

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley Oxford Road, Dudley, MA 01571, 7 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair
 Mary N. Antocci, Vice Chair
 Cathleen Carmignani
 Catherine M. Kabala
 Kenneth J. Laferriere

Members Stephanie A. Reed and Jamie L. Terry were not in attendance. Ceilidgh O'Brien, Student Representative, was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations, Karen A. Ares, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; district administrators Lorinda C. Allen, William F. Chaplin, Jennifer A. Desto, Dean W. Packard, Diane D. Seibold, Christopher E. Starczewski; Dudley residents Richard and Tina Raymond; media representatives 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

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, September 25, 2019

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere to approve the minutes, approved by vote of 4-0. Mrs. Antocci abstained.

IV. Approval of Warrants

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

Accounts Payable		Payroll		Subcommittee Warrant	
Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount
26	\$458,290.97	1331P	\$6,033.49	25	\$10,959.50
27	\$651,586.40	1332PVoid	\$-6,033.49		
28	\$229,217.11	1333P	\$5,926.71		
29	\$2,500.00	1334D	\$1,836.81		
30	\$646.32	1334P	\$326.33		
157	\$8,4508.25	1335D	\$1,126.58		
		1335P	\$2,665.95		
		1336D	\$459,801.98		
		1336P	\$1,289,359.58		
Total	\$1,426,749.05	Total	\$1,755,010.45	Total	\$10,959.50

V. Citizens' Forum

Richard Raymond, Corbin Road, Dudley inquired about the committee's statement regarding addressing items that are not on the agenda, and how the public would know when a particular item might be addressed. Mrs. Aucoin said the

committee will ensure that all items to be discussed are on the agenda. Mr. Raymond said he was specifically interested in discussing the retiree health plan. Mrs. Aucoin said Mr. Raymond could join the discussion under the director of finance and operations' report.

VI. Communications

There were no communications to report.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Lamarche reported on the Shepherd Hill Varsity Girls' Volleyball game this afternoon. Shepherd Hill defeated Nashoba.
2. Mr. Lamarche said he continues to monitor the threat of EEE, saying cooler weather is in the forecast. The district has mandated that all outdoor activities conclude at 5:30 p.m.
3. Mr. Lamarche said he continues to monitor the Massachusetts Legislature's Student Opportunity Act. Mr. Lamarche said while debate and political movement continues, the following items that impact the district were adopted:
 - o DESE is required to provide district analysis of funding levels for reimbursements related to regional transportation, McKinney-Vento transportation costs, and circuit breaker to determine full statutory obligations and shortfalls

Other areas unresolved and of relevance to the DCRSD

- o Hold Harmless provision for state funding
 - o Special Education out of district transportation reimbursement/Circuit Breaker
 - o MSBA funding cap increase to \$750 million
4. Assistant Superintendent Karen Ares attended a MARS meeting Tuesday, October 8th.
 5. Mr. Lamarche held the second Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council meeting on October 8. The group worked on its mission statement and official logo. This year's goal is to work on a program to assist students in transitioning to 9th grade.

VIII. Student Representative Report – Ceilidgh O'Brien

This item was tabled in Miss O'Brien's absence.

IX. New Business

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

1. Mr. Mathieu presented a donation for the committee's approval:

To Shepherd Hill from the Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association to offset the cost of the First Honors Dinner **\$250**

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by K. Laferriere to accept the donation as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Mathieu reported the district's 12-year-old school bus will no longer pass inspection as a means of student transport. The bus is mechanically sound, and the Shepherd Hill Music Department has requested to maintain it as an equipment bus. Mr. Mathieu said this will provide some cost savings.

3. Mr. Mathieu requested transfers to close out FY 19 and cover the overage resulting from the network wiring project at Shepherd Hill.

From Mason Road School Expenses	\$15,009.30
From Dudley Elementary School Expenses	\$16,627.00
From Charlton Elementary School Expenses	\$20,479.87

From Heritage School Expenses	\$30,783.29
From Charlton Middle School Expenses	\$181,383.10
From Dudley Middle School Expenses	<u>\$60,000.00</u>
	\$264,282.56

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the transfers as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Mr. Mathieu reported the Health Insurance Trust Fund has closed out the year with a surplus of more than \$3 million.
5. Mr. Mathieu reported the district's net metering credit arrangement with Seaboard Solar has been terminated as the agreement was sold to a new company.
6. Mr. Mathieu requested a vote of confidence on the decision by the Mass. Strategic Health Group to award the bid for retiree health care plans. Mr. Mathieu said three bids were received from Aetna, Retirees First/ United Health Care, and Tufts. Mr. Mathieu said the clear frontrunner is Aetna, with Retirees First was awarded the customer service combined with Aetna.

Mrs. Aucoin and Mrs. Kabala asked if the committee need to vote on this, or whether the health group's action is final.

Mr. Raymond said retirees were promised health insurance that mirrored that as offered by the current provider, Blue Cross / Blue Shield. He requested to look at a specific plan design, saying the decision was made without input from the retirees.

Mr. Mathieu said the new plan offers increased benefits with a slight reduction in cost.

The committee agreed that information about the change in health plans will be posted on the district website and mailed to retirees.

Mr. Mathieu confirmed for the committee that the district can withdraw from the health group after one year.

7. Mr. Mathieu will present the results of the 2020 winter plowing bids at the committee's October 23 meeting.

B. Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Report

Mrs. Ares updated the committee on efforts to support literacy instruction, learning observations and grant applications. The district is embarking on Project 500, a thorough study of what our students need to be successful readers in their first 500 days of school.

The Administrative team conduct the first Learning Walk of the school year September 25 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Mr. Chaplin has submitted a Capital Skills Grant for the Innovation Pathway program at Shepherd Hill, to enhance a FabLab manufacturing space.

C. Student Services Update – Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley Elementary School

1. Instructional Assistants

Mrs. Allen presented a request for additional instructional assistants at Mason Road School and Dudley Elementary School, based in response to changes in students' IEPs. The positions are estimated at \$24,000 each, and will be funded through Circuit Breaker.

A motion by K. Laferriere, seconded by C. Kabala to approve 2 instructional assistant positions at Mason Road School and Dudley Elementary School, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Emotional Support Classroom

Mrs. Allen said this classroom has been discussed in general, but was recently revisited due to concerns expressed by Special Education Coordinator Judith Powell for specific students with social-emotional needs. Mrs. Powell said current students have been outplaced over the last several years, and could return to the district to this classroom with some wellness curriculum and counseling.

Mrs. Allen proposed hiring a special education teacher to staff this classroom at an estimated salary of \$53,000, which would be funded through the circuit breaker. As the classroom grows, Mrs. Allen said she anticipates adding a school adjustment counselor to target the needs of these students.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the hiring of an additional special education teacher, with the salary funded through circuit breaker, was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Principal's Showcase – Dudley Elementary School Principal Diane D. Seibold

Mrs. Seibold introduced Megan Martin, technology integration specialist, who demonstrated the school's morning announcements that are presented in the style of a newscast using TouchCast.

E. Review MASC 2019 Report of Resolutions

1. Banning polystyrene from schools

Motion to support: K. Laferriere/ M. Antocci, unanimously approved.

2. Educator diversity and professional licensure – eliminate MTEL and Mass. Performance Assessment for Leaders as licensing requirements, and allow licensed educators to be on the licensing board

Motion to support: C. Kabala/ K. Laferriere, unanimously approved.

3. School transportation – increase competition for school transportation contract by eliminating MGL C. 71, sec. 7C, and create an advisory group to the Legislature

Motion to support: C. Kabala/ K. Laferriere, unanimously approved.

4. Climate change – MASC calls on Congress to take action on climate change to protect current and future students, for funding of school infrastructure and emergency in weather events.

Motion to support: K. Laferriere/C. Carmignani, approved by vote of 4-1. Mrs. Antocci was opposed.

5. Full funding of transportation for students in foster and state care

Motion to support: C. Kabala/C. Carmignani, approved by unanimous vote.

6. Universal quality PK access – to file or support legislation to provide universal pre-kindergarten in Massachusetts

Motion to support: C. Kabala/K. Laferriere, was amended by C. Carmignani, to include universal, full day kindergarten, and this was approved by unanimous vote.

7. Poverty and children – reaffirms the MASC's 2015 resolution to ensure advocacy for nutrition, healthcare, PK programs, and increasing educational opportunities to eradicate poverty

Motion to support: C. Kabala / M. Antocci, approved by unanimous vote.

8. Access to menstrual supplies – free for all students

Motion to support: M. Antocci/C. Carmignani, approved by unanimous vote.

9. Charter school reform –seek legislative action for failure to recruit students at risk and to address diversion of Chapter 70 funds
 Motion to support: C. Kabala/C. Carmignani, approved by unanimous vote.

II. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019, Charlton Middle School, 7 PM
- Wednesday, November 13, 2019, Charlton Middle School, 7 PM
- Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 PM

Budget and Finance Subcommittee:

- Tuesday, October 15, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 8:30 AM.

This meeting will be rescheduled.

Policy Review Subcommittee:

- Monday, November 4, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9:00 AM

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning:

- October 17, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 10:00 AM

Capital Outlay Subcommittee – TBD

Safety Subcommittee:

- Monday, October 21, 2019, Charlton Middle School, 11 AM.

- III. Future Agenda Items – Principals’ MCAS presentations, out of state field trips, Superintendent’s Award of Academic Excellence, plowing bids

IV. Adjourn

A motion by K. Laferriere, seconded by M. Antocci to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:39 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

<i>Agenda for October 9, 2019</i>	<i>Minutes of September 25, 2019 Meeting</i>	<i>Superintendent’s Report of October 4, 2019</i>
<i>Teaching and Learning Update of October 3, 2019</i>	<i>Director of Finance and Operations Report of October 3, 2019</i>	<i>Pupil Personnel Services Report October 9, 2019</i>
<i>MASC 2019 Resolutions</i>		

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.