

## **DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Rd. Charlton, at 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, Lorinda Allen, Terri A. Caffelle, Doris Dono, Jody A. O'Brien, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, John D. Paire, Kathleen E. Pastore, Mary A. Pierangeli; Shepherd Hill Marching Band members and Director James Flynn; band members' parents, students Michaela White and parents John and Sarah White, John David Raucci and parents Paul and Eileen Raucci; Brittany Como and Parents, Brian and Heather Como; Stefan Sage of Charlton; media representatives: Rich Earle, 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**

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 28, 2015*

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, October 28, 2015 as amended, was approved by unanimous.

### **IV. Approval of Warrant**

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

<b>Warrant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
24	\$220.00
25	\$1,309,332.58
1025D	\$443,182.36
1025P	\$1,131,961.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,884,696.24</b>

### **V. Citizens' Forum**

No one spoke at this time.

## **VI. School Spotlight – Presentation of Awards**

Mr. Desto introduced the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Marching Band, which, on November 7, was crowned winner of the United States Scholastic Band Association National Champions at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey and captured the Scholastic Groups 2 Open Championship, with a score of 96.1. The band played selections from the movie Robin Hood, which is its performance theme for the year.

### **i. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Award of Academic Excellence – *Gregg J. Desto***

Mr. Desto has selected Shepherd Hill Seniors Michaela White and John David Raucci as the winners of the MASS Award of Academic Excellence. Both have distinguished themselves as outstanding scholars. Miss White is ranked #1 in the class of 2016 with a GPA of 4.27. She serves as president of the National Honor Society, and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Outside of school, she has earned a First Degree Brown Belt in Kenpo Karate, and is a member of the First Congregational Church in Dudley.

Michaela's goal is to become an elementary teacher.

Mr. Raucci is second in the class with a GPA 4.25. His non-academic achievements include serving as the Student Council Treasurer, working as a Varsity Basketball Reporter, and having represented Shepherd Hill on the PBS High School Quiz Show.

John David's goal is to be a sports broadcaster.

The school committee recognizes the students this evening, but both will celebrate with fellow winners from throughout Central Massachusetts by the Worcester County Superintendents' Association, at a banquet on January 5, 2016, at WPI.

### **ii. Shepherd Hill Principal's Leadership Award – *Mary A. Pierangeli***

Mrs. Pierangeli has selected Shepherd Hill Senior Brittany Como for this honor. Miss Como is currently enrolled in three AP courses, is a member of the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She hopes to major in medicine with the intent of becoming a nurse practitioner.

The chair called for a recess at 7:24 p.m. for photographs.

The committee returned to open session at 7:36 p.m.

## **VII. Communications**

Mr. Desto reported that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted 8-3 to transition to a next-generation MCAS that would be given for the first time in spring 2017 and would use both PARCC and MCAS items, along with items developed specifically for the

Massachusetts tests. The vote followed many of the recommendations that Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester made last week.

The commissioner said the next generation test will be a better reflection of student achievement and, at the high school level, of readiness for college and a career. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee will continue to administer MCAS, which in spring 2016 will be augmented with a limited number of PARCC items in order to help make statewide comparisons easier and to offer students and staff the opportunity to experience PARCC items while the new assessment is being developed.

2. Mrs. Antocci had an update on the End Common Core movement. She reported 34,450 signatures have been certified, with thousands awaiting certification.

3. The annual Shepherd Hill Music Parents Association will sponsor its Craft Show, Saturday, November 21 from 9 a.m. To 4 p.m. at the school.

### **VIII. Superintendent's Report**

1. Wellness Works Fair was held at Shepherd Hill Regional High School last evening. The district-wide effort combined health teachers, guidance counselors and others to inform the public of available community resources. Mr. Desto thanked Mrs. Allen, who spearheaded the effort. Students from Dudley Middle School and Shepherd Hill contributed music, food and child care. Another fair will be held in March.

Mr. Pietrzak said he hopes we can continue this effort to support those with mental health concerns, and build upon its success.

Mr. Pietrzak spoke about Mental Health First Aid, which provides non-mental health professionals with tools to provide care in crises, similar to first aid training. Mr. Pietrzak offered to provide information to Mr. Desto and will report on this program to the committee at future meetings.

2. Mr. Desto said district office administrators have established a goal to be more available to parents, and held a Community Coffee on Friday, November 13. The administrators will be available at Dudley Elementary School parent-teacher conferences on December 10 and at the Heritage School on March 17, 2016.

3. The Calendar Study Group has created an online survey seeking community opinion regarding the school vacation schedule. To date, there are 400 respondents. The survey closes on December 11, and will be reviewed. The group will report the results to the committee.

4. The district has joined the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation to sponsor a Community Business Partners Meet and Greet Breakfast Thursday, November 19 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. The goal is to establish partnerships, seek donations, sponsorships, internships with local businesses. Winners of Education Foundation grants will demonstrate their projects.

5. Shepherd Hill Girls Cross Country Team finished its historic season, beating Wachusett Regional High School to win the District 1 Cross Country League Championship. The squad captured the District E Championship in Gardner on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

**IX. Student Representative Report**

Mr. Desto shared a report provided by Jack Bugar, announcing upcoming events at the high school.

**X. New Business**

A. FY 2016 Budget / Director of Finance and Operations Update, *(Vote May be Required)*

Mr. Mathieu offered an update of the FY 2016 budget showing the two major funding sources that are under the purview of the School Committee. He recapped the FY 15 and FY 16 School Choice and Circuit Breaker. He also reported on the certification of the district's Excess and Deficiency (reserves) as \$1.5 million for FY 2017.

He also announced the results of the FY 2017 Fuel Oil Bid opened at the French River Educational Collaborative in North Oxford on November 16.

Mr. Mathieu asked the school committee to award the FY 17 FREC Fuel Oil Bid to Peterson Oil Service, Inc., at a fixed price of \$1.7395 per gallon, saying this represented a savings of 54 cents per gallon from FY 16.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to award the FY 17 FREC Fuel Oil Bid to Peterson Oil Service, Inc., at a fist price of \$1.7395 per gallon, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu said he will provide an update on the Shepherd Hill field project finances at the December meeting, as well as the wireless project at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. The district will need to go out to bid for this project.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report

Mrs. Rabbitt reported on the meeting held earlier today. The subcommittee is developing ways to impart budget information and the district's financial needs to the community.

Mrs. Rabbitt said due to changes in procedures and audit guidelines, the district will need to amend its policy regarding student activity funds. Mr. Desto and Mr. Mathieu said they are waiting to work with the district's new independent auditors and will have a proposal for the committee.

C. Consideration to Amend District Policy GCG, Substitute Teachers, Second Reading *(Vote Required)*

After several revisions, the committee is asked to approve the amendments to the policy governing the hiring of extended employment substitutes. Copies are available for the public.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to waive the reading of the policy in open session, was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to approve and adopt policy GCG on second reading was approved by unanimous vote.

The committee agreed the salary rate increases for the personnel currently working as full-year extended employment substitutes in the district will be retroactive to the first day of school.

D. Strategic Plan Update (*Discussion*)

Mr. Desto included an update of items that have been accomplished to date, and those that are ongoing. Mr. Desto and the Administrative Council agree there is a need for a mid-term check in on the plan. Mr. Desto said he will reconvene the three subcommittees for meeting in the spring to go through the plan and remove those items that are not urgent priorities and add other items that have become urgent. In that event, the plan may be extended and a new plan published for the community.

Mr. Desto said there have been many changes to education in a year and a half.

Mrs. Rabbitt said the plan was originally established as a fluid document and said it is responsible to recognize that it needs to move with what is happening in education.

Mrs. Antocci said all plans need to be reviewed periodically to make sure they are current and responsive.

Mrs. Kabala commended the work that has been done to accomplish the plan's goals.

E. MASS/MASC Joint Conference Delegate Report – Mrs. Antocci (*Discussion*)

Mrs. Antocci sent a memo to the committee as an update to the action on the seven resolutions before the Delegate Assembly. Six passed and one failed. The assembly supported a three-year moratorium on high stakes testing.

The committee thanked Mrs. Antocci for the report.

Mr. Desto said he will meet with Mrs. Antocci and Mrs. Rabbitt to review the information gathered at the conference and come back to the committee in December with a report.

Mrs. Rabbitt said she left the conference very excited about education.

F. Consideration of Request for Overnight Travel, Policy IJOA (*Vote Required*)

Connie Galli, director of the Shepherd Hill Show Choirs Fantasy, Illusion and T-Tones has requested the committee's approval for the groups to travel to New York City on Friday, March 4, 2016, to perform at Lincoln Center as part of the FAME events, and then to travel to Madison, CT., the following day for festival competition. The choral groups have been invited to perform at Lincoln Center as part of FAME events, but festival staff have waived most of the participation costs. The group would miss one day of school on Friday. The cost is \$120 per student, with financial assistance available.

Mr. Desto recommended approval.

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by R. Chalk to approve the request by the Shepherd Hill Show Choirs Fantasy, Illusion and T-Tones, for Friday, March 4, 2016, as presented, was approved by unanimous vote.

**X. Next Meeting Dates**

- Wednesday, December 9, 2015, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, 6:30 p.m.
- 

**XI. Future Agenda Items**

- MASS/MASC conference recap
- Calendar Study Group
- Wireless project bid Award
- Mental Health First Aid program
- Set dates for collective bargaining agreement negotiations

Mrs. Kabala and Mrs. Aucoin agreed to serve on the Executive Session Minutes Review Subcommittee.

Mrs. Aucoin asked if the committee would agree to change the meeting time for the December 9 meeting to 6:30 p.m.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to suspend policy BE, Time and Place, was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to set the time of the December 9, 2015 meeting as 6:30 p.m.

**XII. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Pietrzak, seconded by R. Chalk to adjourn the meeting was approved at 8:22 p.m.

*Items used for this meeting include:*

<i>Agenda for November 18, 2015</i>	<i>Superintendent’s Report of Friday, November 13, 2015</i>	<i>Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, October 28, 2015</i>
<i>DCEF Breakfast Invitation</i>	<i>District-wide Assessment Overview</i>	<i>Finance Director’s Report</i>
<i>Policy GCG</i>	<i>2015 MASS/MASC Joint Conference report</i>	<i>School Calendar Survey</i>
<i>School Committee Travel Approvals</i>	<i>Show Choir Travel Request</i>	<i>Strategic Plan Update</i>

*Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.*