

Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 20, 2026
9:00 a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86424435411>

FY26 Budget and Ballot Discussion

The meeting began with informal check-ins between participants, including updates on health and work status. Joe shared information about the FY26 supplemental budget, which had passed the House with significant allocations for transportation and education. The group discussed a potential special district-wide ballot targeted for September 29th, though there were concerns about voter participation.

Budget and Finance Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by A. Aube at 9:02 AM on March 20th, 2026, for a Budget and Finance meeting of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District. The minutes from meetings 1/16/26 and 2/20/26 were approved unanimously without discussion. No public comments were received and no subcommittee communications were reported.

Budget and Funding Updates Pending

DCRSD provided updates on several budget items, noting that the FY26 supplemental budget passed through the legislature but FY27 is still pending approval from the House and Senate. There were no updates on state or federal funding, regional transportation percentage, or Circuit Breaker funding for FY27, which remains fully funded. DCRSD is awaiting final certification for E&D numbers from the Department of Revenue and verified that the new state platform for tracking school choice students appears to have an incorrect assessment of \$715,000 for Dudley Charlton's school choice out tuition, which DCRSD believes will be adjusted downward.

Budget and Healthcare Cost Updates

The meeting covered updates on budget reconciliation, healthcare cost projections, and various financial aspects. DCRSD reported that healthcare cost projections remain at a 12% increase for next year, with MSHG planning to set rates in April. The proposed budget requests were reduced to include only the shared Charlton SRO and Assistant Special Ed Director positions. The budget has been approved by the school committee and is scheduled to be presented to the towns on May 18th without any anticipated alterations needed.

Solar Project Timeline Update

The team discussed updates on the solar project, which is still awaiting National Grid's approval for capacity and feasibility studies, with the original timeline of December 2027 remaining unchanged. A. Aube brought attention to an upcoming meeting scheduled for Monday at 6:30 PM with the BOS and FAA in Dudley, clarifying the timing based on the joint agenda posted online. DCRSD agreed to verify the exact meeting times and provide further updates as needed.

Next Meeting and Updates Discussion

The group discussed scheduling their next meeting, with DCRSD recommending they continue meeting next month to provide updates on the moving capital timeline and federal budget process. A. Aube confirmed they would hold a town meeting on the 18th.

Next Meeting Scheduled for April 15th

The team scheduled their next meeting for April 15th at 10 AM after discussing various availability conflicts. A. Aube will draft the agenda in advance as usual, and all participants agreed to add any needed agenda items to the shared folder. K. Szela made a motion to adjourn and A. Aube seconded it, resulting in a 2-0 vote to adjourn the meeting.