

# DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Shepherd Hill RHS  
68 Dudley-Oxford Road  
Dudley, MA 01571

## Minutes

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Moment of Silence

### IV. SHRHS Winter Holiday Performance

### V. SHRHS Principal's Award and Superintendent's Award of Academic Excellence

Principal Chaplin presents the Principal's Leadership Award to Molly Starczewski.

Superintendent Lamarche presents the Superintendent's Award of Academic Excellence to Trevor Wallace and Gabriel Roach.

### VI. Approval of Minutes

#### A. *Minutes of Regular Meetings of Wednesday, October 13, October 27, and November 10, 2021*

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Terry to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Terry to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting was approved, with changes, unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

The changes include updating minutes to reflect the approval of the second reading and adoption of policy ACBB to the second reading and adoption of policy JIC under Section X, Item E:2. Under Section X, Item E:4, clarification has been provided on "issues" surrounding policy BH.

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2021 meeting was approved, with changes, unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

The changes include updating Section IV, Item B to reflect the waiving of the approval of the Executive Session minutes to the December 8, 2021 meeting. Under Section X, Item F the table for the new Substitute Pay Breakdown was added.

B. *Minutes of Executive Sessions of Wednesday, September 22, October 27, and November 10, 2021*

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes  
P. Aucoin - Yes  
C. Kabala - Yes  
J. Terry – Yes

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes  
P. Aucoin - Yes  
C. Kabala - Yes  
J. Terry – Yes

The chair tabled the approval of the November 10, 2021 meeting minutes until the January 2022 Committee meeting.

**VI. 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.

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
<b>Warrant #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>40</b>	\$251,623.54
<b>41</b>	\$15,889.45
<b>42</b>	\$106,645.98
<b>43</b>	-\$11,200.00
<b>44</b>	\$628,878.45
<b>45</b>	\$125,760.15
<b>46</b>	\$22,926.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,140,523.58</b>

**VII. Communications**

There were no communications to share.

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

The second quarter is well under way and Fall 2021 sports are wrapping up.

The Field Hockey Team was presented the State Division II Sportsmanship Award by MIAA Associate Executive Director Sherri Bryant.

Winter Sports are gearing up for their seasons.

There is a new SHRHS main gym scoreboard and shot clocks.

The NHS Food Drive was extremely successful and they were able to donate full meals to almost 50 families and 250 individuals in the community.

During the month of December, the SHRHS NHS will be accepting unopened toy and monetary donations for the community until December 20, 2021.

**IX. Superintendent’s Report**

Heritage Staff participated in the Overlook “Light Up Charlton” Program by donating and decorating trees.

Dudley Middle School participated in the Marching of the Gifts. The donations received will support over 400 families through You, Inc.

Mr. Lamarche states the DCRSD, like many other districts, has seen a sharp increase in positive COVID cases before and after Thanksgiving break. He thanks the nurses for their dedication to the DCRSD students during these challenging times.

Mr. Lamarche learned that the Superintendent of DCRSD must be appointed to the SWCEC Executive Board and requests the School Committee take a vote to officially appoint him to the Board.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere to appoint Superintendent Lamarche to the SWCEC Executive Board was passed unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

After concerns were raised about literature available through the SHRHS library were raised, Mr. Lamarche brings forth Policy KEC (Complains Concerning Instructional Materials) which requires the school principals receive formal complaints about literature through email. He also suggests forming a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) to reevaluate works in the Library collection as they are presented to the school principals. The DLRC will include:

SHRHS Principal or building administrator designee

SHRHS Librarian

2 SHRHS Teachers

3 Parents

1 School Committee Member

A committee member was not appointed during the December 8, 2021 meeting due to a few members being absent.

## **X. Citizens' Forum**

Timothy Paquette – Dudley

Mr. Paquette states its been 98 days since the District masked the children. He mentions COVID guidelines across the World, including a COVID vaccine mandate set forth by an LA County School District. He says Government is not the solution to the problem – they are the problem.

Shannon Dunnigan – Charlton

Ms. Dunnigan speaks on the options her Kindergarten daughter was given after being close to a student that tested positive days before. The options were either a 5-day observation by the school including daily COVID tests or two options that included home-schooling. She states her daughter was forced to segregate at lunch at a “close-contact” table and was required to wear her mask outside at recess. She wants to know what the end-game is.

Patrick McLeod – Charlton

Mr. McCloud brings up many questions surrounding a personal instance involving his daughter, a police officer and a school guidance counselor. He was told they would all have access to a Google Doc for Safety Protocols surrounding his daughter but has not yet received the document. He claims the masks are making his children physically ill after having to wear them all day.

Christine Dumont –

Christine says it is vital for young people to see themselves represented, whether it be age, race, sexual orientation or other topics. However, she is appalled by some of the books being used as representation in the District. As a member of the Queer Community, she finds it insulting, infuriating and hurtful that the books are portraying the Community the way they are. She states the offending books should be removed from the library immediately and she will personally provide materials to replace them.

David Smolski – Charlton

Mr. Smolski takes a moment to thank the School Board for listening to the Community and making changes around common topics that keep coming up in meetings (ex: masks at Committee meetings, the time of Citizens' Forum, etc).

Marsha Wagner – Dudley

Ms. Wagner wants to know if the list of books brought up in a previous meeting have been removed from the library yet.

## **XII. New Business**

### **A. Mask Requirements at School Committee Meetings**

Mr. Lamarche recommends holding off on this decision until the January meeting for a number of reasons – the District is trying to get back to Showcasing the students hard work and there’s been an increase in COVID numbers again.

Ms. Aucoin believes the School Committee is part of the School Department and feels the Committee should go along with what’s been mandated for the Schools. She agrees with Mr. Lamarche’s recommendation to wait until January. Mr. Laferriere states we cannot do anything about the mask mandate from the Commissioner and while the mandate is in place for students, the Committee should follow the same.

Ms. Terry disagrees and says she doesn’t believe she needs to tell other adults in a public setting what to do. She does ask that individuals are aware of their surroundings if they are not going to wear the masks. Ms. Kabala agrees as long as a respectable distance is still in place between those wearing masks and those that aren’t.

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to not require masks at Committee meetings with the provisions that, if students are presenting, individuals wear masks to protect them. The motion did not pass after a split vote.

K. Laferriere - No

P. Aucoin - No

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

### **B. Use of Video Conferencing for in-person School Committee Meetings**

After a discussion between the board there’s currently no change. The reasoning behind this decision is because the meetings are recorded Live and all documents used during the Committee meetings are now being provided to the audience.

### **C. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations, Budget and Finance Subcommittee and Capital and Safety Subcommittee - Director Mathieu, Chair Laferriere and Chair Terry**

#### **1. FY22 Budget and General Fund Quarterly Report**

There is a deficit in the area of Special Education tuitions that can be covered through the use of the ESSER III grant and additional Circuit Breaker Funds.

The District appears to qualify for Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief which may award the district anywhere between \$0-400,000 in funds.

#### **2. Capital – Bleachers**

Gale Associates provided a quote of \$11,585.00 to renovate the bleachers at SHRHS

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala to approve using the School Choice Fund to pay for the quote by Gale Associates was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

#### **3. FY23 Budget Priorities**

FY23 Priorities include providing level services to students, an updated capital plan, and developing a sustainable budget adoption process with our two communities.

#### **4. Building Rental – Request for waiver of fees**

Central Mass Athletics requests the use of the SHRHS gym for a performance in January with the rental fees for use waived.

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to waive the SHRHS Gym rental fees was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

D. Out of State Field Trip Request (SHRHS – CT.) – Dr. Ackerman

The SHRHS National Honor Society requests approval for an out of state field trip to Bigelow Hollow Farm to make wreaths as their December Service.

A motion by J. Terry, second by K. Laferriere to approve the out of state field trip to Bigelow Hollow Farm in Woodstock, CT was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

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

The Early Grades Literacy Team (EGLG) met to focus on the continued expansion of the District’s instructional knowledge base. They will continue to meet to ensure all students receive a high quality, equitable education.

The District is adding two additional CLKA strengthening components:

Video conference with the instructional staff of Elmira, NY, specifically focusing on year #1

In-person PD day for the Literacy Facilitators during December

The Middle School Mathematics team has selected four sets of instructional materials to review

Envision Math Common Core

HMH Into Math

McGraw Hill Illustrative Math

Open Up Resources Math

The SHRHS Biomedical Pathway program was chosen by industry professionals to be recognized for the work submitted to Math STEM Hub’s Student Industry Connects for Massachusetts STEM week.

There will be a District PD day on January 26, 2022.

F. Report of the Policy Subcommittee – Chair Kabala

1. JKA – Restraint of Students in Public Schools – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Amendment)

A motion by J. Terry, Second by K. Laferriere to waive the reading of Policy JKA was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

A motion by C. Kabala, Second by K. Laferriere to approve the first read of Policy JKA was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

2. JQ – Student Food Services Accounts – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Amendment)

A motion by J. Terry, Second by K. Laferriere to waive the reading of Policy JQ was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to approve the first read of Policy JQ was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

3. BEDH – Public Comment – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Amendment)

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to waive the reading of Policy BEDH was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

After a discussion between the Board, it was decided this policy will be held for further review among the members.

4. BH – School Committee Public Communications – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Amendment)

This policy will be held for further review among the members.

5. BBAA – Overview of School Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Amendment)

This policy will be held for further review among the members.

6. IGA – Curriculum Evaluation, Development and Adoption – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Adoption)

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to waive the reading of Policy IGA was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

A motion by J. Terry, Second by K. Laferriere to approve the first read of Policy IGA was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

7. KEC – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials – 1<sup>st</sup> Read (Amendment)

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to waive the reading of Policy KEC was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to approve the first read of Policy KEC was approved unanimously.

K. Laferriere - Yes

P. Aucoin - Yes

C. Kabala - Yes

J. Terry – Yes

G. DCRSD Strategic Plan Update – Mr. Lamarche

A Feedback Survey has been created so parents may participate in the redevelopment process of the 2022-2023 Strategic Plan

The strategic plan is student-centered and focuses on seven main competencies:

- Technologically Literate
- Critical Thinker and Problem Solver
- Empathetic
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Resilient
- Effective Communicator
- Globally Aware Citizen

**XII. Next Meeting Dates**

**School Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 7:00 PM Shepherd Hill Regional HS

**Budget and Finance Subcommittee:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 3:00 PM - Video Conference

**Policy Review Subcommittee:** Thursday, December 16, 2021, 9:00 AM - Video Conference

**Executive Session Minutes Review Subcommittee:** TBD

**Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning:** December 20, 3:00 PM – Video Conference

There is a potential this meeting could change.

**Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee:** Friday, December 17, 2021, 11:00 AM - Video Conference

The meeting has been rescheduled to January 7, 2022 at 11:00 AM – Video Conferencing

**XIII. Future Agenda Items:** Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council Update (January), Principal/School (January), Student Achievement Report (January), 2022-2023 SY Calendar (February)

Various policies

Masks requirements at meetings

**XIV. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Terry, Second by C. Kabala to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

*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.”*