

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley, 8:30 a.m.

In attendance were subcommittee members Pauline J. Aucoin, Catherine M. Kabala, Stephanie A. Reed; Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 8:45 a.m.

Mrs. Reed was selected as chair, and Mrs. Kabala as vice chair.

2. Introduction – FY 20 goals

Mr. Lamarche will recommend the formation of a capital outlay subcommittee at the next school committee meeting comprised of school committee members, Mr. Mathieu, an administrator, and one or two community members.

The subcommittee agreed the Dudley Middle School, Charlton Middle School, and Shepherd Hill Regional High School roofs are a priority in capital planning. The cost estimate is \$2-3 million for just one roof, and \$6 million for the three roofs.

Mr. Lamarche said the district will continue to apply for funding consideration from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. At present, roofs must be 25 years of age or older to be considered; however, Mr. Lamarche said the MSBA adopted this requirement based on the large number of applicants. This requirement could be revisited in future funding cycles.

Mr. Lamarche said the town of Bourne was successful in gaining MSBA funding for the high school roof. The state reimburses 40% of the project costs.

The subcommittee discussed other capital items at Shepherd Hill, including athletic fields and tennis courts, and long term issues such as the playability of fields and bleachers.

The subcommittee agreed there are projects waiting at the other six schools such as HVAC systems and security cameras.

The subcommittee discussed the middle/elementary school construction/renovation project that has come off the books, and the committee's hope that another project replaces it. Mr. Lamarche said this discussion will be included in all future discussions with the towns. Mr. Mathieu reminded the subcommittee that there is presently \$70,000 budgeted for a facility study.

Mrs. Aucoin said Capital Improvements is one of the School Committee's goals for the year.

3. Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, May 7, 2019

A motion by C. Kabala, second by S. Reed to approve the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, May 7, 2019, as corrected, was approved. Mrs. Aucoin abstained.

4. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

5. FY 2020 State Budget – Conference Committee

Mr. Mathieu said the governor is expected to sign his budget today, reflecting a \$36,000 increase to Chapter 70 funds. There is also the potential of an increase in regional transportation.

6. Capital Study

7. Other

The substitute management system is being readied for use with the start of the new school year.

Mrs. Reed inquired about establishing salary caps for administrators.

Mrs. Aucoin said while this was discussed by the school committee, there had been no formal vote on including that language in recent contracts. She said the budget should not be balanced on the backs of employees. Mr. Mathieu said salary caps are a disincentive. Mr. Lamarche said he has not encountered salary caps and said salary advancement is an investment in longevity.

The subcommittee set the next meeting date as Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

8. Maintenance of Effort

Mr. Mathieu reported on the special education office's response to a communication from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education last week, regarding what was perceived as a drop in funding for students with special needs in the 2015-16 school year by \$900,000. Mr. Mathieu said there is a federal requirement to keep this Maintenance of Effort for special needs students, and if found, the district would have had to repay the money. Mr. Mathieu cited the work of executive assistant Peggy Furey and Director of Pupil Personnel Services Lorinda Allen for showing the discrepancy was the result of out-of-district students.

Mr. Mathieu said the student lunch debt has been reduced to about \$20,000.

Concerning the plan to purchase new general ledger software, Mr. Mathieu will have a recommendation for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee at its August 21 meeting. In addition, Mr. Mathieu will have a recommendation for a busing app. He said the district may reduce one bus, which may free up money to fund routing software.

9. Future Agenda Items – capital planning, FY 20 budget update, general ledger software, staffing update,

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Kabala, second by S. Reed, and approved unanimously at 9:41 a.m.