

## DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee -  
Teaching and Learning Subcommittee  
Monday, April 3rd 1pm

### MINUTES

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Szela at 1:12 PM. School Committee attendees included Kelly Szela and Jamie Terry. Cathy Carmignani was not in attendance.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes - January 27th, 2023**

A motion by J. Terry, seconded by K. Szela to approve the January 27, 2023 minutes was approved unanimously.

J. Terry – Yes

K. Szela – Yes

#### **III. New Business**

##### **A. Update - OpenSciEd (Grades 6-8)**

Dr. Brian Ackerman spoke to the two sets of instructional materials that meet our school committee policy for adoption: Amplify Science and OpenSciEd.

Amplify Science has a cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and therefore is not a realistic option for DCRSD.

For OpenSciEd, there is a grant from the Boston College Lynch School of Education that, if successful, will allow DCRSD to adopt this program over a three-year period at virtually no cost, covering all the professional development and most of the material costs. DCRSD can also combine this grant with another grant that the District has already secured to pay for any additional materials and stipends that are not covered with the Boston College Grant.

Feedback on OpenSciEd from the Grade 6-8 team was positive. Starting in January, teachers and administrators from both Dudley and Charlton Middle School attended an open house at Plymouth Intermediate School and met with the Director of the Boston College grant program, Hillary Paul, as well as two OpenSciEd content specialists and one of the chairs for an interview process with the grant team.

J. Terry questioned who represented the teams for Dudley and Charlton Middle School. All science teachers were invited to the in-house meetings. J. Terry questioned the representation that opted to attend, knowing that some are out on leave. Dr. Brian Ackerman will look at the attendance from the meetings but did confirm there was representation from all grades collectively across all meetings.

J. Terry questioned why the program is for 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade when the Middle Schools are 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Brian Ackerman explained that OpenSciEd does not currently offer a grade 5 option. There is a field test option for elementary schools next year and will discuss options with the elementary science team when they meet on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

J. Terry questioned what the costs of the program will be after year one is complete. Dr. Brian Ackerman spoke to how the budget will be offset from the removal of SAVVAS materials and from the continuation grants for the following years and beyond.

J. Terry asked if the program was piloted for students, similar to what was done for math last year. Dr. Brian Ackerman confirmed it was not piloted, but would be brought in over a three-year period, rolling out 2 units a year for a total of 6 units. Teachers would get compensated professional development over the summer and the winter for fall and spring rollouts each year. If teachers cannot attend PD over the summer, they will look to have multiple offerings over the summer and/or have this available for the first PD going into the school year. K. Szela requested to see if the PD could happen before the end of this current school year on May 26, 2023 and Dr. Brian Ackerman stated he will look into that.

74 other districts in Massachusetts have already onboarded the OpenSciEd program, and if DCRSD is successful, the District will have a dedicated content specialist from the grant that will help with onboarding and implementation.

J. Terry stated that she wants to ensure that OpenSciEd is the right fit for our District and not only picked because of affordability. Dr. Brian Ackerman reiterated that the teacher champion team is very enthusiastic about the rollout of this program.

J. Terry requested that the team attend a School Committee meeting to tell the School Committee their thoughts of the OpenSciEd program. J. Terry also requested information on OpenSciEd to be sent to the School Committee members prior to the meeting. Dr. Brian Ackerman is going to try and get this on the agenda for Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

#### **B. Update - HQIM Grants**

The District received a competitive grant from the Department of Education for \$25,000 for professional development for our new math program and two members from DESE will be available to help identify, leverage and continue to grow our math program.

J. Terry questioned if this will satisfy concerns that were brought forward by the Dudley teachers, specifically to data comparisons to the previous way we have evaluated our students. Dr. Brian Ackerman spoke to how the grant will be looking at Waggle, which is the data collection and progress monitoring tool

that we use to help our staff make use of the data so it is actionable and helpful.

K. Szela questioned if the teachers' stipends are included in the grants. Dr. Brian Ackerman confirmed that they are included.

**C. Update - UDL Course**

The District is currently running the UDL 2.0 Course with around 22 teachers across all schools, with a goal to create a group of experts at each of the 7 schools. The 8-week course was free to teachers and provides three college credits. Dr. Brian Ackerman will meet with each of the attendees once complete to get feedback and put together recommendations for next steps.

J. Terry spoke to her daughter's 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA project and it was clear to her that it was a UDL driven assignment. She would like to see a teacher(s) that utilizes UDL in the classroom to present at a future school committee meeting and/or create a video of multiple teachers/students to be presented to the committee at both the middle school and high school level. Dr. Brian Ackerman will look to add that to a future School Committee agenda.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. CKLA Updates - (Monthly Agenda Item)**

Dr. Brian Ackerman commented on the current staff that has been working with Acton Boxborough as a resource for their school district.

**B. Professional Development**

K. Szela questioned when planning would begin for next year's professional development days. Dr. Brian Ackerman has not yet placed a schedule together and is waiting on the budget to be finalized before providing recommendations.

**V. Next Meeting Date**

A next meeting date was not discussed in this meeting.

**VI. Future Agenda Items: CKLA Updates (on-going), Special Education**

No additional information was discussed on future agenda items.

**VII. Adjourn**

A motion by J. Terry, second by K. Szela to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 1:42 PM.

J. Terry - Yes

K. Szela - Yes