

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review Subcommittee of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, held Monday, April 8, 2019, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, at 9 a.m.

In attendance were Mary N. Antocci, Chair, Elaine M. Rabbitt, at 11:10 a.m.; Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools, Food Services Director, Matthew Greenberg, Sandra Sullivan, recording secretary.

1. Call to Order

The chair called to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of Monday, March 18, 2019

The chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of Monday, March 18, 2019, and this was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Communications

There were no communications.

4. Policies brought to Subcommittee attention for review:

A. H. JQ – Student Food Services Accounts

Mr. Greenberg reported the food service department has sent out 32 letters to families with balances. In this first round of seeking to recover 25% of the \$30,000 district-wide debt, or \$7,500. Mr. Greenberg said \$5,000 was recovered across the district in two weeks. The balance \$24,669.

Mr. Matthew said there is a balance of \$1,300 among graduates and students who have transferred. Cafeteria managers will send emails weekly as a first point of contact, then school secretaries, then Mr. Greenberg.

School offices will be asked to be accountable for phone calls and letters.

Mr. Greenberg would like to propose a hard sliding cap for next year. It is similar to a credit card that one the limit is reached, it cannot be used. The limit for secondary level is 10 meals. Then, they will be offered a secondary meal.

Mrs. Antocci said the district should not lose sight to the debt that is carried over from year to year.

Mr. Greenberg is investigating collection agencies.

Mr. Greenberg will return with recommendations for changes to the policy.

B. Policy AC - Non Discrimination

This policy was inadvertently omitted from the March 27, 2019 agenda. The contact table will be eliminated, and this policy presented to the school committee for first reading at its meeting on April 24, 2019.

C. Policy ADC - Tobacco on Premises

School Committee Member Jamie Terry had requested this policy be held from reading at the committee March 27 meeting, pending review of regulations by the Charlton and Dudley boards of health. Neither Mrs. Antocci nor Dr. Nash find that the information presented by Mrs. Terry actually concerns sales of tobacco products, and therefore not pertinent to the district policy. This item is scheduled for first reading at the April 10 meeting.

D. Policy JEB - Kindergarten

The change was “a child must be 5 years of age...” and this will be presented to the school committee for second reading at the April 10 meeting.

E. Policy JLCEA-R - Life Threatening Food Allergies

This policy needed to be corrected due to some formatting issues. It will be presented for second reading and adoption at the school committee meeting of April 10. Also amended was Responsibilities of Drivers – School-owned Vans / Buses.

F. Policy IJOA - School-Sponsored Field Trips

Mrs. Antocci requested review of the language for possible updates to include: transparency in requests for student days out of school that are full days and partial days with reasons, and requirements for detailed information regarding the trip content of the entire time away, dates and times of specific competitions, events, tours, and any other activities that the students will be participating in while away to be presented to the School Committee for consideration prior to approval; Expectations for students under district responsibility to travel to and from the trip with the group.

The district does not have a form on which to request out of state school trips. Dr. Nash presented samples from other schools that are used for out-of-state, overnight, and international travel.

Mrs. Rabbitt said the requests to the school committee needs to include details about the competition, dates, times.

G. KF - Use of School Facilities

Mrs. Antocci brought this forth in view of concerns that long term agreements by for-profit organizations impedes the use by students. The policy states that subsequent requests by such groups may be submitted to and approved by the superintendent versus the school committee.

Mrs. Antocci will get details about the organization that is using time at Charlton Middle School.

Mrs. Rabbitt expressed concern that fees are routinely waived for times when a custodian is regularly on duty. Dr. Nash said this should be taken on a case by case basis.

Mrs. Rabbitt said she supports reduced fees in this instance.

This policy will be revisited.

H. JJIB-A - Extracurricular Participation

Mrs. Antocci brought for this policy as she said she has received several parental complaints regarding certain extracurricular activities having significant or mandated related classes during the school day. Mrs. Antocci said this prohibits or impedes student ability to participate in Pathways Programs, AP courses, desired electives, etc. Mrs. Antocci said specific complaints have come from Show Choir parents who have said their child must make a choice between an extracurricular activity and academics.

Mrs. Rabbitt said parents have contacted her regarding physical education / chorus conflicts for juniors. Is there a way to find some adjustments in the schedule? It is a rotating schedule.

This policy will be revisited.

I. GD – Transfers, Promotions and Vacancies

Dr. Nash presented this policy to the committee as she has concerns that this language should be part of a bargained agreement.

This will be proposed for deletion at the meeting of April 24.

Dr. Nash will discuss this with the Dudley-Charlton Teachers Association president.

J. JCLB – Inoculations of Students

Dr. Nash said this issue arose after a meeting she held with Dudley Board of Health Agent Tom Purcell, Nurse Coordinator Marilyn Gerrard, and Special Education Director Lorinda Allen.

Health regulations say that students with measles, mumps and chicken pox need to stay out of school.

Mrs. Rabbitt asked if this is in the school handbook.

5. **Continuance of Policy Review/MASC Comparison and Update Recommendations**
6. **Summary of Policies and Updates for Full School Committee Submission**
7. **Future Meeting dates:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 9 a.m., and Monday, May 6, 2019, at 1 p.m.
8. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.