

## DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, December 14, 2016 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 was not in attendance.  
Jack A. Cederberg, Student Representative

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Lorinda Allen, Karen Ares, Terri A. Caffelle, William Chaplin, Jody O'Brien, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, John D. Paire, Robin L. Parmley, Kathleen E. Pastore; teachers Barbara Marderosian, Diane D. Seibold; students Matthew Spahl, Joshua Martin Jaffe, Samantha Kaliszewski, and parents; 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 p.m.

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Approval of Minutes

#### A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, November 9, 2016*

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, November 9, 2016, as amended, was approved by unanimous vote.

#### B. *Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, November 9, 2016*

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 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
31	\$164,877.80
32	\$628.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,506.48</b>

## V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

## VI. School Spotlight

### i. Shepherd Hill Chorus

The Show Choir performed two selections from its recent Holiday Spectacular.

### ii. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Award of Academic Excellence – *Gregg J. Desto*

**Matthew Spahl:** Throughout his entire academic career at Shepherd Hill, Matthew has enrolled and excelled in prestigious and challenging courses. By graduation, Matthew will have completed a total of eight Advanced Placement courses. This year alone he is taking five of these courses, which are Calculus BC, Chemistry, Physics 1, English Literature and Computer Science. He is currently ranked #1 in the Class of 2017. Matthew has been a consistent participant in numerous extracurricular activities such as the Junior Booster Club and Math Team, of which he has co-captained the past two years. During the 2015-2016 year, he earned the Worcester County Math League Award of High Scorer for the Math Team. Matthew has been a member of the National Honor Society since grade 10, and he has assisted in many community service projects, such as food and toy drives, a local Easter egg hunt and the Annual Art Show for our school district. Additionally, Matthew served as Class Treasurer for three years and has taken part in the Academic Decathlon and High School Quiz Show for two years. He has just become a member of State Senator Ryan Fattman's Student Advisory Committee. In his spare time, he has taken guitar lessons for five years. After graduation, Matthew will attend a four-year college where he intends to major in computer science. History and political science are two other areas of interest that Matthew enjoys and could take further courses in.

**Joshua Martin Jaffe:** Joshua has chosen our most challenging courses and enrolled exclusively in Accelerated and Level 1 offerings for the past four years. As a junior he added three intensive AP classes to his course load, and this year chose five more AP classes in preparation for college level material. He welcomes challenge in his studies and displays a compelling desire to excel with a vigorous work ethic. Joshua currently has a 4.36 GPA and is ranked 2 out of a competitive class of 291 students. Some of his impressive achievements include a perfect score on the Mathematics MCAS exam, Excellence Award in AP Physics I, and Top 2.5% National Latino Score on PSAT. In addition to his scholastic drive, he has enjoyed being a valuable member of the cross country and track teams, the Math Team, the National Honor Society, and Boy Scouts. He has participated in over one-hundred hours of community service including completion of his Eagle Scout project. Joshua is excited by the thought of future academic plans and looks forward to exploring Engineering studies.

### iii. Shepherd Hill Principal's Leadership Award – *William F. Chaplin*

**Samantha Kaliszewski:** Mr. Chaplin said Samantha stands out above her peers not only because the four AP classes, or her involvement with cheerleading, of which she has been named MVP and captain, but for the life challenges she has met and dealt with head-on. Mr. Chaplin said her resilience and strength will carry her far in life.

The committee took a brief recess to allow for photographs beginning at 7:17 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m.

## **VII. Communications**

Mrs. Kabala requested Mr. Desto speak about the NEXAMP Solar Farm being built in front of Shepherd Hill as she is receiving questions. Mr. Desto said the district does not own the land and is not benefiting from the solar power generated other than the net metering credits the district obtained several years ago. The district has some input as to the tree line bordering the properties.

## **VIII. Superintendent's Report**

1. Mr. Desto recognized Dudley Elementary School Principal Terri A. Caffelle, who is retiring officially at the end of the year. Mrs. Caffelle was hired in 2004. Mr. Desto said Dudley Elementary School is an incredible place for students. Mr. Desto said Mrs. Caffelle arrived in the district after many years as an educator and administrator. She holds the staff and students accountable for learning.
2. Mr. Desto then introduced Diane D. Seibold as the Interim Principal of Dudley Elementary School. Mrs. Seibold is currently the School Psychologist at Dudley Elementary School, and has over 25 years of experience as an educator and administrator.
3. Mr. Desto recognized Alex Anuskiewicz of Dudley Middle School, and Meghan D'Acri of Charlton Middle School as the Country Bank Students of the Month for October and November. This has proven to be a great way to recognize some deserving students while also encouraging innovation in our schools. Mr. Desto thanked STEAM Director Karen Ares and Country Bank.
4. Mr. Desto invited the committee to attend the January 3, 2017 Professional Development Program at Shepherd Hill to kick off the second half of the school year. Mr. Desto said this will be an energizing day with Dave Burgess, author of *Teach Like a Pirate*. A health fair will also be featured.
5. Mr. Desto reported that several staff members – administrators, guidance staff, teachers and instructional assistants, received Mental Health First Aid Training December 6 and 13. The national training, sponsored by the SHINE Initiative, teaches participants how to identify a mental health crisis in youth, and provide appropriate support and connections to professional assistance when necessary.

## **IX. Student Representative Report – Jack Cederberg**

Mr. Cederberg reported that Shepherd Hill has been very busy for the last four weeks. Events such as the National Honor Society Food Drive, Toys for Tots, Student Council's Mr. Shepherd Hill pageant, and the Sock Drive. Mr. Cederberg reported that fall athletics have concluded and winter sports are underway. The Craft Fair, Holiday Spectacular, and the Marching Band's 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish were all successful, as was the eighth grade orientation.

Mrs. Rabbitt said she heard reports from many parents of eight graders who were pleased by the opportunity for their children to experience the school.

Mrs. Antocci said parents have reported that they would like to have an opportunity to tour the school and learn more about the high school.

## **X. New Business**

### **A. Consideration to Hire Teacher of English as a Second Language (Vote Required)**

District ELL Program Coordinator Barbara Marderosian reviewed the state mandated program. The district hired a full time ELL teacher two years ago, and since then, Mrs. Marderosian said, mandates

have increased. She said while the student caseload is similar, the students' needs have risen. The district has 65 ELL students.

The ELL program is governed by Massachusetts General Law Ch. 71A, which promotes language proficiency as soon as possible. The district employs several teachers paid an hourly rate; however, Mrs. Marderosian said this model is not fruitful, as the district can't retain the teachers. The license is difficult to get, and there is a shortage of ESL teachers.

The district needs a licensed ESL teacher who can differentiate instruction, support Sheltered English Immersion, screen and test ACCESS, provide parent communication via language acquisition progress reports.

This additional position will impact the 2016-2017 budget by \$10,800, and by \$22,000 in 2017-2018.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by E. Rabbitt to approve the ESL teaching position, to authorize the superintendent to advertise and to hire a permanent teacher for the position, was approved by unanimous vote.

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

1. Mr. Mathieu requested the committee approval of several donations:

Charlton Middle School, \$1,000 from Toshiba America Foundation to support 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Road to Mars project.	\$1,000
Charlton Middle School, \$1,000 from Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation, for 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	\$1,000
Charlton Middle School, \$500 from Antocci family to purchase additional headsets for the Rosetta Stone program	\$500
Dudley Middle School, \$500 from Antocci family to purchase additional headsets for the Rosetta Stone program	\$500
Charlton Elementary School, \$37.65 from Planet Aid	\$37.65
Dudley Elementary School, \$50 from Lorna Wade for Caring Continues	\$50
Dudley Elementary School \$50 from Mr. and Mrs. Bromage from Empire Travel	\$50
Dudley Elementary School from E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency, \$125 for Caring Continues	\$125
Dudley Elementary School \$350 from Dudley PTO for Family Math Night	\$350
Dudley Elementary School, \$200.74 from families for Crocodile River Music Concert	\$200.47
Shepherd Hill, \$720 from Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, to cover transportation of SADD and French II students to travel to the Institute for performances.	\$720
Mason Road School, \$160 to purchase book, "I'm not Scared – I'm Prepared" for each classroom.	\$160
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,693.12</b>

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

2. Mr. Mathieu reported the FY 16 audit is complete, and representatives of the auditing firm, Powers and Sullivan, will attend the January 25, 2017 meeting to review the results. Members will receive copies electronically as soon as they become available.

The committee agreed that this meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the auditors.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by C. Kabala, to waive district policy BE, to allow the meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m., on Jan. 25, was approved by unanimous vote.

3. FY 17 budget transfer

Mr. Mathieu presented his request to transfer funds in the current budget to balance the salary cost center for each school due to the loss of the kindergarten grant, and changes to the Federal Teachers' Quality Grant, the new collective bargaining agreement and support staff wage and benefit schedule.

Mr. Mathieu requested the committee's approval of the following transfer:

\$70,000 from contingency account to the Dudley Middle School Teachers' Salary Account

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the transfer of \$70,000 from contingency account (100-08-400-7000-00) to the Dudley Middle School Teachers' Salary Account, was approved by unanimous vote. There is a balance of \$100,000 in the contingency account.

Mr. Mathieu will provide information regarding the salary differences between 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, in January.

C. Consideration to Amend District Policy JQ, Student Fees, second reading (*Vote Required*)  
This item was tabled.

D. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report  
There was no meeting.

E. Shepherd Hill Building Committee Report (*Vote May be Required*)  
The district is awaiting word on its Statement of Interest with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. While hopeful for MSBA funding, Mr. Desto said the district has been unsuccessful in 10 previous attempts. He said the district cannot continue to wait for state aid.

The building committee, chaired by Mr. Desto, has established two options for potential Shepherd Hill building repairs.

**Option 1:**

- Appropriate \$75,000 from either the operating budget, School Choice or certified excess and deficiency money, to hire an architect to perform a feasibility study.
- Apply for the MSBA's Accelerated Repair program for the roof and potentially the boilers in winter 2017
- Form a Shepherd Hill Building Committee Immediately

**Option 2:**

- Include \$75,000 for the feasibility study in the FY 2018 budget request
- Submit SOI to the MSBA for the full project, potentially engage a consultant to assist with the application's narrative
- If SOI unsuccessful, apply for the Accelerated Repair program for the roof and potentially the boilers in winter 2018
- Form a Shepherd Hill Building Committee in Winter/Spring 2017

Mrs. Rabbitt said the rejected SOIs leave the impression that the district's buildings, which are very well maintained, are being compared to other schools in the state and the condition adversely impact our standing. She said, in effect, the Green Repair program lessened the district's chances of a successful SOI, as it allowed the district to install new windows and doors at Shepherd Hill. Mrs. Rabbitt said such programs don't allow the district to address the building's true needs. She said the structure of the building needs to be changed to address student needs.

The committee agreed it is important to keep the buildings in good repair.

The committee agreed to look at the cost of hiring a consultant or professional service to write the SOI and better package it.

Mrs. Antocci said the committee needs to discuss hiring a consultant in addition to the feasibility study and add it to the budget or finance it.

The committee asked Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu to contact a consulting firm.

Mrs. Antocci, Mrs. Aucoin and Mrs. Kabala agreed to serve on the building committee. Mr. Desto continues to search for members from the communities.

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

A Dudley resident has requested to home school her son, in grade 8 for remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Desto has reviewed all materials and recommends the committee's approval.

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

**XI. Next Meeting Dates**

School Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday, January 11, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 25, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 6:30 p.m.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee:

- Wednesday, January 18, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 5 p.m.

**XII. Future Agenda Items –**

Presentation by District Auditors, policy JQ, Budget, building committee update

**XIII. Executive Session** “...to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting 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 collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and this was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 8:35 p.m.

The committee return to open session at 9:09 p.m.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by C. Kabala to establish a salary for the Dudley Elementary School Interim Principal as \$92,500, prorated, was approved by unanimous vote.

**I. Adjourn**

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 9:10 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include the following:

Agenda for 12/14/16	Superintendent’s Report of 12/9/16	Innovative Student of the Month
Minutes of the executive session of 11/9/16	Finance Director’s Report	Request for full-time ESL teacher
January 3, 2017 professional development day flyer	Policy JQ	
Shepherd Hill Building Project Options	Minutes of the regular meeting of 11/9/16	

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.