

## **DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee Budget Workshop, held Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA, 4:45 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Mary N. Antocci  
Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair  
Raymond J. Chalk, Vice Chair, arrived at 4:56 p.m.  
Catherine M. Kabala  
Joseph M. Pietrzak  
Elaine M. Rabbitt  
Stephanie A. Reed

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Lorinda Allen, Jody A. O'Brien, Peter Olson, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, John D. Paire, Robin Parmley, Kathleen E. Pastore, Diane Seibold, ; teachers; media representatives Deb LaPlaca, Telegram, Rich Earle, audio-visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Warrant

The following warrants were distributed and signed by a majority of members without further comment or questions:

#	Amount
63	\$-2363.17
64	\$60.00
65	\$183,994.44
66	\$4154.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$185,846.03</b>

4. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

5. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Desto reminded the committee of the District-wide Art Show, Friday, May 5 from 5-8 at Shepherd Hill.

6. FY 2018 Budget – Discussion (Vote May be Required)

Mr. Desto said the purpose of the meeting this evening is to discuss the budget reductions we can live with. Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu presented memos with three scenarios, or possible pathways to

reduce the budget and meet the towns' needs as it faces the requirements of the state funding formula. Dudley and Charlton face vastly different contributions. Dudley is required to increase the minimum contribution to the district by \$442,000; Charlton is required to increase its contribution by \$286,000.

Both towns have presented balanced budgets to their respective finance authorities, and have funded the district at the minimum plus the same amount of money over the minimum as they provided for FY 17.

One of the scenarios calls for \$525,000 additional above the amount from FY 2017, and the second scenario calls for \$310,000 additional above FY 17. The request presented to the towns to date is the \$525,000 amount.

The proposed reductions under this scenario include eight existing and 2 proposed positions.

Mrs. Rabbitt said all positions recommended for reduction under this scenario are relevant to the smooth operation of the schools. She said the district is at the precipice. Meeting the funding formula requirements takes all of the towns' new growth. Mrs. Rabbitt said the towns need to realize that this is what it costs to fund education and they have to pay the bill.

A proposal to reduce the teachers' work day by two work days and a cap on professional development reimbursements, would require an agreement with the Dudley-Charlton Teachers' Association.

The committee opted to approve the recommended reductions individually.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak to eliminate the elementary library coordinators was approved by a vote of 4-3.

Voting in favor were Mrs. Kabala, Mrs. Aucoin, Mrs. Reed, Mr. Pietrzak.  
Opposed were Mrs. Antocci, Mrs. Rabbitt and Mr. Chalk.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by C. Kabala to eliminate the Shepherd Hill nurse's secretary, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to eliminate the Shepherd Hill third shift custodian, was approved by unanimous vote.

When combined with correcting a math error at \$41,648, and increasing the use of Circuit Breaker by \$50,000, the reductions total \$253,648.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak to take \$100,000 from Medicare revenue, was approved by unanimous vote.

The committee has reduced the budget by \$353,648.

Also under consideration are increases to health insurance co-pays and prescriptions. Mr. Mathieu said the Insurance Advisory Committee is still gathering information about this. Mr. Mathieu will provide final budget figures for the committee's vote at its May 10 meeting.

7. Next Meeting Dates

*School Committee Meetings:*

- Wednesday, May 10, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 24, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

Town Meetings:

*Charlton* - Monday, May 15, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

*Dudley* - Monday, May 22, Shepherd Hill, 7 p.m.

8. Future Agenda Items – FY 2018 Budget, review of student handbooks, and school improvement plans,

9. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved at 5:56 p.m.