

## DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 01507, 7 PM.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

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

District Administration: Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations, Brian J. Ackerman, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; principals: William F. Chaplin, Jennifer A. Desto, Jennifer Lilley, Peter J. Olson, Dean W. Packard, Christopher E. Starczewski, Kelly True; media representatives Rich Earle, audio visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, secretary.

### **I. Call to Order**

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **III. Moment of Silence**

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

#### *A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, August 25, 2021*

A motion by P. Aucoin, second by K. Laferriere to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, August 25, 2021, as amended, was approved 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

#### *B. Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, August 25, 2021*

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Carmignini to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, September 8, 2021, as amended, was approved 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

**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.

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
<b>Warrant #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>20</b>	\$215,618.05
<b>21</b>	\$731.49
<b>22</b>	\$53,098.02
<b>23</b>	\$614,959.96
<b>24</b>	\$46,905.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$931,313.11</b>

**V. Citizens' Forum**

The chair read Policy BEDH:

The chair read Policy BH:

The chair announced she will limit this agenda item to one half-hour, and allot each speaker three minutes to speak.

Mrs. Aucoin acknowledged receipt of an emailed petition with approximately 300 signatures.

The chair reviewed a letter provided by District Counsel James Cosgrove regarding Committee authority to require member resignation. Counsel Cosgrove confirmed that it is not the Committee's jurisdiction to legally demand or require a committee member's resignation.

Timothy Paquette, Dudley, stated that school started 21 days ago and so did the masking of our children. In reference to a statement put forth the L.A. School district where they approved mandated COVID-19 injections, Mr. Paquette states he emailed the board and received no response when he begged that we do not follow suit and mandate injections in order for the children to attend school. Despite being told the mandates weren't up to the board, and instead controlled by the state level, he is asking that the board appeal the mandatory masking and replace it with an optional one.

David Smolski, Charlton, brings up that in the last meeting it was mentioned that, according to the law, the Committee doesn't have to respond to any communication. He states that if parents and the community keep asking questions, but the committee is not legally required to respond, people will become increasingly frustrated. His hope is that there will be continued two-way communication between the public and the committee and that it doesn't continue to form a one-way street because members are not legally required to respond.

Bethany Gadbois, Charlton, believes kindness has taken a backseat to upholding mandates and has since chosen to homeschool because they no longer support the decision making of the school body and the direction the mandates are going. She asks the committee what the purpose of education in 2021-22 with these mandates in place? She then quoted an excerpt from the letter to DESE from Sandwich, MA.

Garrett Holland, Charlton, is concerned about masks and vaccinations and presents scientific data and facts from the CDC. He believes that the DESE mask mandate was created as a backdoor to a vaccination mandate.

Mrs. Aucoin interjected to notify Mr. Holland that his time was wrapping up.

Mr. Holland states he would like to keep speaking, addressed the audience, and continued to talk over Mrs. Aucoin.

Mrs. Aucoin responded by issuing one more warning before an officer would need to step and remove Mr. Holland. A secondary reader [Jessica] stepped up to finish the presentation, but at the time was turned away due to the policy in

place. Mr. Holland sat back down, and continued presenting.

J. Terry interjected and explained the policy guidelines. She offered the opportunity for Mr. Holland to share his information with someone so they could come up and finish presenting it for him since his time had concluded.

Jessica, Charlton, came up to finish Mr. Holland's presentation. With the death rates stated, would like an explanation as to why parents need to mask or vaccinate their children when the statistics for them are so low.

Mrs. Aucoin thanked Jessica for finishing and reassured the audience that they do want to hear what they have to say. They're not trying to be mean, but do need to abide by the policy.

Jamie Gadbois, Charlton, continued to share scientific facts from Mr. Hollands presentation that support his views that masks are unnecessary for the children.

Marsha Wagner, Dudley, Bill SB2495 referencing sex-education curriculum published by planned parenthood will be up for vote on September 23, 2021. She would like to add the discussion of the bill to the next meeting if it is passed as she believes it is not education/age-appropriate and should be left up to parents to teach.

#### **VI. Communications**

J. Terry confirmed they received a copy of the letter from the Sandwich School Committee to Commissioner Riley. She read and agrees with the question being asked in the letter.

A motion by J. Terry, second by P. Aucoin for the district to write a similar letter to Commissioner Riley for further clarification, was approved 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

A discussion was held amongst the committee to determine who and when the letter would be written. It was determined that Mr. Lamarche would write the letter and the committee would give their insights before final signatures and submission to the Commissioner.

J. Terry acknowledges the multitude of inquiries about vaccine mandates and publicly states she is not in favor of said mandates. The remaining board members individually stated they are also not in favor.

C. Cabala confirms receipt of MASC conference communications. Wants to make sure its on the committee's radar for the agenda in case any members would like to attend.

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

The SH National Honors Society yielded over 1,500 pounds of vegetables (6,600+ servings donated to shelters) during their field trip to the Community Harvest Project. The Haunting on the Hill Extravaganza, a kid-friendly event, will take place on October 29. Athletics will return to normal after nearly two years. Boys Soccer is currently undefeated and football just celebrated a win against Westborough after an extensive time away. Boys and Girls Lacrosse both placed during their time in Martha's Vineyard (Girls came in 2<sup>nd</sup>; Boys in 5<sup>th</sup>). Student Counsel hosted a successful Freshman

BBQ with its best attendance in years and is currently planning the Homecoming weekend.

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

Mr. Lamarche reports that DCRSD was awarded a comprehensive health services grant for \$29,600.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Health to help support the role of COVID Coordinator.

Mr. Lamarche met with Kristin Mayotte, the Deputy Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Dudley, and Tyler Bailey, Unit Director, to re-engage the relationship in the community. They offer an extensive list of programs and classes for only \$50/year.

Mr. Lamarche participated in a DESE/MASC/MASS sponsored Superintendent's Evaluation Workshop and learned of State sponsored options that will help complete the evaluation this year.

Mr. Lamarche announced that Richard Mathieu was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Auditors and Accountants Association (MMAAA). DESE's weekly email update featured Charlton Middle School as the picture of the week. He attended the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation Board of Directors meeting where Sabrina Webb was elected President, and Kristine Mayotte the new Vice-President. They are currently looking for additional board members.

C. Kabala requested a letter be sent to John Grondalski, President of the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation, from the board to thank him for his work with the Foundation over the years.

### **IX. New Business**

#### **A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations – Director Mathieu**

##### **1. Annual Asbestos Notification**

Was sent to all schools and will be sent home in some form/fashion.

##### **2. FY20 End of the Year Audit**

Close out of FY20 was challenging last year. Some errors and omissions were highlighted by the auditors and adjustments will be made and sent back so they do not appear again.

##### **3. Transportation**

The first two weeks are our learning curve. Most routes have been approved but some adjustments still need to be made to ensure timely delivery of children to Heritage School, Children of Tomorrow Daycare and Charlton Elementary. Parents will be notified of updated routes.

We are at the minimum number of buses we can run with. Mornings aren't challenging but the afternoon time period is very short, so we're tweaking things as we go to make them as efficient as possible.

C Kabala raised a question about the Champions program. Mr. Mathieu confirmed that the program has started successfully and will be available to children in the mornings and afternoons. It will also be offered on early-release days and during school vacations.

#### **B. Consideration of Out-of-State Travel/Overnight – Policy IJOA – SHRHS – Ms. Becky Bussiere** We're now going back to out-of-state and overnight field trips after COVID-19 and have reintroduced our approval forms.

Requests #16-20 were up for discussion.

A motion by J. Terry, second by K. Laferriere, to approve all out-of-state or overnight field trips on the table was approved 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

C. Update, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Mandate(s)  
Board of Education held a meeting where the Commissioner presented some information, but no recommendations were actually made. There is currently no information on upcoming events, but as soon as something is schedule it will be shared with the Board

D. Update, Policy Subcommittee – Catherine Kabala

1. ACAB – Harassment – 1<sup>st</sup> Read

The policy was updated with a re-write to include all forms of harassment and not just focus on sexual-harassment and covers both students and staff.

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Carmignani, to waive the reading of the policy was approved 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

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala, to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the policy was approved 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

2. JIC – Student Discipline – 1<sup>st</sup> Read

Policy was rewritten so focus on all student discipline and not just student conduct as a measure. Policy now includes two dates/times for any notice of suspension hearing for families.

A motion by J. Evans, second by C. Carmignani, to waive the reading of the policy was approved 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

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by J. Evans, to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the policy was approved 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

C Carmignani brought up a discussion about whether or not Principals and Designees should be referenced in the policy so Assistant Principals can also make disciplinary calls. Mr. Lamarche confirmed he would double-check, but claims most of the regulations reference the Principals.

3. BBA – Overview of School Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Read  
“Majority Vote” was ambiguous so Robert’s Rules was cited for clarification.

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

A motion by C. Kabala, second by K. Laferriere, to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the policy was approved 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

A question was raised from the audience on where to find the policies after the meeting. Mr.

Lamarche confirmed that policies will be available on our website, and will also be sent out to families via email to review.

E. Update, Teaching and Learning – Dr. Ackerman

CKLA has been implemented at all four elementary schools. A pacing guide was developed as a blueprint for implementation and can be altered at any time to meet the needs of both students and teachers. At the Elementary level, all K-4 staff will have a second level of Professional Development with Amplify on October 8 via video conference to serve as an intermediate check-point. There will be a full-day PD offering on January 26, 2022 as a mid-year checkpoint. A final CKLA PD opportunity will be available in March or May to consolidate our efforts for the year.

A committee to review the collection of middle school mathematical instructional materials has been formed. Membership was offered to all middle school math teachers. Teachers will partner with Principal Packard and Starczewski and Dr. Ackerman to learn more about the process to identify and select high quality instructional materials.

DCRSD formed a Professional Development Committee. The team of administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals have identified priorities for the upcoming school year, including surveying staff members to identify additional Professional Development priority areas. A survey will be sent out to all staff and feedback will be used to schedule PD for staff in January, March and May.

F. Proposed Superintendent’s Evaluation Timeline – Steven M. Lamarche

Review and update the self-assessment (October 13, 2021), Submit goals to the committee for approval (October 27, 2021), Conduct mid-cycle formative progress report of the Superintendent (February 9, 2022), Complete summit of evaluation (June 22, 2022)

A motion by K. Laferriere, second by C. Kabala, to approve the proposed evaluation timeline that Mr. Lamarche has given was approved 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

X. Next Meeting Dates

**School Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 7:00 PM Shepherd Hill Regional High School – 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley

**Budget and Finance Subcommittee:** Tuesday, October 20, 2021, 3:30 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), Annual Financial Audit (October 13, 2021), DCRSD Strategic Plan Progress Report (November), DCLC Update (December), Student Achievement Report (January), Out of State Field Trips (ongoing), MASC Conference and Resolutions

XII. Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining [Dudley-Charlton Teachers’ 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.

A motion made by J. Terry, second by C. Carmignani, to postpone the portion of the Executive Session relative to the Superintendent until the Spring. After a detailed discussion, the motion failed due to guidelines and timelines already set forth in previous meetings.

- C. Carmignani - yes
- J. Costello - no
- J. Evans – no
- C. Kabala - no
- K. Laferriere -no
- J. Terry - yes
- P. Aucoin – no

A motion made by C. Carmignini, second by J. Evans to go into Executive Session was approved unanimously by roll call vote at 8:45 PM

The committee returned to open session at 10:12 PM.

**XIII. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Terry, second by J. Costello to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously by roll call vote at 10:14 PM.

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

**Items used for this meeting include:**

Agenda: 9/22/21	Minutes: 9/8/21	Superintendent's Report: 9/22/21	Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Reports

Respectfully submitted by Erin Glenn, Secretary