

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, July 13, 2016, held at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, 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: Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, Robin L. Parmley, Kathleen E. Pastore, teachers Kevin Foley; retired principal Doris Dono; Joanne Santelli, Stefan Sage, Charlton; 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 Tuesday, June 21, 2016

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci, to approve the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, June 21, 2016, as corrected, was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Minutes of the Executive Session of Tuesday, June 21, 2016

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the minutes of the executive session of Tuesday, June 21, 2016, was approved. Mrs. Rabbitt abstained.

II. Approval of Warrant

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

Warrant #	Amount
2	\$109,646.82
3	\$429,996.99
4	\$96,352.69
5	\$1,695.20
69	\$155,892.95
Total	\$793,584.65

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VI. Communications

1. Mr. Desto has sent letters of appreciation to Senator Anne Gobi, Senator Ryan Fattman, and Representative Peter Durant upon the news that the FY 17 Conference Committee released its report and has increased Chapter 70 funding by \$116,131,419, and Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) by \$42,131,271.

Mrs. Antocci offered an update on the End Common Core Initiative. On July 1, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled against the ballot question to End Common Core in the state, citing the question was improperly certified by Attorney General Maura Healey. The question will not be on the ballot in November.

Mrs. Aucoin read a letter from Superintendent Desto in which he expressed gratitude for the school committee's recent evaluation and vote of confidence. He thanked the committee for entrusting him with this important responsibility and the privilege of working in a place he loves so much.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto announced the hiring of Anne Marie LaFond as the district's first Data Specialist/Central Registrar. Mrs. LaFond began her duties Monday and has made several appointments for enrollment. She will be building a page for the district website with manager Kelly Frederico. Mr. Desto said the district became another of area districts who have created this position, which he said, is very necessary in this age of data-driven student and staff information management.

2. Mr. Desto reported on the memo submitted by Curriculum Director Lorinda Allen and Technology Director Dan D'Arcangelo concerning the district's ability to meet the demands of computer based testing in the 2016-17 school year for grades 4 and 8, and, ultimately, all students by spring 2019. The DESE anticipates that the new MCAS tests will be compatible with most devices used in schools, including tablets and Chromebooks.

According to Mrs. Allen and Mr. D'Arcangelo's inventory, there are adequate devices at the middle schools for grade 8 and at Dudley Elementary School for grade 4. There are fewer devices at Heritage School and therefore presents some options for either purchasing or borrowing devices, alternating test dates, or seeking a waiver from the DESE.

3. Regarding Mr. Desto's goals and evaluation for the coming year, he proposed scheduling a workshop in mid to late August with school committee members.

4. Mr. Desto recognized Doris Dono upon her retirement as principal of Mason Road School, a position she has held since 2000. The committee presented Mrs. Dono with a commemorative chair.

5. Mr. Desto brought forth the request he received earlier today from Wayne and Jo-Ann Santelli of Charlton. The couple is requesting plans to host a foreign exchange student from Italy who would enroll at Shepherd Hill as a junior. District policy JF allows two foreign exchange students per year. The committee approved a request in March 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year. The deadline for applications is August 1 and the next school committee meeting is August 10. Mr. Desto said he has not reviewed the student's application with Principal Chaplin; however, he recommended approval of this request pending confirmation.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the request by Mr. and Mrs. Santelli to enroll a foreign exchange student, contingent upon a successful review, was approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. New Business

A. Establish School Committee Meeting Schedule, 2016-2017

The committee reviewed the schedule of meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, and agreed to schedule a budget workshop at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesdays to discuss the work of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee.

Concerning the February 2017 meeting schedule, February 22 is during the school vacation week. The committee agreed to schedule the regular meetings on February 8 with a budget workshop on February 15 at 6 p.m.

B. Shepherd Hill Site Study (Vote Required)

In response to the recommendations made in the recently completed site study, Mr. Desto sought the committee's authorization to form a committee to move forward on implementing upgrades and improvements to Shepherd Hill. Mr. Desto suggested school committee members serve with past and present district administrators, teachers, members of the maintenance staff, as well as fire and police personnel. The meetings would begin in September.

Mr. Desto will draft a membership list.

C. Finance Director Update (Vote May Be Required)

1. Mr. Mathieu presented a list of \$7,139.31 in donations for the committee's approval:

Janet Malser Humanities Trust to Dudley Elementary School for music in the schools:	\$2,825
Box Tops for Education to Dudley Elementary School	\$2,900
Targets Take Charge of Education Program	\$64.31
E.J. Stochaj, Dudley Elementary School Caring Continues	\$250
Empire Travel to Dudley Elementary School	\$100

Exxon Corp to Charlton Middle School for community information session	\$1,000
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A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by S. Reed to accept the donations as listed above, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Mathieu reported the Conference Committee has released its FY 17 budget, which indicates Chapter 70 monies were left intact, but regional transportation was reduced by an

additional \$30,000 from the Senate version. Mr. Mathieu said this leaves the expected revenue budget approximately \$60,000 short for FY 17; however, this balance can be made up by the Regional Transportation Reserve Fund. This will reduce the amount available to support the FY 18 budget.

The kindergarten grant was eliminated, which is an \$80,000 hit to the budget. Mr. Mathieu will factor in this loss and will request budget transfers in September.

3. Following discussions with District Food Services Director Andreas Panayiotou, Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to increase the school lunch price from \$2.75 to \$2.90 for 2016-2017. The required pricing level is \$2.89. Mr. Mathieu said if the lunch price does not increase, the district would have the option of either funding the difference of \$0.14/meal or risk losing federal assistance for the program.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak to accept the recommendation of the finance director to raise the 2016-2017 lunch price to \$2.90, was approved by a vote of 6-1. Mrs. Aucoin was opposed.

Mrs. Aucoin said the district can assume the difference by using reserves.

Mrs. Antocci said the district could assume the difference in the cost, if there were reserves available to be used.

4. Mr. Mathieu presented a list of items and requested they be declared as surplus and disposed. The items include textbooks, carts, projectors, which are in disrepair.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to declare the items as presented by Mr. Mathieu as surplus and to direct the finance director to dispose of the items, was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Consideration to Approve Agreement with Title One Teachers

This item was postponed pending executive session scheduled at the end of the meeting. The committee will reconvene after executive session to vote, if necessary.

E. School Choice Guidelines, 2017-2018 Discussion

Mrs. Reed requested this item for discussion.

Mr. Desto presented research about school choice and said he found that districts are allowed to deny a school choice seat based on a student's prior disciplinary action. He suggested the district's application be revised to strongly reflect this information. Mrs. Rabbitt suggested language be included that states that a parent's failure to disclose this information is grounds for denial.

Among the requirements is the need to vote prior to May 1 whether or not to participate, and to set the number of available seats. The district conducts a lottery to fill the seats if the number of applications exceeds the available seats. The district cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic

performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance or proficiency in the English language.

Siblings of those already enrolled in school choice receive priority if there is a seat open in that grade.

F. Consideration of Requests for Non-Resident Enrollment, Policy JF, (Vote Required)

Mr. Desto presented three requests to the committee and recommended approval. The committee considered the requests separately:

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by C. Kabala to approve the request as submitted, contingent upon the parents' provision of transportation, was approved by unanimous vote.

The enrollment of such non-resident students is classified as a tuition waiver, and the students are accountable for Chapter 70 reimbursement rather than as school choice students.

Two other requests were received. Mr. Desto recommended approval.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to approve the requests of the families for temporary non-resident enrollment, was approved by unanimous vote contingent upon the parents' provision of transportation.

G. Consideration of District Policy JJIB-A, Non-District Students' Participation in District Activities – first reading (Vote Required)

The language was reviewed at the committee's last meeting and the policy is presented this evening for first reading.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to waive the actual reading of the policy was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to approve Policy JJIB-A on first reading, was approved by unanimous vote.

IX. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee: Wednesday, August 10, 2016, Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, 7 p.m.

August 3, 5 p.m. Budget and Finance Subcommittee, District Office.

X. Future Agenda Items – FY 17 Budget, Goals/Evaluation of the Superintendent, Home School Requests, policy JJIB-A, second reading; DESE Coordinated Program Review, District-wide civics project.

XI. Executive Session “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, and to conduct collective bargaining session.”

The chair entertained a motion to enter executive session “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, and to conduct collective bargaining session,” and to reconvene for a vote if necessary, and this was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 7:58 p.m.

The committee returned to open session at 8:21p.m.

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk, to approve the Title One Employment Contract for 2016-2017 with language changes and a 2% increase to salaries over the next three years, was approved by unanimous vote.

XII. Adjourn

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:21 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

Meeting agenda for July 13, 2016	Superintendent’s Report Friday, July 8, 2016	Meeting minutes June 21, 2016
2017 MCAS Memo	Finance Director’s Report	2016-2017 Title One Contract
1617 Meeting Schedule	1617 Hiring Map	Policy JJIB-A

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary