

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee -
Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 10th, 2023- 1:00pm

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by K. Szela.

2. Approval of Minutes (12/12/22)

A motion by J. Terry, second by C. Carmignani to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes was passed unanimously.

C. Carmignani – Yes

K. Szela – Yes

J. Terry – Yes

3. New Business

A. Updated Student Achievement Report

Dr. Brian J. Ackerman presented the Student Achievement Report to the Sub Committee and to the school principals for both Charlton and Dudley. In attendance from the schools was Peter Olson, Jennifer Desto, Darren Elwell, Dean Packard, Christopher Starczewski and Kelly True.

The presentation was sent out ahead of the meeting for review in order to cover a more focused view of the report.

As a district, Dr. Brian Ackerman explained how the DCRSD is building and evolving a system of data collection to help inform our instruction and intervention. Although many positive steps have been taken, there is a need to evolve further.

Dr. Brian J. Ackerman began the presentation with a focus on Elementary Schools and the datapoints that are currently being collected, including the District's 3rd year of the Early Grades Literacy Grant, the second year of CKLA, the second year of electronic DIBELS, Win Block creation, and the addition of Title One Interventionists so that each Elementary School has two Title One Teachers.

Although we are seeing significant progress of students coming out of the pandemic last year to the end of this year, Chair C. Carmignani had questions around the presentation of the data, particularly the grouping of "at or above benchmark." Collectively, the group felt the break out of "at or above" would provide a better understanding of how students are trending that were originally at or above benchmark pre pandemic. There was also feedback to break out the below benchmark data points to understand the transition of students who have stayed or moved down during this time frame.

The District is building a similar system for mathematics that will include a screener diagnostic, and progress monitoring tools. The District has begun to create a dataset and are looking to experience the same success that we have seen with DIBELS and CKLA.

MCAS scores have decreased but the District has seen success in Student Growth Percentile which compares students to an academic peer. (As example, a moderate performer in 2021 is being compared against other moderate performers in 2022).

Other areas of focus within the District include:

- Looking at new science materials and plan to have a program slated for the summer
- Looking at schedules to optimize learning time
- Apply vigorously for any and all grants that will help our ability for curriculum instruction
- Continue to make a bigger investment in more Tier Two and Tier Three instructional materials
- Continue with peer tutors and include opportunities with NJHS to help mentor and tutor at the Elementary levels

Chair C. Carmignani voiced concerned that this presentation is not showcasing enough of the progress our District is making and wants to make sure that we highlight all the high-quality actions that are being done in a way that that can be understood by our community. It has been recommended to postpone the Student Achievement Report from the School Committee meeting on 1/11/23 until February.

There is a recommendation of the School Committee to bring the School Principals into the data presentation to gain additional insights at the school level that could help represent the data and highlight the ways in which people see that their money is providing direct service and care for their students.

A non-curriculum subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 1/18 at 2:00 PM and will include: Brian Ackerman, Cathleen Carmignani, Christopher Starczewski, Darren Elwell, Dean Packard, Jennifer Desto, Kelly True and Jennifer Lilley.

B. HQIM Update - Grant Application and Open House Visit

Dr. Brian J. Ackerman has a couple of presentations from Hillary Paul Metcalf, the liaison to Open SCI Ed. There's an open house the week of 1/15/23, where a few of our middle school teachers will attend to have the opportunity to see the materials in action. The District is still waiting to hear back on the grant applications that were submitted to help offset those funding costs.

C. UDL - PD Update 1/13/22

On Friday 1/13/23, the schools have a Professional Development Day and will have three different facilitators who will be piped in remotely. This will allow for educators from both Dudley and Charlton to go into breakout rooms to build upon and expand the lesson

planning that they've done. We are looking at both assessment and opportunities for student choice as a focus area for our presenters for that day.

Once finished, the District will be looking to enroll a cohort of teachers. Tara Trainor (UDL facilitator) agreed to do an in-person course for eight weeks that will allow our educators to choose how that will work. Our educators will be part of building that knowledge for their peers and create a train the trainer model so that we can continue to expand UDL practices and have UDL thinking grow in the District.

4. Old Business

A. CKLA Updates – (Monthly Agenda Item)

With year two of CKLA, the goal is to bring a group together over the summer to look at the curriculum maps that finished over last summer, the progress made this year and finalize scope and sequence of pacing going forward for next year.

B. Middle School Schedules

Superintendent Lamarche gave an update on the adjustments that were made this year and are looking forward to taking feedback and leveraging the summertime to retool and make some other adjustments to improve upon that schedule. Charlton Middle School has had committees in place and Dudley Middle School will begin their first committee meeting on 1/23/23.

Jamie Terry used this opportunity to speak to the principals and asked them to highlight all unique, exciting and interesting ways that learning is occurring in our District. This could include updating our website and social media accounts and participating in School Committee meetings going forward.

Principal Darren Elwell gave an update on piloting a Firefighting and Fire Science class at SHRHS and the instructors will be the Chief and the Assistant Chief from Dudley. This is an expanded course offering with no cost, as both the Chief and the Assistant Chief will be coming in to instruct and the Elks grant will fund any additional resources. They were able to fill about a dozen seats and is a great example of how our schools can continue to build a bridge to our towns.

5. Next Meeting Date – Friday 1/27/23 at 9:00 AM

6. Future Agenda Items: CKLA Updates (On going), Special Education

7. Adjourn

A motion by J. Terry, second by C. Carmignani to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 1:50 PM.

J. Terry - Yes

C. Carmignani - Yes

K. Szela - Yes