

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 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: Lorinda Allen, Karen Ares, William Chaplin, Jeff Ferranti, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean Packard, Kathleen E. Pastore, Christa Mansur, Kevin Foley; Charlton Middle School technology students Rileigh Zacek, Lillian Guyette, Lana Antocci, Julia Butler, Kyle Norberg, Beau Desrosier, Olivia Acquaah Harrison, Rhiannon Mansur; Stefan Sage; media representatives, Rich Earle, district 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

Following the pledge, the chair called for a moment of silence in memory of Charlton Middle School teacher and former Dudley Middle School Principal John Paire, who died in a tragic accident Friday, September 15.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, September 13, 2017

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Wednesday, September 13, 2017, was approved as corrected with two abstentions – R. Chalk and J. Pietrzak.

Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, September 13, 2017

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by E. Rabbitt, to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, September 13, 2017, was approved with two abstentions – R. Chalk, and J. Pietrzak.

IV. Approval of Warrant

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

Warrant #	Amount
27	\$285,721.97
28	\$188.86
1158d	\$447,723.87
1158p	\$1,184,374.80
1160D	\$309.41
1160P	\$4,000.00
Total	\$1,922,318.91

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VI. School Spotlight – Charlton Middle School

Mr. Packard introduced Charlton Middle School technology teacher Christa Mansur, who, with assistance from students, led the committee in a digital learning lesson on coding.

Ms. Mansur quoted Bureau of Labor statistics showing by the year 2020, there will be 1.4 million new IT jobs, but only 400,000 U.S. educated candidates to apply for them. Ms. Mansur said there is an effort all over the world to promote computer science. At Charlton Middle School, Ms. Mansur said the curriculum changes based on the requirements of state frameworks, student grouping as well as the software that is run. Chief among the needed skills is proper keyboarding skills.

VII. Communications

There were no communications to report.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto thanked Mr. Chaplin and those at Shepherd Hill who pitched in during last week's Homecoming Weekend. Mr. Desto said there was 100 percent staff/student effort as all athletic teams faced off and school clubs were represented.
2. The first of the district's professional development days will kick off with a half day on Thursday Oct. 5, followed by a full day on Friday, Oct. 6. The theme for the days is *Engaging Students with InTECHGration*, and is designed to help teachers integrate technology into the classroom. Training in Google Apps, Facebook, You Tube, Minecraft, coding and more are planned, with all administrators facilitating the sessions.
3. Thursday is the first large group session of the Strategic Planning Committee.
4. Mr. Desto thanked all those in our towns – finance committees, selectboards, town administrators, legislators, and school committee, for attending the Joint Financial Planning Meeting

Tuesday, September 19. The meeting has been posted to the district's YouTube channel in two segments – the three-hour meeting, and Mr. Abrahams' presentation.

5. Thanked the members of the school committee, members of the community for their support following Mr. Paire's death. Mr. Desto said it is a devastating loss, and asked that the public keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

6. Mrs. Aucoin called the committee's attention to regular and executive session minutes from June 1992 showing the school committee's previous action on behalf of the family of a deceased employee. Under the COBRA law, the family of an employee may, upon his / her death stay on the district's health insurance for 36 months for as much as 102% of the premium. In 1992, the committee voted to allow Superintendent Richard Carmignani's family to stay on the plan at no charge.

Members said they would like time to study the proposal.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to allow the Paire family to remain on the district's insurance at the 75/25 cost split until the committee has made a decision, was approved by unanimous vote.

IX. New Business

A. Policy Review Subcommittee Timeline (*Vote May Be Required*)

Mr. Desto drafted a timeline for policy review meetings and school committee votes that takes into consideration the commitments to both the budget initiative and the renewal of the strategic plan. Recognizing that the review needs to be completed, Mr. Desto said the process can be spread throughout the school year, concluding in June.

Mr. Chalk agreed to be the third member with Mrs. Rabbitt, and Mrs. Kabala. The meetings will be scheduled on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

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

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

Webster Dudley Boys and Girls Club to Dudley Middle School	8 gym mats
The district has also begun receiving donations to the John Paire Student Support Fund, which, as of this evening, has grown to	\$3,125
The amount donated for sending one student on the Global Awareness Program trip in April was	\$3,745.

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by M. Antocci to establish the John Paire Student Support Fund, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by E. Rabbitt to accept all donations totaling \$3,125 as presented this evening, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu presented the request of Dudley Middle School Principal Christopher Starczewski, seeking to declare items as surplus and to dispose of them.

Mr. Mathieu said the items include cafeteria tables and chairs. He recommended approval.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk, to declare the items as surplus, and to authorize the finance director to dispose of them using best business practices, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Antocci thanked Mr. Mathieu for changing the format of the hiring report as she finds it helpful to know the budgeted amount.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report (*Vote May be Required*)

Mrs. Reed reported on the subcommittee's meeting of September 21. Discussions included the numerous building repairs, reviewing the district agreement, and how to get the message out to the public about the proposed 2 ½ override vote. Mrs. Reed said the biggest task is to enlist the support of all town officials. The district has contracted with strategist Chris Horan, who will meet with the subcommittee before meeting with the entire committee to prioritize the options.

Mr. Mathieu has invited the Office of Campaign and Political Finance to meet with the school committee on Oct. 25. The committee agreed that meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

As a follow up to the Joint Finance Planning Meeting, Mr. Desto had attempted to schedule a meeting with the selectboard chairs and town administrators. Because a date could not be arranged, he will meet with town representative separately.

Mrs. Rabbitt asked if the district develops a budget is it framed to include those items that have been long sought for our students, or are they omitted in the interest of presenting a budget that is based on what we determine is reasonable.

Mr. Desto said the budget is guided by the strategic plan.

Mr. Chalk said the override figure must include those items of absolute need. The baseline is not going to give us what we need.

Mrs. Antocci said the key is being able to explain what we are asking for and why. Mrs. Antocci said problems arise when the town officials don't understand why we are asking for the money above the minimum. She said the district is being transparent.

Mr. Chalk said the key to a successful override is being supported by finance and selectboards, and key to that support is ensuring we are presenting those things that we envision the future to include for educating our students. In addition, knowing that we won't get everything we want, there is a

need to remove those things that people don't want us to be doing, such as school choice, and using excess and deficiency funds to balance the budget.

D. Legislative Update (*Vote May be Required*)

Mrs. Rabbitt reported on the recent meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' Regional School Committees. Mrs. Rabbitt said the agenda focused on 12 pieces of education-related legislation including regional transportation. Mrs. Rabbitt said particular focus was on Senate Bill S217, sponsored by Harriet Chandler, D, Worcester, which seeks to form a commission on regional school district foundation budgets. The State Auditor will shed a lot of light on this in her report released in October. MASC is looking to enlist support from school committees by drafting a letter to send to its legislators seeking their vote.

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by J. Pietrzak to authorize the superintendent of write a letter to area legislators in support of Senate Bill 217, Establish a Commission on Regional School District Foundation Budgets, by Senator Harriett Chandler, was approved by unanimous vote.

E. MCAS 2.0 Update

The release of Spring 2017 MCAS information has been delayed more than usual. Mr. Desto said accountability levels are expected to be released publicly by October 24, with Public School Report Cards and scores available in mid-November.

The district's concern in the transition to MCAS 2.0 is with computer-based testing. Grades 4, 5, 7, 8 will take computer based MCAS in ELA and Math. Grades 5-8 will take science, essentially adding two grades to computer testing. Grades 3, 6, and 10 are not testing on computer.

Districts may elect to have computer-based testing this year, and Principals Diane Seibold and Kathleen Pastore have decided to administer the tests on computer, as have middle school principals Dean Packard, and Christopher Starczewski, as well as Shepherd Hill principal William Chaplin, in effect, to help students get accustomed to the new practice.

Mr. Desto provided the committee with a list of all available computers in the district.

Mrs. Rabbitt thanked Mr. Mathieu for the creative solution of leasing technology that has allowed this transition to MCAS 2.0.

X. Next Meeting Dates

A. School Committee

- Wednesday, October 11, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 25, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 6 p.m.

B. Policy Review Subcommittee

- Tuesday, October 17, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 6 p.m.

C. Budget and Finance Subcommittee

- Thursday, October 19, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9 a.m.

C. Wage and Benefits Subcommittee – Nurse Negotiations – TBA

E. Strategic Planning Meeting

- September 28, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 3:30 p.m.
- October 5, 2017, Charlton Middle School, 3:30p.m.

XI. Future Agenda Items – FY 2019 Budget, Overnight Travel Chaperone Authorization, SEPAC, MASC/MASS Joint Conference Resolutions, insurance

XII. Executive Session – “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining when an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.”

Mrs. Aucoin entertained a motion to enter executive session “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining when an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body,” and to reconvene in open session for votes if necessary and to adjourn, and this was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 8:07 p.m.

The committee reconvened in open session at 8:31 p.m.

XIII. Adjourn

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. reed to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:32 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for September 27, 2017	Superintendent’s Report of September 22, 2017	Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 13, 2017	Minutes of Executive Session of September 13, 2017
Finance Director’s Report of September 22, 2017	Hiring May FY 2018	MCAS Available Testing Devices	October 2017 Professional Development Day schedule
Policy Review Subcommittee Schedule			

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary