

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88594783982>

68 Dudley-Oxford Road

Dudley, MA 01571

Minutes

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

II. School Committee Workshop

A. As facilitated by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools [MARS]

a. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 1/12th budget

Maureen Marshall from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools and Christine Lynch from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education speak on the meaning and requirements behind the 1/12th budget and what a Special District-wide meeting will entail.

A 1/12th budget comes into play when a Regional School District does not have a budget in place by the new fiscal year (July 1). Under those circumstances, the district would be unable to spend **any** money out of their general fund to pay salaries, utility bills, required maintenance, etc. Legislation was created to allow the commissioner to establish a temporary budget as of July 1, to allow the district to operate until they are able to secure a budget at the local level.

The 1/12th budget is based on the last previously approved budget.

Legislation indicates that if the school district does not have a budget by December 1, the commissioner will assume fiscal oversight of the district for the remainder of the fiscal year. The commissioner controlling oversight then means that any actions normally taken by the District and the School Committee are now subject to approval of the Commissioner. This includes collective bargaining agreements, budget transfers, any new contracts or contract changes, etc.

The 1/12th budget is designed to be a temporary stopgap measure to allow the District to pay the bills while continuing to work through the budgetary process and with the towns to secure an agreed upon budget.

b. Special District-wide meeting

If the District must call a special district-wide meeting, the Boards of Selectmen from Dudley and Charlton will come together to select a moderator and members from both towns are invited to vote on the proposed School Committee budget. If a majority vote is in favor of the budget, it will pass. The budget is no longer decided by each individual town, but instead by every resident in favor or against it – no matter the town they live in.

III. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM

IV. Next Meeting Dates

- a. **School Committee:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 7:00 PM Charlton Middle School
- b. **School Committee:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 7:00 PM Shepherd Hill RHS

The items listed, which may be discussed at the meeting, are those reasonably anticipated by the chair. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

“...to advance the knowledge and well-being of our children and our community.”

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