

**DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 01507, 7 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

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

Ceilidgh O'Brien, Student Representative, was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations; Lorinda C. Allen, William F. Chaplin, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, Kathleen E. Pastore, Christopher E. Starczewski; staff members Cyndi Piehl, Eric Hensel; Dudley resident Richard Raymond; Charlton resident Stefan Sage; media representatives 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**

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 9, 2019*

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by C. Kabala, to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, October 9, 2019, was approved by five votes. Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Terry abstained.

**IV. Approval of Warrants**

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

Accounts Payable Warrant		Payroll Warrant	
Warrant #	Amount	Warrant #	Amount
31	\$70,098.39	1339D	\$458,551.24
32	\$613,939.38	1339P	\$1,282,571.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$684,037.77</b>	Total	<b>\$1,741,122.79</b>

**V. Citizens' Forum**

No one spoke at this time.

**VI. Communications**

There were no communications to report.

**VII. Superintendent’s Report**

1. Mr. Lamarche said the boards of health in Dudley and Charlton have lifted the ban on early evening activities, although there is no change to the Triple E virus risk level. In a communication sent to parents earlier today, Mr. Lamarche urged parents to continue to take precautions against this threat. The recent frosts have not been sufficient to kill the mosquitoes.

Mrs. Terry said she does not agree with the lifting of the ban at the town level, but agrees that school needs to follow the towns’ recommendations. Mrs. Terry said the plan against holding evening activities should be continued, and supports the advice to take precautions. Mrs. Aucoin said mosquitoes are present and alive during the day. Athletic events have been scheduled on a week to week basis. Mr. Lamarche said he will continue to monitor the situation and be in touch with the health boards in both towns.

2. Mr. Lamarche met with Senator Ryan Fattman Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the State House to discuss a number of issues, among them the Student Opportunities Act, which is still a bill with language about special education out of district costs and the Mass. School Building Association funding cap increase.
3. Mr. Lamarche said the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation will roll out its annual campaign over the next several weeks, as it raises funds to award to educators in the form of grants. Since its inception, the DCEF has awarded over \$286,000. The foundation will host a Beer and Wine Tasting Event, Friday, November 22, 2019, at Nichols College.

**VIII. Student Representative Report – Ceilidh O’Brien**

This item was tabled in Miss O’Brien’s absence.

**IX. New Business**

- A. Principal Showcase – Charlton Middle School, Principal Dean W. Packard

Mr. Packard presented a video featuring student interviews and photos to show how the school year began on a positive note.

- B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations (*Votes Required*)

- i. Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Mathieu presented several donations for the committee’s consideration:

To Heritage School in kind donations to cover the cost of the Crocodile River Music program

- Charlton Cultural Council \$1,000
- Charlton PTO \$1,000
- Cornerstone Bank \$300
- Karl Storz Endovision \$1,000

To Heritage School from Masonic Angels for After the Bell tuitions \$225

To Dudley Elementary School from the Dudley Women’s Club for the garden project \$500

To Charlton Middle School head custodian from Saint Gobain - miscellaneous abrasive items including sand paper, buffing pads, wire wheels.

A motion by K. Laferriere, seconded by S. Reed, to accept the donations as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

- ii. Mr. Mathieu said the Dudley Elementary School water heater has been installed for less than \$10,000.

iii. Snow Plow Bids

Mr. Mathieu said bids for FY 20 Snow Plowing were opened on October 7 for the three groups:

Group 1 – Mason Road School/Dudley Elementary School

Group 2 – Shepherd Hill/ Dudley Middle School

Group 3 – Charlton Middle School, Heritage School, Charlton Elementary School

Only one bidder was received for each group.

Mr. Mathieu recommended approval as follow:

Group 1 – Collette Enterprises, Inc., dba C&C Plowing, Dudley - \$62,560, a 20% increase above FY 19

Group 2 – Chauvin Enterprises, Dudley - \$180,000, a 25% increase above FY 19

Group 3 – KMZ Show, Spencer - \$170,000, a slight decrease.

The vendors will be paid out per storm, depending on accumulations.

Mrs. Antocci requested in the future that Mr. Mathieu provide the figures in a memo.

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by M. Antocci to award the bids to the vendors as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

iv. Electricity Credit Purchase

Mr. Mathieu reported the town of Dudley has reached out to the district to potentially sell some of its excess energy credits on certain electricity accounts at the same rate of discount as the district receives on its current solar net metering arrangement. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda is offering to sell \$110,108.83 in credits for the price of \$88,087.06.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to purchase \$110,108.83 in electricity credits from the town of Dudley, at a cost of \$88,087.06, and to work toward an inter-municipal agreement, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by C. Carmignani, seconded by K. Laferriere for the district to absorb the attorney fees to draft the inter-municipal agreement at a cost of approximately \$1,000, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kabala requested the district send the town a thank you for this opportunity.

v. Health Insurance – Senior Plans

The district held a meeting for its retirees yesterday in the Shepherd Hill Library to discuss the new health plan offered by Retirees First and Aetna.

Mrs. Aucoin said the companies' representatives did a great job explaining the plans and helped put concerned minds at ease.

Mr. Mathieu said the new plan is the same as the current plan, with a reduced rate and increase in benefits. Mr. Mathieu said the district's Medicare subscribers have increased over the last four years and the plan is to increase retiree representation on the Insurance Advisory Committee.

An additional meeting for retirees is planned for Monday, November 18.

Mrs. Terry confirmed with district Benefits Coordinator that subscribers who drop the insurance at any point during the year can enroll in another year during the open enrollment period.

Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to vote on the Retirees Health Insurance Plan.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the Retirees' Health Insurance Plan offering as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Laferriere said the plan is a superb plan with no deductible, which is unheard of in today's insurance market.

Mr. Mathieu will present a Quarterly Report in November.

**C. Consideration of Requests for School Sponsored Field Trips, Policy IJOA (*Vote Required*)**

Four items were presented to the committee for approval, however, Mr. Lamarche asked that only one be considered at this meeting as the date of the trips. He will ensure that the other requests are reshaped and presented in line with Policy IJOA, which was extensively revamped last year.

**i. Heritage School to Connecticut Science Museum**

Heritage School teachers Lisa Poblocki and Fara Fuhrmann have requested three trips to the Connecticut Science Museum to augment in-class discussions on extreme weather conditions. The trips are proposed as November 12, 19, and 22.

A motion by J. Terry, seconded by C. Kabala to approve the trips as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

The following requests were tabled.

- ii. Charlton Middle School, Dudley Middle School, Shepherd Hill Show Choirs to Daniel Hand Festival, Madison, CT
- iii. Charlton Middle School Show Choir and Jazz Band to Trills and Thrills Festival, Meriden, CT
- iv. Shepherd Hill Student Council to Hyannis

Mr. Lamarche also provided the Itinerary for the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Band trip to compete in the USBands National Championship in New Jersey, November 8-10, 2019, which was approved by the committee at its meeting of May 8, 2019.

**D. Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning**

In Mrs. Ares' absence, Mr. Lamarche read her report, which offered an update on the October 11 Professional Development Day. Dudley Middle School sixth graders have presented their expert projects to teachers and classmates. Heritage School held its annual three-day residency of Crocodile River Music and African Arts in Education. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee's Teaching and Learning Subcommittee held its first meeting October 17. The subcommittee reviewed K-8 curriculum and a reading curriculum document written by former Curriculum Director and current Pupil Personnel Services Director Lorinda C. Allen. Mrs. Ares and Mr. Laferriere connected with Michael Ciprari, a Shepherd Hill Regional High School graduate who is now owner of SJC Custom Drums, based in Southbridge and built for many well-known musicians. Mr. Ciprari would like to work with Shepherd Hill Regional High School students to help them pursue their passions.

Mrs. Terry asked that Mrs. Allen's document be provided to the full committee.

**E. Report of the Policy Review Subcommittee, First Reading (*Vote Required*)**

- i. Policy BG, Formulation of Policies, proposed for amendment

Mr. Lamarche presented proposed changes to this policy.

Motion to waive the reading of the policy: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Terry, approved by unanimous vote.  
Motion to approve the amendments as corrected, first reading: 1<sup>st</sup> C. Kabala, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Reed, approved by unanimous vote.

ii. Policy JF, School Admission Residency, proposed for amendment

Motion to waive the reading of the policy: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Terry, approved by unanimous vote.  
Motion to approve the amendments, first reading: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Kabala, approved by unanimous vote.

iii. Policy KF, Use of School Facilities, proposed for amendment

This item was tabled.

**X. Next Meeting Dates**

School Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday November 13, 2019, Charlton Middle School, 7 PM
- Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 PM

Budget and Finance Subcommittee:

- Tuesday, October 29, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 8;30 AM
- Tuesday, November 19, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 8:30 AM.

Policy Review Subcommittee:

- Monday, November 4, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9:00 AM

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning:

- Thursday, November 21, 2019, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 10:00 AM

Capital Outlay Subcommittee – TBD

Safety Subcommittee:

- Monday, November 18, 2019, Charlton Middle School, 11 A.M.

**XI. Future Agenda Items – MCAS Presentations, Webster-Dudley Boys and Girls Club, Superintendent’s Award of Academic Excellence (December)**

**XII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by S. Reed, seconded by M. Antocci, and approved by unanimous vote at 8:32 p.m.

*Items used for this meeting include:*

<i>Agenda for Wednesday, October 23, 2019</i>	<i>Superintendent’s Report of Wednesday, October 23, 2019</i>	<i>Minutes of School Committee meeting of Wednesday, October 9, 2019</i>
<i>Report of the Director of Finance and Operations, October 18, 2019</i>	<i>Report of the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, October 18, 2019</i>	<i>Request for School Sponsored Field Trips, Policy IJOA Heritage School, Shepherd Hill, Charlton Middle School</i>
<i>Policies Proposed for Amendment: BG, JF, KF</i>		

*Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.*