

**DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee  
Wednesday, November 10, 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 7:00 PM

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Moment of Silence**

The School Committee took a moment of silence for John Hickman, a long-time football coach of Shepherd Hill, who passed away on October 28, 2021. The committee also remembers our Veterans who made sacrifices for us in the name of freedom and democracy.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 27, 2021*
- B. *Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, October 27, 2021*

The chair waived the reading of the minutes until the December 8, 2021 meeting

**IV. Approval of the Warrant**

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

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
<b>Warrant #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>35</b>	\$34,177.35
<b>36</b>	\$305,630.35
<b>37</b>	\$15,235.42
<b>38</b>	\$890,447.82
<b>39</b>	\$75,349.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,320,840.88</b>

**VI. Citizens' Forum**

Timothy Paquette – Dudley

Mr. Paquette’s daughter was sent home with a letter notifying parents of an optional Social/Emotional Learning survey being passed out to children. The Paquette family chose to opt-out, but found out later their daughter still participated. He believes surveys concerning this level of personal information should be an opt-in option, NOT an opt-out.

Mr. Paquette believes if the district truly cared about the emotional well-being of the children, they would unmask them and allow them to be children again.

He requests we stop pushing Critical Race Theory on the children of the district.

Bonnie Seifert – Charlton

Ms. Seifert shared articles from Newsmax, Epic Times, FrankSpeech.com, Frontline, etc

Stefan Sage – Charlton

Mr. Sage presents a different perspective tonight. He believes the main concern is taking care of everyone in the district and has been since school started 70 days ago. He reminds all attendees that vaccinations are now available for those

ages 5+. He urges those concerned with the mask mandates to put their energies toward getting 80%+ of our students, teachers and staff to get vaccinated.

Carroll Sue Rehm – Charlton

Ms. Rehm emailed asking how the policies around masking for the public came to be after witnessing officials without masks at the July 2021 M.A.S.S. She states DESE requires students to wear masks indoors but not outdoors. All visitors are expected to wear masks in school buildings but DESE stresses that their authority cannot stretch to all visitors.

Ms. Rehm reminds the audience that Mr. Lamarche was not voted into a School Committee but asks if he's in charge if he's the one directing how the Board operates.

She asks who hired the police detail and what was the purpose?

In closing, she asks if the Board can still look the public eye and state that CRT and the branches of CRT (SEL and CSE) are not being implemented in this district.

Kate Berry – Charlton

Ms. Berry wants to know what step of the process the schools are on when they purchase sexually explicit books and place them on the shelves in the high school library. She cites the following titles:

All Boys Aren't Blue (Pages 267-268) – George M. Johnson

Gender Queer – Maia Kobabe

Looking for Alaska – John Green

Good Girls – Laura Ruby

Night Over Water – Ken Follett

Nowhere Girls (Page 9) – Amy Reed

What Girls are Made Of – Elana K. Arnold

Ms. Berry asks why is it that this burden is placed on our children to bring up these topics with the parents if they were exposed to something they were confused about?

Ms. Berry states that this isn't about banning books, it's about time in place. And the high school library is neither the time nor the place for books like those she mentioned and many others.

Marsha Wagner – Dudley

Ms. Wagner cites two additional books – *Get Real* and *Queer*.

Ms. Wagner brings up a past forum to discuss CRT but states she feels the board just tried to appease everyone afterward when the topic was acknowledged with the statement "We hear you" and that Mr. Akin, the individual hired for equity training, was the wrong fit for the district.

Jaimie Pablico – Dudley

Ms. Pablico reminds the board that they aren't the only group of parents getting up and fighting for these topics of conversation (CRT, mask mandates, vaccinations, SLE, etc). She states that its obvious there is a problem and its at the expense of the children.

She states that you're either on the side of preserving the right to choose or you're not.

## VII. Communications

There are no communications for tonight's meeting.

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

End of first quarter – report cards come out this Friday (November 12)

NHS collecting non-perishables and monetary donations from Nov 1-19 to provide full Thanksgiving meals for those in need.

Haunting on the Hill raised almost \$1,500.00 that will go toward Thanksgiving food drive.

This year the GSA Leadership council is participating in a research project with Boston College entitled Gay/Straight Alliances. Research aims to identify GSA experiences that are associated with student's social emotional health and academic outcomes.

Winter Sports teams are set to begin on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The annual PowderPuff game will be held November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **IX. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Lamarche officially introduced this year's Massachusetts Project 351 Ambassadors. Aedan Ellis-Morris will be representing Charlton Middle School and Emily Walker will be presenting Dudley Middle.

Charlton Middle School will be hosting the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation event on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The event will host up to 20 visitors from both Oxford and Webster middle schools and will allow participants to take part in a Q&A with the Access TCA panel – a design agency that is re-imagining face-to-face engagements.

Dudley Elementary students and staff helped the Black Tavern Historical Society and the First Congregational Church of Dudley fill their pantries with food for those in need. They also collected \$240.00 in cash and gift cards.

We have returned to both virtual and face-to-face (when requested) parent/teacher conferences.

Mr. Lamarche answered a few questions from the previous meeting before he concluded his report:

- At this time, there is no policy in place regulating the wearing of masks for third party uses of the school.
- We are getting back on track with our COVID tracker after running into staff shortages and, unfortunately, falling behind.
- We are now providing packets for all School Committee meetings so others can follow along.
- We continue to use the BinaxNOW antigen test and all of our tests are within their expiration date.

## **X. New Business**

### **A. Update – Global Studies Spring 2022 – Mary Pierangeli**

Ms. Pierangeli is hopeful we'll be able to return to international travel by April 2022 and is currently planning a student trip to Paris, Florence and Venice.

The French and Italian Governments are currently only allowing those that are fully vaccinated to travel to their countries and it is up to them, and them only, to make modifications to their requirements.

Three COVID rapid result antigen tests are required: 72 hours prior to leaving the US, one prior to entering Italy and one prior to returning to the US.

Information for contact tracing will be provided as well as detailed instructions on what to do if COVID affects anyone on the trip.

### **B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations - Director Mathieu**

#### **1. Donations**

SHRHS received a donation of \$200 from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf and Hickey Funeral Home for the First Honors Dinner in October.

Dudley Youth Basketball Organization would like to donate an updated scoring board to DMS and will be installing it themselves.

Charlton Middle School received an anonymous donation of \$250 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund

A motion by J. Terry, seconded by J. Evans to accept all donations was approved 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 2021 Closeout

The books are closed for FY21 and it is estimated that the Excess and Deficiency certification for the District will be in the range of \$1.15-1.3 million

This remains an area of concern and will be a focal point during discussions with the towns.

3. FEMA Reimbursement

The District received notification that it was awarded \$62,825.45 from its initial claim for PPE and disinfection chemicals and equipment. The District will re-apply in the hopes that new rules will possible reward an additional \$100,000 in reimbursable expenses that might qualify through FEMA.

C. Request for 1.0 FTE Special Education Coordinator – Grant Funded – Dir. Bergeron

Director Bergeron requests permission to use grant funding for an additional Special Education Coordinator at the Middle School level.

Coordinators have the authority to allocated district resources through the IEP process, oversee the IEP implementation at the building level and support and guide teaching staff.

There are currently many issues at the Middle School Level. There has been a large amount of turnover which disrupts the staff, students and families as well as the learning procedures initially set forth for each individual student. The caseload of students is quite large: 200 students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs); 20 Students in the ILC Program at CMS; 4 Students at the ALC Program at DMS; 11 pending requests for evaluations that could lead to additional students requiring services; 16 SPED Teachers and 25 IA's that require oversight.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Evans to approve the request for the Grant Funded 1.0 FTE Special Education Coordinator was approved unanimously.

C. Carmignani – yes

J. Costello – yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala – yes

K. Laferriere -yes

J. Terry – yes

P. Aucoin – yes

D. Superintendent Goals – Mr. Lamarche

Mr. Lamarche presents his goals after applying requested updates and changes brought forth by the Board from last month's meetings.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by K. Laferriere to approve the Superintendent Goals was passed 5-2.

C. Carmignani – no

J. Costello – yes

J. Evans – yes

C. Kabala – yes

K. Laferriere -yes

J. Terry – no

P. Aucoin – yes

E. Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Ackerman

CKLA instruction is ongoing at all four elementary schools and the EGLG team, along with our Grant Facilitator Dr. Maryann Perry, continues to meet regularly to review all goals and priorities.

Goals include a successful adoption of the CKLA instructional materials and creating conditions for teachers to collaborate and share/build their knowledge of reading instruction.

The Grant Team had teachers work in grade level teams to discuss successes and issues surrounding the adoption of the new learning program. The team will be meeting with Dr. Sonia Cabell, a nationally heralded reading expert with a special focus on the prevention of reading difficulties in young students.

The HQIM team has established a schedule of work activities and are

**F. Substitute Daily Rate - Mr. Lamarche**

A motion by K. Laferriere, seconded by J. Terry to accept the recommendations of the Superintendent to adjust the rate of pay for Substitute teachers was approved unanimously.

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

The new rates are as follows:

DCRSD Substitute Rates				Proposed Adjustments SY 2021-2022			
	Daily	Hourly	Comments	Hourly	Daily	Difference	
Teachers	85		Assoc Degree or 2 years of College (DESE amending 1-year)	85	125	40	
	95		BA/BS/Masters	95	135	40	
	100		Teacher licensure	100	145	45	
	110		Non-licensed - Long term sub for a position greater than 30 days	110	150	40	
	130		Licensed - Long term sub for a position greater than 30 days	130	175	45	
	260		Licensed - Full Year sub (unless other agreement via SC)	260	260	0	
Nurses	175		Credentialed	175	220	45	
Paras		17.19	Degree or non-degree	112	18.19	118	7

**G. DCRSD School Committee Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Priorities – B&F Chair Laferriere**

Ms. Evans requests we focus on SPED.

Ms. Carmignani would like the board to focus on updating the website, maintaining the level of programming, social/emotional learning/adequate counselors for students, and that all K-4 classrooms remain small for advanced learning environment.

Chair Aucoin requests focus on the Teacher/Student ratio.

Ms. Terry wants to stay focused on Capital.

**H. MASC Conference Update – Member Laferriere and Member Costello**

Ms. Costello brings the Board updates on the resolutions discussed at the 2021 MASC Conference.

Resolution 1: Dedicated Funding for School Based Clinics and Services – PASSED

Resolution 2: Homework Gap and Wifi/Internet Access – PASSED

Resolution 3: Idea Full Funding Act – PASSED

Resolution 4: Recess – PASSED

Resolution 5: Zero-Tolerance Policies – PASSED

Resolution 6: Alternative to MCAs – PASSED

Resolution 7: School Committees and Receivership – PASSED

Resolution 8: Electric School Buses – PASSED

Resolution 9: Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots - PASSED

**XI. Next Meeting Dates**

**School Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 7:00 PM Shepherd Hill Regional HS

**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:** Monday, November 22, 2021, 3:00 PM - Video Conference

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

**Executive Session Minutes Review Subcommittee:** TBD

- XII. Future Agenda Items:** DCRSD Strategic Plan Progress Update (December), Dudley Charlton Leadership Counsel Update (December), Superintendent/SHRHS Principal Awards (December), SHRHS Winter Performance (December), Fiscal Year 22 Quarterly Report (December), Principal/School (January), Student Achievement Report (January), 2022-2023 SY Calendar (February)  
Discussion concerning a virtual citizens forum option  
Discussion concerning moving the time of citizens forum  
Making the mask mandate optional  
Social/Emotional Learning  
Project Lead the Way (PLTW)  
Superintendent Goals Process (end of January)
- XIII. Executive Session:** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining [**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.

A motion by J. Evans, seconded J. Terry by to enter into Executive Session to discuss the non-union personnel Superintendent was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

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

The School Board entered back into regular session at 10:10 PM

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala to vote for the negotiated Superintendent contract.

A motion by C. Carmagnini, second by J. Terry to table the motion.

J Terry asks if the vote should be tabled for the next meeting.

P Aucoin states that it was stated we would reconvene and vote if necessary.

C Carmagnini requested a roll call

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

The motion to table was defeated and brings the Committee back to the original motion. The motion passed 5-2.

J Evans – Yes  
C Carmagnini – No  
C Kabala – Yes  
J Terry – No

P Aucoin – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Costello - Yes

**XIV. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Terry, second by J. Evans to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously by roll call vote at 10:15 PM

J Evans – Yes  
C Carmagnini – No  
C Kabala – Yes  
J Terry – No  
P Aucoin – Yes  
K Laferriere – Yes  
J Costello - 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.”*