

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 3:00 PM

Via Video Conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81824371348>

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM

2. Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, October 20, 2021

The minutes were previously approved at the December 15, 2021 meeting.

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 30, 2021

The minutes will be tabled for review and approval until the next meeting.

3. Update – Town of Dudley meeting 1/10/2022

The main focus of the meeting was to roll out the DCRSD Capital Plan and discuss FY 23. Chairman Marci did mention that another 4.5% increase to Dudley's assessment this year is unlikely as they have already stretched beyond their stated goal of 2.5%.

The town is still \$1 million away from their current contribution, so its up to DCRSD to educate them on why that isn't sustainable.

The town of Dudley has shared costs, but DCRSD only has one operating budget so the way the budget is looked at will vary. Sometimes it appears that the towns forget that DCRSD is Regional and therefore has to cover benefits for all. If the district wasn't regional, the towns would be responsible for their individual inhabitants.

The towns habitually look at the assessment number and not the whole operation.

Grants typically are not a part of the operating budget conversation.

4. FY23 Budget – Initial Discussions

There have been meetings and discussions with all of the schools to start finalizing the numbers and requests that will need to fit into FY23.

FY23 will be interesting due to significant price increases across the board (fuel/oil, electricity, gas, paper, etc).

One of the issues the district might run into is that if the budget doesn't keep pace with inflation, there will be a lack of funds to support the full budget or funds will have to be passed on to the towns because the schools won't be able to afford them.

The budget presentation needs to be very straightforward and focus on what our **true** needs are.

Luckily, part of the Chapter 70 formula that is used to determine assessments does consider the fact that, as inflation goes up, so do school expenses.

The initial budget will include a 5% increase for health insurance rates, but it is not a final number. A more secure number will be available at the end of February from Mass Strategic Health.

FY23 is the last year of our transportation bid and a substantial increase in cost should be expected in FY24 for that specific area.

There is a meeting with the Town of Charlton's Finance Committee on March 16, 2022.

5. Fees – Preschool, parking and athletic

It is wise to have a conversation about fees each year given the economic circumstances and climate.

It is recommended that, for Preschool, DCRSD hold steady and not add increases in fees so we can either hold steady or look at other communities in the area to study their fee structures and see how they're moving forward.

Athletics and parking can wait until DCRSD is in the process of enrollment for preschool.

6. Future Agenda Items

FY23 Budget

Brief Capital Update

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM by K. Laferriere

In attendance were Steven Lamarche, Richard Mathieu, Kenneth Laferriere, Catherine Kabala and Cathleen Carmignani.

"...to advance the knowledge and well being of our children and our community."