

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, 7 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Mary N. Antocci at 7:34 p.m.
Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair
Raymond J. Chalk, Vice Chair
Catherine M. Kabala
Joseph M. Pietrzak
Elaine M. Rabbitt at 7:34 p.m.
Stephanie A. Reed

Jack A. Cederberg, Student Representative

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Lorinda Allen, Karen Ares, William Chaplin, Jody O'Brien, Dean W. Packard, John D. Paire, Kathleen E. Pastore; teachers Julianne Winans and Dudley Elementary School students Stefan Sage, Charlton; Town Administrator Greg Balukonis, Dudley Selectman Peter Fox; media representatives Deb LaPlaca, Telegram, Rich Earle, audio-visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, April 26, 2017

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by C. Kabala, to approve the minutes of Wednesday, April 26, 2017, was approved by unanimous vote.

Minutes of the Budget Workshop of Wednesday, May 3, 2017

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by C. Kabala to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 3, 2017, was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of Warrant

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

Warrant	Amount
67	\$98,525.98
68	\$433,710.00
69	\$8,636.28
1128D	\$435,673.86
1128P	\$1,156,285.80
Total	\$2,132,831.92

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VI. School Spotlight – Dudley Elementary School

Interim Principal Diane Seibold introduced Music teacher Julianne Winans, who directed the children as they sang songs about their pets, the states, and offered a preview of the upcoming Memorial Day concert at the school on May 26.

VII. Communications

Mr. Pietrzak publicly thanked Charlton Middle School Principal Dean Packard, and Guidance Counselor Erika Thibaudeau-Dragon, for raising scholarship money in memory of his nephew, Adam Dowell.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto thanked district art teachers and sponsors for the District-wide Art Show held May 5 at Shepherd Hill. Mr. Desto said students' art work was the star of the show, and provided evidence that art enhances the learning process. Mr. Desto thanked the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation, Henke Sass-Wolfe of Dudley, and the Janet Malser Trust for their support of this effort.

2. Mr. Desto said Charlton Elementary School's Choose to be Nice Club held a concert after school on Tuesday. The students invited their senior citizen friends from the Overlook.

3. The National Alliance on Mental Illness will present *Allies for Student Mental Health* Thursday, May 11, at Charlton Middle School, 6:30 p.m. Mr. Desto said this will be an interactive program with discussion led by people who have lived this experience.

4. Shepherd Hill will present the *Awesome '80s Night*, Friday, May 12.

5. Charlton Middle School Drama Club presents *Aladdin Jr.* Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21.

6. The *Junior/Senior Prom* will be held Saturday, May 20 at the DCU Center, Worcester, 6 p.m.

IX. Student Representative Report – Jack Cederberg

1. Mr. Cederberg reported on the successful and exciting trip by the Foreign Language Club to Europe with 155 fellow students.

2. AP exams will finish on Thursday. He said 500 students have taken the exams, which mark the beginning of the end of the year.

3. The Dudley Fire Department and the Students Against Destructive Decisions will sponsor Friday's mock car crash at Shepherd Hill.

4. SADD will also sponsor the appearance of speaker Kara Fuller next Thursday with a message about responsible decision-making. Ms. Fuller's sister died in an automobile accident several years ago.

X. New Business

A. Finance Director's Update (Vote Required)

1. Mr. Mathieu presented several donations for the committee's approval:

To Dudley Elementary School from Dudley PTO from Box Tops for Education	\$6.00
To Heritage School to support Seussical Carnival	
Country Bank for Savings: three \$25 gift certificates	\$75.00
Webster First Federal Credit Union: five \$25 gift cards	\$125.00
Lawns R Us Plus: Movie ticket package	\$88.00
Zoinks Fun Factory: three \$10 gift cards	\$30.00
Mohegan Bowl: three \$20 gift cards	\$60.00
Eller's Restaurant: Lunch for 10 grand prize winners	
Status Limousine & Rentals: Limousine transportation to Eller's Restaurant	

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to approve the donations as stated above, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. The Grow School of the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative, has qualified for the community eligibility program, allowing all students at the school to qualify for free lunch. More than 40% of the population are Direct Certification, based on state criteria. It was decided not to enroll Mason Road School as this would have presented a loss of income.

3. Food Service Director Andreas Panayiotou will retire in July 2017, after 27 years in the district. The Wage and Benefit Subcommittee will be reconvened to discuss this position prior to posting.

4. Mr. Mathieu has reviewed the three-year contract with Van Pool to provide special education transportation, and will bring that to the committee for its signature. Contract proposal with Van Pool.

B. Report of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee (*Vote may be Required*)

Mr. Desto will compose a letter to area legislators in support of Senator Harriet Chandler's bill that seeks to form a commission to study how schools are funded.

Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu are studying the opportunity to hire a consulting service to conduct a financial assessment of Dudley and Charlton. The service is sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, and is able to provide a complete financial picture of member towns and the district, to fund education. Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu will bring forward a recommendation at the subcommittee's next meeting on May 17.

To assist the district with its decision to seek an override, Mr. Desto contacted Chris Horan, a well-known public relations professional. Mr. Desto will arrange a conference call at the next subcommittee meeting.

C. FY 2018 Budget (*Vote Required*)

Mr. Desto opened the discussion concerning increases to the minimum local contributions to the towns. At its May 3 meeting, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee agreed to seek a scenario in which towns contributed \$525,000 above the minimum. To that end, the committee approved \$253,648 in cuts, and left several recommended reductions on the table. The reductions are:

High school guidance secretary	\$41,648
Increase in circuit breaker	\$50,000
4 elementary library coordinators	\$33,263
Hs nurse sec	\$37,000
ELA at Shepherd Hill	\$50,000
3 rd shift custodian at high School.	\$42,000

On Friday, May 5, the town Dudley agreed to a compromise proposal of \$410,000. Charlton has yet to respond to this amount.

Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu said the proposed cuts this evening represent the least destructive to the delivery of services.

IF approved, the committee will have pared \$472,275 from the budget, including what was agreed upon on May 3.

Mrs. Rabbitt asked the committee to consider the positions one at a time.

Tonight's reductions:

1. Middle school library media specialist	\$67,186
2. Charlton Middle School ACES teacher	\$52,500
3. Health Insurance	\$90,000
4. Professional development plans	\$8,678

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak to reduce the health insurance and professional development plans for \$98,678, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to eliminate the middle school librarian position for \$67,186, was approved by a vote of 6-1. Voting in favor were M. Antocci, P. Aucoin, R. Chalk, C. Kabala, J. Pietrzak, E. Rabbit. S. Reed was opposed.

The committee did not vote on the reduction of the ACES facilitator at Charlton Middle School, and instead left a gap of \$52,500.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Pietrzak to allow the superintendent to use his judgement in making this reduction totaling \$52,500 to bring the budget total to \$49,945,978 to be presented to the towns, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Desto will determine the reduction of a teaching position and will inform the committee at the May 24 meeting.

Mrs. Kabala thanked Mr. Balukonis and Mr. Fox for their attendance this evening and for agreeing to the contributions. Mrs. Kabala said the committee is aware these are tough times for everyone with insufficient state revenues. By accepting the \$410,000 contribution scenario, Dudley gave the committee its goals.

Mr. Desto thanked the Dudley representatives for their support, which, he said, tells the district it is of value to this community. Mr. Desto also thanked the administrators and principals for their support of these reductions. They work hard to do what is in the best interest of the students.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to approve a FY 2018 budget of \$49,945,978, with an assessment to Charlton of \$12,359,091, and to Dudley of \$7,874,397, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Rabbit, who attended the Charlton Finance Committee meeting with Mrs. Antocci this evening, said officials requested to establish a committee comprised of the school committee, selectmen and finance committees, to collaborate and address revenue needs next year. It was suggested those meetings begin in June.

D. Consideration to Establish Last Day of School, 2016-2017 School Year (*Vote Required*)

Mr. Desto proposed Monday, June 19 as the last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year, and asked the committee to approve it as an early release day.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk, to establish Monday, June 19, 2017, as the last day of the school year, was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Review of SWCEC Third Quarter Report

Members were given copies of this report to review. Mr. Desto advised members that if they have any questions about the work of the collaborative, to contact the executive director, who would be happy to lead a tour of the facilities.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

- *Budget and Finance Subcommittee* – Wednesday May 17, District Office, 5 p.m.
- *Town Meetings:*
 - a. *Charlton* - Monday, May 15, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.
 - b. *Dudley* - Monday, May 22, Shepherd Hill, 7 p.m.
- *Regular Meeting* – Wednesday, May 24, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.
- *Wage and Benefits Subcommittee*, Thursday, May 25, District Office, 3:30 p.m.

XII. Future Agenda Items – FY 2018 Budget, Handbooks, School Improvement Plans, Superintendent’s Evaluation.

XIII. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:08 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include

Agenda for May 10, 2017	Superintendent’s Report of May 5, 2017	School Committee Minutes of Wednesday, April 26, 2017
School Committee Budget Workshop minutes of May 3, 2017	Finance Director’s Report of May 5, 2017	FY 2018 Budget Memos #7 and #8
FY 18 Budget Proposal Letter	Budget Proposal \$410K increase	2016-2017 snow day calendar
Prom invitation	Mental Health presentation	Third Quarter SWCEC Report

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary