

Our office has been coordinating with ERS (Education Resource Strategies) to prepare the context for the School Committee sanctioned review of operations in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. As a reminder, this is one of three critical assessments coming forward in the next six months.

The two-week intense review of DCRSD is planned to commence Monday, May 13, 2024. The context of the review is shaping up to include the following areas of operations:

- 1) **Human Capital** – *Teacher and paraprofessional compensation and benefits*
- 2) **School Funding** – *Building capacity/utilization, support services/staffing allocations*
- 3) **School Design** – *Class sizes, special education spending and services, multi-lingual spending and services, middle school and high school scheduling, elementary, time and attention for students including MTSS structures*
- 4) **School Support and Accountability** - *District office spending breakdown, fragmented district office support and roles*

School Committee Agenda Item B. Update DCRSD Fees (preschool, athletics, SHRHS parking)

As a result of Budget and Finance Subcommittee review of DCRSD fees set and voted by the School Committee in November, December and January and through School Committee deliberations at the January 10, 2024 regular meeting with the following reported in the approved minutes:

1. **Prekindergarten Tuition** - *Last updated in 2018, the subcommittee agrees to increase the fees by a possible \$200.00, bringing the two half days to a total of \$1,200.00 (currently \$1,000.00) and the four half days to a total of \$2,400.00 (currently \$2,000.00).*
2. **Athletic Fees** - *The subcommittee discussed adjusting athletic fees by \$50.00 (increasing the total to \$200.00 instead of the current \$150.00). Also agreed upon was instituting a fee at the middle school level, at potentially a \$50.00 per sport, with a universal family cap of \$650.00. Athletic fees were last increased in 2013.*
3. **SHRHS Student Parking Fees** - *The last time the parking fees were increased was 2018. The subcommittee is currently not in agreement about whether or not the parking fees should be changed, so further discussion is needed on that particular topic.*

With that said, it is my recommendation to the School Committee that action be taken as follows:

1. Increase the Prekindergarten (preschool) fees as stated, from \$1,000 to \$1,200 for two half-days for the school year and from \$2,000 to \$2,400 for four half-days for the 2024-25 SY
2. Take no action on athletic fees at the middle school and high school for the 2024-25 SY
3. Take no action on the SHRHS student parking fees for the 2024-25 SY

This recommendation comes forward with the belief that the Fiscal Year 2025 budget is within reach through our two communities. The prekindergarten (preschool) fee increase is warranted and continues to fall within reasonableness for participation in said program.