

# DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee  
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
68 Dudley-Oxford Road  
Dudley, MA 01571

## AGENDA

### I. Call to Order

P. Aucoin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Moment of Silence

### IV. Approval of Minutes

- A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, September 22, 2021*
- B. *Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Approval of minutes has been tabled by the Chair until the next meeting

### IV. Approval of the Warrant

The warrants continue to be signed electronically as well as in person. The warrants were distributed among the members without comment or questions.

Accounts Payable	
Warrant #	Amount
24	\$46,905.59
25	\$13,757.66
26	\$521,116.81
27	\$629,813.41
28	\$1,864.35
29	\$81.50
30	\$287,607.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,501,147.13</b>

### V. Citizens' Forum

Timothy Paquette – Dudley

Mr. Paquette stated that he opposes CRT, CSE, forced masking and mandatory injections. He does, however, support term limits for the School Committee

Mr. Paquette also cited a twitter post by one of the principals on the district webpage that he disagreed with.

P. Aucoin notified Mr. Paquette that our policies do not allow anyone to site personality [personnel] matters without it first being approved for discussion by the committee.

A motion for recess was called for by C. Carmignini, seconded by J. Evans to recess for 5 minutes after Mr. Paquette disregarded the school committee policies by continuously connecting his comments to personnel. The motion was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

Mr. Paquette would like to know the policy and remedy for employees of the district in positions of power who post political views on social media. Chair Aucoin referred Mr. Paquette to the Superintendent.

Jaimie Pablico – Dudley

Ms. Pablico had a number of questions for the committee. J. Terry requested that Ms. Pablico email her questions to the committee for a response and so everything was understood.

- Do students need to be citizens of Massachusetts, and either a Dudley or Charlton resident?
- Did you put a motion on the floor on April 29th, 2020 to approve Mr. Lamarche's request to allow his children to be enrolled in this district despite their Connecticut residency?
- Mr. Laferriere, did you second this motion?
- Did you recently attend a Charlton town meeting seeking an override to balance this district's budget?
- Did this district receive in ESSER 1 and ESSER 2, and an estimate of ESSER, 2020-present, an approximate 2 billion dollars?
- Did this district also receive additional grant monies to include a GEERF?
- If this district is receiving all of these funds from the state via the federal government and taxpayers unto this district, why is this district unable to balance a budget, and yet Mr. Lamarche seeks more money through an override?
- Do you have an accounting sheet of all of this money coming in, and what it is used for?

Shauna Piehl – Charlton

Shauna requests that the committee continue holding meetings with the parents and the board of health to make a sound decision on what's best for our children in regards to current and future mandates.

Carla Coan – Charlton

Ms. Coan would like the location of the committee meetings to be changed to a non-school site so that, instead of enforcing masks, it is up to the individual to choose whether or not to wear one during meetings.

Marsha Wagner – Dudley

Ms. Wagner states that the policies in place feel stifling due to their limitations and feels that the public should have a say in policy procedures.

## **VI. Communications**

S. Lamarche confirmed that the letter the committee sent to Commissioner Riley was mailed last week (October 6). We have not yet received a response, but neither has Sandwich, MA.

The district received a letter from the Massachusetts Nurses Association requesting an increase in nursing staff to help with COVID and the physical, social and emotional needs of our district children/students.

J. Terry would like to praise the district for bringing back after-school activities and the efforts that went into bringing the programs back this year.

P. Aucoin received a note from Sandra Sullivan to say thank you for her time with the district.

## **VII. Student Representative Report – Mr. Trevor Wallace**

We are approaching homecoming weekend (October 15-16). It will start with a dance in the SHRHS parking lot, followed by Saturday's homecoming day celebration and evening football game.

The cafeteria has returned to lunch tables but is requiring students sign into their tables for contact tracing if needed.

Seventh period will be unlocked and students will be returning to a regular schedule.

The National Honors Society Haunting on the Hill will take place October 29 at 6:00 PM with proceeds going toward the Thanksgiving Food Drive

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

September 29 was a successful in person dinner for First Honors night.

Four SHRHS commended for outstanding performance for preliminary SAT/National Scholarship Qualifying Test

Charlton PTO held three social events to support children

Educator Evaluation systems are re-engaged this year.

Outreach email sent to DCRSD families about unknown positive individuals and close contact individuals

Policy Subcommittee has a new feedback loop where policies are sent out to families after first read through the DCRSD communication for review.

## **IX. New Business**

A. Appointment of School Committee Secretary and Records Access Officer

A motion by C. Carmignini, second by J. Evans to appoint Erin Glenn as School Committee Secretary was approved unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

A motion by C. Carmignini, second by C. Kabala to appoint Erin Glenn as Records Access Officer was approved unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

**B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations and the Budget and Finance Subcommittee – Dir. Mathieu and Chair Laferriere**

**1. Year End Audit June 2020 – Mr. Frank Serretti – Powers and Sullivan**

The audit was conducted remotely. The audit was delayed, but preliminary work was able to be completed, including necessary testing. The year-end work happened between March-July 2021 and the Final report was issued in August 2021. The records were in excellent shape and no recommendations for corrections was required as a result of the audit.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Terry to send a letter to the business department to say thank you for all their hard work was approved unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

**2. Donations**

Shepherd Hill received two donations for their Athletic Donation Account from the Blue-Collar Football Clinic and the Dale Smith Golf Fund.

Heritage received a donation from the Masonic Angels at the Overlook to help sponsor students in the “After the Bell” program.

A motion by J. Terry, second by C Kabala to accept all donations passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

**3. Medicare Plan Renewal**

The plan renews on January 1, 2022. The rates for the plan for next year is an increase cap of \$15.00 to \$286,68 but is actually still down from the 2019 cost of \$309.07. This rate has been guaranteed for 2023 and capped at a max \$10.00 increase per year for 2024 and 2025. The max 2025 will still be less than 2019.

**4. Update Life Insurance Carrier**

Due to a hole in the communication system with our carrier, we will no longer be using Boston

Mutual, but we were able to get the same coverage through Symetra at the same rate. Boston Mutual claimed a 136% loss and would not negotiate the loss warranting the change in carriers. The switch from providers will be effective January 2022.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by C. Carmignani to approve the change of the district's insurance carrier from Boston Mutual to Symetra passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

5. Update General Ledger Software  
Formal training on the new Infinite Visions software will begin near the end of October with a projected July 1 implementation.
6. Update Food Services – Dir. Greenberg  
Due to supply chain issues, there are new challenges for Food Services such as shortages of food and packaging materials, as well as delays or cancellations in deliveries in addition to a shortage of workers. Food services will continue to do their best to stick with a daily menu, but last-minute changes might need to be made based on what each delivery looks like.

#### C. Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Ackerman

1. Professional Development

A half day of professional development was offered October 8, 2021 and allowed teachers and staff the opportunity to review skills, standards and goals for students now we are approximately five weeks into the instructional period. Based on concerning feedback from grade 2 teachers, Dr. Ackerman is working with principals, Amplify and DCRSD educators to address questions and concerns.

2. Middle School Mathematics – Principal Starczewski

The district will be reviewing the mathematics curriculum for grades 5-8 to provide students with an increased and enriched learning experience. We have partnered with DESE and other like-districts to identify HQIM – High Quality Instructional Materials in mathematics. HQIM materials are research-based materials that meet standards and expectations in our state and through peer review processes. The next meeting will be October 26, 2021.

#### D. Report of the Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee – Chair Terry

The Subcommittee met September 24 virtually to outline future needs and safety concerns. The top priorities are currently the roofs at both middle schools and the bleachers at SHRHS.

#### E. MASC Report of the Resolutions Committee

Motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala for J. Costello to be the Delegate for the district at the MASC conference passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

Resolution 1 – MASC supports proposals that would establish dedicated funding for school-based physical health and mental health clinics and services thus creating an optimal learning environment and setting up students for future excellent health standards.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Terry to agree with resolution 1 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 2 – MASC will file for and support legislation which seeks to provide free broadband internet to all K-12 students.

A Motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Evans to agree with resolution 2 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 3 – MASC requests the Congressional Delegation reintroduce and promote the passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act

A Motion by J. Costello, second by K. Laferriere to agree with resolution 2 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 4 – MASC calls for at least 20 minutes of free-play recess per day which cannot be excluded from structured learning time requirements and may not increase the total number of hours required in the school year.

A motion by J. Terry, second by J. Evans to agree with resolution 4 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 5 – MASC requests Legislation encourage the use of restorative, therapeutic and educational approaches to incidents whenever possible over the use of “zero-tolerance” policies in order to provide students the best chance to remain in the public-school system.

A motion by J. Evans, second by J. Costello to agree with resolution 5 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 6 – MASC requests the legislature establish a commission to research and analyze alternative means for students to demonstrate academic achievement for graduation requirements.

A motion by J. Evans, second by J. Costello to agree with resolution 6 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 7 – MASC seeks to preserve the authority of the elected body by removing “and school committee” from MCL Ch. 69, Sec. 1K and replacing it with “Nothing in this section shall permit the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or the Commissioner to remove the authority of the school committee.”

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Costello to agree with resolution 7 was passed unanimously.

P Aucoin - Yes  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – Yes  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Terry – Yes

Resolution 8 – MASC petition Congress to appropriate \$30 billion to improving electrical supply infrastructure, and providing electric buses and charging stations

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Costello to agree with resolution 8 was defeated. Motion did not pass.

P Aucoin - No  
C Carmignani – Abstained  
J Costello – No  
J Evans – No  
C Kabala – No  
K Laferriere – No  
J Terry – No

J. Terry stated that she does not feel now is the right time to entertain this motion due to driver shortages and the nation's debt. Simply not taking action doesn't send a strong enough message, so it should be voted down.

Resolution 9 – MASC supports regulations prohibiting public schools from using anything that refers to, or is associated with, Native Americans.

A motion by C. Carmignini, second by J. Evans to agree with resolution 9 was defeated 2-5. Motion did not pass.

P Aucoin - No  
C Carmignani – Yes  
J Costello – No  
J Evans – Yes  
C Kabala – No  
K Laferriere – No  
J Terry – No

F. Update Superintendent's Self Evaluation

Mr. Lamarche used a standard rubric for his self-evaluation and identified 10 out of 42 areas that need

improvement.

K. Laferriere requests the committee add a time to the agenda to discuss goals and long-term vision of the school committee for the district and the Superintendent

**X. Next Meeting Dates**

**School Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7:00 PM Charlton Middle School

**Budget and Finance Subcommittee:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 3:00 PM - Video Conference

**Policy Review Subcommittee:** Thursday, October 14, 2021, 9:00 AM - Video Conference

**Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning:** Monday, October 25, 2021, 3:00 PM - Video Conference

**Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee:** Friday, October 22, 2021, 11:00 AM - Video Conference

**XI. Future Agenda Items:** Superintendent Goals (October 27), DCRSD Strategic Plan Progress Report (November), Update SHRHS Global Studies Trip (October/November), DCLC (December), Superintendent/SHRHS Principal Awards (December), Student Achievement Report (January), 2022-2023 SY Calendar (February)

The committee requests that we add the following items to future agendas:

Executive Session to continue discussion contract negotiations for the Superintendent

Update on SEPAC

**XII. Executive Session:** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining [**Dudley-Charlton Paraprofessionals Association**] if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Per the chair, there will be no executive session this evening.

**XIII. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Terry, second by K. Laferriere to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously by a roll call vote at 9:15 PM

P Aucoin - Yes

C Carmignani – Yes

J Costello – Yes

J Evans – Yes

C Kabala – Yes

K Laferriere – Yes

J Terry – Yes

*The items listed, which may be discussed at the meeting, are those reasonably anticipated by the chair. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The School Committee may vote on all items listed on this agenda*

*“...to advance the knowledge and well-being of our children and our community.”*