

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Budget & Finance Subcommittee

Friday, December 5, 2025, at **10:00 AM**

Via Video Conferencing

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81112327236>

Meeting Minutes

I. Call the Meeting to order. December 5, 2025 at 10:02 a.m.

Chair declaration:

In accordance with Mass. General Law Charter 30(A), Sec 20 and in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 I announce this meeting is being recorded by the (Dudley Charlton Regional School District) and I ask if there is anyone else present that is recording today's meeting? Please let the minutes reflect. DCRSD recording minutes. No other person present recording this meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

9-26-25. The meeting minutes of 9/26/2025 approved as follows: K. Szela - 1st approval; A. Aube 2nd approval. Unanimous. 3/3/2025 minutes were approved at the 10/31/2025 meeting. 10/31/2025 and today's meeting minutes will be considered for approval at the 1/16/2026 meeting.

III. Public Comment (Limited to 1 minute). None.

IV. Subcommittee Communications. None.

V. Director of Finance and Operation Standing Update(s) as available:

- a. Cherry Sheets. J. DeSantis reported that the Governor's budget will come out within the next 3-4 weeks, so by sometime in January, the District will receive estimated cherry sheets.
 - i. Proposed Chapter 70 Funding by House / Senate / Governor.
 - ii. Proposed Regional Transportation Funding by House / Senate / Governor
- b. Circuit Break. No outstanding update at this time.
- c. E & D submitted for DCRSD to DOR and working on finalization within coming days. E&D should be finalized by the DOR by the next meeting.
- d. Anticipated enrollment numbers for next fiscal year. None. The enrollment numbers will be updated during the FY27 budget creation process.
- e. School Choice. None. When the FY25 Audit is finalized, the updated school choice information will be provided.
- f. FY27 Healthcare cost projections. Medicare increase 67% for both the District and retirees which is a 50/50 split, which for retirees going from \$330/month to \$550/month. This cost is across the board in most school districts. Retiree meeting on November 20, 2025 with Aetna rep present outlined cost detail. Working on decreasing this cost, if possible. Currently, the District has 350 retirees, the same amount in comparison to the retirees in both Municipalities.
- g. Utility cost projections. Expect this cost within the coming months. During budget creation process will review. Mitigation for potential solar and other National Grid reductions or programs.
- h. Transportation cost projections. Under contract with First Student and Van pool. Transport costs currently stable. No major shift in cost projections.
- i. Contractual cost projections. Cost of Living Adjustments for DCTA MNA DCPA will provide a 3.5% increase next year. Final figure dollar amount will be available next year.
- j. Proposed budget request / needs and justification. No update at this time.
- k. Audit update. Auditors started working on the FY25 Audit the week of November 10, 2025. Requested evidence was uploaded into their portal. No further information at this time.
- l. End of year report. Submitted to the DOR and no changes have been requested to date. J DeSantis will provide updates on this as it becomes available.
- m. Budget updates. After reporting to the School Committee at the meeting next week, J. DeSantis will provide more information at the next meeting when the Preliminary Budget will be released. There has been no freeze instituted at this time. Budget creation timeline is from December 2025 to March 2026. Further updates will be provided as this becomes available. A. Aube asked to circle back to School Choice information.

VI. Continued Discussion on a possible "Technology Efficiency Fund".

Other municipalities developed this Fund and have staff access for software and hardware. this Fund, vetted through J. DeSantis and S. Lamarche. Something that can be earmarked. OPEB fund kept on radar for liability in the future.

- VII. Timeline for budget creation.** J. Costello sent a notice to town officials of the joint meeting in February. The District is on track with timeline. J. DeSantis is doing a great job of following up on this. S. Lamarche and J. DeSantis report no Feedback received at this time. K. Szela states that the Principals had a positive budget workshop experience. Principals felt heard and welcomed the opportunity to participate again in the future.
- VIII. Topics not reasonably anticipated at time of posting.** None.
- IX. Future Agenda Items.** None at this time.
Forward all agenda items to A. Aube.
Future meeting date: 1/16/2026 at 10:00 a.m.
- X. Adjourn.** K. Szela - 1st approval. A. Aube – 2nd approval. All in favor. Adjournment at 10:19 a.m.