

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 01507, 7 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Mary N. Antocci, Vice Chair
Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair
Cathleen Carmignani
Catherine M. Kabala
Elaine M. Rabbitt
Stephanie A. Reed
Jamie L. Terry

Also in attendance were Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations, District Administrators Lorinda C. Allen, Karen A. Ares, Jennifer A. Desto, Barbara A Marderosian, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, Diane Seibold; Charlton resident Stefan Sage; Media Representatives Richard 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

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, July 11, 2018*

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Terry to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, July 11, 2018, was approved. Mrs. Antocci abstained.

B. *Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, July 11, 2018*

A motion by J. Terry, seconded by S. Reed to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting of Wednesday, July 11, 2018, was approved. Mrs. Antocci abstained.

IV. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

V. Communications

There were none to report.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Dr. Nash reported on the Supreme Court's recent ruling that a state cannot extract agency fees or union dues as it infringes upon an employee's right to free speech. Dr. Nash said as the district begins its contract negotiations, we will

need to be consistent with this ruling. Meanwhile, Massachusetts legislators are looking to create a bill to lessen the impact.

- B. Dr. Nash highlighted a memo from Tom Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, and Roger Hatch, consultant, showing the impact on the final chapter 70 numbers as well as the impact to educational budget numbers. 1. The costs of ELL students can now be counted as increments in the foundation budget; 2. Minimum aid is set at \$30 per pupil; 3. There are significant changes to the district enrollments as published in January due to an error which left out over 3,000 students in the foundation enrollment count. Most district have been impacted; 4. Chapter 70 for FY 19 represents a 3.4% increase across the state.

VII. New Business

A. FY 2019 Budget

Mr. Mathieu reported that as a result of the successful override vote, the district did not revise its budget. With the finalization of the state budget process, Mr. Mathieu is recommending changes to the FY 2019 Revenue Budget, which will allow us to lower our planned use of Excess and Deficiency funds. The state cherry sheets show an increase of \$241,320 over the governor's initial budget, which represents regional transportation reimbursement at 80%. Since any excess revenues will be reserved for appropriation in the following year, Mr. Mathieu recommends being conservative and increasing the district Regional Transportation revenue budget by \$106,939, and lowering our E&D usage to \$1.2 million.

The school committee needs to vote on the new budget figures:

A total budget of \$53,155,649, with assessments to Charlton of \$13,902,746, and to Dudley of \$9,393,316.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the final FY 2019 budget as \$53,155,649, with assessments to Charlton of \$13,902,746, and to Dudley of \$9,393,316, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu explained that the assessment remain the same but the change allows some monies to be rearranged.

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

Mr. Mathieu reported that FY 2018 was a challenging year, which began with the loss of the high school generator, and the middle school boiler as unplanned expenses. In June, Mr. Mathieu estimated a return of approximately \$900,000 to the excess and deficiency fund. As the fiscal year closed, special education expenses and FY 19 final state revenues have resulted in an additional \$60,000 carried forward from circuit breaker and a total of \$800,000 returned to E & D. Mr. Mathieu estimates that E&D will be certified in the range of \$1.4 million. He will have the final quarterly report and budget transfer requests at the first meeting in September.

The special education department has requested additional staffing of 2.4 FTE instructional assistants, which will be considered later in the meeting.

Mr. Mathieu presented the remaining bids from the French River purchasing cooperative for food service items, which were opened at the French River Education Center in North Oxford, on May 16:

- Milk – Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to award the bid to Maine’s Produce Express at the unit prices on the analysis dated July 201, 2018.
- Market Basket frozen foods – Mr. Mathieu said one bid was received, and asked the committee to award the FY 19 Market Basket/Frozen Foods Bid to Thurston Foods at the unit prices listed on the summary dated July 201, 2018.
- Non- food cafeteria supplies –This bid was opened on May 7 at FREC. Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to award the FY 2019 FREC Non-food Cafeteria Supplies bid to W.B. Mason, Inc., at the unit prices as outlined on the summary dated July 20, 2018.

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by M. Antocci to award the FREC bids as outlined this evening, was approved by unanimous vote.

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

At its meeting earlier this evening, the subcommittee reorganized. Mrs. Rabbitt elected chair. The subcommittee established its 2018-2019 meeting schedule as the second Wednesday of each month, consistent with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee meeting schedule, at 5 p.m. The subcommittee will report on its meetings at the second school committee meeting of each month, and the minutes will be released to the whole committee.

The subcommittee set the topic of its September meeting as capital needs, noting the school building project debt is coming off the books. The topic for October will be capital needs and negotiations with employee classifications. The contracts will also be the topic of the November meeting.

D. Consideration to Approve Additional Special Education Positions (Vote Required)

In a memo to Interim Superintendent Nash and Mr. Mathieu, Special Education Director Lorinda Allen has requested an additional 2.4 FTE instructional assistant staffing at Dudley Elementary School – 1.0 FTE, Charlton Middle School – 1.0 FTE, and Mason Road School – 0.4 FTE.

The school committee has approved 2.2 FTE instructional assistants. These additional positions will be funded through the circuit breaker.

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by C. Kabala to approve the request for an additional 2.4 FTE special education instructional assistants, was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Introduction of Interim Principal, Mason Road School

Dr. Nash thanked Charlton Elementary School Principal Lori A. Pacheco who volunteered to chair the screening committee to interview candidates to fill the position of Interim Principal of Mason Road School following Robin L. Parmley’s resignation. Also serving on the screening committee were Christine Marrier, Cathleen Carmignani, Lauren Dunn, Michelle Gray, and Kim Lundquist. The group reviewed 23 applications and interviewed five candidates. Dr. Nash had

the committee to send forth three or four finalists. The subcommittee sent only one: Jennifer A. Desto, a Charlton had resident and former employee of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. Dr. Nash cited Mrs. Desto's experience leading a building, and her special education experience as her qualifications.

F. Consideration to of Requests for Home Instruction, Policy IHBG (Vote Required)
Dr. Nash presented a total of six requests from district families. Three are renewals, and three are new requests. Dr. Nash recommended approval of the requests as presented.

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by S. Reed to approve the requests for home instruction as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

G. Consideration to Approve Non-resident Enrollment, Policy JF (Vote Required)
Dr. Nash presented two requests:
Tabitha Ferrara of Dudley requested that her daughter be allowed to remain at Shepherd Hill Regional High School for her senior year. The family is moving to Webster in September. Dr. Nash said the request is consistent with district policy JF, which allows students who have completed their junior year at Shepherd Hill and who move out of the district to complete their education.

Amy Marshall of Dudley presented a two-part request that her three daughters be allowed to remain in the district for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Marshall is an employee of the district, and made her request for her daughters in grades 3 and 6 under Article XXIII of the Agreement Between the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, and the Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association, 2016-2019. The contract language allows employees who live in Massachusetts to enroll their children in district schools. The family is moving to Connecticut. Mrs. Marshall said she was misinformed about the contract language prior to the decision to move to Connecticut. Policy JF does not state that the student must live in Massachusetts.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to approve the two requests for the students who will be seniors under policy JF was withdrawn as the committee asked to consider the requests separately.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to approve the request of Tabitha Ferrari for her daughter to complete her education at Shepherd Hill Regional High School for the 2018-2019 school year, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to approve Mrs. Marshall's request that her daughter be allowed to complete her senior year at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in 2018-2019, under policy JF, was approved by a vote of 4-3. Voting in favor were Mrs. Aucoin, Mrs. Kabala, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Terry. Opposed were Mrs. Antocci, Mrs. Carmignani, and Mrs. Rabbitt.

Mrs. Rabbitt noted the district will not be reimbursed for the cost of the students from Connecticut, and expressed concern that this will sets a precedent. Mrs. Rabbitt recognizes the extenuating circumstances for the senior student.

Mrs. Kabala said the policy does not exclude out of state students.

Mrs. Carmignani said the policy needs to be revisited.

Mrs. Marshall thanked committee for hearing this request, stating she was misinformed about the contract language prior to the decision to move out of state. Mrs. Marshall said she is particularly concerned for her daughter in the sixth grade, who receives much support at Dudley Middle School. Mrs. Marshall asked that her younger daughters be allowed to attend for one year.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by J. Terry to allow the Marshall children in grades 3 and 6 to attend Dudley Elementary School and Dudley Middle School was withdrawn.

Mrs. Kabala said she was not on the negotiation team but assumes this language is due to the per pupil reimbursement. They are counted as full tuition.

Mrs. Terry asked if the family can be charged tuition.

Mrs. Reed said she does not anticipate an influx of requests as a result of this request. She said the policy must be changed going forward.

Mrs. Rabbitt said the district will not be reimbursed from the state and is liable for the costs. Mrs. Antocci said while she sympathizes with the family, she fears the precedent it will set and it is going against the policy. She said while we feel for all students, we can't run a business with our hearts only.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to allow Mrs. Marshall's younger daughters in grades 3 and 6 to attend Dudley Elementary School and Dudley Middle School for the 2018-2019 school year, was approved by a vote of 5-2. Voting in favor were Mrs. Aucoin, Mrs. Carmignani, Mrs. Kabala, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Terry. Opposed were Mrs. Antocci and Mrs. Rabbitt.

VIII. Approval of Warrants

The following warrants were signed by a majority of members without further comment or questions.

Subcommittee Warrants		Accounts Payable Warrants		Payroll Warrants	
Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount
8	\$33,368.52	14	\$210,976.89	1217D	\$331,824.12
9	\$875.00			1217P	\$920,746.52
10	\$10,525.00			1219P	\$-190.00
11	\$556,223.81			1220P	\$2,353.84
13	\$4,541.92			1222D	\$332,505.30
12	\$45,527.84			1222P	\$912,188.56
146	\$11,403.96				
147	\$690.90				

148	\$9,667.08			
Totals	\$672,824.03		\$210,976.89	\$2,167,604.22

IX. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday, September 12, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 26, 2018, Charlton Middle School, Charlton, 7 p.m.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee:

- Wednesday, September 12, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 5 p.m.

X. Future Agenda Items – Executive Session, reason #4, security; review of Policy JF; Establish schedule for policy review subcommittee; revisit central office restructuring; delegate selection Joint Conference of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; capital planning; posting for superintendent.

XI. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by E. Rabbitt, to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:02 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

<i>Agenda for August 8, 2018</i>	<i>Superintendent’s Report of August 3, 2018</i>	<i>Minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, July 11, 2018</i>
<i>Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, July 11, 2018</i>	<i>Finance Director’s Update of August 8, 2018</i>	<i>FY 2019 Final Revenue Budget</i>
<i>District Policy JF</i>	<i>FREC Bids Milk, Frozen Foods/Market Basket/non-food items</i>	<i>Special Education Staffing Request of July 13, 2018</i>

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary