

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the Special meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7 PM via Live Stream - Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/dcrsd>
<https://vimeo.com/495905920>

Video Conferencing - Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/94910314189>

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Kenneth J. Laferriere, Chair
Pauline J. Aucoin, Vice Chair
Cathleen Carmignani
Jordan W. Evans
Catherine M. Kabala
Stephanie A. Reed
Jamie L. Terry
Michaela Cluett, Student Representative

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; district administrators Lorinda C. Allen, William F. Chaplin Daniel D’Arcangelo, Jennifer A. Desto, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, Kathleen E. Pastore, Christopher E. Starczewski, Peter Olson, Michael Resener, Michael Tucker, Kelly True, Dan D’Arcangelo, moderator; Sandra Sullivan, secretary. 40 attendees from Zoom and Vimeo live streaming.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

The chair read the remote meeting order by Gov. Charlie Baker.

The chair acknowledged the events occurring in Washington, D.C.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

IV. Citizens’ Forum

The chair read the district’s Citizens’ Forum Policy BEDH.

Scot Neri, Charlton, a parent of a middle school student, said he appreciated the civil discussion that resulted in the committee’s stance on remaining in the hybrid learning model following the recommendation by the Dudley and Charlton Boards of Health to adopt a remote model for two weeks following the winter break.

V. Communications

Ms. Evans and Ms. Cluett reported on the communication they received from parents regarding the pause on after school activities and whether show choir could participate virtually. Mr. Lamarche said there was no pause on virtual events. Mr. Chaplin will meet with Show Choir Director Becky Bussiere to discuss virtual participation.

Mr. Laferriere shared that Tracy Novick, Field Director for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, is willing to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the superintendent evaluation process. Mr. Laferriere will invite her to attend the meeting of January 27, 2021, with a tentative start time of 6 PM.

VI. New Business

A. Student Learning Time (SLT) and DCRSD transition options

Mr. Lamarche said this is an opportunity to look at the reopening plan and begin to move forward as the district must comply by January 19, 2021, with state Student Learning Time requirements that were passed on December 15, 2020. Districts operating in a hybrid learning model must provide students with at least 35 hours of live instruction over a 10-day school period. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District is one of 130 districts that are short on SLT for grades 1-12 as it currently offers 24 hours over that time period.

Mr. Lamarche said the proposal presented to the school committee on November 18 would have increased live instruction to five half days, and decreased asynchronous learning. Mr. Lamarche said every model has trade-offs and nothing will satisfy everyone until school is back to full in-person learning.

Mr. Lamarche he is not seeking a vote tonight, but is presenting four models for the committee to consider before action is taken at the January 13 meeting.

Model A: incremental, moving current model forward. Positives: maintains not less than 5' distance as approved by the school committee, with an additional remote synchronous half-day on Wednesday. Cons: There is no increase of in person learning.

Model B: full day hybrid. 36.5 hours, meets the minimum SLT requirement. Positives: maintains 5' and full Wednesday synchronous day, increases in-person learning. Cons: increases asynchronous learning for off cohort, maintains asynchronous planning. Added time in school means lunches will be served at 6', additional staff would be needed.

Model C: full in person AM half days. 46.4 hours. Positives: Eliminates cohorts and asynchronous instruction. Adds three hours of live, in person instruction, staff has greater access to students for intervention and services. Cons: Still not a full day, less than 3', more transportation/caregivers, managing in school movement at Shepherd Hill, masks and snack time at elementary schools.

Model D: fully in person, full day. 105 hours. Positives: meets SLT, eliminates cohorts, all in-person learning. Cons: not less than 3', transportation requirements, manage in school movement, masks and snack breaks at elementary schools.

Mrs. Allen spoke about students in Cohorts C and D who were in school in July and again beginning in September. DESE guidance is that 35 hours of SLT is the floor and districts need to aim for the ceiling, and make adjustments as necessary.

Dr. Ackerman said school districts knew their students would lose learning time once the pandemic closed schools, but did not have a grasp of the magnitude of learning loss until recently. Data from a reading and math assessment administered in 20 states in October 2020 reveals that students have lost

the equivalent of three months of learning in math, and 1.5 months in reading. This learning loss was disproportionate among students of color and in lower economic groups.

Dr. Ackerman said on a national basis kindergarten enrollment was down about 16%. In Dudley-Charlton, there are currently 218 kindergartners compared to 246 last year, or a 13.4% decrease.

Dr. Ackerman said we can impact this regression by increasing synchronous learning and by emphasizing quality, focused teacher interaction. He said there is no doubt in-person learning is the strongest corollary to student achievement.

Mr. Lamarche explained that the models represent:

A – no increase in person learning. A heavy lift by teachers, heavier for families at home learning.

B – a heavy lift for educators for the five days and for parents on two of those days.

C – positive for teachers, no cohorts, increase in time school. 3' of distance.

Next steps: The models will be distributed to all families. There will be a survey for all staff, family and high school students.

Mr. Lamarche said the district can apply for a waiver to extend the January 19 implementation to January 25, and allows the district to not have to make up the time we are not in compliance.

Mr. Lamarche said this will necessitate amending the 2020-2021 school year calendar to move a full professional day from January 29.

Mr. Lamarche said school administrators will implement whatever model the committee elects with fidelity.

Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Carmignani agreed they prefer to have teachers' input on the plans as they can vet any barriers or highlights.

Principals indicated they have received positive comments from their staff.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by P. Aucoin to authorize the superintendent to apply for a waiver from the DESE to move the deadline for implementation of the next learning plan from January 19 to January 25, and this was approved by a vote of 6-0, with one not present.

C. Carmignani: yes

J. Evans: was not present for the vote.

C. Kabala: yes

S. Reed: yes

J. Terry: yes

P. Aucoin: yes

K. Laferriere: yes

Mr. Laferriere requested data regarding transportation numbers.

B. DCRSD COVID-19 Coordinator

Mr. Lamarche presented a draft of a job description for a district-wide COVID-19 Coordinator. This position will be in effect throughout the pandemic and funded by the forthcoming federal monies. Mr. Lamarche explained that is a non-clinical case coordinator position responsible for providing support services to students, employees and families. Duties include triaging reports to determine next steps necessary and assign responsibilities for response, creating and maintaining COVID case files, conducting contact tracing, attending to after-hours reports during evenings and weekends, and reporting data for the District. This position also includes providing consultation with administration to coordinate COVID related responses.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Evans to approve the position of District-wide COVID-19 Coordinator, with posting effective Thursday, January 7, 2021, was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes

J. Evans: yes

C. Kabala: yes

S. Reed: yes

J. Terry: yes

P. Aucoin: yes

K. Laferriere: yes

Mr. Lamarche said the position will be compensated at a rate based on where it fits in terms of experience and education on the collectively bargained schedules.

Mrs. Kabala suggested the salary be based on the Massachusetts Nurses Association contract and not the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association.

VII. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 6 p.m. tentative

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 4:00 PM

Policy Review Subcommittee: TBD

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: TBD

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: Friday, January 8, 2021, 10:00 AM

VIII. Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to collective/impact bargaining [**Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association**] if in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The chair entertained a motion to enter Executive Session To discuss strategy with respect to collective/impact bargaining [**Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association**] if in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and will return to open session to take a vote or votes if necessary, and to adjourn.

A motion by J. Evans, second by J. Terry to discuss strategy with respect to collective/impact bargaining [**Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association**] if in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The committee will return

to open session to take a vote or votes if necessary, and to adjourn. This motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 9:51 PM

- C. Carmignani: yes
- J. Evans: yes
- C. Kabala: yes
- S. Reed: yes
- J. Terry: yes
- P. Aucoin: yes
- K. Laferriere: yes

The committee returned to open session at 10:52 PM.

IX. Future Agenda Items: Update HVAC, Update Fiscal Year 2021, Update Equity Committee, Update Plan Transitions, Update Student Services Department, Superintendent’s Award of Academic Excellence (January), SHRHS Principal’s Award (January), Fiscal Year 2022 (January), MASC/MASS Conference Report (February) Superintendent’s Evaluation

X. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, second by C. Kabala to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 10:53 PM.

- C. Carmignani: yes
- J. Evans: yes
- C. Kabala: yes
- S. Reed: yes
- J. Terry: yes
- P. Aucoin: yes
- K. Laferriere: yes

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for January 6, 2021	Reopening Plan Update 1/6/21	Return to Hybrid Poll
PSA: Transition to Distance Learning/Cyber Crimes 12/15/20	Job Description: Covid 19 Coordinator	

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, secretary