

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

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, August 10, 2016, held 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

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Karen A. Ares, Lorinda C. Allen, William F. Chaplin, Jody A. O'Brien, Lori A. Pacheco; Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association President Kevin Foley; media representatives Deb LaPlaca, Telegram, Rich Earle, audio-visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday July 13, 2016*

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to approve the minutes of the school committee meeting of Wednesday, July 13, 2016, as corrected and amended, was approved by unanimous vote.

B. *Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by S. Reed to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, July 13, 2016, as amended, was approved by unanimous vote.

### **IV. Approval of Warrant**

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

<b>Warrant #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
8	\$725,840.60
1077D	\$305,851.32
1077P	\$804,435.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,836,127.13</b>

### **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 committee of several upcoming events and meetings:

- Wednesday, Aug. 17 – New Teachers' Institute, Charlton Middle School, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 24 – Goal and Objective setting workshop, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 5 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 29 – Teacher Orientation
- Tuesday, Aug. 30 – First day of school for students.

2. Mr. Desto reported on the two-day administrators' retreat held Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 9 and 10 at Shepherd Hill and Charlton Middle School. Members of the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association were present Tuesday to discuss the evaluation process, and to learn what building administrators will emphasize in their observations. Wednesday featured a presentation by Dr. Robert Brooks, a child psychiatrist and an expert on child resilience. Members of other districts were present. The retreat was also a time for administrators to set goals as individuals and as an administrative team. All will have one goal in common as well as with their colleague across the district.

3. Mr. Desto provided a draft agenda for the Aug. 24 meeting seeking the committee's input. Mrs. Rabbitt requested Mr. Desto send the materials provided by Field Director Dorothy Presser of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees prior to the meeting.

## VIII. New Business

### A. Finance Director Update (*Vote May Be Required*)

Mr. Mathieu reported on his memo of August 4, 2016:

#### Donations

Mr. Mathieu requested the committee's approval of several donations made to district schools:

E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency, to Dudley Elementary School Caring Continues program	\$125.00
Charlton PTO Yearend Disbursements to Charlton Elementary School	\$3,081.20
Charlton PTO Yearend Disbursements to Charlton Middle School	\$7,346.00
Charlton PTO to Charlton Elementary School	<u>\$4,511.00</u>
	\$15,063.20

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to accept the donations as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

#### FY 17 budget information

The state distributed final numbers regarding the FY 17 budget to show a reduction in the transportation reimbursement. Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to re-vote the FY 17 budget to account for the loss of \$60,457 in revenue, and to correct a minor transposition in numbers from the Charlton Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$27.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to authorize \$60,457 from the Regional Transportation Revolving Fund to offset this reduction, and correct a transposition of numbers, leaving \$193,537 to offset any mid-year reductions from the State, or to use towards the FY 18 Transportation Budget, was approved by unanimous vote.

With this transfer, a motion is vote is necessary to approve new town assessments. Mr. Mathieu said while the budget figure of \$45,148,688 remains the same, the assessments do need to change:

Charlton: \$11,888,863  
Dudley: \$7,259,790

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by E. Rabbitt to amend the FY 2017 town assessments as Charlton, \$11,888,863 and to Dudley of \$7,259,790, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu presented a list of items that was been deemed beyond repair or obsolete, and asked the committee to authorize them as surplus items and dispose. The items have been culled from Shepherd Hill and Charlton Middle School.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to declare as surplus a number of electronic and computer peripherals that are outdated and no longer in use, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu said he will present additional items at the September meeting.

Food Service: The district has a total of \$14,381.23 in account deficits from the 2015-2016 school year. The previous year that amount was \$8,425.16. Of last year's deficit, the district has collected \$6,548.06. For FY 16, the school lunch charges totaling \$7,833.17 will be charged against the general fund.

Mr. Panayiotou will attend a September meeting to discuss changes to the district's new charge policy as outlined in Policy JQ.

Mr. Desto said Dudley Middle School is now designated as a school breakfast sight.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Update (*Vote May be Required*)

Mr. Pietrzak has been elected chair of the subcommittee at its August 3 meeting by Mrs. Rabbitt and Mr. Chalk. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of establishing an alternate subcommittee member to serve in the event of a member's absence.

Mrs. Antocci said this is a reasonable request because if you don't have a quorum you can't act.

Mrs. Kabala volunteered to serve as the alternate. The committee will need to amend its policy BDE to note an alternate will be appointed.

Mr. Pietrzak said the subcommittee discussed the presentation on the Chapter 70 funding formula that is scheduled for the Sept. 28 school committee meeting. Town administrators will be invited and a wider audience sought through local school districts to educate as many people as possible and help us become better advocates for changes to this formula.

The subcommittee will discuss the specifics of this presentation at its meeting of September 21.

The subcommittee discussed possible improvements to the district website:

- provide information on funding formula.
- clarify that the district does not determine the amount the public has to pay.
- Establish a function on the website that allows the public to ask questions.

The first meeting of RADAR pilot program will be held Friday, September 23 at Worcester State University. The program is offered as a joint venture between the District Management Council and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and is designed to educate districts on how to budget in a more informed and intelligent manner. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District is one of 10 selected to participate with Belchertown, Berkshire Hills, Hampden-Wilbraham, Waltham, Hudson, Millbury, Wayland, Whitman-Hansen.

C. Shepherd Hill Building Committee (*Vote May be Required*)

Mr. Desto has had confirmation from individuals he has contacted as members of the building committee with Mrs. Aucoin, Mrs. Antocci and Mrs. Kabala. Retired Finance Director William Trifone will serve, with retired Superintendent Sean Gilrein serving in an advisory capacity.

Mr. Desto said he anticipates scheduling a meeting in the first two weeks of September.

D. Consideration of District Policy JJIB-A, Non-District Students' Participation in District Activities - second reading and adoption (*Vote Required*)

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to waive the reading of policy JJIB-A, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to approve and adopt Policy JJIB-A on this second reading into the record, was approved by unanimous vote.

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

*Renewals:*

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by C. Kabala, to approve the five requests for renewed home school plans, was approved by unanimous vote.

*New Requests:*

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to approve the new request for home schooling, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Desto has received a sixth request to renew a home school plan. He asked the committee to approve that request pending his review.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Siccardi, Charlton, Derrick, grade 8, Timothy, grade 4.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk, to approve the request pending his review, was approved by unanimous vote.

The committee discussed School Choice. Mr. Desto asked whether the district should fill the spots vacated by three students who have become residents of Dudley.

The committee agreed to give Mr. Desto discretion in filling the spots at the high school only, pending enrollment of district students.

Mrs. Rabbitt said this question should be considered next year when the committee votes on school choice.

**IX. Next Meeting Dates**

Wednesday, August 24, 2016, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Setting Goals and Objectives, 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 14, 2016, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.;  
Wednesday September 21, 2016 – Budget and Finance Subcommittee – District Office, 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 28, 2016, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

**X. Future Agenda Items – Coordinated Program Review, presentation on district-wide Civics project, 28<sup>th</sup> budget sub presentation on budget formula, RADAR, food service policy, surplus books, revision to BDE**

**XI. Adjourn**

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 7:55 p.m.

*Items used for this meeting include:*

<i>Meeting agenda August 10, 2016</i>	<i>Superintendent's Report of Friday, August 5, 2016</i>	<i>Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 13, 2013</i>
<i>Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, July 13, 2016</i>	<i>Agenda for Special Meeting on Goals and Objectives, August 24, 2016</i>	<i>Finance Director's Report</i>
<i>Policy JJIB - A</i>	<i>Schedule for August 9, 10, 2016 Retreat</i>	<i>1617 Hiring Map Update</i>

*Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary*