

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 7 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Mary N. Antocci
Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair
Raymond J. Chalk, Vice Chair
Catherine M. Kabala
Joseph M. Pietrzak
Elaine M. Rabbitt
Stephanie A. Reed

Rebecca Moore, Student Representative, was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools; district administrators: Karen Ares, Jeffrey Ferranti, Lori A. Pacheco, Robin Parmley, Kathleen E. Pastore, Diane Seibold; Kevin Foley, David Deremian; Charlton Elementary School students Matthew Gaudreau, Lily Nellis, Patrick Roy, Aidan Belhumeur; , members of the Choose to be Nice Club; media representatives Rich Earle, audio visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, March 14, 2018*

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, March 28, 2017, was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Citizens' Forum

No members of the public spoke.

V. School Spotlight – Charlton Elementary School

Mrs. Pacheco offered an update on this club, which has grown to 63 members, and is now an intergenerational group with a partnership with residents of The Overlook.

Club members Matthew Gaudreau, Lily Nellis, Patrick Roy, and Aidan Belhumeur read essays about their favorite aspects. Shepherd Hill Senior Cameron Cushing volunteers with the group, and has assembled other high school students to participate. Overlook resident Barbara Delano spoke about how much the club means to her fellow residents.

Mrs. Pacheco then played a brief slide show of club activities.

VI. Communications

Mrs. Antocci went to the show choir festival, both middle schools swept their categories: Dudley earned gold, and Charlton earned gold and grand champion.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto invited committee members to the National Honor Society induction ceremony at Shepherd Hill on Wednesday, April 4.
2. Dudley Town Administrator Greg Balukonis will host a meeting with a representative of the State Auditor Suzanne Bump's office to discuss the regional school funding formula. School Committee members and officials from both towns are invited to hear Ben Tafoya, Thursday, April 5 at the Dudley Town Hall, at 1 p.m.
3. The Science and Engineering Fair will be Thursday, April 5, held at Shepherd Hill, at 6 p.m. The Women in Stem Night that was canceled due to the snow storm is rescheduled to this evening as well.
4. Special Election, Dudley Town Hall and Heritage School, override to benefit the schools and towns.

VIII. Student Representative Report – Rebecca Moore

This item was tabled.

IX. New Business

A. FY 2019 Budget

Discussion centered on the Special Election on the Proposition 2 ½ Override. Mr. Desto said the district has never had support for this in the past, and suggested the time is right. Mr. Desto will be available Thursday evening at Dudley Middle School beginning at 6 p.m. for anyone who was unable to make the two budget forums last week.

B. Director of Finance and Operations Report (*Vote Required*)

Mr. Desto recommended approval of the following donations:

To Charlton Elementary School from Annette and Margaret Mitchell for technology	\$500
To Heritage School to assist with student lunch deficits	\$50

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the donations as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Desto recommended approval of the request by the Shepherd Hill Foreign Language Department for disposal of outdated educational materials. The items include French, Spanish and Latin texts.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to authorize the finance director to dispose of surplus foreign language department materials as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

School Bus Bid

Anderson Motors, of East Providence, R.I., was the lowest bidder for the district's purchase of a new in-district school bus. The winning bid meets all of the district's specifications. The bid was \$85,277, which Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations was able to negotiate a \$1,500 reduction to \$83,727.

Mr. Desto clarified that this is not a frivolous purchase, but one that saves the district considerable money as it provides student transportation for field trips and extra-curricular activities. The old bus had nearly 200,000 miles and is not likely to pass inspection.

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by E. Rabbitt to award the District School Bus Bid to Anderson Motors of East Providence, R.I., at the negotiated price of \$83,727, was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Report of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Mrs. Reed, reported on the subcommittee's discussion about the override, and reviewed material to be made available to citizens at the two budget forums. Mr. Desto thanked the subcommittee for its considerable input on the presentations.

Mrs. Kabala commended Mr. Desto on his presentation at the budget forums in each town, where he ably answered questions from those in attendance.

D. Consideration to Amend District Policy JQ, first reading, *(Vote Required)*

This policy for student food services has been amended to reflect the offering of a full, regular meal to those students who are in arrears in their lunch account. The previous version stated those students will be offered an alternative lunch. That sentence was deleted, and Mr. Desto recommended approval of this policy.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by M. Antocci to waive the reading of Policy JQ, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the amendments to Policy JQ on this first reading, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Desto said the policy review subcommittee will work on shortening this policy.

E. Consideration of Requests for Overnight Travel, Policy IJOA *(Vote Required)*

Mr. Desto received two requests, but asked the committee to table the request by the Shepherd Hill Show Choir for further review. Mr. Desto would like to clarify whether this is an official school trip, and will ask the chorus advisor to be present.

The Shepherd Hill Marching Band is requesting to defend its United States Bands National Championship November 9-11, 2018. Band Director David Macuga said the 2018-2019 band has yet to be assembled, but estimated 50 students will make the trip with eight chaperones. The cost of the trip is \$395 for hotels, festival fees, transportation and a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mr. Desto recommended approval of this trip based on its educational value.

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the overnight travel for the Shepherd Hill Marching Band November 9-11, 2018, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Desto said he will present the request to authorize staff chaperones at another meeting.

F. Consideration of Request for Driver Education Program Fee Increase

The Registry of Motor Vehicles has recently rolled out a new online documentation system. The Acting Director of Shepherd Hill's Driver Education Program, Scott Provost, has requested a \$20 increase to the program fee, for a total cost of \$550. Students will no longer make their own payment upon scheduling a road test, but the district will be billed. The increase will accommodate other program costs as well.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve a \$20 increase to the Driver Education Program fee, for a total cost of \$550, was approved by unanimous vote.

X. Approval of Warrants

The following warrants were distributed for signatures. There were no comments or questions.

Subcommittee Warrant		Accounts Payable Warrant		Payroll Warrant	
Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount
98	\$510,550.31	101	\$1,386.27	1194D	\$317,372.97
99	\$700.88	102	\$738,307.75	1194P	\$1,167,186.05
100	\$107,093.33	103	\$45,709.47		
		104	\$16,782.00		
		105	\$16,010.80		
Total	\$618,344.52	Total	\$818,196.29	Total	\$1,484,559.02

XI. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meetings:

- Tuesday, April 10, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 25, 2018, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee:

- Tuesday, April 10, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 5 p.m.

G. Future Agenda Items – FY 2019 Budget, MSBA Update, Strategic Planning, 2018-2019 School Choice, Consideration of Article XXIII, Enrollment of Employee Children

Mrs. Rabbitt complimented Mr. Desto for his advocacy of the district override request, and thanked him for attending selectmen’s meetings in both towns to continue the message.

XII. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 7:38 p.m.

Items used for this meeting included:

March 28, 2018 Agenda	Minutes of School Committee Meeting of March 14, 2018	Superintendent’s Report of March 23, 2018
Finance Director’s Report of Friday, March 23, 2018	Policy JQ, proposed for amendment	Shepherd Hill Marching Band Request for Overnight Travel
Shepherd Hill Show Choir Request for Overnight Travel	Request for Fee Increase, Shepherd Hill Driver Education Program	

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.