

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Charlton Middle School

2 Oxford Road

Charlton, MA 01507

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, September 22, 2021

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Evans to approve the Wednesday, September 22, 2021 meeting minutes was approved unanimously

C. Carmignani - yes

J. Costello - yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala - yes

K. Laferriere -yes

J. Terry - yes

P. Aucoin – yes

B. Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, September 22, 2021

K. Laferriere requests that a change be made to the Executive Session minutes. The board agreed to discuss that during the October 27, 2021 Executive Session meeting.

C. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 13, 2021

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere to approve the Wednesday, October 13, 2021 meeting minutes was approved unanimously

C. Carmignani - yes

J. Costello - yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala - yes

K. Laferriere -yes

J. Terry - yes

P. Aucoin – yes

V. 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
31	\$250,237.48
32	\$299,504.26
33	\$60,645.56
34	\$18,491.15
Total	\$628,878.45

VI. Citizens' Forum

Timothy Paquette – Dudley

Mr. Paquette asks two questions tonight:

What policy is the school committee following when they enforce/require tax-payers to wear masks in order to be allowed to attend a municipal function that is open to the public?

Does DCRSD have a policy stating sports teams must wear masks when playing in the school gyms?

Kate Berry – Charlton

Ms. Berry requests the district post updates of the breakdown of student and staff COVID cases to the COVID dashboard on the school website.

Ms. Berry asks two questions of the board tonight:

If a case is determined to be a false positive, will the false positive be reflected on the COVID Dashboard?

Is the board/district concerned with the number of times a false positive might be occurring?

Shannon Dunnigan – Charlton

Ms. Dunnigan expressed concerns about her kindergarten aged child having to wear a mask for 40 hours a week while in school.

She cites statistics for COVID cases in California and Vermont who have the strictest mandates or highest vaccination rates vs the mandates surrounding Florida who currently has the lowest number of cases.

Marsha Wagner – Dudley

Ms. Wagner cited an article from the Washington Post, titled “Parents Claim They Have the Right to Shape Their Children’s Education. They Don’t.”

Ms. Wagner asks where the Board’s responsibilities lie – with the tax-paying parents that elected them to their office or to the Massachusetts Association of School Boards, DESE and Teacher’s Unions.

She asks that the Board do their due diligence and research the newly passed bills HB763 and SB 318.

David Smolski – Charlton

Mr. Smolski requests that Citizen’s Forum be moved to the end of the Board meetings to allow more parents to attend and comment on actions taken during that specific night’s meetings. He also asks that the Board bring back the option to participate both virtually or in person as it was previously practiced. He would like the Board to be consistent with their requirements for the mandates, regardless of where the meetings are held.

Jamie Publico – Dudley

Ms. Publico asks the Board why masks are being enforced at the school meetings but not the town meetings.

She states that the majority of the parents oppose CRT and CSE and believes there is not one single person in the school system that is qualified to teach the children the topics learned in these courses.

VII. Communications

There were no communications to discuss.

VIII. Student Representative Report – Mr. Trevor W. Wallace

The SHRHS Marching Band received 5 stars in every competing category and scored a perfect score overall.

Fall Sports are coming to a close.

The football game traditionally played on Thanksgiving Day will take place on Wednesday, November 24 at 5pm instead.

The Haunting on the Hill Extravaganza will take place at SHRHS on Friday, October 29 – rain or shine. All proceeds from the event will go toward the food drive.

IX. Superintendent’s Report

The SHRHS homecoming events were well attended and very successful. The district will continue looking for ways to meet pre-COVID expectations

SHRHS is looking for support to apply for a MIAA middle waiver for DMS and CMS 8th grade students and a CO-OP Waiver Agreement to explore, if needed, a co-op with other districts for boys’ and girls’ lacrosse. The first step is to apply so we’re

able to explore different relationships with other communities in the area.

A Motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Evans to begin discussion to apply for a MIAA waiver and a Co-Op waiver for 8th grade boys' and girls' lacrosse passed unanimously.

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

We have had a consistent number of COVID cases with a dramatic increase in close contacts but the district nurses are working diligently to provide the correct “next steps” to each family when they needed to be contacted.

DCRSD received a letter from the DCTA to inform the Committee of their desire to enter into negotiations for a successive contract as their current one ends August 31, 2022.

X. New Business

A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations and the Budget and Finance Subcommittee - Director Mathieu and Chair Laferriere

The Subcommittee discussed budgetary priorities such as social and emotional learning and the impact of COVID on students. K. Laferriere requests that the Board start thinking about budget priorities to discuss at the November meeting. The subcommittee found that the district's biggest needs are the roofs at the middle schools and the bleachers at SHRHS. They will continue to work with town officials to develop a sustainable budget.

1. Donations

Charlton Elementary School received a check from Planet Aid for \$124.00.

A motion by J. Evans, Second by J. Terry to accept donation was passed unanimously.

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

2. Fiscal Year 22 Update

The final state revenues for FY22 are on track to match our budgeted revenues. The final assessments for the state charges of School Choice and charter school assessments increased by \$40,967.00. An updated FY22 budget will be presented during the December School Committee Meeting

3. Energy Market Update

The district contracts for electricity and gas expire in late 2022 and renewal prices have increased dramatically. These price increases need to be kept in mind when coming up with the FY23 budget.

B. Report of the Capital Outlay Subcommittee – Chair Terry

J. Terry discussed the estimated cost and dire need for the following projects:

Middle School Roofs

SHRHS Bleachers

Fire alarm panels and devices at the majority of the schools

District-wide – cameras

Architectural Review of all schools except SHRHS

The SHRHS bleachers recently developed a new soft spot and gave way during a competition on the field. The company came out and replaced multiple boards where weaknesses were found.

Paneling has been added to the windows at Heritage for added safety for the students.

David Siniscalchi, the new Facilities Director, gave a brief introduction and reiterated the need for new roofs at the middle schools.

C Kabala wants to know why the price has increased for the bleachers. Mr. Mathieu explained it also includes permanent bleachers, facilities, a new press box, etc.

C. Report of the Assistant Superintendent and the Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning – Dr. Ackerman and Chair Carmignani

Instruction using CKLA materials is underway. The grant team will meet regularly throughout the course of the school year to continue connecting the known Science of Reading to classroom instruction.

Grade 2 will meet with the Amplify team on November 2 for a Q&A session

MCAS Results were recently sent home – these results should be viewed as a starting point, not necessarily a progress report. The drop in scores is because of outside issues, not the students or families.

It is imperative that we continue letting parents know what the district is doing because of constant changes and everything that is happening. Good communication is key.

The subcommittee met and discussed a new policy of curriculum evaluation, development and adoption. They will continue discussing and then send the information over to the policy subcommittee for consideration.

D. Update, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Mandate(s)

The DESE Mask Mandate has been extended to at least January 15, 2022.

A waiver will be available but it has not been implemented yet.

E. Update, Policy Subcommittee – Catherine Kabala

1. ACAB – Harassment – 2nd Read

A comment was made Mr. Smolski that ACAB, especially in addition with harassment, can be mistaken

A Motion by J. Evans, Second by K. Laferriere to waive the reading of policy ACAB was passed unanimously.

C. Carmignani - yes

J. Costello - yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala - yes

K. Laferriere -yes

J. Terry - yes

P. Aucoin – yes

A discussion ensued to rename the policy to ACBB due to the negative connotation surrounding the definition of the acronym ACAB.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere for second reading and adoption of policy ACBB was passed unanimously.

C. Carmignani - yes

J. Costello - yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala - yes

K. Laferriere -yes
J. Terry - yes
P. Aucoin – yes

2. JIC – Student Discipline – 2nd Read

A Motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Carmignani to waive the reading of policy JIC was passed unanimously.

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

Motion by Evans, second Laferriere for second reading second reading and adoption of policy JIC was passed unanimously.

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

3. BEDH – Public Comment – 1st Read

A motion by J. Evans, second by K. Laferriere to waive the reading of policy BEDH was passed unanimously.

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

A discussion ensued about whether or not we should be able to answer questions directly in open forum or create a specific time to answer them during the following meeting.

The Policy will be sent back to the committee after a lengthy discussion

4. BBAA – Overview of School Committee – 1st Read

Policy BBAA has been withdrawn by C. Kabala due to the changes to BEDH on the table

Discussion about BH – the subcommittee could not find any other policies that address this the issue surrounding School Committee Public Communications. Committee and Community discussion ensued.

F. Update, Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) – Member Costello

The Council met with Director Bergeron and will have a Meet & Greet on November 17.

SEPAC will be sending out an informational email on what SEPAC is in the hopes of generating new members and getting information out to the public.

They will be sending out Satisfaction Survey to all those with IEPs in the District.

The council would like to focus on the following topics this year:

Basic Rights

Bullying

Transitions for those coming into the system once they're of age, or transitioning out of the schools because they've aged out.

R. Bergeron requests permission to add two full time paraprofessional positions for students with disabilities in the district.

Motion by C. Kabala, second by K Laferriere to add/approve the two positions requested by R. Bergeron was passed unanimously.

C. Carmignani - yes

J. Costello - yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala - yes

K. Laferriere -yes

J. Terry - yes

P. Aucoin – yes

G. Superintendent Goals– Steven M. Lamarche

Goal #1: The DCRSD will continue to systemically move towards the adoption of high-quality instructional materials that are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks supported by an academic research base like the national established EdReports.org or the Massachusetts established CURATE.

A discussion ensued over whether Mr. Lamarche's examples should be called "forms of evidence" or "action steps" so they are more measurable.

Goal #2: The DCRSD will develop more opportunities and structures to meet the needs of ALL learners to increase student achievement and access.

A discussion was held and the committee requests that Mr. Lamarche restructure his second goal to include "more meat."

Goal #3: The DCRSD will engage families and the community in meaningful and beneficial ways to cultivate an inclusive, caring and supportive District environment.

Items 4 and 5 under Goal #3 are more infrastructural.

Goal #4: The DCRSD will use districtwide information to determine if the current policies, practices and outcomes are the most essential priorities for students.

All stated forms of evidence are in place to support the actual goal, not be the goals themselves.

It was requested by the Board that Mr. Lamarche reconfigure his goals and bring them to the next meeting for additional discussion so they can see how he incorporated their feedback and make sure everyone remains on the same page.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 7:00 PM Charlton Middle School

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 7:00 PM Shepherd Hill RHS

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 3:00 PM - Video Conference

Policy Review Subcommittee: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 9:00 AM - Video Conference

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: TBD - Video Conference

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: Friday, November 19, 2021, 11:00 AM - Video Conference

XII. Future Agenda Items: DCRSD Strategic Plan Progress Report (November), Fiscal Year 2023 School Committee

Budget Priorities (November), DCLC Update (December), Superintendent/SHRHS Principal Awards (December), Student Achievement Report (January), 2022-2023 SY Calendar (February)

MASC Conference Report

Revise Superintendent Goals

Executive Minutes

Need for Grant Funded SPED Coordinator Position

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

P. Aucoin adjourned the meeting to go into Executive Session at 9:30 PM.

The committee returned to Open Session at 10:48 PM.

XIV. Adjourn

A motion by J. Terry, second by C. Carmagnini to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 PM was passed unanimously by a roll-call vote.

- C. Carmagnani - yes
- J. Costello - yes
- J. Evans – yes
- C. Kabala - yes
- K. Laferriere -yes
- J. Terry - yes
- P. Aucoin – 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.”