

Capital Outlay and School Safety Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 20, 2026
10:00 a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81021308792>

I. Call the Meeting to order.

The meeting of the Capital Outlay and School Safety Subcommittee is called to order on March 20, 2026 at 10:01 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? No one else is recording these minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes

12-5-25. First motion to accept the meeting minutes by K. Szela and seconded by M. Chickering. Roll call – unanimous.

1-16-26. First motion to accept the meeting minutes by K. Szela and seconded by M. Chickering. Roll call – unanimous.

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

IV. Subcommittee Communications. None.

V. IT Director Dan D'Arcangelo. D. D'Arcangelo reported on the Technology that is included in the Capital Project. Network components, network closets. AC Units are getting old (from 2018) and should be added to the Capital Project. They are not working as they should. At CES, the temperature in the room was 90 degrees, but it was 20 degrees outside. The unit really is not rated for year-round use. A similar issue at Heritage School but not quite as bad. This year, the thermostat needed to be re-set. Everything that is on that line item is access point, switches, UPS. End user devices were not included in Capital. A. Aube asked if there were any mobile HVAC units that can be used temporarily. Heritage School used a mobile HVAC unit for one of their rooms. But because these rooms often do not have a window, it's not feasible to use these mobile window units. The only other option would be to leave the door unlocked but this defeats the security. It was suggested that a hole could be cut out so the exhaust goes into the plenum of the building, a thermal triggered dump, a heat exchanger. The priority is CES and Heritage because the units stop working in the winter. At MRS, the excess humidity is a concern. Ice dams and snow on the roof at Heritage cause a leak in one of the classrooms. If it's something major, Steve P. will be notified. This should be added to the Capital Project. Mason Road School is using a ceiling unit from 2000 when the building was renovated. More discussion is needed concerning ACS. Network Cable Project in 2018 to put ACS in rooms. Switches were done three years ago.

Potholes are another concern. Those that can be patched will be. For larger potholes, we will need to contract out for filling. Mr. Mason has done work for the District. Possibly during April vacation when not many vehicles are in the parking lot. At SHRHS, there is an ongoing issue with the plowing of snow in the parking lots. Also at Heritage School, the heat pumps need to be looked at in the auditorium and some classrooms for repair vs replacement. We are waiting on a proposal from Jezierski Plumbing.

Topics not reasonably anticipated the time of posting. For addressing the need for an EMS hard-wired phone, National Telecom states they can provide expansion capability in the lobby at Shepherd Hill, Charlton Elementary School and Heritage School, as they are the service contractor for hard-wired phones in these schools. Charlton Middle School, Dudley Middle School and Mason Road School may have a phone jack in the lobby, but not sure. Phones at these schools are from a different vendor. Type and location of signage for EMS phones as well as the AED device will also need to be addressed. If we find that more phones are needed, Dan will need to be notified if a data drop and switches are needed. A new districtwide phone system is included in the Capital Project request.

FY27 Capital Request Budget Update/ Plan and Review. J. DeSantis reported that he met with John Ruda and Andrew Golas to discuss the timeline to authorize the issuance of debt to fund these projects after they have been approved by the school committee. Both towns would need to have a Districtwide ballot on Tuesday, September 29th, for example. The School Committee would bring it to a vote to authorize the issuance of debt around June. At the School Committee meeting in June, we would bring in David Eisenthal from Unibank to explain the process of issuing debt, borrowing, etc. We are having discussions about potentially adding the districtwide vote to the September Primary Elections. The Towns also stated that this created too much confusion and suggested that a special ballot be issued separately just for this purpose. This request be separate from the District's Operating Budget. We are now looking at a June School Committee meeting for a School Committee vote and then we would be looking at September 29th as the first phase of implementing this new capital request project. Meetings can be held over the summer to educate the public. Debt exclusion is the plan for this project, with two questions on the ballot: 1) Authorization of debt and 2) Debt exclusion.

Future Agenda Items: Will be sent to A. Aube or placed in shared subcommittee folder.

Next meeting date: April 29, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn. Motion to adjourn by K. Szela, seconded by A. Aube, at 10:53 a.m.