

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, MA 01507, 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, Jeffrey Ferranti, Lori Pacheco, Dean Packard, Kathleen Pastore, Diane Seibold; Students Eric DiLeone, John Davison, Zachary Blauvelt and parents Fred and Heidi Dileone, Fiona Davison, Richard and Lisa Blauvelt; 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

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 25, 2017

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, October 25, 2017, as corrected, was approved by unanimous vote.

Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, October 25, 2017

A motion by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to approve the minutes of the executive session 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:

Warrant #	Amount
45	\$1,050.15
46	\$205,245.58
47	\$2,260.22
48	\$8,786.53
1171D	\$540,017.00

1171P	\$1,456,811.20
Total	\$2,214,170.68

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VI. School Spotlight – Superintendent's Award of Academic Excellence

Mr. Desto spoke about students who do their very best and are an inspiration to all of us. He introduced the 2017-2018 recipients of the Superintendent's Award of Academic Excellence, who will be honored with other scholars from Worcester County in January 2018.

Zachary Blauvelt is ranked #1 of 287 students in the class of 2018. Mr. Desto noted Mr. Blauvelt has earned no grade below an A in his high school career. He earned a National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation, a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the Shepherd Hill Varsity Soccer and Track teams. In his senior year, Mr. Blauvelt is taking 5 AP classes.

John Davison is ranked #2 in the class of 2018, and has also achieved nothing less than As throughout his time at Shepherd Hill. He is a member of the Decathlon Team, Varsity Lacrosse and Track teams, and National Honor Society. Mr. Davison is also enrolled in five AP classes this year.

Principal's Award

Mr. Chaplin introduced Eric DiLeone as the Principals Award Recipient. Eric, who has maintained perfect attendance, is also a member of the National Honor Society, MIAA Student Athlete Ambassador and a captain of the Shepherd Hill football, lacrosse and wrestling teams.

The committee recessed for pictures at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:17 p.m.

VII. Student Representative Report – Rebecca Moore

This item was tabled as Miss Moore was not in attendance.

VIII. Communications

Neither Mr. Desto nor any members had communications.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Desto reminded members of the Veterans' Day programs coming up on Thursday. The Charlton Middle School Fifth Grade chorus visited the Overlook earlier today to sing patriotic songs. Dudley Middle School is sponsoring its *Bring a Veteran to School* program at 8:30 a.m.

X. New Business

A. MCAS 2.0 Presentation – Mrs. Allen / Mr. Desto

Mr. Desto reported that Shepherd Hill remains at Level 2 following MCAS 2.0 achievements. Due to the change in the test, other district schools are at No Level. Mr. Desto reminded that grade 10 took the Legacy Test.

Grade 3 ELA exceeded the state average, as did students in grades 4, 5, 6, and 7. Grade 8 partially met expectations.

In Math, grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 exceeded the state average, with the scale starting to tip scale at grade 8. Students in grades 4 and 8 took this test on computer.

In the grade 10 Legacy Test, ELA scores were better than the state average, whereas math scores almost met expectations.

Mr. Desto said evidence shows the district is making great progress in science. Grade 5 Science and Technology and engineering scores were in the advanced and proficient range. Grade 10 biology scores were above average, and grades 5 and 8 science.

Dudley-Charlton is 4th from the top in Worcester County with 55% of students falling into the highest achievement levels. In math, grades 3-8 achieved the #4 spot, while in science, the district is #3.

Mrs. Antocci said it appears that the biggest drop off in MCAS performance was between the 7th and 8th grades. This could in part be because of the vast difference between the type and method of test the kids have been taking, and/or that the curriculum needs to be looked at to address what is missing in order to better prepare the kids for this new test.

Mrs. Rabbitt requested the Power Point presentation be uploaded to the website for parents, and asked that there be a follow up presentation to focus on the sub groups. She said this is the area in which the district has consistently been challenged. She said she is concerned that although we have seen growth in the scores, the warning category is growing. She asked that the school committee be kept up to date as administrators study and experiment with information such as the gaps in grades 7-8 curriculum over the next year. She said the committee needs to be aware of all that is uncovered to allow for inclusion in the budget.

Mrs. Rabbitt said it is unfair to judge the new generation of students taking the test, as, going forward, the test will not be the same. The grade 10 will remain the same until 2019.

This year's 8th graders will take the next generation test as sophomores.

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

1. Mr. Mathieu said since the committee's last meeting, an additional \$982.30 has been donated to the John Paire Student Support Fund, bringing the total to over \$19,089.87

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to accept the donations to the John Paire fund, was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Mathieu provided copies of the Quarterly Special Revenue Funds update through Sept. 30. The modified report breaks out the private grants, special revenue funds used to help support the budget, and other special revenue funds used for specific purposes.

Mr. Mathieu confirmed that the committee found this format more helpful than previous designs.

3. Mr. Mathieu opened bids to replace the Shepherd Hill generator, which has stopped working after 45 years. The initial quote was \$50,000 plus installation. Architect Roy Brown completed the design for bid specifications. The bids came back as \$160,000 and \$196,000. Mr. Mathieu suggested the committee not award the bid this evening. The maintenance department is looking at the motor to see if it can be brought back to life. The school is currently renting a generator.

Mr. Mathieu said there are different bid requirements for projects exceeding \$150,000.

Mrs. Rabbitt said the generator issue may be impacted by the recent floods, and it may be prudent to post the project in another month.

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by J. Pietrzak to authorize the finance director to extend the rental for another month to allow for research before reposting, was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Siemens has notified the district that the fire alarm panels at both middle schools and Dudley Elementary School have been officially discontinued, and that access to replacement parts for repair may become more difficult and expensive. The fire panels are currently working. The committee agreed to hold off on any action pending the generator replacement.

C. FY 2019 Budget – *Discussion*

Mr. Desto reported on the Oct. 30 meeting with Charlton selectmen, finance committee, the town administrator and school committee members. Topics included the town's support for an override and the amount needed, as well as the town's intent to study de-regionalization. The discussions will continue when the full committee meets with both town representatives on Thursday, November 16.

Following the training session with the Office and Campaign and Political Finance, Mr. Desto said there is an issue with hiring communications strategist Chris Hogan at a cost of \$7,500. The OCPF advised caution as public funds cannot be used to create a campaign to vote yes.

Mrs. Kabala, made a motion, seconded by S. Reed, to rescind the school committee vote of August 16, 2017, to hire Communications Strategist Chris Horan due to ethical complications, and this was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Rabbitt suggested there are elements of Mr. Horan's work that can be used as professional development for administrators to communicate with the media.

Mrs. Antocci attended Mr. Horan's session at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) joint conference and has notes she can share. Mr. Horan will also present a webinar through the MASS.

D. Consideration of Health Insurance Benefits Policy GDBD - First Reading (*Vote Required*)

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by R. Chalk to waive the reading of the policy was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to approve policy GDBD with the added phrase as requested by Mrs. Antocci, was approved by unanimous vote.

E. 2018-2019 School Year Calendar – *Discussion*

Mrs. Antocci requested this item as it is time to begin discussing the calendar. Mrs. Aucoin appointed Mrs. Antocci and Mrs. Reed to the subcommittee.

F. MASC/MASS Joint Conference Recap – *Mrs. Antocci / Mrs. Rabbitt*

The committee delegate, Mary Antocci, reported on the annual meeting, and the voting on the Resolutions.

Mrs. Antocci said all of the amendments passed. The committee had directed Mrs. Antocci to propose amendments to Resolutions 1 and 7.

Concerning Resolution 1, which sought to move the Chapter 70 student enrollment date to March 15 (from October 1), Mrs. Antocci did submit an amendment to move that date to December 31. The delegates agreed on January 31.

Resolution 7, which supports the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, Mrs. Antocci was authorized to amend the motion to remove the first and last paragraph of the resolution, and to support the amended resolution, was left as proposed.

Mrs. Rabbitt said the conference was rich in information and ideas and thoughts. Mr. Desto said the overriding theme of the conference was Expectations for 21st century learning with 21st century buildings and technologies. He will meet with Mrs. Antocci and Mrs. Rabbitt to brainstorm ideas gathered at the conference, and draft their observations.

G. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Quarterly Report

The committee received a copy of this report and had no questions. The committee agreed to invite SWCEC Executive Director Elizabeth Fitzmaurice to a meeting. Mr. Desto asked the committee to develop specific questions for Ms. Fitzmaurice.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

A. School Committee

- Wednesday, December 13, 2017, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 10, 2018, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 7 p.m.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee, Thursday, November 16, 2017, 9 a.m.

C. Wage and Benefits Subcommittee – Nurse Negotiations – TBA

D. Meetings with Town Officials

- Thursday, November 16, 2017, Dudley and Charlton, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 6 p.m.

XII. Future Agenda Items – FY 2019 Budget, District Policy GDBD, calendar subcommittee

XIII. 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.”

The chair entertained a motion to enter executive session at 8:27 p.m., and this was approved by unanimous roll call vote:

- Mary N. Antocci -Yes
- Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair - Yes
- Raymond J. Chalk, Vice Chair - Yes
- Catherine M. Kabala - Yes
- Joseph M. Pietrzak - Yes
- Elaine M. Rabbitt - Yes
- Stephanie A. Reed - Yes

The committee returned to open session at 8:55 p.m.

XIV. Adjourn

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by S. Reed to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:55 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for Nov. 8, 2017	Superintendent’s Report of Friday, Nov. 3, 2017	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017
Minutes of the Executive Session of Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017	Director of Finance and Operations Report of Friday, Nov. 3, 2017	Health Insurance Policy
Q-1 FY 18 SWCEC Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report Special Funds FY 18	

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary