

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 7 p.m., at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, MA 01571.

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

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 Pacheco, Kathleen Pastore, Christopher Starczewski, media representatives Rich Earle, audio visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, June 28, 2017

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, June 28, 2017, was approved by unanimous vote.

Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Mrs. Kabala requested to hold the minutes for discussion during the executive session.

IV. Approval of Warrant

The following warrants were distributed and signed by a majority of members without further comment or question:

Warrant #	Amount
3	\$78,419.37
93	\$31,447.96
94	\$477,760.16
Total	\$587,627.49

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VI. Communications

There were no communications to report.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto reminded the public about the district's summer athletic and STEAM camps running through August 17.

Friday, July 14, 2017 is Dudley-Charlton Regional School District STEM night at the Worcester Bravehearts, Worcester. Participants will learn to calculate statistics, the science of a curveball, scoreboard technology and more.

2. Principals continue the process of hiring teachers and support personnel. Mr. Desto presented an updated hiring chart showing 16 new staff members which includes seven Shepherd Hill graduates. Mr. Desto said principals are doing an incredible job staying on top of the staffing needs.

3. Mr. Desto is planning an administrative retreat Tuesday and Wednesday, August 8 and 9. The event will be held offsite to review the Strategic Plan and goal setting.

4. Concerning the Strategic Plan, it has been one and a half years since it was last updated. Mr. Desto said he will present a plan to the committee at the August 16 meeting.

5. Mr. Desto and Mrs. Allen met with representatives of the National Alliance for Mental Illness to discuss a six-week course to be held in the district September 20 – Nov. 1. Mr. Desto said he is eager to provide this resource to the community to spread the word that support is available for those diagnosed with or showing symptoms of mental illness.

VIII. New Business

A. Director of Finance and Operations Update (*Vote May be Required*)

1. Mr. Mathieu presented information about the district's IT equipment lease with TD Equipment Finance.

The company has agreed to the final change in the agreement. District Counsel James Cosgrove has approved the contract, and equipment has been arriving in the district.

2. Mr. Mathieu said he will have information regarding the FY 2017 end of year information at the committee's August 16 meeting, as well as the First Parent app.

3. Mr. Mathieu said the FY 2018 budget is now being considered by the Senate Conference Committee. The district's final numbers reflect the Senate's figures. Mr. Mathieu said the good news is a \$39,000 surplus, which will be put in the revolving account.

4. Mr. Desto reported a low response to the busing opt-out. The form has now been added to the district website, and Mr. Desto will alert Charlton Middle School families that it is available. The intent is to possibly reduce the number of buses serving the school for budget savings.

B. Report of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee (*Vote may be Required*)

There was no meeting. Mr. Desto is proceeding with his plan to meet with Dudley and Charlton town administrators and the Mark Abrahms of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools.

C. School Committee Meeting Broadcasts

Mr. Desto said the most efficient way to get the taped school committee meetings into a venue people will see and that we have control of, is to create a YouTube channel. Mr. Desto will meet with Technology Director Dan D’Arcangelo and District Audio-Visual Coordinator Rich Earle to work out the technical aspects.

D. Evaluation of the Superintendent

Mrs. Aucoin shared the committee’s progress ratings of the superintendent’s 2016-2017 performance in the four selected standards. She then averaged the scores to give an overall score.

Standard I Instructional Leadership

1 Exceeded goals

6 Met goals

Score: Met Goals

Standard II Management and Operations

6 Met goals

1 Significant progress toward goals

Score: Met goals

Standard III Family and Community Engagement

3 Exceeded goals

3 Met goals

1 Significant progress toward goals

Score: Met goals

Standard IV Professional Culture

3 Exceeded goals

4 Met goals

Score: Met goals

The committee also assessed the superintendent’s performance on each standard

Standard I: The education leader promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by cultivating a shared vision that makes powerful teaching and learning the central focus of schooling.

1 exemplary, 6 proficient

Score: Proficient

Standard II: The education leader promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by ensuring a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment, using resources to implement appropriate curriculum, staffing and schedule.

7 proficient

Score: Proficient

Standard III: The education leader promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff through effective partnerships with families, community organizations, and other stakeholders that support the mission of the school and district.

3 exemplary, 4 proficient

Score: Proficient

Standard IV: The education leader promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by nurturing and sustaining a schoolwide culture of reflective practice, high expectations, and continuous learning for staff.

3 exemplary, 4 proficient

Score: Proficient

Overall rating: 7 proficient

Members were allowed to read from their evaluations.

Mrs. Kabala graded Mr. Desto as proficient in standard 2, and said, Mr. Desto decides what is needed first for the students, and then seeks funding. She said Mr. Desto was a strong guiding hand during the tragedies experienced in the district throughout the last year. She said the district is in good hands under his guidance.

Mrs. Antocci said Mr. Desto deeply cares about students and staff, and the district as a whole. Throughout all that transpired, during the 2016-2017 school year, Mr. Desto remained visible and approachable. He is a steady, sound decision maker. Mrs. Antocci said among his strength is as an effective listener, which allows honesty, openness, and an intelligent approach to decision making. He works to build trust and rapport, and continuously strives for improvement.

Mrs. Aucoin said Mr. Desto sets an example to all with his positive attitude and strong work ethic. He is always promoting growth of opportunities for students to learn and achieve. Mrs. Aucoin said Mr. Desto continues to prove himself as an effective leader for our district.

Mr. Desto thanked the committee for their evaluation, and said he will use the comments to formulate his goals for next year. Quoting Jim Leyland, who won the World Series as general manager of the Florida Marlins, Mr. Desto said he is the beneficiary of the people who work for me. He thanked the committee for the great privilege of his life to be chosen to serve as superintendent.

E. Consideration of Requests for Home Instruction, Policy IHBG (*Vote Required*)

Mr. Desto received five requests, two renewals, and three new requests. Following his review of the materials presented, he recommended approval.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to approve the five requests for home instruction as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

IX. Next Meeting Dates

- *Wage and Benefits Subcommittee – Thursday, July 13, 2017, District Office, 12:00 p.m.*
- *Regular Meetings – Wednesday, August 16, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.*
Budget and Subcommittee meeting Aug. 10 at 9 a.m. Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

X. Future Agenda Items – FY 2018 Budget, non-resident enrollments, home instruction, strategic plan discussion.

XI. Executive Session – “to discuss strategy with respect to litigation or collective bargaining if an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.”

The chair entertained a motion to enter executive session “to discuss strategy with respect to litigation or collective bargaining” and declared that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and that the committee will reconvene for votes if necessary and to adjourn, and this was approved on unanimous roll call vote at 7:31 p.m.

XII. Adjourn

The committee returned to open session at 8:36 p.m.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to adjourn was approved by unanimous vote at 8:36 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include the following:

<i>July 12, 2017 Meeting Agenda</i>	<i>Superintendent’s Report of Friday, July 7, 2017</i>	<i>Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, June 28, 2017</i>
<i>Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, June 28, 2017</i>	<i>Finance Director’s Report of Friday, July 7, 2017</i>	<i>2017-2018 Staffing Chart</i>

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.