

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee -
Teaching and Learning Subcommittee
Friday, January 27th, 2023 - 9:00 am

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by K. Szela.

2. Approval of Minutes (01/10/23)

A motion by J. Terry, second by C. Carmignani to approve the January 10, 2023 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 revised Student Achievement Report to the Subcommittee and to the School Principals for both Charlton and Dudley. Attendance from the schools included Peter Olson, Jennifer Desto, Darren Elwell, Dean Packard, Christopher Starczewski, Kelly True, Jen Lilley and Mike Resner.

On Wednesday 1/18/23, Chair Cathy Carmignani met with Dr. Brian J. Ackerman and a representation of school principals to refine the existing presentation prior to this meeting. Dr. Brian Ackerman thanked Chair Cathy Carmignani and the rest of the principal staff for their support in helping to evolve the presentation.

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, WINN Block creation, and the addition of Title One Interventionists so that each Elementary School has two Title One Teachers.

Jamie Terry requested color coding for the DIBELS benchmarks to align with the color coding in reports that families in the district are seeing. Although concern that too much color may be distracting, a muted color-coding system was added. Jamie Terry also requested results to indicate Math vs. ELA and have any acronyms spelled out as necessary. It was also requested by Chair Cathy Carmignani to note any testing data points as partially complete for year-to-date results.

After a review of datapoints within the Middle and Secondary levels as well as students with disabilities, Chair Cathy Carmignani wanted to understand the steps that are taken to help

support students that have dropped out of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District, specifically the average credits needed and opportunities to receive credit. Principal Elwell spoke to the process of contacting and designating students to a full time and/or hybrid scenario to obtain final credits. For students with disabilities, Principal Elwell also spoke to the specific services needed to be delivered to help those students continue to access the curriculum. Chair Cathy Carmignani suggested putting in place a work study program that she has seen in other districts as many students with disabilities are already working outside the home and can receive credit for their work.

Additional context to the presentation to showcase what the DCRSD is doing to support Special Education students, specifically the transition from Middle School to High School in grades 9 and 10 was requested by the Subcommittee and Principals to be added to the presentation.

The exclusion of both MCAS Middle School datapoints as well as statistics for students with disabilities in the Elementary and Middle School levels was discussed across the Subcommittee and Principals. Based on timing of data results, mid-year benchmarks are not available until February 17th therefore only initial screening datapoints can be shown at this time. Chair Cathy Carmignani suggested moving the presentation date out from the February 8th School Committee meeting to March in order to include mid-year datapoints for the Middle School levels.

Feedback from this meeting has been received and Dr. Brian Ackerman will adjust accordingly. Jamie Terry provided very positive comments on the presentation from today and thanked the non-curriculum subcommittee for their time and effort.

Chair Cathy Carmignani left the meeting at 9:47 AM.
The principals were also dismissed from the meeting at 9:48 AM.

B. Update – HQIM Grant

The Dudley Charlton Regional School District received a \$35,000 grant from DESE that will allow the District to have some funding for instructional materials and stipends for professional development, with OpenSciEd a focus for our Middle School teachers.

DCRSD is still waiting to hear back on a larger grant, but there are concerns that the District will not qualify based on the District's current socio economic level. Jamie Terry discussed success she has seen with other communities collaborating to adjust socio economic levels as an average for surrounding towns and may be an opportunity for DCRSD. Jamie Terry also mentioned that the District must be fiscally aware of our programs and state funding. If state funding is eliminated and programs can no longer be funded, there must be a process in place to transition staff off these programs without impacting staff engagement and morale.

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.

Jamie Terry questioned the correlation of DIBELS to CKLA in the assessments, particularly with nonsense words. Dr. Brian Ackerman spoke to the breakdown of the assessment across comprehension and phonology and will look into seeing if there are any gaps in years that may affect overall results for students.

B. Professional Development

The District had a Professional Development Committee meeting and discussed the Professional Development day on January 13th. The feedback on the presenters was positive but overall, the District is noticing a sense of fatigue with our teachers over the past three years and will be looking to adjust the May Professional Development day as well as next year's days over the next few weeks.

5. Next Meeting Date – 3/6/23 at 1:00 PM

6. Future Agenda Items: CKLA Updates (On going), Special Education
No additional information was discussed on future agenda items.

7. Adjourn

A motion by J. Terry, second by K. Szela to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 10:08 AM.

J. Terry - Yes

K. Szela - Yes