

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, October 11, 2017 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

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Lorinda C. Allen, William F. Chaplin, Jeffrey L. Ferranti, Dean W. Packard, Robin L. Parmley, Diane D. Seibold, Christopher E. Starczewski; district teachers Kevin Foley, Kelly Bonner, Stacy Lynch; Dudley Middle School eighth grade National Junior Honor Society students Amanda Adamuska, Mandy Croteau, Marlee Donohoe, Sarah Fenton, Makayla Nordstrom, Molly Starczewski; Charlton resident Stefan Sage; media representatives Rich Earle, district audio-visual coordinator, Deb LaPlaca, Telegram, 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

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, September 27, 2017

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by J. Pietrzak, to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 27, 2017, as corrected, was approved by unanimous vote.

Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, September 27, 2017

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, September 27, 2017, was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of Warrant

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

Warrant #	Amount
1161D	\$444,218.33

1161P	\$1,176,798.10
Total	\$1,621,016.43

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time

VI. Student Spotlight – Principal Starczewski introduced the members of the Dudley Middle School National Junior Honor Society who attended a Student Leadership Conference sponsored by the New England League of Middle Schools. Amanda Adamuska, Mandy Croteau, Marlee Donohoe, Sarah Fenton, Makayla Nordstrom, Molly Starczewski shared evaluation of the conference. It was noted that Dudley Middle School has in place several of the items that other schools suggested as improvements needed in their schools.

V. Communications

Mrs. Reed has heard from parents voicing concern about the report cards coming out after the parent teacher conferences. Mr. Desto said this is a calendar issue and will be discussed.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto thanked Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Ares for the planning that went into the professional development day on Friday, October 6, 2017.

2. Community Reading Days

Mr. Desto said all members are invited to participate in the upcoming Community Reading Days:

Mason Road School: *Monday, October 16*

Charlton Elementary School: *Wednesday, October 18*

Dudley Elementary School: *Wednesday, October 18*

Heritage School: *Friday, October 20*

3. The Charlton Board of Selectmen have reported the water line project that will link the schools to town water will be delayed for a year. Mr. Desto said the District will continue to test the water quality on a quarterly basis.

4. Strategic Planning: Mr. Desto said the District Strategic Plan Team had two productive days on September 28 and October 5, and are working on a template to be used by the three working groups.

5. Mr. Chaplin has sent a letters to families of Shepherd Hill seniors this week indicating the time of the 2018 graduation must be moved from its traditional 1 pm. start to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 3 as the DCU center is hosting the Massachusetts Democratic Convention that weekend.

VII. New Business

A. DESE Coordinated Program Review – *Mrs. Allen, Mr. Desto*

Mr. Desto said there are many people deserving of thanks for completing the audit, and working on to correct the areas of partial or no implementation. He thanked Mrs. Allen, Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Ferrante, and Mrs. Marderosian.

The review begins with the district/school conducting a self-assessment across all 56 current special education criteria and 26 civil rights, and 21 Ell criteria. The Office of Public School Monitoring examines the district/school's self-assessment submission and determines which criteria will be followed-up on through onsite verification activities. The requirements selected for review in all of the regulated programs are those that are most closely aligned with the goals of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 to promote student achievement and high standards for all students.

Overall, Mr. Desto said the review resulted in a satisfactory rating on 95 of 103 areas of review. The deadline for compliance is September 2018.

In the area of Special Education, the DESE representatives randomly audit student IEPs. The finding was the need to consistency state why a student is pulled out of class for services. Special education staff will receive training in IEP writing.

Another finding is the need for a process by which parents are notified of team meetings. After two unsuccessful notification attempts, the special education team can hold the meeting without the parent.

In the areas of Civil Rights, the district was inconsistent with adding a non-discrimination statement to its forms. Non-implementation items include the lack of a process by which staff document items in their classroom to ensure against bias against the protected categories. Examples include books on loan that do not contain images or language that discriminates against ethnicity, or documentation that athletic teams and extra-curricular clubs are open to all students.

In the area of ELL, a partial rating was based on documentation for persons with disabilities when they are released from an ELL program to show they do not need a transitional bilingual program.

The annual assessment on language acquisition is no longer a composite score, but based on separate scores in language and writing proficiency.

Mrs. Rabbitt suggested the district get clarification from the DESE concerning the ethnically sensitive materials, and cautioned against going overboard as it verges on censorship. Mrs. Rabbitt said she is also concerned that this audit was conducted without a Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) in place. She said she is pleased that the district had processes in place in so many areas, but is disappointed with the special education student outcomes.

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

1. Mr. Mathieu provided an updated report of donations to the John Paire Student Support Fund. An additional \$4,151 has been donated, bringing the total to \$7,276 as of today.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to accept the donations to the John Paire Student Support Fund, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Mathieu presented the recommendation of Food Service Director Karen Chanaki to reduce the price of staff lunches from \$4.25 to \$3.50. The lower price may draw more people. If approved, Ms. Chanaki will review the figures to determine whether the program is making money.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak, to reduce the price of faculty lunches from \$4.25 to \$3.50 effective immediately, and to review the account mid-way through the year, was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Mr. Mathieu said it is time to renew the health insurance plans for retirees who qualify for Medicare. Blue Cross / Blue Shield has decreased the district's rate for this plan by 4.6%, despite double digit increases in the marketplace.

The new rate is \$309.57. The Insurance Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this rate.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by M. Antocci to approve of the rate of health insurance plans for retirees who qualify for Medicare, as \$309.57, was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Mr. Mathieu reported the district has contracted with architect Roy Brown to finalize the specification for the new generator that is needed at Shepherd Hill Regional High School at a cost of \$12,885. Mr. Mathieu said the replacement will exceed the \$50,000 earmarked for the project, but will be less than \$100,000. The project will go out to bid next week, and bids opened in time for the November 8 school committee meeting.

Mrs. Rabbitt reiterated the need to inform the town about this unbudgeted capital expense.

C. FY 2019 Budget – *Discussion*

Mr. Mathieu, Mrs. Aucoin, and Mr. Desto met with Dudley municipal representatives last evening.

Mr. Desto said he and Mr. Mathieu are presently reviewing requests from the principals now. This is usually done in December, but in the interest of the override proposal, they will draft two budgets showing the costs of meeting one with and one without.

Concerning the override proposal, the committee will participate in a training session with the Campaign and Political Finance at its October 25 meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m.

Mr. Mathieu and Mr. Desto will meet with Charlton Town Administrator Robin Craver Thursday morning.

Mrs. Rabbitt expressed concern that the committee had agreed to have representation of all town boards at these meetings. Mr. Desto said this meeting is to determine a date on which all can meet.

Mr. Chalk expressed concern that we cannot schedule a meeting to comply with the committee's agreement.

D. Employee Health Insurance – Discussion

This item is in response to the death of an active district employee who has left behind family members who depend upon the health insurance. The Paire family can benefit from insurance coverage under the COBRA Law, but the district needs a mechanism by which the district can assist with payment. In the event of death, an employer may allow the surviving dependent to remain on the policy for up to three years, with the employer settling on the rate.

Mr. Desto presented three options:

1. Determine the percent of coverage on a case by case basis;
2. Request the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association open the contract and negotiate the benefit to all of its members;
3. Create a policy that would cover all district employee.

The committee agreed this should be handled by a policy to prevent opening the contract, and provide the benefit to all employees.

The policy review subcommittee will discuss this issue at its meeting of Tuesday, October 17, at 6 p.m.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to maintain the 75/25 cost share of providing benefits for the Paire family until a policy is approved, was approved by unanimous vote.

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

Mr. Desto presented the request of a Charlton family for home instruction in grade 9 for the 2017-2018 school year, and recommended approval.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the request for home instruction as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

F. MASC/MASS Joint Conference Resolutions (*Vote Required*)

Resolution 1: seeks to move the Chapter 70 student enrollment date to March 15 (from October 1). Mr. Desto said this would affect our budget.

Mrs. Rabbitt suggested drafting an amendment to propose changing the deadline to December or January. This would allow the Chapter 70 information to be available at the same time as the governor's budget.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to authorize the delegate to amend the motion to change the Chapter 70 enrollment deadline to Dec. 31, was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2: seek to reform Circuit Breaker funding to benefit all districts.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to support resolution 2 was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 3: Supports the possibility that MASC could determine the viability of and file a lawsuit against the state to secure funding the guarantee and adequate appropriation of school funding.

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by M. Antocci to support Resolution 3, was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 4: Takes a stand against the privatization of public education and the oversight of public schools. The resolution opposes use of state funds to subsidize the cost of private schools. Mr. Desto said while this action would not expand the power of state educational leaders, it would allow communities to make their own decisions about education.

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by R. Chalk to support Resolution 4, was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 5: Restricts the use of federal funds to fund state education, but to direct it to support local schools.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to support Resolution 5, was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 6: Calls upon the Legislature to enact the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Commission into Law, to reconvene the commission to deliberate further and make additional recommendations that will be enacted/

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to support Resolution 6, was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution 7: Supports the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to authorize the delegate to amend the motion to remove the first and last paragraph of the resolution, and to support the amended resolution, was approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. Next Meeting Dates

A. School Committee

- Wednesday, October 25, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 6 p.m. Campaign and Political Finance Training.

- Wednesday, November 8, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee

Thursday, October 19, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9 a.m.

C. Wage and Benefits Subcommittee –Nurse Negotiations –Thursday, October 19, 4 p.m. or October 24 4 p.m. Oct. 26

D. Policy Subcommittee

Tuesday October 17, 2017, District Office, 6 p.m.

IX. Future Agenda Items – FY 2018 Budget, Strategic Plan, School Calendar

The chair entertained a motion to enter 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,” and to reconvene in open session for vote if necessary and to adjourn, and this was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 8:37 p.m.

X. 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 committee reconvened in open session at 9:06 p.m.

The committee discussed dates for the next meeting with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, as well as whether to change the date of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee.

XI. Adjourn

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by S. Reed to adjourn the meeting, was approved by unanimous vote at 9:07 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for October 11, 2017	Superintendent’s Report of October 6, 2017	Minutes of regular meeting of September 27,2017	Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, September 27, 2017
DESE CPR Audit (2)	Finance Director’s Report of October 6, 2017	Letter to Legislators	MASC-MASS 2017 Delegate Resolutions

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.