

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, June 28, 2017 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

Also in attendance were Gregg J. Desto, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; district administrators: Karen Ares, Dean W. Packard, Christopher Starczewski, Jeffrey Ferranti; Stefan Sage, Charlton resident; media representatives Jason Bleu, Stonebridge Press; Deborah LaPlaca, Telegram, Jason Bleu, Stonebridge Press, Rich Earle, audio-visual coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

**I.** Call to Order

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

**II.** Pledge of Allegiance

**III.** Approval of Minutes

*Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, June 14, 2017*

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by S. Reed to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, June 14, 2017, as corrected, was approved by unanimous vote.

*Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, June 14, 2017*

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak, to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, June 28, 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 question:

<b>Warrant #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
88	\$356,178.85
89	\$12,013.03
90	\$314,327.83
91	\$162,236.99
1136D	\$38,722.32
1136P	\$170,298.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,053,777.80</b>

**V. Citizens' Forum**

No one spoke at this time.

**VI. Communications**

There were no items to report.

**VII. Superintendent's Report**

1. Mr. Desto reminded the public of several camps that are running throughout the district during the summer:

- Sports Academy at Shepherd Hill, June 26-August 17, featuring STEM activities.
- Camp Invention, July 17-21 at Charlton Middle School
- Dudley-Charlton Regional School District STEM Night at the Worcester Bravehearts, July 14

2. Mr. Desto introduced the district's new administrators:

- Diane Seibold has been selected as the new principal of Dudley Elementary School Principal. Mrs. Seibold is a district veteran, having served for 24 years as Team Chair and School Psychologist. Mrs. Seibold was the interim principal at the school following the retirement of Terri A. Caffelle.
- Christopher Starczewski has been hired as the new principal of Dudley Middle School. Dudley resident and 1990 Shepherd Hill graduate Mr. Starczewski arrives from Tantasqua Junior High School, where he served as principal.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Consideration to Appoint Interim Director of Special Education (*Vote required*)**

Mr. Desto offered some background on Jeffrey Ferranti, who is the finalist for the position of special education director. The position was posted four weeks ago following the announcement that Jody A. O'Brien would resign at the conclusion of the school year to accept a position in Marlboro. Mrs. O'Brien has worked for the district for 25 years, beginning as a teacher, coach, and Team Chair. The search committee considered 14 applications, and selected six candidates to interview. Mr. Ferranti was special education director in the Athol-Royalston school district for seven years.

Mr. Desto invited Mr. Ferranti to the table for questions, and recommended the committee approve his hiring.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to appoint Jeffrey L. Ferranti as the Interim Director of Special Education, effective July 17, 2017, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ferranti thanked the committee for its vote.

B. Director of Finance and Operations Update (*Vote required*)

1. Mr. Mathieu requested the committee approval to receive donations of supplies for the Shepherd Hill Strives room to allow the staff to construct a home environment for the students to learn life skills.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to accept the donations for the Shepherd Hill Strives classroom, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu thanked the members of the special education department who gathered these materials instead of asking the district to spend this money.

2. Shepherd Hill has received a donation of \$1,450 to seal cracks in the outdoor basketball court. Mr. Mathieu said the tennis courts will be sealed at the same time with additional money. A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to accept the donation of \$1,450 to seal the basketball court as proposed, was approved by unanimous vote.

3. French River Purchasing Cooperative Supplies Bids

Mr. Mathieu presented four bids for the committee's consideration:

- a. FREC Athletic Supplies Bid – Mr. Mathieu recommended the award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder on a per item basis as reflected on his June 20, 2017 analysis.
- b. FREC Custodial Supplies Bid – Mr. Mathieu recommended the award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder on a per item basis as reflected on his June 20, 2017 analysis.
- c. FREC Computer Supplies Bid – Mr. Mathieu recommended the award to the vendors identified on his June 20, 2017 analysis.
- d. FREC School Supplies Bid – Mr. Mathieu recommended the award to the vendors identified on his June 20, 2017 analysis.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to accept the bids as presented and recommended, was approved by unanimous vote.

4. IT equipment leasing.

Mr. Mathieu presented a repayment schedule for the equipment lease with TD Equipment Finance, and asked the committee to authorize the finance director to sign the agreement, pending the resolution of one clause in the agreement.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by J. Pietrzak to approve the proposal to lease IT Equipment with TD Equipment Finance, and to authorize the finance director to sign the agreement, pending resolution of one clause, was approved by unanimous vote.

5. Disposal of Surplus Materials. STEAM Director Karen Ares presented a request to dispose of surplus consumable workbooks for the science series being used at both middle schools. These workbooks were replaced with a new series at no charge from the manufacturer, and have no material value. Mr. Mathieu requested they be declared surplus. Mrs. Ares had proposed donating the books to other schools in the area that have not upgraded their curriculum.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to accept the recommendation to declare the science workbooks as surplus, and to authorize their donation to area schools, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kabala suggested the books be offered to district students to use as study guides.

C. Report of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee (*Vote may be required*)

The subcommittee has not met. Mr. Desto said he is working to schedule a meeting this summer to continue the discussion on the district's ability to meet the demands of the foundation budget funding formula led by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. Mr. Desto will schedule the meeting with town administrators Robin Craver of Charlton, and Greg Balukonis of Dudley.

D. Superintendent's Evaluation

The chair tabled this item until the July meeting.

E. Consideration of Request for Non-Resident Enrollment (*Vote required*)

Mr. Desto presented the request of a family to enroll their son at Heritage School while they reside in Webster and are awaiting completion of their home being built in Charlton. The family presented a purchase and sales agreement indicating a move-in date of October 19. Mr. Desto said the request falls within the district's residency policy, JF, and recommended approval.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the request as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

**IX.** Next Meeting Dates

*School Committee Meetings:*

- Wednesday, July 12, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 16, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 7 p.m.

*Negotiations with Mass. Nurses Association:*

- Wednesday, July 10, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 1 p.m.

**X.** Future Agenda Items – FY 2018 Budget, Home school requests, Superintendent's Evaluation, Review busing App and fees for late buses. Follow up on ability to link our meeting to the website. They are not available to Charlton unless you have cable.

**XI.** Executive Session –

The chair entertained a motion "*to conduct strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body / to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel,*" and to reconvene in open session for votes, if necessary, and to adjourn. This was approved on unanimous roll call at 7:28 p.m.

The committee reconvened in open session at 8:37 p.m.

**Minutes of the School Committee  
Meeting of June 28, 2017**

The committee voted on salary increases for administrators (principals, assistant principals, STEAM director, curriculum director, technology director) for the 2017-2018 school year

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the increases to district administrator salaries for the 2017-2018 school year, by granting the superintendent \$26,500 to distributed as he deems fitting, and this was approved by unanimous vote.

The committee considered an increase for Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to approve a salary increase of \$2,500 for Mr. Mathieu for the 2017-2018 school year, was approved by unanimous vote.

**XII. Adjourn**

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by S. Reed to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:39 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for June 28, 2017	Superintendent's Report of Friday, June 24, 2017	School Committee Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, June 14, 2017	Executive Session Minutes of Wednesday, June 14, 2017
Finance Director's Report of Friday, June 24, 2017	FREC Bids Athletic Supplies Computer Supplies Custodial Supplies School Supplies	Summer STEAM Camps	Pearson Interactive Science Textbook Disposal list

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary