

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

Wednesday, October 09, 2024, at **6:30 PM**

Charlton Middle School

2 Oxford Road

Charlton, MA 01507

Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

In attendance:

Kelly Szela, Chair

Cathleen Carmignani

Nicole Enberg

Jaime Dell'Ovo

Jeanne Costello, Vice-Chair

Caitlynn Panczyk

Maureen Chickering

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

IV. Dudley Middle School Showcase - Principal Desto

Mrs. Lynch, 8th grade Science teacher at Dudley Middle School along with a few students gave a presentation on The 2023 Ocean Race they've been working on. The presentation included the connection between the ocean and the issue of plastic pollution. These students received a grant from MIT to build their own mini boat named Anita so they could continue to learn about the ocean. Anita has been on 2 voyages, the first ending in Falmouth and the second voyage ending in Nova Scotia. The data was compared to other mini boats launched off the east coast. Students plan to launch Anita again on a new voyage in 2025.

V. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Approval of the Warrant
- b. Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting - September 11, 2024
- c. Approval of Minutes Executive Session - September 11, 2024
- d. Approval of Out of State Field Trip (Policy IJOA) - #10 East Rutherford, NJ - SHRHS
- e. Approval of Out of State Field Trip (Policy IJOA) - #44 Warwick, RI - CMS

A motion by J. Dell'Ovo, seconded by M. Chickering to approve all consent agenda items was approved unanimously.

K. Szela – Yes

J. Costello – Yes

M. Chickering – Yes

C. Panczyk - Yes

C. Carmignani - Yes

J. Dell'Ovo - Yes

N. Enberg - Yes

VI. Communications

- J. Dell'Ovo wanted to remind everyone the Dudley Charlton Education Foundation is hosting a music bingo night, Thursday October 24, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Beagle Club. They also have a save-the-date for their 2025 Heroes Among Us on Saturday March 22, 2024 at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge.
- J. Costello reminded everyone SEPAC is meeting Wednesday October 16, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Dudley Middle School.
- K. Szela stated the All Boards meeting in Charlton will be held Tuesday November 19, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.

VII. Student Representative Report - Anthony Acoglia

Anthony introduced himself, he is a current senior at SHRHS, part of the National Honor Society, First Honor Scholars and golf team. He plans to attend a state college after high school and would like to become a teacher. Anthony gave a student's perspective on the new phone policy, he doesn't feel there has been any backlash and thinks it has been great for the school.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

School safety is a top priority whether school is in session or being used for other purposes. To support our ongoing commitment to safety, I've highlighted some of the security enhancements we have implemented over the past few years.

- Video Surveillance System upgrade
- iPhone Door Stations
- Two-Way Radios

Additionally, we have built our Active Shooter Preparedness protocols around ALICE. Each year we incorporate new practice modules, this year all secondary students will practice barricading, and all schools will walk through evacuation procedures.

October 4th was the first SEPAC Coffee and a Conversation event held at Sturbridge Coffee Roasters in Charlton. I'd like to express a sincere gratitude and appreciation to the owners of Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Elvis and Karen Dyer, they are incredibly generous with their time and support of our schools. The next Coffee and Conversation will be on Friday, Nov 1, 2024 at the Dudley Store.

Our district has adopted the incredible resource afforded to MA residents. The Commonwealth launched the new Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) and established 25 Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs). These programs are increasing access to mental health and substance use treatment for people across MA.

IX. Public Comment

- Anthony Aube from Charlton asked if there was a review or reminder process in place for FERPA and what would constitute a FERPA violation.
- He also wanted to know if the school's security system was tied into EMS dispatch and local Law enforcement? Superintendent Lamarche answered yes, we have a great working relationship with the local law enforcement.
- Anthony also wanted everyone to know CES is putting on a Spooktacular on Oct 24, 2024 and they are looking for more volunteers.

X. New Business

A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations - Dir. Joseph DeSantis

- 1. Snow Removal Bid 2024-2025** - This bid went to Steven & Gregory Realty Inc. It's a 2 year contract, from 10/31/2024 to 6/30/2026. They had the lowest bid at \$685,400.00.

A motion by M. Chickering, seconded by N. Enberg to approve this snow removal bid was approved.

K. Szela – Yes

C. Carmignani - Yes

J. Costello – Yes

J. Dell'Ovo - Yes

M. Chickering – Yes

N. Enberg - Yes

C. Panczyk - No

2. Annual AHREA (Asbestos) Notification

SHRHS and CES were the 2 schools identified with asbestos related building materials. There have been no changes, these results are standard from what has been seen year after year.

3. Fiscal Year 2025 Quarterly Report

School Committee members were given a report split into 8 categories, all 7 schools plus the district office for the first quarter of 2025.

B. Report of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services - Dir. Heather Harriman

1. Update Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

LRE is the educational placement that assures that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled. DESE determined that we have partially implemented this. An analysis of data and staff indicated that the IEP team doesn't always consider the least restrictive environment for students.

2. Goal Book

The new IEP this year mandated by the state, it's much more student and family focused than the previous IEP. This new IEP will help teachers take data, help with instructional suggestions, progress monitoring and it helps write goals and benchmarks.

C. Update Multi-Tiered System of Support - Asst. Superintendent Kelly True

We are working on taking a class on multi-tiered systems of support to help with work around LRE and work in core classes for Professional Development for our administrators. Also, we have partnered with a consultant, Eric Sheninger, he will be working with us 8 times over the course of the year. He's doing a keynote on November 5, 2025 about accessible learning, personalization and student engagement. He'll also be working with the administrative team to help guide us with looking at data and using data to support our multi-tiered systems of support.

D. MASC Conference Delegate/Resolutions - School Committee

Resolution 1- Development of an alternative to the high-stakes MCAS test

A motion by J. Costello, seconded by C. Carmignani to vote on resolution 1 failed.

K. Szela – No	C. Carmignani - No
J. Costello – Yes	J. Dell'Ovo - No
M. Chickering – Yes	N. Enberg - Yes
C. Panczyk - No	

Resolution 2- Increase compulsory attendance age

A motion by C. Panczyk, seconded by J. Costello to vote on resolution 2 passed.

K. Szela – No	C. Carmignani - Yes
J. Costello – Yes	J. Dell'Ovo - Yes
M. Chickering – No	N. Enberg - Yes
C. Panczyk - No	

Resolution 3- Safe storage of firearms

A motion by C. Carmignani, seconded by M. Chickering to vote on resolution 3 passed.

K. Szela – Yes	C. Carmignani - Yes
J. Costello – Yes	J. Dell'Ovo - No
M. Chickering – Yes	N. Enberg - Yes
C. Panczyk - No	

Resolution 4- School bus stop arm surveillance act and enforcement penalties

A motion by J. Costello, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to vote on resolution 4 passed.

K. Szela – Yes	C. Carmignani - Yes
J. Costello – Yes	J. Dell'Ovo - Yes
M. Chickering – Yes	N. Enberg - No
C. Panczyk - Yes	

Resolution 5- Aligning taxing authority with the required local contribution

A motion by J. Costello, seconded by N. Enberg to vote on resolution 5 failed unanimously.

K. Szela – No	C. Carmignani - No
J. Costello – No	J. Dell'Ovo - No
M. Chickering – No	N. Enberg - No
C. Panczyk - No	

Resolution 6- Support of legislation to improve the fiscal health of rural school districts

A motion by J. Costello, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to vote on resolution 6 passed unanimously.

K. Szela – Yes	C. Carmignani - Yes
J. Costello – Yes	J. Dell'Ovo - Yes
M. Chickering – Yes	N. Enberg - Yes
C. Panczyk - Yes	

Resolution 7- Fully adjusting chapter 70 aid for inflation

A motion by N. Enberg, seconded by J. Costello to vote on resolution 7 passed unanimously.

K. Szela – Yes

C. Carmignani - Yes

J. Costello – Yes

J. Dell'Ovo - Yes

M. Chickering – Yes

N. Enberg - Yes

C. Panczyk - Yes

Resolution 8- Equitable funding for non-regional school districts with high transportation costs

A motion by N. Enberg, seconded by M. Chickering to vote on resolution 8 failed.

K. Szela – No

C. Carmignani - No

J. Costello – No

J. Dell'Ovo - No

M. Chickering – Yes

N. Enberg - No

C. Panczyk - No

Resolution 9- MSBA grants evaluation for chapter 74

A motion by N. Enberg, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to vote on resolution 9 failed unanimously.

K. Szela – No

C. Carmignani - No

J. Costello – No

J. Dell'Ovo - No

M. Chickering – No

N. Enberg - No

C. Panczyk - No

Resolution 10- Expansion in capacity in Chapter 74 vocational technical programs

A motion by N. Enberg, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to vote on resolution 10 failed unanimously.

K. Szela – No

C. Carmignani - No

J. Costello – No

J. Dell'Ovo - No

M. Chickering – No

N. Enberg - No

C. Panczyk - No

E. Update Charlton Fire Substation and Charlton Middle School Sign - Steven Lamarche

Town of Charlton discussed replacing the Charlton Middle School sign when the substation is built. Joe Caron, our Facilities Director has given multiple options and costs for the School Committee to look over and discuss. School Committee will vote on which sign they'd like at a future date.

F. Update Dudley-Charlton RSD Representative Attorney - Steven Lamarche

Superintendent Lamarche recommended the School Committee vote on obtaining the Law Firm of Murphy, Lamere & Murphy as the new School Committee law firm. Murphy, Lamere & Murphy is the law firm used for Special Education matters and also used for the current land change.

A motion by C. Panczyk, seconded by J. Costello to obtain Murphy, Lemur & Murphy as The School Committee's new law firm was approved unanimously.

K. Szela – Yes

C. Carmignani - Yes

J. Costello – Yes

J. Dell'Ovo - Yes

M. Chickering – Yes

N. Enberg - Yes

C. Panczyk - Yes

XI. Adjourn

A motion by C. Carmignani, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM was passed unanimously by roll call.

K. Szela - Yes

J. Costello – Yes

C. Carmignani – Yes

M. Chickering – Yes

N. Enberg – Yes

C. Panczyk – Yes

J. Dell'Ovo - Yes

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. The School Committee may vote on all items listed on this agenda.

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

2024-2025 School Committee Goals

Fiscal Responsibility

- *The DCRSD School Committee will vote to improve a revised 10-year Capital Plan to reflect the needs identified in the 2024 architectural review of all seven schools.*
- *The DCRSD School Committee will incorporate completed and forthcoming reports, reviews, and evaluations (e.g., Education Resource Strategies, Facilities Conditions Report) into long-range planning. This planning will guide the development of a Fiscal Year 2026 budget, structured to preserve the integrity of existing programs and prioritizing expenditures to provide a comprehensive educational experience for all students.*

Enhance Educational Excellence

- *The DCRSD School Committee will seek to maintain the integrity of a comprehensive educational experience for all students.*
- *The Dudley-Charlton School Committee will ensure that students have access to modern equipment and technologies.*

Enhance Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

- *The DCRSD School Committee will continue to evolve their roles as community liaisons to strengthen relationships with local boards and organizations.*

Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 6:30 PM - SHRHS

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: TBD – Video Conference

Policy Review Subcommittee: TBD – District Office

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: TBD – Video Conference

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: TBD – Video Conference

Future Agenda Items: District Plan Update (Nov), School Councils (Nov), SEPAC (Nov), Amazon STEM Planning (Nov), FY24 Closeout (Nov), FY26 Budget Planning (Dec)

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at **6:30 PM**

Charlton Middle School

2 Oxford Road

Charlton, MA 01507

Agenda

- I. Call Meeting to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Moment of Silence**
- IV. Dudley Middle School Showcase – Principal Desto**
- V. Consent Agenda Items**
 - a. Approval of the Warrant
 - b. Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting – September 11, 2024
 - c. Approval of Minutes Executive Session – September 11, 2024
 - d. Approval of Out of State Field Trip (Policy IJOA) – #10 East Rutherford, NJ – SHRHS
 - e. Approval of Out of State Field Trip (Policy IJOA) – #44 Warwick, RI, CMS
- VI. Communications**
- VII. Student Representative Report – Anthony Avoglia**
- VIII. Superintendent’s Report**
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. New Business**
 - A. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations – Dir. Joseph DeSantis
 - i. Snow Removal Bid 2024-2025
 - ii. Annual AHREA (Asbestos) Notification
 - iii. Fiscal Year 2025 Quarterly Report
 - B. Report of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services – Dir. Heather Harriman
 - i. Update Least Restrictive Environment
 - ii. Goal Book
 - C. Update Multi-Tiered System of Support – Assistant Superintendent Kelly True
 - D. MASC Conference Delegate/Resolutions – School Committee
 - E. Update Charlton Fire Substation and Charlton Middle School Sign – Steven Lamarche
 - F. Update Dudley-Charlton RSD Representative Attorney – Steven Lamarche
- XI. Adjourn**

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.

The School Committee may vote on all items listed on this agenda.

2024-2025 School Committee Goals

Fiscal Responsibility

1. *The DCRSD School Committee will vote to improve a revised 10- year Capital Plan to reflect the needs identified in the 2024 architectural review of all seven schools.*
2. *The DCRSD School Committee will incorporate completed and forthcoming reports, reviews, and evaluations (e.g., Education Resource Strategies, Facilities Conditions Report) into long-range planning. This planning will guide the development of a Fiscal Year 2026 budget, structured to preserve the integrity of existing programs and prioritizing expenditures to provide a comprehensive educational experience for all students.*

Enhance Educational Excellence

1. *The DCRSD School Committee will support hiring, developing and utilizing staff that drive positive school culture and help create a unified district.*
2. *The DCRSD School Committee will support professional development opportunities that align with the District mission for exceptional teaching and learning for all students.*
3. *The DCRSD School Committee will ensure that all students have access to innovative platforms and technologies.*
4. *The DCRSD School Committee will continue their oversight of the implementation of policy IGA Curriculum Evaluation, Development and Adoption to review, revise or adapt high quality instructional materials for all students.*

Enhance Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

1. *The DCRSD School Committee will continue to evolve their roles as community liaisons to strengthen relationships with local boards and organizations.*

Next Meeting Dates

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 6:30 PM – SHRHS

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: TBD (September) (Joe DeSantis) - Video Conference

Policy Review Subcommittee: TBD (September) (Steven Lamarche) - Video Conference

Curriculum Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning: TBD (September) (Kelly True) - Video Conference

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: TBD (September) (Joe Caron) - Video Conference

Future Agenda Items: District Plan Update (Nov.), School Councils (Nov.), SEPAC (Nov.), Amazon STEM Planning (Nov.), FY24 Closeout (Nov.), FY26 Budget Planning (Dec.)

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee

10.09.2024



I have a few items to share

School safety remains a top priority for us every day, whether schools are in session or being used for other purposes. Recently, many of our students and staff were affected by a social media threat targeting Charlton Middle School. Fortunately, we have a strong working relationship with both the Charlton and Dudley Police Departments. Although the Homeland Security Fusion Center determined that the threat was part of a non-credible swatting campaign, we took it seriously.

In light of this event, our administrative team has reviewed and refined our communication protocols to improve our response to any future incidents. Our focus is on clear communication and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff on our campuses.

To support our ongoing commitment to safety, I would like to highlight some of the security enhancements we have implemented over the past few years, thanks to smaller grants and the support of our two communities through the capital improvement plan approved in September 2022.

- **Video Surveillance System Upgrade:** We transitioned to a unified digital system, allowing us to monitor all cameras from a single location. For example, I can view every school entrance across the district directly from my office.
- **iPhone Door Stations:** We upgraded all school entrances with iPhone door stations to enhance access control.
- **Two-Way Radios:** We equipped all schools with two-way radios integrated into one communication network.

Additionally, we have built our Active Shooter Preparedness protocols around ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate). Each year, we incorporate new practice modules. This year, all secondary students will practice barricading, and all schools will walk through evacuation procedures. We will also conduct three Active Shooter drills in collaboration with our local emergency management departments. At a minimum, we expect students to follow their teacher's lead during these scenarios.

Our work is not done. We continue to focus on improving communication within our schools, specifically enhancing our ability to make emergency calls. We recognize the cellular dead zones near or around our large concrete buildings. Last week, a major vendor tested their equipment at Charlton Middle School. While initial results were promising, two concerns emerged:

1. **Vendor Dependency:** Relying on a single vendor for connectivity raises questions about long-term access and flexibility.
2. **Network Security:** The required connection to our network raises compliance issues under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), as the device does not provide content filtering for electronic data.

We remain committed to finding a viable solution and hope to identify an effective option this school year to enhance communication at Charlton Middle School.

To continue prioritizing school safety, I attended a seminar today, Wednesday, October 9, 2024, presented by the FBI Boston and the Massachusetts State Police. The training provided an overview of the realities of bomb threats and swatting hoaxes, including a detailed review of statistics and current trends nationwide. It also covered the characteristics of hoax calls, law enforcement best practices for assessment and response, and the decision-making process for evacuation or sheltering in place. Attendees included public safety dispatchers, law enforcement personnel, and school administrators.

Yesterday, Tuesday, October 8, 2024, the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools held a forum titled *Project 211: Uniting to Raise Awareness of Financial Challenges Faced by Districts in Hold Harmless Status*. “Hold Harmless” is a state designation indicating that a public school district is considered overfunded through state aid. While the state does not recoup what it perceives as excess funding, it provides only minimal aid to such districts. Dudley-Charlton has been in “hold harmless” status for over a decade, resulting in increased educational costs being shouldered primarily by our communities.

The number of Hold Harmless districts surpassed 100 in 2020 and skyrocketed to 211 in 2021, now representing 51% of all public-school students. We believe that this status has been detrimental to programs, staffing, and the continuous improvement efforts expected by our staff and communities. *Project 211* is gaining momentum to establish a commission that will revise the “hold harmless” formula, which no longer aligns with the soaring local contributions required. By raising awareness and advocating for change, we aim to secure a more equitable funding structure that benefits all students.

Tomorrow, October 10, 2024, is a half-day/early release day for all students to accommodate parent-teacher conferences. This is the first year that the entire district will be conducting these conferences on the same day. We are confident that our staff will work closely with families to coordinate conferences at multiple sites and provide options for both in-person and virtual meeting times.

Last Friday, October 4th, was the first SEPAC (Special Education Parents Advisory Council) Coffee and a Conversation event. This was held at Sturbridge Coffee Roasters in Charlton. SEPAC will continue its Coffee and a Conversation series on the first Friday of the month, alternating between Charlton and Dudley at the Sturbridge Coffee Roasters locations in each town. Their next Coffee and a Conversation will be on Friday, November 1, 2024, at the Dudley store.

With that said, I think it is extremely important to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to the owners of Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Elvis and Karen Dyer. They are incredibly generous with their time and support of our schools. You may know Karen, as she is a long-standing member of the Board of Directors for the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation. You may also know Elvis, as he is an unassuming small business owner on a mission to give back and contribute to worthy causes across our communities. Again, a special thank you to Elvis and Karen Dyer.

Attached, you will find a flyer titled "Text-to-911," which is available in Massachusetts. Emergency services still prefer a voice call, but if circumstances prevent you from making a call, you can text 911.

Our district has adopted the incredible resource afforded to Massachusetts residents. On January 3, 2023, the Commonwealth launched the new Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) and established 25 Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs). As part of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, these programs are increasing access to mental health and substance use treatment for people across Massachusetts and offer insurance-blind behavioral health crisis services to anyone in the state.

Additionally, the Commonwealth has created a Behavioral Health Roadmap Toolkit, which includes pre-made public awareness and informational materials (including social media graphics, fact sheets, flyers, and more). You can find this information on our [website](#).

Here are a few important dates to start our 2024-2025 school year.

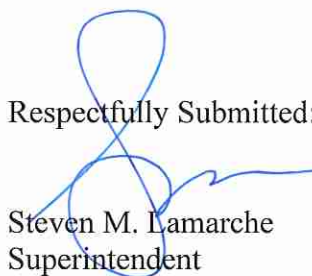
October

Thursday, October 10, 2024 – Early Release Day – All Students/ Parent Conferences – All
Monday, October 14, 2024 – Columbus Day – no school all students and staff

November

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – Staff In-service Day, no school all students [Election Day]
Monday, November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day – no school all students and staff
Wednesday, November 27, 2024 – Early Release Day - All - Thanksgiving Break
Thursday, November 28th and **Friday** November 29, 2024 - All - Thanksgiving Break

Respectfully Submitted:



Steven M. Lamarche
Superintendent

Text-to-911 Is Available in Massachusetts

On December 14, 2018, Text-to-911 was deployed across Massachusetts. This is one of the most exciting changes for accessibility to emergency services in more than 20 years. When a citizen sends a text message to 911, it will be routed to an emergency call center based on the location information provided by the carrier. For this reason, when a citizen sends a Text-to-911, they should make every effort to text the town name, address or location that they are located in.

What is Text-to-911?

Text-to-911 is the ability to send a text message to reach 9-1-1 emergency call takers from your mobile device.

How Do I Reach Text-to-911?

When using a texting app on a device, type the numbers "911" into the "To" or "Recipient" field.

What Information Should I Give Text-to-911?

You should make every effort to text the following:

- **location including the address/location and town name;**
- **what is happening (nature of the incident);**
- **any additional details about the location you can provide** such as landmarks, cross streets, nearby business names, apartment number, floor, room or suite numbers, or any details that may be helpful in locating you.

When Should I Use Text-to-911?

Texting should only be used during an emergency when you are unable to make a voice call to 911. **Making a voice call is the most efficient way to get access to emergency services.**

Text-to-911 will be useful for citizens who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired. Text-to-911 eliminates the need to use ancillary Teletypewriter (TTY) equipment, or third party services to access 911.

What Happens Next?

The 911 professional in the emergency call center will ask you many questions, will assist in sending first responders to the location you identify, and may provide instructions on things for you to do.

Why Didn't My Text Go Through?

Messages sent to Text-to-911 may not be received. If you attempt to send a Text-to-911 where the service is not available, wireless carriers provide an automatic "bounce-back" message. Bounce-back messages are intended to minimize the risk that you mistakenly believe that your text was sent and received by an emergency call center. As part of the bounce-back message, you will be advised to contact emergency services by another means.

Text-to-911 is currently available throughout Massachusetts. However, across the country, Text-to-911 may only be in certain locations. **Whenever possible, you should always make a voice call to 911 during an emergency.**

Are There Any Text-to-911 Limitations I Should Know About?

Text-to-911 uses native texting technology called Short Message Service (SMS). Therefore, you must have a text or data plan on your mobile device to Text-to-911 and **you should avoid sending:**

- **multi-media such as pictures, videos and emoticons;**
- **a message to more than one person as a recipient;**
- **messages exceeding the 160 character limit, as the messages will be broken and may be delivered out of order.**

Text-to-911 rules do not apply to the following: third party texting applications (apps) on mobile devices that do not support texting to and from U.S. phone numbers, apps that only support texting with other app users, or texting through social media. This can include message services over WiFi networks, where a text or data plan is not required.



Accessing behavioral health services in Massachusetts just got easier.

All options are available for:

- ✓ Individuals of all ages
- ✓ Those needing support with both mental health and addiction needs



BY PHONE:
833-773-2445
833-773-BHHL
masshelpline.com

- Consult with a qualified behavioral health expert.
- Find a provider.
- Make an appointment.
- Get immediate help for a behavioral health crisis. Covered for all, with or without insurance.
- No insurance necessary.



IN PERSON:
At your local Community Behavioral Health (CBHC)
mass.gov/CBHCs

- Consult with a qualified behavioral health clinician.
- Get urgent behavioral health care.
- Get immediate help for a behavioral health crisis. Covered for all, with or without insurance.
- Get follow-up supports.



AT HOME OR WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE COMMUNITY:
Mobile Crisis Intervention

Contact Mobile Crisis Intervention in person or by phone using the phone or in-person options above. MCI can send trained behavioral health staff wherever you are for immediate help. Covered for all, with or without insurance!



Behavioral health crisis evaluation and intervention services are expanding in Massachusetts!

Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI) will connect individuals to the services they need, which may include inpatient psychiatric treatment, 24-hour diversionary levels of care, urgent mental health or addiction counseling or psychopharmacology, or connections for follow-up appointments.



They used to be called
Emergency Services Providers (ESP).

Now, they're enhanced services called
Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI).

MCI provides **behavioral health crisis evaluations and follow-up**



Any location – at home, in a community location, at the Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC).



To individuals of all ages.



For both mental health and addictions.



Covered for all with or without insurance.

How to access MCI



Call the Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL)

masshelpline.com
833-773-2445
(833) 773-BHHL



Call or walk into a local Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC)

mass.gov/CBHCs

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: School Committee

FROM: Joseph DeSantis - Director of Finance & Operations

CC: Joseph Caron – Facilities Director

DATE: October 1, 2024

SUBJECT: DCRSD Snow Bid

This is a formal request to approve the sealed bid submitted by Stephen & Gregory Realty, Inc. for snow plowing, snow removal, and sanding services during the two-year period, commencing October 31, 2024, and terminating June 30, 2026. The final two-year cost for all 7 schools in district is \$685,400. The next lowest responsive bidder who met all of the requirements of the RFP bid was \$767,590, which is \$82,190 higher than the bid from Stephen & Gregory Realty, Inc. We seek approval to move forward with the lowest responsive bidder who met all of the requirements of the RFP bid.



Signature

Joseph DeSantis
Printed Name

Date: September 19, 2024

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

AHERA NOTIFICATION

Dear Parents, Students, Legal Guardians, and Employees:

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Please find listed below the district's schools and the results of their inspections. Every three years, schools containing asbestos materials must be re-inspected to determine if any known or suspected asbestos-containing buildings materials (ACBM) have changed and recommendations are made on the managing or abatement of the ACBM.

	<i>Educational Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
1	Shepherd Hill Regional High School	68 Dudley-Oxford Road Dudley, MA 01571
2	Dudley Elementary School (No Asbestos Present)	16 School Street Dudley, MA 01571
3	Mason Road School (No Asbestos Present)	20 Mason Road Dudley, MA 01571
4	Charlton Elementary School	9 Burlingame Road Charlton, MA 01507
5	Heritage School (No Asbestos Present)	34 Oxford Road Charlton, MA 01507
6	Dudley Middle School (No Asbestos Present)	70 Dudley-Oxford Road Dudley, MA 01571
7	Charlton Middle School (No Asbestos Present)	2 Oxford Road Charlton, MA 01507

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be developed and implemented to monitor any known or inspected ACBM. The plan has several ongoing requirements: Publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

It is the intention of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a health and safe environment. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the school administrative office during regular business hours. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the number listed below.

Joseph DeSantis, Director of Finance and Operations

68 Dudley-Oxford Road Dudley, MA 01571

508-943-6888

	<i>Year to Date Spent</i>	<i>Encumbered Funds</i>	<i>Uncommitted Balance</i>	
<u><i>District Office</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 5,809,401.33	\$ 9,890,220.20	\$ 356,326.25	Includes OOD Tuitions Offsets
Educational Materials	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 808,600.33	\$ 4,794,325.73	\$ 1,956,828.01	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 2,716.31	\$ 14,676.67	\$ 757.02	
Technology	\$ 98,835.27	\$ 110,670.36	\$ 71,264.37	
Student Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Totals	\$ 6,719,553.24	\$ 14,809,892.96	\$ 2,385,175.65	
<u><i>Mason Rd School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 266,291.27	\$ 2,429,136.13	\$ (221,993.00)	Deficit To Be Offset by Title 1 & Operating
Educational Materials	\$ 34,589.53	\$ 2,522.69	\$ 8,796.78	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 2,343.66	\$ 4,601.94	\$ 4,238.55	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 28,142.88	\$ 136,872.67	\$ 11,846.23	
Technology	\$ 32,319.62	\$ 14,112.75	\$ (125.02)	To Be Offset By Tech Lease via TB Bank
Student Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Totals	\$ 363,686.96	\$ 2,587,246.18	\$ (196,736.46)	
<u><i>Dudley Elementary School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 309,650.75	\$ 3,012,808.05	\$ 10,124.40	
Educational Materials	\$ 55,856.90	\$ 4,553.30	\$ 13,716.80	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 3,454.67	\$ 9,199.90	\$ 7,540.43	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 46,846.88	\$ 164,239.61	\$ 9,040.51	
Technology	\$ 39,369.45	\$ 17,006.38	\$ 4,869.97	
Student Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
Totals	\$ 455,178.65	\$ 3,207,807.24	\$ 46,792.11	
<u><i>Dudley Middle School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 526,198.87	\$ 4,871,252.55	\$ 162,779.01	
Educational Materials	\$ 31,355.05	\$ 7,668.15	\$ 16,231.97	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 7,889.01	\$ 16,518.45	\$ 18,590.54	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 100,477.65	\$ 262,128.66	\$ 34,208.69	
Technology	\$ 35,432.00	\$ 38,917.29	\$ 32,081.71	
Student Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,452.00	
Totals	\$ 701,352.58	\$ 5,196,485.10	\$ 285,343.92	
<u><i>Charlton Elementary School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 347,778.04	\$ 3,338,088.48	\$ 49,487.48	
Educational Materials	\$ 36,840.43	\$ 2,328.34	\$ 14,027.23	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 730.10	\$ 5,153.86	\$ 13,116.04	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 41,520.12	\$ 159,642.61	\$ 31,291.27	
Technology	\$ 35,059.51	\$ 12,901.11	\$ 58,904.38	
Student Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00	
Totals	\$ 461,928.20	\$ 3,518,114.40	\$ 167,626.40	
<u><i>Heritage Elemetary School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 404,494.28	\$ 3,721,690.10	\$ 404,123.13	
Educational Materials	\$ 42,767.90	\$ 4,967.47	\$ 18,454.63	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,224.81	\$ 10,053.28	\$ 13,498.97	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 88,554.72	\$ 236,695.13	\$ (2,215.41)	To be Offset By Overall Facilities Budget
Technology	\$ 37,687.31	\$ 17,316.19	\$ 49,842.00	
Student Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
Totals	\$ 574,729.02	\$ 3,990,722.17	\$ 485,203.32	
<u><i>Charlton Middle School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 599,157.45	\$ 5,521,807.88	\$ 201,766.57	
Educational Materials	\$ 36,710.76	\$ 4,234.94	\$ 12,418.00	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 7,226.69	\$ 7,951.79	\$ 16,181.52	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 54,718.71	\$ 295,780.46	\$ 53,825.83	
Technology	\$ 43,452.66	\$ 44,817.29	\$ (14,296.92)	To Be Offset By Tech Lease via TB Bank
Student Activities	\$ 1,060.47	\$ 5,715.00	\$ 25,244.53	
Totals	\$ 742,326.74	\$ 5,880,307.36	\$ 295,139.53	
<u><i>Shepherd Hill School</i></u>				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 826,287.36	\$ 7,260,616.12	\$ 548,590.80	
Educational Materials	\$ 78,763.24	\$ 73,317.16	\$ 212,914.60	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 73,114.44	\$ 33,686.31	\$ 75,098.75	
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 89,975.82	\$ 487,582.74	\$ 1,756.56	
Technology	\$ 43,254.87	\$ 63,957.42	\$ 10,519.21	
Student Activities	\$ 800.00	\$ 108,830.00	\$ 6,570.00	
Totals	\$ 1,112,195.73	\$ 8,027,989.75	\$ 855,449.92	

Special Education Update

October 2024



Summary of Compliance Criteria Ratings

Tiered Focus Monitoring April 2023

	Universal Standards Special Education	Universal Standards Civil Rights and Other General Education Requirements
IMPLEMENTED	SE 1, SE 2, SE 3, SE 3A, SE 6, SE 7, SE 8, SE 9, SE 9A, SE 10, SE 11, SE 12, SE 13, SE 14, SE 17, SE 18A, SE 19, SE 22, SE 25, SE 26, SE 29, SE 35, SE 37, SE 39, SE 40, SE 41, SE 42, SE 43, SE 44, SE 45, SE 46, SE 47, SE 48, SE 49	CR 10C, CR 13, CR 14, CR 18
PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	SE20, SE34	
NOT IMPLEMENTED	None	
NOT APPLICABLE	SE38	

LRE = Least Restrictive Environment - What is it?

603 CMR 28.02

(12) Least restrictive environment (LRE) shall mean the **educational placement that assures that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities**, including students in public or private institutions or other care facilities, **are educated with students who are not disabled**, and that special classes, separate schooling, or other **removal of students with disabilities from the general education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the student's disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.**

DESE Tiered Focus Monitoring Improvement Area

Criterion: SE 20 - Least restrictive program selected

Rating: Partially Implemented

Description of Current Issue: An analysis of data and staff interviews indicated that IEP Team do not always consider the least restrictive environment for students.

Placement Categories in Special Education

Full Inclusion Program - IEP services are provided outside the general education classroom less than 21% of the time (80% inclusion).

Partial Inclusion Program - IEP services are provided outside the general education classroom at least 21% of the time, but no more than 60% of the time.

Substantially Separate Classroom - IEP services are provided outside the general education classroom for more than 60% of the time.

Full Inclusion and Partial Inclusion Data 4/2023

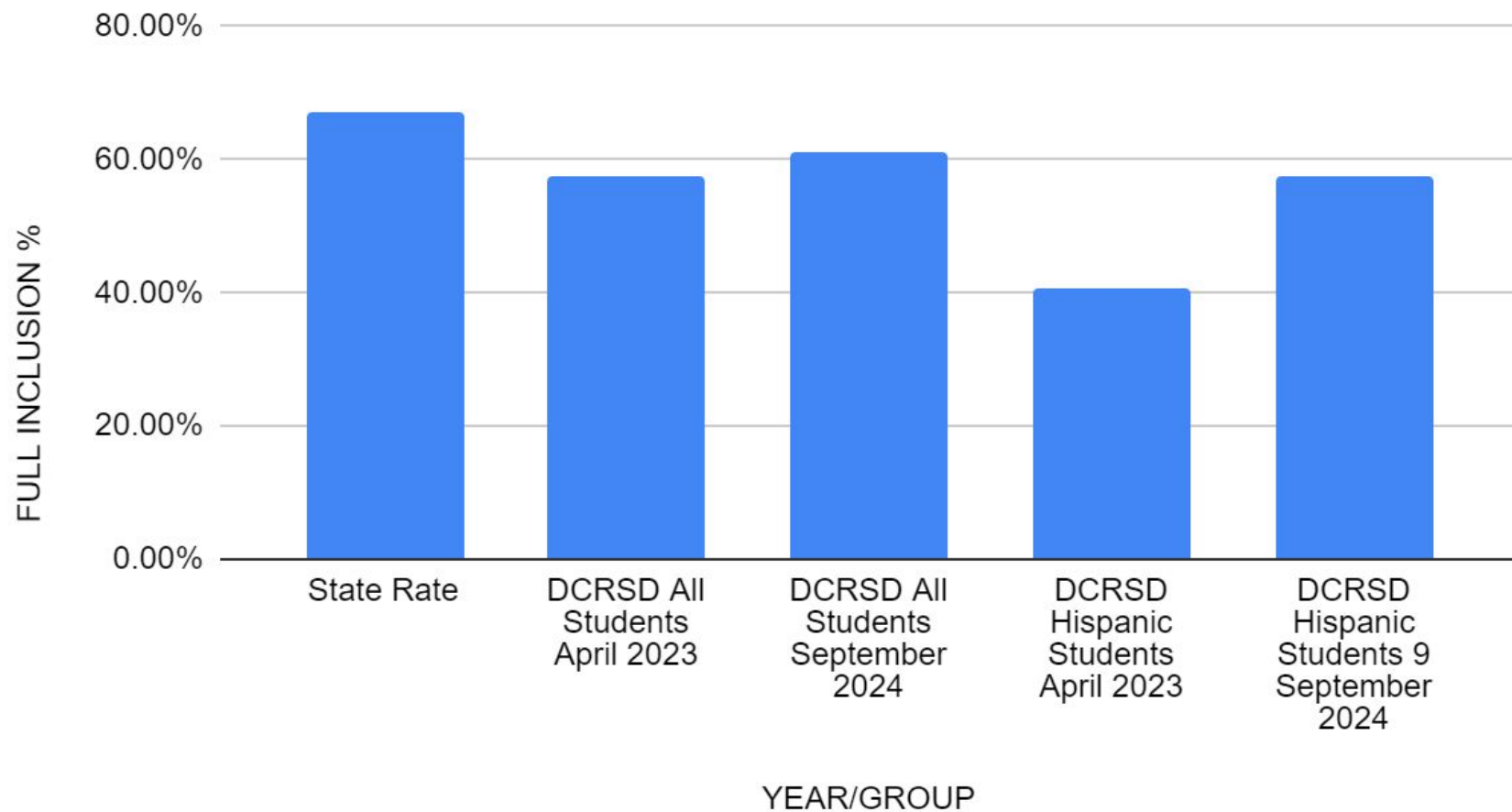
Full Inclusion:

- State rate 67.2%
- DCRSD all eligible students 57.4%
- DCRSD eligible Hispanic students 40.5%

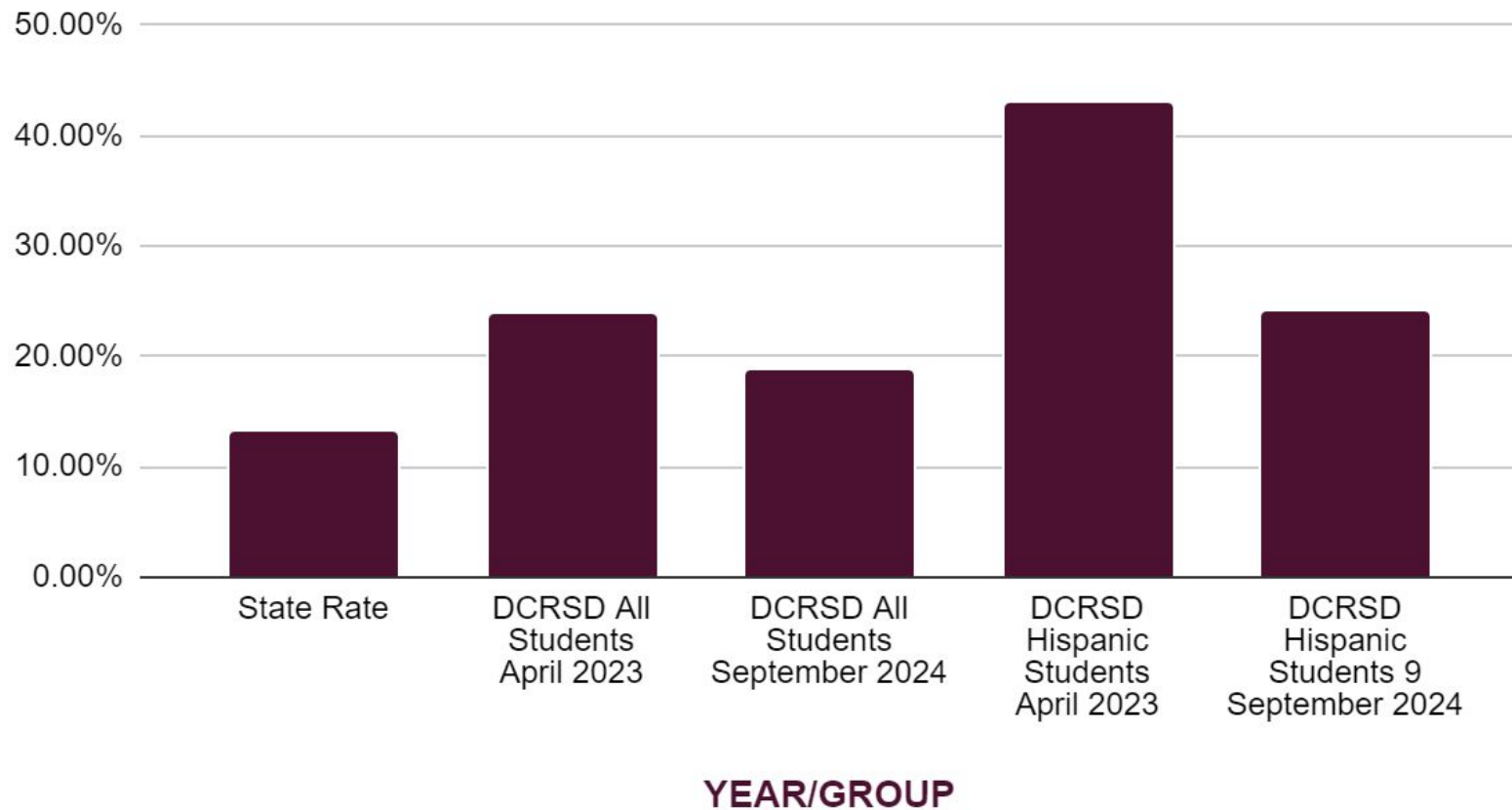
Partial Inclusion:

- State rate 13.2%
- DCRSD all eligible students 23.9%
- DCRSD eligible Hispanic students 43%

FULL INCLUSION % vs. YEAR/GROUP



PARTIAL INCLUSION %



Full Inclusion and Partial Inclusion

Placement	State Rate	DCRSD All Students 4/2023	DCRSD All Students 9/2024	DCRSD Hispanic Students 4/2023	DCRSD Hispanic Students 9/2024
Full Inclusion	67.20%	57.40%	61.2 %	40.50%	57.4 %
Partial Inclusion	13.20%	23.90%	18.7 %	43%	24 %



Professional Development Survey

What & When?

This short survey is administered after each Goalbook professional development session. This survey measures educators' reactions to the professional development session & Goalbook Toolkit.

Why?

Goalbook Toolkit is a holistic, research-based solution that builds educator capacity to develop cohesive, high-quality IEPs and implement them with more effective specially designed instruction. Our holistic approach blends technology with ***comprehensive professional development***, services, and support that empower districts to invest in developing their most impactful instructional lever: their educators. ***Professional development is specifically designed to be in alignment with and support of partnership implementation goals.***

Total PD survey responses:

49

Session Quality

Please rate the overall quality of the Goalbook professional learning session (1= lowest quality, 10 = highest quality)

9.63

Session Feedback

% Strongly Agree
& Agree

■ Strongly Agree

■ Agree

■ Disagree

■ Strongly Disagree

The content of the session was relevant to my needs

100%



The instructor was well organized & knowledgeable about the material presented

100%



Application & Usage

How helpful do you anticipate Goalbook will be to your practice? (1 = least helpful, 10 = most helpful)

9.78

Do you plan to use Goalbook more than once a month? (% yes)

100%

How often do you plan to use Goalbook in the next 3 months?

1-2 times a week



65%

Once or more a month



35%

Ways of Using Goalbook

How/In what ways are you most likely to use Goalbook initially after today's session?

- *I plan to use it for all of my IEPs!*
- *Use the resources from the strategies sections.*
- *Writing goals and progress monitoring*
- *I will use all aspects reviewed.*
- *Writing current performance levels, goals/objectives, and progress monitoring*
- *Assessments*
- *Using Baseline Data*
- *Present Levels*
- *Help with present level writing, goal writing, pre and post assessments, progress monitoring, strategies.*
- *All the time*
- *Writing my goals and objectives*
- *I will be using Goalbook immediately this week!*
- *Goal and objective writing - also data sheets*
- *Creating goals and present levels on new MA IEP*
- *for everything!*
- *In the writing of new iep*

Helpful Resources

Based on your current understanding of Goalbook, which resources will be most helpful to your practice as an educator?

- *EVERYTHING!!!!*
- *Goal Library with objectives*
- *all of it*
- *Goals and Assessment*
- *Goals!*
- *All of it!!*
- *Goals, resources/assessments*
- *Goal writing and new IE*
- *Baseline Data*
- *The progress monitoring*
- *All Goalbook resources*
- *Baseline testing*
- *All of it*
- *Present Levels and Goal Wizard*
- *Current levels, creating individualized goals for students*
- *Goals and objectives as well as strategies*



report of the resolutions committee

The members of the Resolutions Committee met on June 20, 2024 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts for consideration at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Jason Fraser, MASC President-Elect, Chair (Plympton and Silver Lake Reg.); Mildred Lefebvre, MASC President (Holyoke); Beverly Hugo, Life Member; Robert Swartz, Gardner; Tony Mullin, Westwood; Jessica Corwin, Sunderland and Frontier Reg.; Jorge Vega, Brockton; Kathryn Hubley, Quincy.

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTIONS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RESOLUTION 1: DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE HIGH-STAKES MCAS TEST

(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS access to a high-quality, publicly funded education is a guaranteed right written into the Massachusetts Constitution; and

WHEREAS an effective public education program meets the needs of students who present a variety of abilities and learning styles; and

WHEREAS a successful system of public education nurtures and supports students and offers opportunities for growth along a continuum that begins in preschool and extends through higher education; and

WHEREAS the goal of public education is to teach students how to be critical thinkers, engaged citizens and lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS the use of MCAS has restricted curriculum and narrowed the focus of education in our public schools; and WHEREAS the use of MCAS has impacted student emotional wellbeing; and

WHEREAS MCAS testing has unjustly targeted communities with underfunded public schools for state takeovers that have failed to improve student performance by any measure; and

WHEREAS using MCAS testing as a high-school graduation requirement has prevented or delayed countless students from earning a diploma, either interrupting or derailing education or career plans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED urges Massachusetts to develop a wider, more consensus-built strategy for an evaluation system with meaningful input from legitimate stakeholders.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges the state Legislature to launch a comprehensive evaluation to investigate the extent of biases pertaining to MCAS testing and make these results public.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges Massachusetts to enact a moratorium on MCAS testing effective immediately.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges Massachusetts to develop an alternative to the high-stakes MCAS tests.

RESOLUTION 2: INCREASE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE

(Sponsored by the Brockton School Committee)

WHEREAS compulsory school attendance refers to the minimum and maximum age required by each state in which a student must be enrolled in and attending public school, or some equivalent accredited education program defined by law; and

WHEREAS an increased compulsory attendance age reflects the realities of the 21st century, with an increased need for higher levels of education; and

WHEREAS an increased compulsory attendance age improves economic and social mobility across the lifespan and counters childhood poverty by enabling students experiencing poverty to stay in school longer and complete their education; and

WHEREAS an increased compulsory attendance age aims to reduce racial and class disparities in education attainment; and

WHEREAS economic statistics show high school dropouts are more likely than graduates to be poor, unemployed or wind up in jail; and

WHEREAS a growing body of research indicates that increasing the minimum school-leaving age to 18 not only increases high-school graduation rates but also significantly improves the life outcomes of students who otherwise would have become dropouts; and

WHEREAS we are responsible for ensuring all children of the Commonwealth receive a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS graduation rates and post-secondary opportunities have been proven to improve when students are required to remain in school until eighteen years of age; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC recommends that the Massachusetts legislature increase the compulsory attendance age from sixteen to eighteen.

RESOLUTIONS ON STUDENT SAFETY

RESOLUTION 3: SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

(Sponsored by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is a top priority in schools and keeping them safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites; and

WHEREAS in the United States, gun violence is the leading cause of death in children and teens¹, and

WHEREAS approximately 1200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, and over 80 percent of children under age 18 who died by firearm suicide used a gun belonging to a family member, and

WHEREAS in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home or that of relatives or friends³; and

WHEREAS an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm² and every year²; and

WHEREAS research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to a 78 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens⁷; and

WHEREAS evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe⁶;

WHEREAS the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes; and

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART Program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and

WHEREAS secure storage of firearms is a legal requirement in Massachusetts pursuant to G.L. Chapter 140, sections 131L and 131C, and failure to comply with secure storage laws can lead to criminal prosecution, jail time, fines, and/or revocation of FID card or license, depending on the offence; and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends storing firearms unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked separately to reduce risks of injury to children; ⁹

WHEREAS in order to continue with preventive measures to increase student and school safety we must act now.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC recommends all districts direct their Superintendent and staff to create an appropriate communication to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure firearm storage to protect children and teens from unauthorized access to unsecured firearms, and their legal obligations consistent with Massachusetts safe storage law.

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges other communities to work with their local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profit organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents and guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes and vehicles.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death, Injury Mechanism & All Other Leading Causes. Data from 2020. Analysis includes children and teens aged 1 to 19.
2. Matthew Miller and Deborah Azrael, "Firearm Storage in US Households with Children: Findings from the 2021 National Firearm Survey," JAMA Network Open 5, no. 2 (2022): e2148823, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.48823>
3. Everytown for Gun Safety. #NotAnAccident Index. 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/> Analysis includes incidents that occurred between 2015 and 2019.
4. Everytown for Gun Safety. #NotAnAccident Index. 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>. Analysis includes homes of the shooter, the victim, relatives' homes, friends' homes, and "other" homes.
5. "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of the most recent available data: 2016 to 2020. Children and teens aged 0 to 19.
6. Johnson RM, Barber C, Azrael D, Clark DE, Hemenway D. Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides? Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior. 2010;40(6):609-611. Study defined children as under the age of 18.
7. Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, American Federation of Teachers, and National Education Association, "Keeping Our Schools Safe: A Plan for Preventing Mass Shootings and Ending All Gun Violence in American Schools," 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/preventing-gunviolence-in-american-schools/>
8. Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. JAMA. 2005; 293(6):707-714.
9. M.J. Bull, et al., "Firearm-related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population," Pediatrics 105, no. 4 (2000): 888-895.

RESOLUTION 4: SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SURVEILLANCE ACT AND ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES

(Sponsored by the Peabody School Committee)

WHEREAS it is against the law in Massachusetts to pass a stopped school bus with the stop arm extended and flashing lights while student passengers embark and disembark the bus. Unless witnessed by a police officer, the penalties for passing a stopped school bus are minimal. The danger to the passengers is extraordinary, and can prove fatal; and

WHEREAS a survey conducted in 2022 by the National Association of State Directors of Public Transportation Services (NASSDPTS) found that motorists illegally pass stopped school buses: "Throughout a 180-day school year sample results point to more than 41.8 million violations per year among America's motoring public;" and,

WHEREAS technical advances have now made public digital video violation detection violation detection monitoring systems to detect drivers failing to stop for school busses; and

WHEREAS penalties for passing a stopped school bus utilizing a digital video violation monitoring system need to be commensurate with the same penalties imposed for such action if witnessed by a police officer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts legislature to enact legislation to pass into law the ability for cities and towns to install on all school busses live digital video detection monitoring systems for the purpose of enforcing violations against the owner of a motor vehicle whose vehicle failed to stop for a school bus when required to do so by law.

SPONSOR RATIONALE: The significant safety concerns present when a vehicle passes a stopped school bus embarking or disembarking passengers are endangering our students in Massachusetts. Presently, unless witnessed by a police officer, the penalties for passing a school bus are minimal. If the registration plate of the offending vehicle is reported by the bus driver, there is a minimal fine.

Requiring a police officer to witness the violation prevents appropriate law enforcement action from taking place, especially for repeat offenders. Allowing the installation and utilization of digital video detection monitoring systems on school buses will allow for appropriate law enforcement action, provide for monitoring and data pertinent to this safety concern, and serve as a deterrent to drivers who are contributing to this safety issue. Protecting the safety of our students is a paramount concern.

RESOLUTIONS ON SCHOOL FINANCE

RESOLUTION 5: ALIGNING TAXING AUTHORITY WITH THE REQUIRED LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. Ch. 70, Section 2), establishes a required local contribution which defines a minimum appropriation for education; and

WHEREAS one element of determining the required local contribution is local effort from property wealth, determined using a municipality's equalized valuation; and

WHEREAS the ability of municipalities to raise revenue is constrained by Proposition 2½ (M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sect. 21C) which limits the increase in levy limits by 2½% (plus new growth); and

WHEREAS the total statewide required local contribution in FY22 was \$6,827,673,657, in FY23 it was \$7,166,744,291, an increase of \$339,070,634 (4.97%); and

WHEREAS the total statewide required local contribution in FY23 was \$7,166,744,291, in FY24 it was \$7,566,302,116, an increase of \$399,557,825 (5.58%); and

WHEREAS the total statewide required local contribution in FY24 was \$7,566,302,116, and the FY25 Preliminary Chapter 70 Aid and Net School Spending Requirements released by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is projected to be \$7,969,443,892 an increase of \$403,141,776 (5.33%); and

WHEREAS increases in required local contributions in excess of 2.5% strains the budgets of municipalities without excess levy capacity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for the enactment of legislation that would increase a municipality's levy limit by the amount of increase of the required local contribution in excess of 2.5%, granting the municipality the ability to raise local revenues mandated by M.G.L. Ch. 70.

RESOLUTION 6: SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FISCAL HEALTH OF RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(Sponsored by the Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately and Frontier Regional School Committees)

WHEREAS rural school districts in Massachusetts face daunting threats to their financial sustainability and thus to their ability to provide rural students with the same quality of educational opportunity enjoyed by students in other parts of the state; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth has rightly touted the state's significant increase in education funding following passage of the 2019 Student Opportunity Act (SOA), however the most needy rural and declining enrollment districts have received less than 1% of that increase in funding; and

WHEREAS no fewer than four recent state and legislative commissions have reviewed the looming crisis facing rural schools and concluded that rural school districts are seriously under-resourced and under-funded; and

WHEREAS the most recent of these commissions was specifically created by the SOA "...to study and make recommendations concerning the long-term fiscal health of rural school districts that are facing or may face declining student enrollment..." including recommendations for, among other things, "expanding the rural school aid grant program" and "establishing and including a low and declining student enrollment factor within the foundation budget;" and

WHEREAS in its final report, issued in December 2022, the Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts concluded that districts with very low student enrollments cost 16.7% per student more to operate than the state average and that small K-12 regional school districts cost 22.7% per student more to operate than their larger counterparts; and

WHEREAS rural school districts have closed schools, regionalized and shared services with other districts wherever possible in an effort to remain viable and serve their students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges the Legislature to pass comprehensive legislation encompassing all recommendations from the Legislative Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural Schools report: A Sustainable Future for Rural Schools.

RESOLUTION 7: FULLY ADJUSTING CHAPTER 70 AID FOR INFLATION

(Sponsored by the Everett School Committee)

WHEREAS Chapter 70 of the General Laws provides a structure for allocation of school aid based on the Foundation Budgets that reflects the needs and costs for Massachusetts school districts; and

WHEREAS the "Foundation inflation index" is an essential element of the school aid formula needed to maintain the purchasing power of district Foundation Budgets; and

WHEREAS the Chapter 70 Section 2 definition of the Foundation inflation index limits each annual adjustment to no more than 4.5% when inflation exceeds that amount; and

WHEREAS application of that limit or cap on the Foundation inflation index in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 has reduced the base used to calculate Foundation Budgets for fiscal year 2025 and future years by about 6% below what is needed to maintain the purchasing power of Massachusetts schools; and

WHEREAS a legislative change is needed to (1) fully reflect recent inflation in the Chapter 70 definition of the Foundation inflation index and (2) to eliminate the cap in future years, so as to restore the purchasing power of district Foundation budgets to reflect the intended resource allocations of the Student Opportunity Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to advance legislation mandating Inflation Index "Catch Ups" to Chapter 70 Foundation Aid that fully accounts for realized inflation that has occurred since the passage of the Student Opportunity Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC work with the Massachusetts Legislature to ensure in future years where realized inflation is above the 4.5% annual inflation cap, in subsequent years, Inflation Index "Catch Ups" are made to Chapter 70 aid and that realized inflation is used in the formulas to calculate Chapter 70 aid in perpetuity.

RESOLUTION 8: EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR NON-REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH TRANSPORTATION COSTS

(Sponsored by the Plymouth School Committee)

WHEREAS many non-regional school districts face significant financial burdens due to the extensive transportation costs and longer routes required to serve their students; and

WHEREAS non-regional school districts do not receive financial reimbursement benefits as regional districts do, which creates an imbalance in funding and resources; and

WHEREAS providing equitable financial support to non-regional school districts will help ensure that all students in the state receive an equal opportunity for quality education; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is committed to promoting fairness and equity in education and recognizing the unique challenges faced by non-regional school districts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State recognizes the financial challenges faced by many non-regional school districts, due to their higher transportation costs and longer routes. The State acknowledges that non-regional school districts should have access to financial support similarly to regional districts, when costs are extraordinary. A special fund shall be established to provide financial assistance to non-regional school districts with higher transportation costs. This fund shall be known as the "Extraordinary Routes Relief Fund."

The funds provided through this program shall be used exclusively to offset transportation costs, including but not limited to, the purchase and maintenance of buses, fuel costs, and driver salaries.

Eligible non-regional school districts may apply for grants from the "Extraordinary Routes Relief Fund" to cover a portion of their transportation-related expenses.

An oversight committee, composed of representatives from non-regional school districts, regional districts, and the State's education department, shall be established to ensure the fair and transparent allocation of funds from the "Extraordinary Routes Relief Fund."

The State shall conduct an annual review of the effectiveness and impact of this resolution to ensure that non-regional school districts are receiving adequate support to address their transportation challenges.

RATIONALE: Reimbursement suggestion: Circuit Breaker-Like Component:

- Create a "Circuit Breaker" threshold for exceptionally high busing costs, similar to Massachusetts' approach for special education expenses.
- Once a district's transportation costs exceed a certain percentage (e.g., 125%) of the statewide average, they become eligible for additional reimbursement.
- The state would reimburse a percentage (e.g., 40%) of the excess costs beyond the threshold.

Annual Reporting and Adjustment:

Require school districts to submit annual reports detailing their actual busing costs, the number of buses used, and the miles traveled. Based on these reports, adjust the reimbursements for each district to ensure they are aligned with actual expenses.

This approach provides a systematic and fair process to reimburse school districts with extraordinary expenses, similar to the Circuit Breaker process for special education expenses in Massachusetts. The specific percentages, thresholds, and additional rates can be adjusted as needed to suit the State's budget and educational priorities.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL GROUP

RESOLUTION 9: MSBA GRANTS EVALUATION FOR CHAPTER 74

(Sponsored by the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee)

WHEREAS Chapter 74 Vocational-Technical & Agricultural High Schools incur higher costs to build Chapter 74 educational training spaces; and,

WHEREAS MSBA currently assesses all school building projects at equal value; and,

WHEREAS Vocational-Technical & Agricultural High School renovation/building costs are disbursed to sending districts impacting local budgets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature and MSBA to create an evaluated-tiered system to separately assess the cost of (1) elementary, (2) comprehensive high schools, and (3) vocational, technical and agricultural schools, resulting to true cost reimbursement for each school category.

RESOLUTION 10: EXPANSION IN CAPACITY IN CHAPTER 74 VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

(Sponsored by the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee)

WHEREAS Chapter 74 vocational-technical schools in Massachusetts are experiencing unprecedented applications for admission and more students from their sending districts are being waitlisted; and,

WHEREAS students applying from sending districts being waitlisted is preventing non-member and school choice students from attending; and,

WHEREAS there are 92 schools in Massachusetts that have Chapter 74 programs, but there are gaps across the Commonwealth where students do not have access to a Chapter 74 program school; and,

WHEREAS Chapter 74 schools serve a higher percentage of students with IEPs and 504s, and who are more economically disadvantaged than their sending districts, and, Massachusetts is in need of more skilled trade workers to keep pace with both the growth of industry and the retirement of the current workforce, and, all students in Massachusetts deserve the opportunity to pursue the best secondary education available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to support the expansion of capacity at the current Chapter 74 schools, and to work with districts that lack access to vocational technical schools to create programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the legislature to convene a special commission to consider changes to the current law and regulation relating to the overall authority of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, alternative overall financing structures, standards for project eligibility, appropriate financial assistance based on the nature of the school in the projects being considered, potential differential requirements for elementary, middle schools, comprehensive high schools, and vocational technical and agricultural schools, and other such matters as affects vocational and technical education.

EXPIRING RESOLUTIONS

The 2023 Delegate Assembly approved an amendment to the By-Laws that resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. Expiring resolutions may be reconsidered and readopted by the delegates at the annual meeting at which the resolutions would expire. The rationale for the amendment was that it:

- Permits three years of focus on resolutions which overlaps two legislative cycles.
- Provides an additional opportunity for school committees to be involved in the resolution process by championing resolutions that are set to expire.
- Allows the Association to affirm what's important to the current membership by re-adoption.
- Clears expired, less relevant, or no longer supported resolutions for new priorities.

Following are the eleven resolutions set to expire this November, unless reauthorized by a vote of the Delegate Assembly.

BANNING POLYSTYRENE FROM SCHOOLS

(Submitted by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee District including the School Committees of Kingston, Plympton, and Halifax)

WHEREAS the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools was created in 2011 to recognize school efforts to reduce environmental impact and cost, improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in conjunction with twenty other states joined together to form the United States Climate Alliance to support the Paris Agreement and through continued legislative and executive actions has demonstrated the Commonwealth's commitment to environmental protection; and

WHEREAS expanded polystyrene foam manufacturing process releases pollution into the atmosphere, expanded polystyrene foam has been shown to be non-biodegradable and has the ability to be persistent in the environment for thousands of years, expanded polystyrene foam breaks down into "pearls" which are often ingested by marine life and introduced into the food chain; and

WHEREAS expanded polystyrene foam is made with styrene, a chemical the Department of Health and Human Service has deemed as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen, and the use of expanded polystyrene foam in food and beverage containers, especially containers holding hot or acidic food, have been shown to leach styrene into food and beverages;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urge the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to ban the use of expanded polystyrene foam cups, bowls, plates and trays from Massachusetts Public Schools by the 2022-2023 school year.

Passed on a voice vote - 2019

PERTAINING TO EDUCATOR DIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

(Submitted by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS current research clearly demonstrates that public school students benefit from a diverse teaching staff; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts school districts are challenged to attract a diverse teaching staff; and

WHEREAS attracting diverse candidates often involves recruiting candidates from outside Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts licensure requirements, including the MA Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) requirements, serve as a disincentive for candidates looking to relocate to take a teaching position; and

WHEREAS test administration is conducted in centers that are often inaccessible without a car; and

WHEREAS the cost of testing can be a barrier to potential applicants; and

WHEREAS there is no evidence that MTEL is a reliable or valid measure of successful practice as an educator; and

WHEREAS school districts are capable of selection qualified candidates for teaching positions, as well as supervising, evaluating, and deciding on whether to retain the services of probationary candidates; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education governs educator licensure in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS practicing educators and school committee members are prohibited from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS the teaching profession is the only profession or trade in Massachusetts where the holders of a license are prohibited from serving on its governing board;

(PART A) THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls for the elimination of the MTEL and MA Performance Assessment of Leaders (MaPAL) as licensing requirements for educators; and,

(PART B) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC calls for the governance and licensure of professional educators be vested in a board comprised of licensed educators.

Part A passed on a 54-24 vote - 2019

Part B passed unanimously on a voice vote - 2019

FULL FUNDING OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE AND STATE CARE

(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS FY18 was the first year Massachusetts added the category of transportation for foster children educated in the school or district of origin and subject to transportation to its reporting of educational expenses by district, and the reported total was over \$3.2 million; and

WHEREAS federal and state law require the ability for students in foster or state care to stay not just in their districts of origin but also in their schools of origin; and

WHEREAS the nature of foster care and state care placements has changed significantly within the past several decades; and

WHEREAS school districts do not have control over whether a foster care student is placed into or removed from the district; and

WHEREAS Chapter 7 of Chapter 76 of the MA General Laws, established over a century ago, obligates the Commonwealth to reimburse districts for the cost of educating students in

foster care and state care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commonwealth should reimburse transportation funding for children in foster care and state care. DCF and DESE must complete the process to provide proper documentation for the Commonwealth to receive reimbursement for transportation and expenses under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC advocate to the Massachusetts General Court to properly calculate and assume the full expense of providing educational services to students in foster care and state care including the costs of assessments, regular day and special education services as well as out-of-district placements, transportation and mental health.

Adopted as presented on a voice vote - 2019

POVERTY AND CHILDREN

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS one third of the children in Massachusetts are living in or near poverty; and

WHEREAS the perils of poverty include putting students and families at risk for health, social and emotional, and educational disadvantages; and

WHEREAS students in poverty and at social and emotional risk face obstacles and impediments to their success that others students do not confront; and

WHEREAS there is a direct link between poverty and student and district academic performance, demanding our attention and our diligent efforts to address them; and

WHEREAS the eradication of poverty among children is essential to generating a strong economy and vibrant society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will prioritize, as a matter of its public policy agenda, and file for supporting legislation to support the eradication of poverty among children in Massachusetts and advocate for social and economic justice for students and their families that will include:

- Support for a revenue stream that supports social and economic priorities for children and families.
- Support for state programs and services that serve children at greatest social and emotional risk which are easily accessible to students and families.
- Advocacy for nutrition programs that eradicate hunger among children.
- Advocacy for healthcare, including vision, hearing, dental and mental health through accessible service providers.
- Support pre-kindergarten programs for all children.
- Advocacy for increasing educational opportunities for children to grow both inside and outside of school.

Originally adopted in 2015

Re-adopted on a voice vote - 2019

ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL SUPPLIES

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS schools have an obligation to serve all students equitably. Every student deserves the reassurance that their school restrooms are outfitted with necessities to accommodate their biological needs. Yet, for roughly half the US student population, there is a glaring exception to this commitment: menstrual hygiene products; and

WHEREAS menstrual hygiene products are basic necessities, and the inability to access them affects a student's freedom to study, to be healthy, and participate in society with dignity. Studies have shown that when students lack access to menstrual hygiene products they skip or miss class, face embarrassment or objectification because of period stains, and are limited both academically and socially; and

WHEREAS no student should miss a day of school because they feel ashamed, or they do not have access to menstrual products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC work with state and federal legislatures to provide additional funding to provide free access to menstrual products from the school nurse and in restrooms and locker rooms.

Approved as presented - 2019

CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM

(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS in many cities and towns, Commonwealth charter schools are imposed upon communities or subject to expansion over their objections, without local representative oversight, and without regard to the impact such a charter school would have on the education of children in the public schools; and

WHEREAS charter schools are always fully funded by the sending districts enrolling students there while the charter school mitigation fund is subject to appropriation and has not been fully funded in years; and

WHEREAS charter schools may retain up to 20 percent of their operating budget and capital costs in reserve funds, regional schools may retain only 5 percent of any surplus funds in reserve, while district schools must return 100 percent of any unspent funds to their municipality; and

WHEREAS without substantial reform of Commonwealth charter school financing, recruitment of students, equitable charter school enrollment of representative segments of the population of economically disadvantaged, special education, and disabled students remediation of the adverse impact of charter schools cannot be addressed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees seek legislative action to both address the deleterious effects of charter school funding on certain municipalities and school districts across the state and approve a comprehensive set of reforms that includes:

- Establishment of strict guidelines or regulations to require that charter schools enroll representative cross sections of students residing with the school service areas.
- Reporting of accurate numbers of students who leave charter schools to return to the sending districts or districts of residence.
- Requiring MA DESE to retain and report accurate data on enrollment of students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, economic disadvantage, emotional disability and status as racial and linguistic minorities.
- State requirements that all charter schools be funded in full by the Commonwealth rather than by expropriation of Chapter 70 education aid from the sending cities, towns and regions.
- State funding in full of any mitigation funds created to offset the loss of state funding for students who become students in charter schools.

Approved on a voice vote - 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Sponsored by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS we believe America is a great nation and has a proud heritage of addressing humanity's most pressing problems; and

WHEREAS we believe it is important to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail one of the greatest threats facing communities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and

WHEREAS there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; and

WHEREAS children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and

WHEREAS MASC recognizes climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue; and

WHEREAS climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts all people and disproportionately impacts all young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America; and

WHEREAS the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for lead-

ership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and

WHEREAS national and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could quickly and substantially reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS MASC recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America's schools, students, and their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC advocates for infrastructure needs and state and federal emergency funding for disaster relief caused by natural catastrophes and extreme weather events.

Approved on a voice vote - 2019

MANDATORY RECESS

(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS due to regulations promulgated by Massachusetts Education Reform of 1993 which excluded recess from time learning calculations and the federal No Child Left Behind Act which tied funding and local control of schools to standardized test scores, recess in many Massachusetts Elementary Schools has been diminished or eliminated to provide more time for academics; and

WHEREAS the CDC and the Society of Health and Physical Educators jointly stated that all students should be given at least 20 minutes of recess daily; and

WHEREAS research provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services has shown the benefits of recess to include improved social and emotional development, improved memory, attention and concentration, reductions in disruptive behavior in class and increased levels of physical activity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC supports legislation calling for at least 20 minutes of uninterrupted, supervised, safe and unstructured free-play recess per day which cannot be excluded from structured learning time requirements and may not increase the total number of hours required in the school year for Massachusetts elementary school students.

Approved on a 96- 2 vote - 2021

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANTI-RACISM

(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS as schools have the responsibility to equip students with their civil right of obtaining a free and appropriate public education, it is the responsibility of each

school to ensure we created a welcoming community for ALL students; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility that every district provide to all district staff, including School Committee members, annual professional development on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS every district will examine their policies for institutional and systemic racialized practices and implement change with sustainable policies that are evidence-based; and
WHEREAS every district will incorporate into their curriculum the history of racial oppression and works by black authors and works from diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS we as school district leaders can no longer remain silent to the issues of racism and hate that continue to plague our public and private institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all the school districts in the Commonwealth should guarantee that racist practices are eradicated, and diversity, equity, and inclusion is embedded and practiced for our students, families, faculty, and staff; and

School Committee members should ensure that our school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is anti-racist, and acknowledges that all lives cannot matter until black lives matter.

Approved - 2020

PROHIBITING THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS
(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Association of School Committees passed a resolution last year resolving that all school districts in the Commonwealth should guarantee that racist practices be eradicated, and diversity, equity and inclusion be embedded and practiced for our students, families, faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools in 2001, stating that "the stereotyping of any racial, ethnic, religious or other groups when promoted by our public educational institutions, teach all students that stereotyping of minority groups is acceptable, a dangerous lesson in a diverse society"; and

WHEREAS the American Psychological Association called for the immediate retirement of Native American mascots, logos and nicknames back in 2005, citing research showing that the use of Native American mascots (a) undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities; (b) creates a racially hostile learning environment for all students; (c) has a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children; and (d) undermines the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC support legislation calling for regulations prohibiting public schools from using an athletic team name, logo or mascot which names, refers to, represents, or is associated with Native Americans, including aspects of Native American cultures and specific Native American tribes.

Approved on an 82-9 vote - 2021

FULL FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
(Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS it is the legal responsibility for public schools to provide a free and appropriate education for all students in the least restrictive environment; and

WHEREAS the cost to educate students with disabilities who qualify for special education services can be an extraordinary burden on the finances of our public schools, impacting the resources available to all students.

WHEREAS federal funding through IDEA is currently only providing approximately 15% of the extra cost to educate students receiving special education services, far less than the 40% promised in IDEA.

WHEREAS the IDEA Full Funding Act had been proposed to fully fund IDEA through an incremental, seven-year increase in funding which had both bipartisan and bicameral support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Congressional to reintroduce and promote the passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act.

Approved - 2021

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: School Committee

FROM: Joseph Caron – Facilities Director

CC: Joseph DeSantis – Director of Finance & Operations

DATE: October 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Charlton Middle School Sign Options

Presented for School Committee review are four options for a new entrance sign at Charlton Middle School.

Option #1: \$6,086.63 - Sign similar in design and look of Heritage School's. PVC sign with 3D acrylic letters. Price includes install.

Option #2: \$5,000-\$7,000 – Changeable Letter Sign 4' x 8'. Price does not include labor. Labor estimate between \$6,000-\$7,000

Option #3: \$9,000-\$35,000 – Monument Style Sign. Price does not include labor. Labor estimate between \$6,000-\$7,000

Option #4: \$22,000-\$27,000 – LED Sign 4'x8'. Cellular Data to sign, software and graphics all included. Price does not include labor. Labor estimate between \$6,000-\$7,000

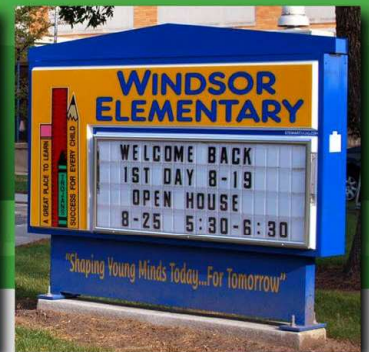
Option #1



Option #2
STEWART SIGNS

Enhanced Logo Area Signs

These signs offer a separate area to display your symbol, logo or other graphics. Select from one of these models if you require **more graphical impact** from your sign.



LEARN MORE AT

stewartsigns.com/enhanced-logo

Option #3

Cornerstone Collection

These signs offer a classic masonry-inspired look that complements more traditional architecture. With optional changeable letter tracking or LED display, you can also use these signs as a communication tool!

Over 50 models to choose from!

- ✓ **AESTHETICS** - These attractive signs have no exposed seams or fasteners, and look just like real masonry structures that would cost thousands more.
- ✓ **SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION** - Signs consist of a solid, shaped, polystyrene core, sealed for durability and strength with a thick Poly-Armor™ polyurethane hardcoat.
- ✓ **DURABILITY** - Sealed with a fade-resistant 100% acrylic textured finish, this tough outer shell is impact, insect, and weather-resistant.
- ✓ **EASY INSTALLATION** - Signs are prefabricated and light weight, with just two simple ground mount systems and no site mess or weather delays.
- ✓ **COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY** - Your sign is covered against all defects in quality and materials. It is also easily repaired in the unlikely event of damage.



Model #14



Model #51



Model #22



Model #7



Model #49



Model #6



Model #35



Model #48

LEARN MORE AT

stewartsigns.com/cornerstone

Option #4
STEWART SIGNS

TekStar Series



The Stewart TekStar is a single-cabinet LED sign for organizations wanting a **dynamic presence at a great value**. The seamless, single-piece face of virtually unbreakable TUFFAK® SL covers both the sign graphics and the LED display.



LEARN MORE AT

stewartsigns.com/tekstar

 **Stewart Signs**
ONE SIGN, ONE COMPANY

TekStarFlyerMunicipal-SS231101

1.800.237.3928
stewartsigns.com

55
YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Steven M. Lamarche
Superintendent of Schools

Kelly A. True
Assistant Superintendent



68 Dudley-Oxford Road
Dudley, Massachusetts 01571
508-943-6888
508-943-1077 - fax
www.dcrsd.org

Heather M. Harriman
Director, Pupil Personnel Services

Joseph J. DeSantis
Director of Finance and Operation

October 09, 2024

TO: School Committee
FROM: Steven M. Lamarche
SUBJECT: Attorney for the School Committee/DCRSD

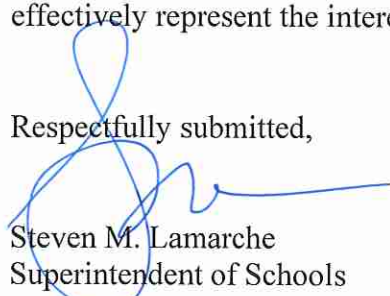
Following the school committee meeting on September 9, 2024, I have been tasked with finding a representative attorney for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. This decision comes in light of the retirement of our long-standing attorney, James Cosgrove.

A review of local and surrounding school districts has revealed a varied approach to legal representation, but a clear trend has emerged favoring firms with multiple attorneys specializing in different areas. Therefore, I recommend that the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee pursue this approach.

I propose that we seek a firm specializing in Education Law, Labor and Employment Law, and Municipal Law. Currently, we engage Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, P.C. from Braintree, MA, for special education matters, and they have also assisted us with our interests related to the Fire Substation.

In light of these findings, I recommend that the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee vote to secure legal services from Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, P.C. of Braintree, MA, to effectively represent the interests of our school district moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven M. Lamarche
Superintendent of Schools