

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee

Monday, April 10, 2023, 9:30AM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Pauline Aucoin called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. School Committee attendees were Jaime Dell'Ovo and Pauline Aucoin. Mr. Steve Koronis was also in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes (03/06/23)

A motion by J. Dell'Ovo, seconded by P. Aucoin to approve the March 6, 2023 minutes was approved unanimously.

J. Dell'Ovo – Yes

P. Aucoin – Yes

3. FY24 Budget Discussion

• **Overall Budget**

The District is still awaiting the final House budget numbers and are hoping to have in time for the School Committee Meeting this week, if not by EOD Friday. The hope is that there will be new revenues that will help the DCRSD meet the goals of lowering the assessments to the two communities.

• **Charlton Assessment**

On April 5, 2023, the Town of Charlton had a joint Finance Committee and Board of Selectman meeting to discuss the FY 2024 budget recommendations. Director, Rich Mathieu and several members of the DCRSD School Committee were able to attend. The consensus vote was to recommend a \$1.9M assessment increase for the District for FY 2024. Although this is a significant increase from prior years, the District will still need to reduce the operating budget by \$600K to achieve that level of assessment for Charlton. The \$600K may be reduced if additional revenues from the House budget is identified this week.

J. Dell'Ovo questioned if the reductions that are required by the School Committee are still a factor in deciding how to reduce the town assessments. The \$600K reduction is only a factor if the Dudley Override passes. If the Dudley Override fails, then the full \$2.7M reduction will be required.

P. Aucoin spoke to options for School Committee to address the \$1.9M Assessment for Charlton if the Dudley Override passes, including the potential to create a two-town vote, if needed.

Superintendent Lamarche thanked Director Rich Mathieu and the School Committee members for attending the meeting on April 5, 2023 and working with FINCOM and the Charlton BOS to arrive at a sustainable number for the District.

Mr. Steve Koronis also appreciated the members who attended the meeting and

spoke to some of the reductions on the town side, including the removal of Town Official Stipends, to get to the \$1.9M budget increase and avoid an override in the town of Charlton.

Director Rich Mathieu spoke to the continuation of the municipal revenue growth factor for the town of Charlton and how ongoing budget discussions will be imperative with the District and town moving forward so that Charlton is fully aware of any and all changes to assessments each year.

- **Dudley Assessment**

Director Rich Mathieu spoke to the Town Q&A that will take place tonight, April 10, 2023 in Dudley. A video has been created to answer questions that have frequently been asked during this budget season. Superintendent Lamarche and Director Rich Mathieu will be communicating to School Committee once the video is available online and can be shared.

One of the frequent questions that is addressed is how the ballot question is written in comparison to how the budget will be utilized. The ballot question was required to be listed as a single question for all future funding and the only way to do that was by increasing the operational override for one purpose one year and then repurposing those same dollars to another repurpose in future years. The Prop 2½% Override did not allow for a breakdown for each year to be specified on the ballot.

4. **Future Agenda Items**

The Dudley Override will be added to the next agenda and depending on the outcome of the Dudley Override on April 25, 2023, there may be a need to move up the next Budget and Finance Subcommittee date currently scheduled for May 8, 2023.

5. **Adjourn**

A motion by J. Dell'Ovo, seconded by P. Aucoin to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:55 AM.

J. Dell'Ovo – Yes

P. Aucoin – Yes