This item was tabled.

VI. Communications

Neither Mr. Desto nor committee members had any communication to report.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto reported on his recent meeting with Police Chiefs Steven Wojnar of Dudley, and Graham Maxfield of Charlton to discuss school security. At that meeting, Mr. Maxfield indicated his interest in finding a way to put a school resource officer in the Charlton Schools.

2. The Women in Stem Night originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 5 in conjunction with the science fair.
3. Registration for students entering preschool and kindergarten will be held in the Shepherd Hill Library on two days, Tuesday, March 20 and Thursday, March 22, from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m.
4. Mr. Desto reported that Dudley Town Administrator Greg Balukonis has secured an April 5 meeting with representatives from Auditor Suzanne Bump's office, to discuss long term ideas for funding.
5. Track team, one even finished fifth in the nation, 12th in another This led to a trip to the National Indoor Competition in NYC where they placed 5th in the nation in the 4x400 and 12th in the nation in the Sprint Medley. We are very proud of these role model student athletes on the Hill.
6. The Shepherd Hill Varsity Boys Basketball team is facing off against Taconic in the state semi-finals this evening, and members asked for updates.
7. Mr. Desto again thanked Dudley and Charlton town officials for their support of the special election on the request for a Proposition 2½ override to be held Tuesday, April 3, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

VIII. Student Representative Report – Rebecca Moore

This item was tabled.

IX. New Business

A. FY 2019 Budget:

i. Administrators' Presentation,

Lori A. Pacheco / Robin L. Parmley, Charlton Elementary School, Mason Road School

Charlton Elementary School: Mrs. Pacheco said kindergarten projections are based on census data, but said it is difficult to provide accurate data with new enrollments and because fewer people complete the census. Mrs. Rabbitt expressed concern about class size in kindergarten, at 23.

Staffing requests include an adjustment counselor to share with Heritage School, as well as a technology/ integration teacher. Mrs. Pacheco requested Focus on K2 reading support materials, installation of panic bars installed at main door and gym.

Mrs. Parmley is also seeking the Focus on K2 program, which she explained was developed by curriculum specialists and used by the Boston Public Schools.

Mrs. Rabbitt expressed concern that the principals continue to defer needed projects in the interest of the budget. She said these items include security measures such as internal and external camera coverage.

Mrs. Parmley's staffing requests include a .5 technology teacher. Mason Road School currently shares a teacher with Dudley Elementary School. An additional .5 would allow the addition of technology integration. Mrs. Parmley requested six Smart Boards. Capital improvements for next year include flame retardant treatment of the stage curtain, completing the ADA playground walkway.

Mrs. Rabbitt said there may be grant funding for ADA compliance projects.

Mrs. Rabbitt reiterated her discomfort with the kindergarten class sizes, even with instructional assistants in the classroom. She said there is a large number of students from preschool who have been on IEPs.

Mrs. Reed suggested creating a contingency plan for one year when a class sizes are too big.

Kathleen E. Pastore/Diane D. Seibold, Heritage School, Dudley Elementary School

Mrs. Pastore explained that there will be seven sections across the board in grades 2-4 next year, based on current data, and not counting those who will register over the summer. Mrs. Pastore requested a .5 integration specialists and the adjustment counselor.

Large purchase requests include replacing the In-Focus projectors. Capital projects include the propane tank relocation, and repairing a handicapped ramp.

Mrs. Antocci recommended inquiring whether Bay Path students are able to fix the ramp.

The elementary schools use communication systems manufactured by companies that are no longer in business.

Mrs. Seibold said her class size projections show that grade 2 will be reduced to 5 sections, with 6 sections at grades 3 and 4.

Mrs. Seibold requested to staff an adjust counselor and integration specialist.

Major purchases include projectors and document cameras, Smart Boards, while capital improvements include six interior doors and security cameras.

Mr. Mathieu will investigate sharing licensing fees for psychological testing with the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative, or buying a district license.

Mrs. Rabbitt reiterated a question posed by Charlton resident Susan Smolsky regarding the cost of returning the library coordinators to the schools. Mr. Desto said this would add \$40,000 to the budget.

Dean W. Packard / Christopher E. Starczewski, Charlton Middle School, Dudley Middle School

Mr. Packard said Charlton Middle School enrollment remains stable for next year, with two fewer students. Grade 5: 180; grade 6: 170; grade 7: 162; and grade 8: 178, for an average class size of 21.5. Mr. Packard had no staffing requests. Large purchases include adding two exterior cameras on the rear of the building, and address the leaky roof. To do the latter, Mr. Packard said, will require holding off on other areas.

Each middle school will benefit from Project Lead the Way grants next year.

Dudley Middle School:

Mr. Starczewski said the average class size will be 21. Dudley Middle School grade 5 enrollment is projected at 127.

There are no staffing requests at Dudley Middle School. Large initiatives include technology such as Smart Boards and ChromeBooks to move toward paperless testing and other work.

At the same time, the school is looking to add new algebra textbooks, ELA leveled texts options, a grade 7-12 writing program, as well as a revamp of the ACES program.

Mr. Starczewski said capital projects abound in this nearly 20-year-old building. Two safety items include window screens, and additional security cameras. A major item is the auditorium AC compressor.

Mrs. Kabala thanked administrators for their reports, saying they are very well done, and point to the importance of the override to see all that we have put on hold.

Mr. Desto said principals' requests have not mentioned foreign language.

William F. Chaplin, Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Mr. Chaplin said school will be reviewing English department staffing, possibly moving some around. Mr. Chaplin said there is a need for another teacher.

Large purchases include restoring the pottery class capabilities, a program license for No Red Ink, as well as algebra textbooks from 2001. The tennis court must be addressed as it is currently unusable.

Mr. Desto said there are so many needs in this 45-year-old, all of which are documented in the site study. Mr. Desto said it is very expensive to run a big high school and do all the things that Shepherd Hill does. The communities need to know the school committee has done all it can do over the years to patch things together. Again, he said, this points to the need for the Prop. 2 ½ override.

On another note, Mr. Chaplin noted that today was the national walkout in support of the students and staff who were killed at Parkland High School. Mr. Chaplin said the event was very well organized as students gathered just outside the cafeteria for three speakers and reading the names of the 17 individuals who lost their lives. The students also paid tribute to School Resource Officer Phil Megas.

Mr. Desto commended Mr. Chaplin, the staff and the students, noting that this was not ever about politics but coming together as a community and honoring police and first responders. Mr. Desto said this was not 17 minutes of misused learning time.

Mrs. Antocci noted this is a very emotionally charged topic. Mrs. Antocci said there are heated discussions on Facebook. She expressed appreciation for all the work done to put this together for and with the students.

ii. Proposition 2 ½ Override – *Update / Discussion*

Mr. Desto has scheduled two public forums on either side of the district to provide an overview of the request for an Proposition 2 ½ override, as well as to answer questions.

Mr. Desto has confirmed with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance that the district can provide materials, the superintendent, as an appointed public employee, can speak and take a stance on the issue. Mr. Desto is hopeful for good attendance to generate understanding of the need for this added tax revenue.

The Public forums will be held in the school auditoriums at 6 p.m. as follows:

- Tuesday, March 20 at Dudley Middle School.
- Thursday, March 22 at Charlton Middle School.

Mr. Desto said he is pleased that the district has received unprecedeted unanimous support from the towns' boards of selectmen and finance committees. It is hoped the towns will see how conservatively and how well the school committee has managed its money over the years.

B. Director of Finance and Operations Report (*Vote Required*)

Mr. Mathieu presented the following donations for the committee's approval:

To the District from the Fels Family Foundation	\$10,000.00
To Charlton Elementary School from Planet Aid	\$77.40
To Charlton Elementary School from technology fundraiser	\$1,225.00
To Heritage School from Country Bank, Dr. Seuss Festival prizes	\$75.00
To John Paire Student Scholarship Fund from Charlton Elementary School fundraising	\$1,000.00

Total \$12,377.40

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by M. Antocci to accept the donations as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kabala thanked the Fels Family Foundation for their help over the years. In true generosity, the foundation asks for nothing in return.

Mr. Chalk asked Mr. Desto to write a letter of thanks to the Fels family.

Bids were opened today to purchase a new district school bus. Mr. Mathieu said he does not have the results yet, as he needs to compare the pricing. He said the bids came in at the anticipated pricing, and noted the district received two solid bids.

Regarding the FY 18 budget, Mr. Mathieu said he is concerned about the amount of funds on hand to close out the year, and with which to replenish the Excess and Deficiency Fund Balance. Although this is primarily a FY 20 impact, Mr. Mathieu said it is an important aspect on which the budget is developed. Mrs. Rabbitt also expressed concerns.

Mr. Mathieu said the district entered a net metering credit agreement with Nexamp in 2013. The solar company has never fulfilled its commitment. Mr. Mathieu is investigating the opportunity to enter an agreement with Sea Board Solar at the same 30% discount.

Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to authorize him to cancel the agreement with Nexamp.

A motion by J. Pletrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to authorize the finance director to cancel the agreement with Nexamp, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu will bring forth the information about Sea Board Solar when available.

The 2013 Ford Focus used by the Shepherd Hill Drivers Education program is nearing 100,000 miles, and is due to be replaced to maintain the current rotation schedule. The quotes secured to date show a total replacement cost, including trade in, to be \$16,782, including a \$500 rebate. This expense will be paid through the Driver's Education Revolving Account. Mr. Mathieu recommended approval.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the purchase of a 2018 Ford Fusion to the low bidder for the Shepherd Hill Drivers Education program, was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report

Mrs. Reed, we discussed the override and the public forums, decreased to the E and D, Biggest concern was for class size.

D. Student Food Services Accounts, Policy JQ - Discussion

Mrs. Aucoin requested discussion on this item in view of changes to the policy on the state level. Mrs. Aucoin requested the policy be amended to reflect these changes.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to waive policy JQ until it has been amended, was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Consideration of Requests for Non-Resident Enrollment, Policy JF (Vote Required)

Two requests: GD recommend approval:

Mr. Desto has received two similar requests:

A Charlton family has recently moved to Dudley, and requests that their children be allowed to complete the 2017-2018 school year in grades 3 and 8 at Heritage School and Charlton Middle School. The parents will enroll their children at Dudley Elementary School and, of course, Shepherd Hill in September 2018.

A Dudley family is closing on a home they are purchasing in Charlton March 30. The family requests that their child be allowed to complete grade 3 at Dudley Elementary School and will begin grade 4 at Heritage School in September 2018.

Recognizing the best interest of the children, Mr. Desto recommended approval of both requests.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by S. Reed to approve the two requests for non-resident enrollment, as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

F. Consideration of Request for Home Instruction, Policy IHGB (Vote Required)

A Charlton family has requested to home school their daughter in grade 7 for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year, citing medical reasons,

Mr. Desto recommended approval based on the family's plan and circumstances.

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the request for home instruction as presented this evening, was approved by unanimous vote.

X. Approval of Warrants

Subcommittee Warrant		Accounts Payable Warrant		Payroll Warrant	
Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount
93	\$2537.49	95	\$263,358.93	1192D	\$440,314.70
94	\$265,792.19	96	\$594,337.13	1192P	\$1,154,538.30
		97	\$39,485.10	1193D	\$309.66
				1193P	\$46.81
Total	\$268,329.68	Total	\$897,181.16	Total	\$1,595,209.47

XI. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday, March 28, 2018, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

Mrs. Antocci requested consideration to move the first meeting in April, as the District Show Choir Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to waive policy BE, Time and Place, to schedule the meeting to Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7 p.m., was approved by unanimous vote.

- Tuesday, April 10, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee:

- Tuesday, March 20, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9 a.m.

XII. Future Agenda Items – Budget, MSBA Update, Strategic Planning Update, Enrollment of Employees' children, Lunch policy, School Choice

Mrs. Rabbitt noted that Harriette Chandler's Senate Bill 217 has been rolled into a version of another bill. Advocacy is needed to revive the topic of establishing a commission on regional school district foundation budgets.

XIII. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:55 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include the following:

Agenda for March 14, 2018	Minutes of Wednesday, February 28, 2018	Superintendent's Report of Friday, May 9, 2018
Seven (7) Administrators' Budget Presentations	School Walkout letter to families	District Policy JQ
Finance Director's Report of Wednesday, March 14, 2018		

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary