

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, at 7 PM via Live Stream - Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/551617709>

Video Conferencing - Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98865974822>

Members attending in person were:

Cathleen Carmignani

Jeanne R. Costello

Kenneth J. Laferriere, Chair

Jamie L. Terry

Michaela Cluett, Student Representative

Members attending remotely were:

Pauline J. Aucoin, Vice Chair

Jordan Willow Evans

Catherine M. Kabala

District Administrators attending in person were Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations, Brian J. Ackerman, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Lorinda C. Allen, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Principals attending remotely were Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, Kathleen E. Pastore.

Staff: Pam Walsh-Houghton, Daniel D'Arcangelo, Rich Earle.

Members of the Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council: Trevor Wallace, Cutter Beck, Sean McCarty, Olivia Salem, Henry Weiland, Bronson Dubey.

Sandra Sullivan, secretary.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

II. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moment of Silence

Mr. Laferriere apologized for his oversight in welcoming Member Jordan Evans back to the table at the last meeting, as she was re-elected to the one-year position during the Charlton elections on May 1.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, May 12, 2021

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Terry to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, May 12, 2021, was approved unanimously by roll call vote:

C. Carmignani - yes

J. Costello - yes

J. Evans - yes

C. Kabala - yes

J. Terry - yes

P. Aucoin - yes

K. Laferriere - yes

V. Approval of the Warrant

Warrants continue to be approved electronically by a majority of members:

Warrant #	Amount
68	\$98,197.71
69	\$165,169.96
70	\$11,725.19
71	\$2,081,959.85
72	\$629,818.50
Total	\$2,986,871.21

VI. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VII. Communications

Mrs. Terry highlighted an upcoming event at Charlton Elementary School on Friday beginning at 9:30 AM. Students and staff will conduct a Proud to be From Charlton walk in the center of town.

It was suggested the agenda's New Business items be moved to accommodate a possible power outage due to the lightning storms expected in the area.

VIII. Student Representative Report – Ms. Michaela M. Cluett

Ms. Cluett reported on upcoming activities for seniors, whose last class at Shepherd Hill is tomorrow. The banquet was held last Friday at Wachusett Mountain and the Senior Parade was held from Dudley to Charlton on Sunday. On Wednesday, Seniors held their final pep rally.

AP and MCAS exams were held last week exams. The Show Choir held its end of the season banquet and held tryouts for next year.

Assistant Principals Mr. Leach and Mr. Resener are the winners of the NHS cornhole tournament. The NHS has won distinction as a Commended Chapter.

Ms. Cluett said that 20 seniors have signed letters of intent to play sports in college.

The chair noted that this is Ms. Cluett's last meeting and presented her with a gift. Committee members expressed their thanks for her participation on the committee, noting her talents as a civic leader.

X. New Business

Items were taken out of order to accommodate the presenters:

Item B – Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council Presentation

Mr. Lamarche introduced the members of the Council present this evening, noting that the group is also made up of Molly Starczewski, Maryn LaPlante, Chloe Graves, Nicholas Damelio, Jacob Heywood, Timothy Berthaiume, Aislinn Ennis, Mason Paine, Nicole Moore, Sandy Fontes, Elton Randolph, and Vanessa Baclawski. The group's charge is to identify a problem and find a solution.

Council President Henry Weiland said this year's project actually was hatched during the 201-2020 school year and was the idea of Shepherd Hill graduate Anya Grondalski. The group identified a disconnect between 8th grade and high

school and sought to market Shepherd Hill as a place of opportunity and passion.

The group unveiled the website which features information and photos of all Shepherd Hill activities, including a virtual building tour.

Item C - Virtual STEAM Race Presentation

Mrs. Walsh-Houghton used her love of math and STEAM to create this event in which students visit the continents and complete such challenges as calculating the differences in population, building a yurt, and research the Emperor and African Penguins. Mrs. Walsh-Houghton said 85 students participated in this digitally directed event that brought some fun back into school. The seven-week event takes the place of the spring STEAM event, which has been canceled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report:

1. Mr. Lamarche was thrilled to participated in the Senior Parade.
2. Mr. Lamarche and Principal William Chaplin joined the Academic Excellence Award winners on Tuesday at Foley Stadium. This event was sponsored by the Worcester County Superintendents' Association to recognize the region's scholars. Representing Shepherd Hill were Henry Weiland, and Serena Veilleux.
3. The district administrators worked with the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation to apply for a grant from Webster Five which will fund a summer learning program. The district was awarded \$1,500, which was matched by the DCEF. This \$3,000 will be used to fund the summer program, to address learning gaps created by Covid-19-induced learning models.
4. The state's guidance for indoor activities has shifted, and Mr. Lamarche reported seniors will now get 10 tickets to share with family and friends.
5. While the Governor has rescinded many mitigating protocols, masks are still required inside. Mr. Lamarche noted parents may still want their children to wear masks.
6. Regarding the question of requiring vaccinations, Mr. Lamarche said this is a requirement that a state agency would have to make for us, and he stated he would not recommend this as a requirement. There has been conversation at the state level about requiring masks in lieu of social distancing requirements.

Item A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations – Director Mathieu

1. Donations

To Dudley Elementary School from Box Tops	\$27.70
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A motion by P. Aucoin, second by C. Kabala to accept the donation from Box Tops was approved unanimously by roll call vote:

- C. Carmignani - yes
- J. Costello - yes
- J. Evans – yes
- C. Kabala - yes
- J. Terry - yes
- P. Aucoin - yes
- K. Laferriere - yes

2. FY22 Budget Update from Town Meetings

Mr. Mathieu reported the district budget was approved in Charlton on Monday, May 17, and in Dudley on Monday, May 24. With the adopted budget, Mr. Mathieu and Mr. Lamarche will begin making recommendations for reductions. One of the largest areas will be transportation. Mr. Lamarche is working with First Student and the routing specialists to identify areas of consolidation and efficiency.

Mr. Lamarche said the budget process began by reducing one bus, but he hopes to reduce four additional buses. Two have been identified.

3. General Ledger Software

Mr. Mathieu said he has reached out to Tyler Technologies to refresh pricing. The software is no longer available for purchase but for lease, which may impact the proposed implementation. This item will need to follow state bid laws, and Mr. Mathieu will reach out to other vendors that were investigated by district staff.

Mr. Mathieu will have updated information for the committee's consideration at the June 9 meeting.

At this point in the meeting thunder and lightning storms were looming, and it was noted that if power is lost, the meeting will end without a formal adjournment.

B. Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council Presentation – SHRHS Student members

See above.

C. Virtual STEAM Race Presentation – Heritage Elementary School – Ms. Pam Walsh Houghton

See above.

D. Massachusetts's Association of Regional Schools (MARS) Update – Chair Laferriere

Mr. Laferriere is the member of the MARS Board of Directors, having been promoted from associate member. Mr. Laferriere reported on vote on the organization's bylaws. MARS expressed its focus on rural districts, seeking equity in state funding.

E. Update Equity Committee – Dr. Ackerman

Dr. Ackerman said the group has met 15 times since July, having set numerous goals for the year. Work continues with consultant Dr. Sheldon Eakins from the Leading Equity Center who lead staff webinars and confronting racism, bias and a lack of equity this year. A second year of professional development will be held next year. The student group A Better Hill, has partnered with the Leading Equity Center to create a Critical Friends Group.

Works continues to shift curriculum and materials. Dr. Ackerman said students from A Better Hill have begun review of curricula and novels. We will be buying more varied authors, one per grade starting next year at Shepherd Hill.

F. School Committee Remote Participation in Accordance with 940 CMR 29.10

Mr. Lamarche asked the school committee to review this provision allowing remote participation in a non-COVID world.

Mr. Laferriere received an update from MASC earlier today that the Governor has filed legislation that would extend the ability of public boards to meet remotely until September 1. The committee may be able to meet remotely all summer. That now is up to the Legislature to act on.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 7:00 PM, SHRHS and via Zoom

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 4:00 PM

Policy Review Subcommittee: Friday, June 4, 2021, 9:00 AM

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 2:30 PM

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: Friday, June 4, 2021, 11:00 AM

- XII. Future Agenda Items:** Update Fiscal Year 2021, Update Fiscal Year 22, School Committee Reorganization (June), Update Summer Programming (June), Update Specialized Programming (July), DCRSD Strategic Plan Progress Report (July), Superintendent’s Evaluation (July/August), School Committee summer workshop (July/August) Policies for second reads
- XIII. Executive Session:** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining [**Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association, Dudley-Charlton Paraprofessionals Association and the Massachusetts Nurses Association**] if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The chair entertained a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining [Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association, Dudley-Charlton Paraprofessionals Association and the Massachusetts Nurses Association] if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares, and to reenter open session for a vote if necessary and to adjourn, and this was made by J. Terry, seconded by C. Kabala and approved unanimously by roll call vote at 8:39 PM.

- C. Carmignani - yes
- J. Costello - yes
- J. Evans – yes
- C. Kabala - yes
- J. Terry - yes
- P. Aucoin - yes
- K. Laferriere - yes

The committee returned to open session at 9:47 PM.

The chair stated there are no votes necessary this evening.

XIV. Adjourn

A motion by C. Carmignani, second by C. Kabala to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously by roll call vote at 9:47 PM.

- C. Carmignani - yes
- J. Costello - yes
- J. Evans – yes
- C. Kabala - yes
- J. Terry - yes
- P. Aucoin - yes
- K. Laferriere - yes

Items used for this meeting included:

Agenda for Wednesday, May 26, 2021	Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, May 12, 2021	Superintendent’s Report, May 26, 2021	Director of Finance and Operations Reports –May 20 and 26, 2021
Report of the Equity Committee – June 2, 2021	940CMR 29	MARS Vote Results	SOE Orders and Policies
STEM Race			

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, Secretary