

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved minutes of the meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee held Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7 PM via

Live Stream - Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/dcrsd>
<https://vimeo.com/498323710>

Video Conferencing - Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/91423442256>

In attendance were members of the School Committee:

Kenneth J. Laferriere, Chair
Pauline J. Aucoin, Vice Chair
Cathleen Carmignani
Jordan W. Evans
Catherine M. Kabala
Stephanie A. Reed
Jamie L. Terry
Michaela Cluett, Student Representative

Also in attendance 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; Administrators William F. Chaplin, Daniel D’Arcangelo, Jennifer A. Desto, Lori A. Pacheco, Dean W. Packard, Kathleen E. Pastore, Christopher E. Starczewski, Andrew Leach, Michael Tucker, Peter Olson, Michael Resener, Kelly True, Nicole Heroux, Joseph Rogalski, Judy Powell, Students Henry Weiland, Aliyah Gonyea, Serena Veilleux, JoAnn Davidson, representatives, Sandra Sullivan, secretary. 181 attendees from Zoom and Vimeo live streaming.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM following some technical issues. This is a remote meeting, and the Vimeo link is not functioning this evening. The recording of this evening’s meeting will be posted on the website when available.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Wednesday, December 09, 2020
Minutes of Special Meeting of Wednesday, December 30, 2020
Minutes of Special Meeting of Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Minutes of Executive Session of Wednesday, January 6, 2021

The chair entertained a motion to approve all of the minutes rather than individually. This motion was made by P. Aucoin, seconded by S. Reed and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: yes
C. Kabala: yes

S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: yes
P. Aucoin: yes
K. Laferriere: yes

V. Approval of Warrant

The following warrants were signed electronically by a majority of members.

Accounts Payable		Payroll	
#31	\$74,435.40	1414D	\$498,905.13
#32	\$779,602.42	1414P	\$1,338,542.18
#33	\$207,923.94	1416D	\$382,731.62
#34	\$252,339.31	1416P	\$1,299,757.36
#35	\$631,019.87	1418D	\$492,442.80
#36	0.00	1418P	\$1,312,834.65
#37	\$132,292.16		
#38	\$13,184.43		
#39	\$503,283.31		
#116	57,541.96		
Total	\$2,651,622.96	Total	\$5,325,213.74

VI. New Business

A. Superintendent’s Award – SHRHS Seniors Henry Weiland and Serena Veilleux
Mr. Lamarche announced the recipients of this year Award of Academic Excellence, which is usually bestowed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

Henry Weiland has earned a 4.4 GPA, and is also an accomplished indoor track and cross country Midland League all-star. He is a leader in many clubs. Mr. Weiland has been nominated by Congressman Richard Neal for the US Air Force Academy.

Serena Veilleux is described as someone who sets goals, and is not afraid to try new things. She is an academic force, having recognized early on her interest in high level mathematics. She is from a family of engineers who also excels in music.

B. SHRHS Principal’s Award – SHRHS Senior Michaela M. Cluett
Mr. Chaplin selected Michaela Cluett for this honor and cited her leadership qualities and task management. Michael serves as the student representative to the school committee and is valued for her contributions. Mr. Chaplin said Michaela has a bright future ahead.

VII. Citizens’ Forum

The chair read the policy BEDH.

Mara Jackson, Charlton. As the school committee looks to the future, they must consider childrens’ mental health. She said we won’t know the fallout from the pandemic for many years. The topic of mental health must be taken into consideration when making any decision. Ms. Jackson said the bare minimum of 35 hours of live instruction over 10 days is not enough, and our children deserve better. She voiced support for the full remote option, but those parents who choose to, should be able to send their children to school full time. We can’t let fear win.

Dan Duffy, a teacher at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. He thanked committee for its tireless work, and urged them to ensure physical health and safety is at the forefront of any decisions they make. He asked the committee to view the levels of education differently. The needs of elementary school students are not the same as those of students at the higher levels. Mr. Duffy said at the high school, the current model is working and the vast majority of students are succeeding. He said teachers want their students back in the classroom.

Debra Cini, Charlton. She identified herself as a COVID survivor and urged the committee to be aware that even if cases of Coronavirus are not transmitted in the schools, the virus can be brought home to family members. Ms. Cini said children are adapting to remote learning. They should not be brought back to school if it creates a distance of 3 feet.

Jeanne Costello, Charlton. She referenced Mr. Lamarche's advisory concerning positive cases among students in an intensive learning center. While she is concerned about the spread, she said some students are not adjusting to the remote environment.

Kirolos Ibrahim, high school student. He is torn between missing school his senior year, and the fear that he has for his parents' health as he returns home on his Cohort days. He said the current model is the best for us.

Jared Manzi, Dudley. His two children are in kindergarten and grade 2. His wife is a bus driver. He asked how many positive cases Bay Path has experienced as they are in school full time. As a taxpayer the option of going to school two full days and the rest is remote is not working.

Caitlynn Panczek – started a petition in October. She said parents reached out and thanked her for her work. She said she understands what everyone is saying and that providing for the mental health of all children is important, but the committee should not take away the option of how she chooses to send her children to school.

VIII. Communications

Mrs. Reed said that nomination papers are now available for the Charlton election, and that it has been an honor for her to have served on the school committee for eight years. She is not seeking reelection in the spring.

Mr. Laferriere said he was contacted by a parent who is unable to attend this evening's meeting and requested that his statement be read this evening. Michael Gormley is unable to attend. He wrote that while mitigating strategies are working, he asked the committee to take an aggressive approach to getting children back in school and to meet the requirements of SLT. Mr. Gormley stated he prefers Model C, but this removes student distancing. He expressed his concerns about how the district will respond to the 3' distance and if we see cases of transmission in the school. If the committee chooses this model and sees transmission, he suggests moving to fully remote. The best place for students is in school. He asked the committee and administration to develop a secondary model that would be used as a contingency should contact transmission show in the buildings.

Miss Evans said she has received numerous communications, and she will relay the contents of those messages during the discussion tonight

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

Ms. Cluett reported the holiday fund raisers were successful and they spread joy while they helped others.

Other activities concluding at Shepherd Hill are the NHS Twelve Days of Christmas, and the Gay Straight Alliance's Candy Grams.

Athletics resume on Monday. A recent Virtual 5K resulted in a donation to the John Paire Foundation.

X. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Lamarche said the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation is still supporting schools and students. In lieu of the grants this year, the foundation donated monies to each school. The fundraising effort will continue despite the pandemic.

XI. New Business

- A. Superintendent's Award – SHRHS Seniors Henry Weiland and Serena Veilleux
- B. SHRHS Principal's Award

- C. Report of the Curriculum Subcommittee – Meeting of January 12, 2021 – Jamie Terry and Cathleen Carmignani

The subcommittee discussed the literacy grant and is piloting a unit with Amplify in K-3. Consultant Janice Daniels has shared the district's exemplars with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, who in turn is sharing them across the state.

PLTW meeting at the end of the month to discuss science at the middle school level. Eventually to the elementary levels as well.

Short term goals: look at current plans and models and affect to our students

Intermediate goals: instructional supplies to plan for reading, science, civics

Long term – look at implementing multi-tiered systems of support for students, especially after this year.

- D. Report of the Capital Outlay and Safety Committee – Meeting of January 8, 2021 - Richard Mathieu

The subcommittee met last Friday to review detailed building information including the age of equipment and school improvement lists to use in discussions with town officials as we look for ways to fund the various needs.

Mrs. Terry said the subcommittee is developing a 5-years plan, which will be a living and breathing document.

Mr. Laferriere thanked the subcommittee for its work, stating both towns have asked for a capital plan so they can make plans over 5 to 10 years.

- E. Report of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee – mtg. 01.12.2021 - Catherine Kabala

Mrs. Kabala reported on the meetings of December 15 and January 12 during which they discussed closing out the Fay 2021 budget.

Mr. Mathieu said the state has finalized its budget and Cheery Sheet information has been released. Mr. Mathieu recommended holding off on a vote on reductions and transfers until the full committee's decision to change the instruction model. The Federal Stimulus Package includes additional funds

although no official allocation has been announced. Mr. Mathieu said there is word that we can expect 3.7 times the amount offered through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants, or \$1.1 million. This round of Covid Relief is school specific, so there will not be an additional amount shared with the towns. Under that model, the district realized \$1.8 million, which had to be expended by December 30. Technology Director Dan D’Arcangelo purchased new technology as the grant was running out.

The subcommittee recommends the full committee vote to suspend all parking fees until further notice.

A motion by P. Aucoin, second by J. Terry to suspend all parking fees indefinitely was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: yes
C. Kabala: yes
S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: yes
P. Aucoin: yes
K. Laferriere: yes

Mrs. Kabala explained that preschool tuition is usually \$1,000 per year. Parents paid \$250 in the fall. The subcommittee recommends charging \$250 due by February 1 and another \$250 on April 1, thereby lowering the tuition to \$750.

A motion by P. Aucoin, second by J. Terry to lower the preschool tuition to \$750 for the 2020-2021 school year, was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: yes
C. Kabala: yes
S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: yes
P. Aucoin: yes
K. Laferriere: yes

Mr. Mathieu reported the Food Services Program realized a \$76,000 profit as of November 30 thanks to the good work of Food Services Director Matthew Greenberg.

The committee asked the chair to send a letter to Mr. Greenberg.

Mrs. Terry said she has heard from families who have been impressed with the quality of the food available to students.

The Budget and Finance Subcommittee will meeting Tuesday, January 26 at 3 PM

- F. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations – Richard Mathieu
 - a. Donations

Mr. Mathieu presented a donation of \$400 to support an intensive learning center classroom. JoAnn Davidson from the Start 'Em Early Foundation was present to demonstrate the cause and effect learning games and activities she will deliver to the schools next week.

Mrs. Allen thanked Ms. Davidson and the foundation for its support.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by S. Reed to accept the donation was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes

J. Evans: yes

C. Kabala: yes

S. Reed: yes

J. Terry: yes

P. Aucoin: yes

K. Laferriere: yes

Unanimous.

b. Update HVAC systems

Mr. Mathieu reported that three areas are nearing completion. The MERV filters have arrived and HEPA filters have been installed in Heritage School classrooms.

c. Snow Plow Bid – Mason Road School and Dudley Elementary School

Bids were opened January 7, 2021 to replace the vendor with whom the contract mutually ended after the December storm. A temporary vendor was found. The bids for the cost per storm came in dramatically higher than those received a year and a half ago. Mr. Mathieu said under the procurement law, he was able to negotiate with the low bidder. Mr. Mathieu is recommending the committee reject all bids as the negotiated price was still \$45,000 above.

A motion by C. Kabala, second by S. Reed to reject the Snow Plow Bids received January 7, for Mason Road School and Dudley Elementary School, and to seek new bids, was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes

J. Evans: yes

C. Kabala: yes

S. Reed: yes

J. Terry: yes

P. Aucoin: yes

K. Laferriere: yes

d. FREC Bid – Oil FY2022

The French River Education Collaborative purchasing cooperative went out to bid for fuel oil for FY 22. Mr. Mathieu recommended awarding the bid to Peterson Oil, whose bid was a substantial reduction at from FY 2021 pricing at \$1.6999.

A motion by C. Carmignani, second by C. Kabala to award the FY 2022 Fuel Oil Bid to Peterson Oil at the cost of \$1.6999, was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: yes
C. Kabala: yes
S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: yes
P. Aucoin: yes
K. Laferriere: yes

The chair took the following items out of order:

H. Transition to Student Learning Time regulations

Mr. Lamarche reviewed the Reopening plan.

Review student learning time: The district's learning model must meet the requirement for 35 hours of live instruction over a 10-day period by January 19. Mr. Lamarche reported the district was successful in its bid for a waiver to extend that deadline to January 25.

Review Models:

A – hybrid, adding 3.5 hours of live instruction on Wednesdays
B – Full day hybrid
C – Full in person - proposed Nov. 18
D – Full time in person (62.5 hours corrected)

Full Remote Learning

Students on this plan will continue through June, with enhancements in learning time. Mr. Lamarche said shifts will occur, and time is needed for learning model choices.

Feedback for School Committee consideration:

Respectful and appreciative of 50/50 positions
Mental health of students, staff and families is a concern
Combine February and April vacation to increase time in school
Revote the waiver – comply by Jan. 19
Establish a policy requiring staff vaccinations

Data Says...

Dr. Ackerman said the survey garnered a robust participation. The survey received 1,212 caregiver responses, with 85% supporting Model D.

Students on fully remote garnered 172 responses with 71.5% preferring Plan A.

Interest in having different educational models for age/grade span - 2.4% said yes.

Transportation to school, under 57% said yes

Staff was also surveyed, with 57% of the nearly 300 responses choosing Model A with Model C a distant second. Among staff, 79.4% preferred different educational models by age/grade.

Students:

Shepherd Hill – 624 responses. 45% want Model A

Charlton Middle School: 49.9, and Dudley Middle School 50%, with 483 responses in total. There is no consensus, with only slightly more for A, 28%.

Staff, middle and high school students = A

Caregivers: D
Scant support for B

Recommendation to the School Committee:

Mr. Lamarche said whatever is decided this evening will be implemented with fidelity.

Mr. Lamarche recommended the committee vote to remain in Model A beginning January 25, and an in-service day rescheduled to January 20 to allow staff to solidify plans to address the incremental move to meet Student Learning Time Requirements.

Mr. Lamarche and the administrative team determined the following demarcation dates:

March 1 shift to Model C

May 4 shift to Model D

In service day on May 3

A motion was made by P. Aucoin, second by C. Kabala to move to Model A on January 25, and schedule a professional development day on January 20.

Mrs. Aucoin said she preferred not to lock in additional transition dates.

Members argued against the need for a professional development day on Wednesday, January 20, saying it takes away learning time.

Mr. Lamarche said planning time is needed to be able to make that shift. We can pivot to full remote or in person easier, but any incremental move is difficult and requires some planning.

Mrs. Reed said she prefers having the dates in the motion as it provides goals to attain.

Mrs. Kabala said those transition dates can be set with another motion.

Mrs. Carmignani asked to move the question.

Ms. Cluett said the transition should coincide with the term schedule and noted that one suggested transition date coincides with AP exams.

The motion to move to model A on January 25, with a professional development date on January 20 was approved by a roll call vote of 4 in favor, and 3 opposed.

C. Carmignani: no

J. Evans: yes

C. Kabala: yes

S. Reed: no

J. Terry: yes

P. Aucoin: yes

K. Laferriere: no

A motion by C. Carmignani, second by S. Reed to set a second transition date to Model C on March 1 was withdrawn first by Mrs. Reed, then by Mrs. Carmignani.

Mrs. Terry said March 1 is too soon and she would prefer to support a move to Model D on April 3 if there is no surge in Corona virus cases.

Mr. Lamarche said March 1 was targeted to move to Model C because A seemed to be appropriate for now and is an incredible instructional model for at-home parents. Teachers will be combining their cohorts on Wednesday for live instruction.

A motion was made by S. Reed, second by C. Carmignani to set April 5 as the target date for a move to Model D.

At 10:59 PM, a motion by S. Reed, second by C. Kabala to waive District Policy BE to allow the meeting to go beyond 11 PM was approved by unanimous roll call vote:

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: yes
C. Kabala: yes
S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: yes
P. Aucoin: yes
K. Laferriere: yes

Mrs. Kabala asked Mrs. Reed to withdraw the motion and make a new motion to go to Model C on March 15.

Mrs. Carmignani withdrew her second. Mrs. Reed withdrew her motion.

A motion by S. Reed, second by C. Kabala to transition to Model C on March 15 carried by a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 3 opposed:

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: yes
C. Kabala: yes
S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: no
P. Aucoin: no
K. Laferriere: no

A motion by S. Reed, second by C. Carmignani to target May 4 as the date to transition to Model D was amended by S. Reed, second by C. Carmignani to transition to Model D on May 3 with a professional development date set on April 30, and this vote carried by a roll call vote of 5 in favor, 2 opposed:

C. Carmignani: yes
J. Evans: no
C. Kabala: yes
S. Reed: yes
J. Terry: yes
P. Aucoin: no
K. Laferriere: yes

G. Update School Year 2020/2021 Calendar – Steven Lamarche

Mr. Lamarche will adjust the calendar to accommodate the actions taken in the previous agenda item, moving a professional development date from May 3 to April 30, as well as other corrections. The last day of the school year is June 16 at this point. All half days have been removed, except Good Friday.

The official vote to amend the calendar will be made at the January 27 meeting.

Mrs. Terry requested consideration to restore parent conferences at the middle schools. Mr. Lamarche will review that request with administrators.

XII. Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6 PM

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3PM
Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 4 PM

Policy Review Subcommittee: TBD

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: TBD

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: Friday, February 5, 2021, 11 AM

XIII. Future Agenda Items: Update HVAC (ongoing), Update Fiscal Year 2021 (ongoing), Update Equity Committee (January), Superintendent’s Evaluation (January), Update Student Services Department (February), Fiscal Year 2022 (February), Teaching and Learning (February), Update MASC/MASS Conference Report (February), School Year 2021/2022 Calendar (February) 2020-2021 calendar (January)

XIV. Adjourn

A Motion by S. Reed, second by J. Terry to adjourn the meeting was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 11:33 PM.

- C. Carmignani: yes
- J. Evans: yes
- C. Kabala: yes
- S. Reed: yes
- J. Terry: yes
- P. Aucoin: yes
- K. Laferriere: yes

Items used for this meeting include:

Agenda for Wednesday, January 13, 2021	Minutes of 12/9/20; 12/30/20; 1/6/20, executive session minutes of 1/6/20	Subcommittee minutes: 10/27/20 Budget and Finance; 11/13/20 Capital Outlay and School Safety; 11/30/20 Teaching and Learning
Reopening Plan amended Jan. 13, 2021	SLT Models 1/6/21	DCTA Survey Results
Model Meal Distribution	Report of the Director of Finance and Operations	Snow Plowing Bids

**Minutes of the School Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

Awards of Academic Excellence H. Weiland S. Veilleux	2020-2021 School Year Calendar	
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Respectfully submitted by Sandra Sullivan, Secretary