

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. via Video Conferencing,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82238360147?pwd=ZjNpeEgvWmUzSW5WUGJ2Yy9zYTErdz09>

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 at 7:11 p.m.
Jamie L. Terry at 7:04 p.m.

Stephanie A. Reed was not in attendance

Also in attendance were Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Mathieu, Director of Finance and Operations, Karen A. Ares, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; district administrators Lorinda C. Allen, William F. Chaplin, Jennifer A. Desto, Dean W. Packard, Diane D. Seibold, Christopher E. Starczewski; Assistant Superintendent-elect Brian Ackerman, Kimberly Lundquist, Jody Blodgett, Tracy Hakala, Lindsey, , Jeanne Costello, Mary Solomita; Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, May 27, 2020

A motion by M. Antocci, second by C. Carmignani, to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, May 27, 2020, was approved on unanimous roll call.

C. Carmignani-yes
C. Kabala-yes
M. Antocci-yes
P. Aucoin-yes

Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, May 27, 2020

A motion by C. Kabala, second by M. Antocci to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, May 27, 2020, was approved by roll call vote:

C. Carmignani-yes
C. Kabala-yes
M. Antocci-yes
P. Aucoin-yes

III. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

IV. Communications

Mr. Lamarche received information from the state regarding accessing outdoor facilities. The town of Charlton has begun processing those requests, with some recreational practices being allowed; however, the school system is not in a position to do this at this time.

Mr. Lamarche said there are no plans for any in-person summer programs at this time. The Reopening Committee will discuss this in upcoming meetings.

V. New Business

A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations (Vote Required)

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Mathieu presented two donations, and asked the committee to accept.

To Charlton Elementary School from Planet Aid, \$126.25

To the District, from Karl Storz Corp., 43 face shields, which are important pieces of PPE for nurses and custodians as the District eyes re-opening in the future.

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by C. Carmignani to accept the two donations as presented, was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

- C. Carmignani-yes
- C. Kabala-yes
- J. Terry-yes
- M. Antocci-yes
- P. Aucoin-yes

FY20 Budget Transfer

Mr. Mathieu said the revised settlement of the transportation contract for FY20 allowed him to update projected expenses for the 2019-2020 school year. Based on our lower expenses, Mr. Mathieu said we will receive less transportation reimbursement revenue in FY21 than originally projected within the FY21 budget. This is a separate issue from any revisions the state will make in revenue guidance. This additional transfer follows the same protocols as the one for \$400,000 approved by School Committee at its May 13, 2020 meeting.

	Decrease	Increase
Transportation - Contractual	230,000	
Transfer to Transportation Revolving		230,000

Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to approve a transfer of an additional \$230,000 as a result of the settlement.

A motion by C. Carmignani, seconded by C. Kabala to approve the transfer of \$230,000 from Transportation – Contractual to Transportation Revolving, was approved by unanimous roll call vote:

- C. Carmignani-yes
- C. Kabala-yes
- J. Terry-yes
- M. Antocci-yes
- P. Aucoin-yes

B. Report of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting – 06.02.2020

Mrs. Kabala said the subcommittee discussed the FY 21 budget, and said the items will be covered in the next agenda item.

C. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget - Mr. Mathieu (Vote Required)

Mr. Lamarche said he monitors updates from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riles. The advice is for school district to begin working toward a summer decision, to have ideas for the fall, either opening, or continued remote learning.

Mr. Mathieu said we are presented with unprecedented challenges, and the budget work is not at an end with tonight's requested vote. He said normally in June we would be thanking the community for supporting our budgets, however, today we are talking about a reduction to the assessment to reach the towns' requested levels. Tonight's vote is simply an intermediate step to get us past town meeting and at a figure the towns can support, and avoid a 1/12th budget. He said the real budget process begins in earnest after the town meetings, and that is not the usual tact. The district won't get a first look at revised state revenues until July 1, and the projections are not good.

Mr. Mathieu said no expense reductions are being sought at this time. Instead, he proposed carrying forward transportation monies from FY 20 to help in FY 21.

Mr. Mathieu asked the school committee to approve the use of \$480, 000 of reserve transportation monies to offset the budget.

The assessments are as follows:

Charlton:	\$12,923,296
Transportation:	\$637,838
Capital assessment	\$84,667

Net Assessment: \$13,645,801

Dudley:	\$8,238,633
Transportation:	\$578,250
Capital Assessment:	\$63,957

Net Assessment: \$8,880,840

Mrs. Aucoin noted the total budget of \$51,214,389 has not changed.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by J. Terry to accept the revised assessments to Dudley and Charlton as presented above, and a FY 21 budget of \$51,214,389, was approved by unanimous roll call vote:

- C. Carmignani-yes
- C. Kabala-yes
- K. Laferriere-yes
- J. Terry-yes
- M. Antocci-yes
- P. Aucoin-yes

Mrs. Antocci asked whether it is allowable to use transportation money for other purposes. Mr. Mathieu said we are using transportation revenues to offset transportation expenses, not another line item.

Mr. Mathieu said after town meetings, we will start to get information about state revenue. He said we only have the governor's initial projections from January, prior to Covid-19. These numbers will likely fall dramatically, and Mr. Mathieu said we have to be prepared for these changes.

Mr. Lamarche said there may be a trickling in of federal CARES monies, and preparing for increases expenditures if schools do open. Mr. Lamarche said we are trying to take one financial step at a time. We don't want to enter the fiscal year without a framework or working budget to start with.

Mrs. Kabala noted the district complied with the requests to hold the increase to Dudley's assessment by \$100,000, and Charlton by \$155,000.

Message from the Vice Chair

Mrs. Antocci formally announced that she is not seeking reelection to the committee on June 13. She said serving has been a great experience and it was a pleasure to serve with current and past members, three superintendents, principals, administrators and staff. The team has created great things. Mrs. Antocci said she has learned a great deal, and has always strived to make a positive difference, making decisions with the big picture in mind. She challenged Charlton residents to step forward and serve. She wishes the very best to the district.

Mrs. Aucoin thanked Mrs. Antocci for being an outstanding and extremely active member. Prior to her election, Mrs. Antocci attended meetings as a parent and community member, and worked tirelessly, always volunteering to work on subcommittees. Mrs. Aucoin announced that she has placed Mrs. Antocci's name in nomination for the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given in November at the Joint Conference.

VI. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 7:00 PM via video conferencing, reorganization meeting.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: TBD

Policy Review Subcommittee: TBD

Curriculum Subcommittee: TBD

VII. Future Agenda Items

Reorganization, recap of town meeting, FY 21 budget, Covid 19, end of school year, Shepherd Hill overseas trip update, extended school year program update.

Mrs. Carmignani thanked student representative Celiedgh O’Brien for her service to us for two years. Mrs. Carmignani said Miss O’Brien was so articulate at each meeting.

Mr. Laferriere thanked the complete team of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as this is the last meeting of the 2019-2020 school year, and wanted to let everyone know how appreciative the committee is for their efforts.

VIII. Adjourn

A motion by M. Antocci, second by K. Laferriere to adjourn the meeting was approved at 7:33 p.m.

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for June 3, 2020 Meeting	Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of May 27, 2020	Minutes of the Executive Session of May 27, 2020	Superintendent’s Report, May 29, 2020
Director of Finance and Operations Report, May 29, 2020	FY 21 Revised Budget	Budget Message	Warrants approved virtually by members: 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary