

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee of Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 01507

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Cathleen Carmignani
Jeanne R. Costello
Jordan Willow Evans
Catherine M. Kabala
Kenneth J. Laferriere
Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair
Jamie L. Terry, Vice Chair

Also in attendance were Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations, Brian J. Ackerman, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Lorinda C. Allen, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Principal Dean W. Packard, Food Services Director Matthew Greenberg, Rich Earle, audio-visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, secretary.

There were approximately 60 members of the public in attendance.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Kenneth J. Laferriere called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM., noting the members are all in attendance for the return to fully in-person meetings. The meetings will continue to stream live on VIMEO.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

The chair welcomed Cathleen Carmignani back to the table following her successful reelection in Dudley on June 14.

IV. First Order of Business: Reorganization of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

The chair passed the gavel to the superintendent, who opened the floor to nominations for the role of Chair:

Mrs. Kabala nominated Mrs. Aucoin, who accepted the nomination. Mrs. Terry seconded.

Mrs. Carmignani asked Mrs. Aucoin what she hoped to accomplish as chair. Mrs. Aucoin said she will bring the committee together to work as a team.

Ms. Costello nominated Mr. Laferriere as chair, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Evans seconded.

Mrs. Carmignani asked Mr. Laferriere what he hoped to accomplish as chair. Mr. Laferriere said his goal is to establish a summer workshop for the committee as a time to discuss housekeeping matters and the flow of the meetings and the committee's role.

The vote for Mrs. Aucoin was 4 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. Voting in favor were Mrs. Carmignani, C. Kabala, J. Terry, P Aucoin. Opposed were J. Costello, J. Evans. Mr. Laferriere abstained. Abstain – kl

The vote for Mr. Laferriere was 3 in favor, 4 opposed. Voting in favor were J. Costello, J. Evans, K. Laferriere. Opposed were P. Aucoin, C. Carmignani, C. Kabala, J. Terry.

Mrs. Aucoin was elected chair.

Vice Chair

Mrs. Aucoin stepped down from the chair to nominate Mrs. Terry as vice chair. The senior member of the committee, Mrs. Kabala, assumed the chair. Mrs. Terry accepted the nomination, Mr. Laferriere seconded.

The vote for J. Terry as Vice Chair was unanimous.

Secretary

Mrs. Aucoin resumed the chair and opened nominations for the role of Secretary.

Mrs. Kabala nominated Mrs. Sullivan, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Laferriere seconded.

The vote for S. Sullivan as Secretary was unanimous.

Assistant Treasurer

Mrs. Aucoin nominated Mr. Lamarche as Assistant Treasurer.

The vote for S. Lamarche as Assistant Treasurer was unanimous.

Borrowing Authorization

A motion by C. Carmignani, second by C. Kabala to grant borrowing authorization to the District Treasurer Carol Baron, was approved by unanimous vote.

2021-2022 DCRSD School Committee Subcommittee appointments –

Budget and Finance – C. Carmignani, C. Kabala, K. Laferriere

Policy Review – J. Costello, J. Evans, C. Kabala

Capital Outlay/Safety K. Laferriere, J. Terry

Curriculum/Teaching and Learning – C. Carmignani, J. Terry, J. Costello

School Year Calendar Review – P. Aucoin, C. Carmignani, J. Terry

Executive Sessions Minutes Review – P. Aucoin, J. Evans, C. Kabala

Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association Negotiations – C. Kabala, K. Laferriere, J. Terry

Equity Committee – J. Evans

SEPAC – J. Costello

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, June 9, 2021

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Costello to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, June 9, 2021, as corrected, was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, June 9, 2021

A motion by J. Evans, second by C. Kabala, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, June 23, 2021, was approved by unanimous vote.

VI. Approval of the Warrant

The warrants will continue to be approved electronically for those who wish to do so.

Accounts Payable		Payroll	
Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount
75	\$77,757.74	1441D	\$484,741.69
76	\$213,772.00	1441P	\$1,352,845.18
77	\$61,922.52	1443D	\$191,404.73
78	\$168,558.35	1443P	\$600,056.05
Total	\$522,010.61	Total	\$2,629,047.65

VII. Citizens' Forum

Mrs. Aucoin read the policy, BEDH, Citizens Forum Agenda Item

1. Caitlin Seaman, Sunset Drive, Dudley, asked members to please speak clearly into the microphones as the audience cannot hear.
2. Daniel Bush, City Depot Road, Charlton, - asked about the process for reviewing curricula, and asked the committee to halt any further professional development on it to allow parents to be part of this process.
3. Kathleen Berry, H. Putnam Road, Charlton, said the Equity Committee does not include parents in its membership, and it is characterized by a lack of transparency. Within the presentation is a clear reference to Critical Race Theory and the mission statement of changing the hearts and minds of students.

Mrs. Aucoin suggested the parents meet with Dr. Ackerman and the superintendent. The parents in attendance expressed interest in a meeting for everyone.

Dr. Ackerman asked parents to reach out in small groups and he would meet with them.

Mrs. Terry said the school committee needs to be at those meetings to know the outcomes.

Mr. Lamarche suggested a forum be held at a separate meeting.

The gathering agreed to set a Special School Committee Meeting on Monday, July 12 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School at 7 PM, with the agenda item set as the Public Forum.

4. Patrick McLeod, L. Stevens Road, Charlton – there were meetings held with a consultant that parents did not know about. He asked that any plans to bring in consultants or professional development stop until there is a reasonable discussion about what is best for our kids.
5. Carla Coan, Daniels Road, Charlton – asked about live streaming the forum and whether emails or letters will be read.

The committee agreed that there will be an opportunity for parents to submit questions ahead of the meeting.

6. Paula Killian-Clark, Airport Road, Dudley, said she has been a teacher for 40 years, and

asked the committee to take under consideration that when a member of your committee is bringing back information from an advisory committee, there needs to be minutes from that group and that they be made available to the public.

Dr. Ackerman said there are meeting summaries dating back to August, and they are available.

Ms. Killian-Clark said the reports are pretty general, and expressed concern for the verbiage about changing hearts and minds of students. What about their hearts and minds need changing? It is not our job to change hearts and minds.

7. Shauna Piehl, Family Circle Drive, Charlton, said she believes that we are bringing up our children the best we can to be kind and respectful, and asked how the Equity Committee was formed and members chosen?
8. Alyssa Hanson, Stafford Street, Charlton, requested specific information such as why the committee was started, whether there are any statistics, and can parents join?
9. Derek Donahue, Misty Meadow Lane, Dudley, asked if parents can call in for the forum and that slides from the sessions with Dr. Eakins be posted.
10. Marcia Wagner, Hickory Drive, Dudley, said children do not see race, and asked why the committee signed an anti-racism resolution.
11. David Smolski, Center Depot Road, Charlton said the committee needs to be prepared to offer answers to questions that are asked in the forum.
12. – Meghan Sheehan, Old Worcester Road Ext., Charlton, asked how can school committee members gain more say in the Equity Committee?
13. Doris Dono, Oxbow Road, Charlton, asked if Dr. Eakens be present at the forum, and whether Dr. Ackerman can speak about the health program, and character education programs used in the schools.

Mr. Lamarche said the district has completed its contract with Dr. Eakens.

14. Shannon Murray, Charlton, said the school committee should be held accountable for its action last year in signing the anti-racism resolution from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.
15. Joellen Zastrow, Denfield Road, Charlton, asked how much time is taken in a school day to teach these concepts to our children when we just denied them a year of a solid education.
16. Kelly Szela, Partridge Hill Road, Charlton, said we need to come together for solutions, and asked where is the teachers' voice?
17. Christine Daoust, Ramshorn Road, Charlton, asked what brought the district to form the Equity Committee as opposed to focusing on children's mental health and missing education.

It was agreed that a survey will be sent to the communities to solicit questions. Shauna Piehl and Caitlin Seaman will work with Mrs. Carmignani and Ms. Costello to set the parameters of the forum.

The Committee took a recess at 8:43 PM, and returned at 8:53 PM.

VIII. Communications

Mr. Lamarche said the District Office was Bloomed by the Dudley Women's Club as part of its fundraiser.

Mr. Laferriere read thank you cards from staff members for the gifts given to them by the committee upon their retirements in 2020 and 2021.

Mrs. Kabala said she referred to Mr. Mathieu a question she received about the ventilation system at Heritage School.

Mrs. Aucoin referenced letters sent to committee members by Ms. Rehm and Mr. McCarthy.

IX. Superintendent's Report

- a. Mr. Lamarche welcomed the committee back to full, in-person meetings, noting that it is great to be back.
- b. Mr. Lamarche noted the end of the 2020-2021 school year, saying the year will remain unimaginable with low and high points that were weathered by staff, students and families. Students enjoyed the typical end-of-year events. Now begins the planning for the new school year and what that will look like as we await information and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- c. The state is asking school district to weigh in on the topic of requiring vaccinations for a return to school in the fall. Mr. Lamarche said he will not bring forward any recommendation about that.
- d. Mr. Lamarche said DESE has allowed districts to decide whether to require masks during summer programs. Mr. Lamarche said staff and students may choose to continue to wear masks, but it is not required.
- e. Mr. Lamarche reiterated the responsibility to ensure policies and civil liberties are upheld. He said we must make certain that we welcome everyone free of bias and racism. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness. He said members of the community can reach out to any staff member, but as required by statute, he listed the coordinators that ensure equity and access:

Title VI of the CRA of 1964 – Dr. Brian J. Ackerman

Equal Educational Opportunities Act Dr. Brian J. Ackerman

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Dr. Dr. Brian J. Ackerman

MA General Laws Chapter 76, Section 5 Attendance Coordinator, Anne Marie LaFond

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Lorinda C. Allen

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Dr. Dr. Brian J. Ackerman

American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Lorinda C. Allen

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Lorinda C. Allen

- f. Mr. Lamarche recognized the 2021 retirees: Kathleen E. Pastore, Lori A. Pacheco, Ellen Roach, Nancy Eisnor, Sara Sanborn, Kevin Foley, Gloria Gould, Debra Richard, Debra Sullivan, Kathleen Dowd-Murphy
- g. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges – NEASC, has moved its decennial accreditation review to Shepherd Hill to 2027
- h. The Project Lead the Way at Shepherd Hill Regional High School has earned Distinction.
- i. The Board of Education has passed new Career and Vocational Technical Education regulations concerning the admission of students. Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School must work on an admissions policy which must be in place by October 1. The criteria includes language that absences and behavior cannot be considered in the admission process.

X. New Business

A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations - Director Mathieu

1. Donation

Mr. Mathieu recommended acceptance of \$3,000 donated to the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District by the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation.

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala to accept the donation as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. FREC (French River Education Center) 2021-2022 Bids

Mr. Mathieu presented memos and results of the bid process through French River Educational Collaborative for the following areas: School Supplies, Copy Paper, Computer Supplies, Custodial Supplies, Athletics, Bread and Rolls, Dairy Products Non-Food Paper Supplies, Market Basket/ Frozen Foods.

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Terry to accept all of the bids, was approved by unanimous vote.

3. District Treasurer

Mr. Mathieu requested a one-time \$1,000 stipend be paid to District Treasurer Carol Baron for working extra hours to reconcile gaps created during the transition of treasurers in 2019.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere to grant a one-time payment of \$1,000 to District Treasurer Carol Baron for work in excess of her normal work hours, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Laferriere asked the chair to send a note of thanks to Mrs. Baron

4. CEP (Community Eligibility Program)

Mr. Mathieu reiterated the news that the federal government will maintain the free lunch program for all students for the upcoming school year. However, the process of certifying schools and districts as CEP-eligible remains in place. At this time the numbers indicated that Mason Road School, Dudley Elementary School, and Dudley Middle School, when grouped together, qualify for this program. While it has not yet been finalized, if it then all three schools will continue with free lunches past the 2021-2022 school year. MR. Mathieu will keep the committee updated.

5. Mr. Mathieu said Heritage School HVAC in Auditorium and Library will need to be investigated next year. He will reach out to consultants, saying the district's new Director of Public Facilities will assist in that. The building is not fixed but remedied to a point. The strategies will remain in place. Mrs. Kabala said she had been contacted about the ventilation in the Heritage School library.

B. Summer Meal Program – Food Service Director Greenberg

Mr. Greenberg said the district has partnered with Webster and Spencer-East Brookfield to provide meals to our families. This began in Spencer last Tuesday. The option is to pick up food on Tuesday at noon at the Chip-in Charlton.

Regarding the Community Eligibility Program, Mr. Greenberg said the average in Dudley schools is over the 40% threshold. The waiver for universal meals has been extended to next year as well.

Mr. Greenberg said Charlton schools are at 32% and not eligible.

Mrs. Kabala and Mrs. Aucoin expressed disappointment that there is no pickup opportunity in Dudley this summer.

C. 2021-2022 School Year Calendar – Mr. Lamarche and Dr. Ackerman

Due to the need for professional development activities for the implementation of the new reading curriculum – Common Knowledge Language Arts, Mr. Lamarche proposed moving the start date for students to Wednesday, September 1. Teachers will attend professional development on August 30 and 31. The professional development scheduled for later in September was removed, and Juneteenth has also been added.

Dr. Ackerman said two-day trainings will be held for CKLA, over the summer for K-4 teachers.

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Evans to approve the revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar, was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Superintendent's Evaluation

This item was requested by Jeanne Costello. She said moving forward, the school committee needs to have set goals, with dates and time in place so that the superintendent is aware of the committee's expectations as well.

Mrs. Aucoin will provide the state form for the committee's July meeting.

E. Superintendent's Contract

Mrs. Aucoin read the section of the superintendent's contract:

2. TERM § c *The Committee, on or before June 30, 2021, shall notify the Superintendent, in writing, as to whether or not it wishes to commence negotiations for a successor agreement. Failure of the Committee to give such notice shall be considered the same as notice by the Committee that it does not wish to commence negotiations for a successor agreement. In such event, this agreement shall terminate, as herein before provided, on June 30, 2022, and as of such date the Superintendent's employment shall terminate.*

Mrs. Aucoin entertained the motion that the school committee shall notify Superintendent Lamarche in writing before June 30, 2021, for the purpose of commencing negotiations for a successor agreement, and this motion was made by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala.

Mrs. Kabala said she reviewed the contract and noted the committee missed deadlines for evaluation and notification. She amended the motion to August 31, 2021, if the superintendent agrees, second by C. Carmignani.

Mr. Lamarche agreed to the amended date.
The vote on the amended motion was unanimous.

Mrs. Kabala withdrew her original motion and Mr. Laferriere withdrew his second.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere that the Committee, on or before August 31, 2021, for the purpose of commencing negotiations for a successor agreement, and shall notify the Superintendent in writing, as to whether or not it wishes to commence negotiations for a successor agreement. Failure of the Committee to give such notice shall be considered the same as notice by the Committee that it does not wish to commence negotiations for a successor agreement. In such event, this agreement shall terminate, as herein before provided, on August 31, 2022, and as of such date the Superintendent’s employment shall terminate, and this was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Aucoin will send a letter to Mr. Lamarche.

F. School Committee Summer meetings

The committee agreed to set the meetings as:
Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at Charlton Middle School and
Wednesday, August 25 at Shepherd Hill.

Both meetings will be live and at 7 PM.

Mr. Laferriere will determine a date for the Summer Workshop.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meetings:

Special Meeting: Monday, July 12, 2021, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 PM

Regular Meetings:

Wednesday, July 14, 2021, Charlton Middle School, 7 PM

Wednesday, August 25, 2021, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 PM

Subcommittee meetings will continue to be held via Zoom

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: TBD

Policy Review Subcommittee: Friday, July 16, 2021, 9:00 AM

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: TBD

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: Friday, July 16, 2021, 11:00 AM

XII. Future Agenda Items: Update Specialized Programming (July), DCRSD Strategic Plan Progress Report (July), Superintendent’s Evaluation (July/August), School Committee summer workshop (July/August), Approval of DCRSD Student Handbooks (August)

XIII. Adjourn

A motion by J. Terry, second by K. Laferriere to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 9:56 PM

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for Wednesday, June 23, 2021	Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, June 9, 2021	Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, June 9, 2021	Superintendent’s Report of Wednesday, June 23, 2021
Report of the Director of Finance and Operations – June 23, 2021	CVTE Regulations Update	School Year Calendar, 2021-2022 – Proposed Amendments	
FREC BIDS: Bread and Rolls, Milk and Dairy, Non-Food Items, Market basket – frozen foods, Custodial Supplies, Computer Supplies, Athletic			

Supplies, School Supplies

Respectfully Submitted by Sandra Sullivan, Secretary.