

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, Wednesday, December 9, 2015, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Rd. Dudley, at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Pauline J. Aucoin, Chair

Raymond J. Chalk, Vice Chair

Mary N. Antocci

Catherine M. Kabala

Joseph M. Pietrzak arrived at 7:54 p.m.

Elaine M. Rabbitt

Stephanie A. Reed arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Jack Bugar, Student Representative arrived at 6:57 p.m.

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, Peter Olson; district teachers Brooke Beverly, Diane Seibold, Kevin Foley; Heritage School students and parents; media representatives: Deborah LaPlaca, Telegram, Rich Earle, Audio-Visual Coordinator, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

A motion by M. Antocci, seconded by R. Chalk, to approve the minutes of the school committee meeting of Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 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 questions:

Warrant #	Amount
28	\$431,453.08

V. Citizens' Forum

No one spoke at this time.

VI. School Spotlight – Heritage School

Mrs. Pastore shared a video of Heritage School students in Mrs. Poblocki's class during the Morning Meeting before students Conor Newman, Troy Fernandes, Akshat Viswanath, Gianna Verdolino, Emma Horner, Kyra Hennessey, and Cecelia McDonald read essays supporting the concept. The students expressed hope that the concept will follow them to the middle schools. Mrs. Pastore explained the Morning Meeting is in its second year, and is used to set the tone for the day. Students share information, answer questions and may play a game to foster unity, kindness and caring.

Mrs. Reed arrived at 6:35 p.m.

VII. Communications

1. Mr. Desto received an email from Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester stating that the *Every Student Succeeds Act* will replace the *No Child Left Behind Act* effective August 2016. Mr. Desto said this will not affect Massachusetts as the state had applied for a waiver to maintain autonomy over high stakes testing.

2. Mrs. Antocci updated the committee on the *End Common Core* ballot initiative, which was signed by over 80,000 Massachusetts residents, and was delivered to the state on Dec. 2.

3. Mrs. Rabbitt reported on the recent public hearing regarding Old Sturbridge Village's proposal to open a Charter School next fall. Public comments will be accepted until January 6, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is expected to vote on the application in February.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Desto reported on the November 30 meeting with Diane Sullivan, Director of Program Management for the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Ms. Sullivan was unable to join the team that toured Shepherd Hill in October and requested this meeting to follow up on information culled from that meeting. Although no decisions have been rendered, Ms. Sullivan said it is unlikely the district's SOI will be considered. Mr. Desto said it is imperative that the district move forward with Shepherd Hill renovations without the state's assistance.

2. Mr. Desto said Parent-Teacher Conferences for PK-4 will be held Thursday, December 10. Students will be released early. District Administrators will be available to speak with parents during the conferences, with STEAM learning activities featured at Heritage School.

3. The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Holiday Spectacular will be held Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12 at 7 p.m.

IX. Student Representative Report

Jack Bugar reported on recent events at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, including the Student Council Thanksgiving Day game pep rally, and various community service programs

such as the NHS Toy Drive. He said winter athletics are underway, and both varsity basketball teams won recent scrimmages.

X. New Business

A. Benchmark Testing Presentation –Elementary Principals

Heritage School Principal Kathleen E. Pastore and Dudley Elementary School Principal Terri A. Caffelle offered a presentation that explained the use of assessments.

Mrs. Caffelle explained the three assessments used in the district:

- Classroom assessments gives teachers information to inform their teaching and re-teach when necessary.
- Mandated Assessments such as MCAS, PARCC, TS Gold, DDMs, are tied to funding resources
- Benchmark assessments are curriculum based, are more authentic, short, quick, and give great information about student progress.

Throughout the year, administrators have conversations about testing and utilize the results to inform and drive instruction. STAR testing was eliminated from the elementary schools last year and will be eliminated from middle schools this year. Schools are required by the state to track results of District Determined Measures, and MCAS is being replaced by MCAS 2.0.

Mrs. Rabbitt asked about the middle school components. Mr. Packard said the middle schools use common assessment and standardized tests. In addition, DIBELS is piloted at grades 5 and 6.

Mrs. Antocci thanked teachers and administrators for reviewing what is working and meaningful and catching any student’s deficits early.

B. MASS/MASC Joint Conference Highlights – *Discussion*

Mr. Desto, Mrs. Antocci and Mrs. Rabbitt met following the Joint Conference to discuss the information each gleaned from the various sessions.

Mrs. Antocci spoke about coordinated services for children, and efforts to focus on the needs of the whole child. She offered information about community service opportunities, and extended day programs that help students and families that help students feel welcome and secure. Mrs. Antocci also had relevant information concerning school committee self-evaluation, and vocational education best practices that focuses on hands-on learning. She said the committee will need to consider a policy about selecting architects should there be an opportunity to construct/renovate.

Mrs. Rabbitt said she viewed the conference thematically and focused on creative ways to expand on district offerings within budgetary constraints. She was particularly interested in examples of global STEM learning with other schools in other parts of the world, as well as opportunities for creating a virtual learning academies within the school. One workshop

discussed the impact of poverty on learning as it is the biggest factor influencing students across the spectrum, but especially our youngest students. There were examples of easing this impact through extended day learning.

Mrs. Rabbitt learned of examples where districts have reimagined the role of the library and librarian in the 21st century that includes research and validation of information, and the use of technology. The librarian provided technological support and strengthened students' research skills.

Mrs. Rabbitt said the two questions emerged from the conference: how to respond to the changing nature of what education is preparing students for, and how to educate students for careers that have not yet been created. She said schools have some of these ideas in place but have not identified them as pathways for kids.

Mr. Desto focuses on the world today's graduates are entering – a global, technological world. He said we will not be able to address everything, but we cannot compromise. Foreign language and STEAM programming are key, as is mental, emotional and physical well-being. He hopes to revisit this discussion, perhaps with more participants. He said the ideas brought back from the conference respond to that, and that we must find a way to make these ideas reality and part of our strategic plan.

C. Finance Director Report

- Field Project Update – *Discussion*

Mr. Mathieu said he is waiting for the final invoices but that the project came in under budget. He said the large donations are coming in as expected, with about \$6,000 in smaller donations received as well.

Mr. Mathieu asked the committee to consider whether to pursue permanent bleachers, or continue renting them.

- Security Cameras – *(Vote Required)*

Mr. Mathieu has received an initial quote for installing security cameras at the high school parking lot and the field in the amount of \$80,000; however, the cost has been reduced to \$50,000. He said the project must be put out to bid. He asked the committee to vote whether to pursue this project and to authorize him to go out to bid. The project will be funded by student parking fees.

Mr. Chalk asked about the savings incurred from the insurance company and whether that amount would be restored to the parking lot maintenance account.

Mr. Mathieu is anticipating a \$5,000 grant from the district's insurance carrier.

A motion was made by R. Chalk, seconded by M. Antocci to authorize the finance director to go out to bid for security cameras in the parking lot and athletic field, with the stipulation that the

savings from the insurance carrier's grant be returned to the parking lot maintenance account, and this was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu anticipates having results by the second meeting in January.

- Consideration to Award Bid for Wireless Installation – *Vote Required*

Mr. Mathieu opened bids for the data cabling project. He explained there were two options on this bid including running the actual network cable from the data closets to the wireless access points and wiring for wireless access throughout the high school. Mr. Mathieu explored completing the wireless project in-house, but recommends the district hire an outside vendor to complete both aspects of this project as their work is warrantied for one year.

Mr. Mathieu recommended the committee to award the bid to Whalley Computer Associates as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

A motion by E. Rabbitt, seconded by R. Chalk to award the bid for running fiber connections and running actual network cable from the data closets to the wireless access points, to Whalley Computer Associates, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathieu requested the committee vote to accept donations in memory of retired Shepherd Hill teacher Barbara Bartolomei, who passed away recently. The family requested donations to establish a scholarship.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by R. Chalk to accept donations in memory of Barbara Bartolomei, was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pietrzak arrived at 7:54 p.m.

D. Calendar Study Group – *Discussion*

Mr. Desto will schedule a meeting with the group to review the results of an online survey which closes at the end of this week. He anticipates having a recommendation for the committee in January.

E. Mental Health First Aid Program – *Discussion*

Mr. Pietrzak recently met with the Central Massachusetts Director of the Department of Mental Health to conduct s training in the spring for a program he recently saw at Algonquin..

F. Schedule Dates for Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations – *Discussion*

Mr. Desto said the subcommittee has scheduled its first meeting for Thursday, January 7 at 5 p.m.

G. MCAS vs PARCC- Decision Due to DESE by December 18 – *Vote Required*

While the DESE does not require it, Mr. Desto requested the committee vote its preference regarding staying with MCAS or conducting PARCC testing this spring. The new MCAS will be rolled out in 2017.

A motion by C. Kabala, seconded by S. Reed to continue with MCAS testing for this year, was approved by unanimous vote.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

- Budget and Finance Subcommittee, Wednesday, December 16, 2015, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9 a.m.
- School Committee: Wednesday, January 13, 2016, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley, 7 p.m.
- Budget and Finance Subcommittee, Wednesday, January 20, 2016, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 9 a.m.
- School Committee: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road, Charlton, 7 p.m.

XII. Future Agenda Items

- Calendar study group
- Family Comes First Night – suggestion that the event be included on the school calendar so that sports teams can coordinate schedules. Mr. Desto thanked the teachers for making the concession and holding back on scheduling homework on Monday evening
- FY 17 Budget
- Security Camera Bid
- Dudley-Charlton Teachers’ Association negotiations

Stefan Sage of Charlton thanked the committee members for their work.

XIII. Adjourn

A motion by S. Reed, seconded by M. Antocci to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous vote at 8:04 p.m.

The materials used for this meeting included:

Agenda for Dec. 9	Superintendent’s Report of Friday, Dec. 4, 2015	Minutes of Wednesday, November 18, 2015	Finance Director’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Cabling• Finance Director’s Update
Holiday Show Calendar	PARCC vs MCAS	School Calendar Survey	Testing presentation

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary