

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee
Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Charlton Middle School
2 Oxford Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507

Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm

In attendance:

Jeanne Costello, Chair
Maureen Chickering
Cathleen Carmignani
Kelly Szela

Jaime Dell'Ovo
Anthony Aube
Caitlynn Panczyk

A. 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.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

IV. Dudley Middle School Showcase - Principal Gregg Desto

V. Hope Squad-SHRHS

VI. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of the Warrant

B. Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting – March 11, 2026

A motion by A. Aube, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to approve the consent agenda items passed unanimously.

J. Costello
M. Chickering
C. Carmignani
K. Szela

J. Dell'Ovo
A. Aube
C. Panczyk

VII. Communications

- J. Dell'Ovo thanked everyone since this was her last School Committee meeting.
- The Friends of John Paire Golf Tournament will be held on May 16th.
- Charlton PTO holds their election meeting on May 6th, 6:00 pm at the Middle School.
- The next SEPAC meeting is April 15th at CMS or hybrid. Board members meet at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm. The topic of the meeting will be Restraints.

VIII. Student Representative's Report - Hayley Phommala

- The SHRHS drama club will present "If the Set Could Talk" on April 17th and 18th in the auditorium at 7pm.
- This past Monday the music department held its District Show Choir Festival and Winter Percussion and all Winter Guards will hold their friends and family night next Tuesday April 14th.
- The SHRHS Winter Guard won the Scholastic Regional Red Championship at the NE Scholastic Band Association Winter event on March 28th.
- Finals for Winter Guard were held on March 29th and the SHRHS Winter Guard tied for first place.
- Both SHRHS Show Choir groups, Illusion and Fantasy attended the NE Show Choir Showdown with Fantasy winning grand champions, best vocals, best choreography, best show design and best band and Illusion winning first runner up and best band.
- Student Council held a boys Powder Buff game last Tuesday March 31st
- The annual Powder Puff game will be under the lights tomorrow at 7pm
- Grades 11 & 12 were given a presentation called "Think Fast Interactive" in collaboration with the State Police to promote teen driving safety and the dangers of unsafe driving.

IX. Superintendent's Report - Steven Lamarche

Superintendent Lamarche did not have a written report but mentioned a few things:

- He attended 2 "Think Fast" presentations and thought they were very well done. They were geared towards teenagers and all the students he spoke to enjoyed the presentation.
- He attended the Dudley Charlton Education Foundation Banquet and stated it is a great fundraiser. He appreciates all the work the Dudley Charlton Education Foundation does to provide grants.
- A reminder of some important dates:
 - o School vacation is the week of April 20th – 24th
 - o Early Release Day on Friday May 22nd
 - o No School on Monday May 25th for Memorial Day
 - o Commencement is May 31st at 1:00
 - o Last day of school is Tuesday June 16th, it'll be an early release day

X. Public Comment

- Mr. Smolski from Charlton had a public service announcement:
Who will make the decisions that affect your children's schools, property taxes and the future of our Town?
This Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 10:30 am, a candidate forum will be hosted on the top floor of the Charlton library where 11 out of our 16 candidates have RSVP'd that they will attend. You have the opportunity to meet who is running for office and they will have the opportunity to tell you about their vision and answer submitted questions. You can submit questions in writing at the library during the event or in advance to the Town Moderator at Noreen.smith@townofcharlton.net

XI. New Business

A. Charlton Middle School Report – Principal Bogosh

Principal Bogosh spoke to the School Committee about the strengths of CMS as well as the areas the school needs to grow. She answered all questions from the School Committee.

B. Director of Finance & Operations Joe DeSantis:

1. FY25 End of year update

FY2025 close out is in progress, CBIZ performed the annual audit of DCRSD financial statements. Excess & Deficiency certification is in process for finalization with certified results expected in the coming days.

2. Solar Project Status-Shepherd Hill

DCRSD is awaiting the results of the Group Study being performed by National Grid to ensure interconnectivity approval. DCRSD has locked in federal tax credits in relation to this program. This Group Study is estimated to be completed in 2027.

3. FY26 Green Communities Grant

In August 2025, the Town of Charlton was awarded Green Communities Grant funding by the Department of Energy. Of the \$219,730 grant awarded, the Town of Charlton has provided DCRSD \$101,060 in support of weatherization measures at CES. These projects were completed March 9, 2026 and included, replacement window seals & gaskets, replacement door seals & gaskets, and spray foam insulation in the gym.

4. Fire Panel Upgrade-Charlton Elementary

The fire alarm panel at CES is the final project to be completed from the projects identified and funded by the Capital Project Bond of 2024. The project is currently available to bidders, with the general bid deadline being April 22, 2026 at 11am.

5. FY27 IBNR (incurred but not reported) insurance requirement of DOR update

The Division of Local Services within the MA Department of Revenue released new guidance February 2026 within bulletin "BUL-2026-2" pages 3 and 8, in relation to IBNR, Receivables & Payables, and Fund Deficits, specifically how these figures are to be reported for Self-Insured Trust Funds in relation to Health Benefits. DCRSD will stay active to ensure we remain in regulatory compliance and track any fund deficit continuously in preparation.

C. School Choice 2026-2027 School Year – Steven Lamarche

Superintendent Lamarche recommended the School Committee approve 228 school slots for grades 5-12.

J. Costello entertained a motion for participation into the School Choice Program for grades 5-12 not to exceed 228 slots.

A motion by A. Aube, seconded by K. Szela to approve the participation into the School Choice program for grades 5-12, not to exceed 228 slots passed unanimously.

J. Costello

M. Chickering

C. Carmignani

K. Szela

J. Dell'Ovo

A. Aube

C. Panczyk

- D. Enrollment of DCRSD Staff students per agreements [26-27] – Steven Lamarche
Annually the DCRSD School Committee votes to approve the enrollment of students of DCRSD staff members per their agreements. There are 14 students enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year.
Superintendent Lamarche recommended the following motion by the School Committee: To approve enrollment requests of DCRSD staff in accordance with applicable employment agreements for the 2026-2027 school year.

A motion by A. Aube, seconded by C. Carmignani to approve enrollment requests of DCRSD staff in accordance with applicable employment agreements for the 2026-2027 school year passed unanimously.

J. Costello	J. Dell'Ovo
M. Chickering	A. Aube
C. Carmignani	C. Panczyk
K. Szela	

- E. DCRSD SC Subcommittee updates by respective chairs
Budget & Finance Sub-Committee chair, A. Aube stated Director DeSantis has been excellent with the rolling updates outlining Circuit Breaker, END, School Choice, Cost of Utilities, Transportation, Audit Updates, and Budget Updates.

Capital Outlay Sub-Committee chair, A. Aube stated the committee has reached out to a number of personnel including the Director of Facilities and the Director of IT. The committee has walked through a number of schools, looked at safety, location of AED's, potential phones for emergency calling, Heritage School driveway lighting, MSBA applications, snow removal, ice, leaks & repairs, and heating outages.

Policy Sub-Committee chair, M. Chickering stated the committee is working on a new School Committee Member Handbook and a new AI policy.

Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee chair, C. Carmignani stated the committee is working on School transitions, Middle School Math, Student Achievement reports and going over the March Professional Development days.

- XII. Executive Session** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position **[parent litigation]** of the public body and the chair so declares, only to reconvene into regular session, to take votes if necessary, and adjourn.

A motion by C. Carmignani, seconded by A. Aube to move to Executive Session at 8:19 PM was passed unanimously by roll call.

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

A motion by A. Aube, seconded by M. Chickering to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:08 PM was passed unanimously by roll call.

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

XIII. Adjourn

A motion by K. Szela, seconded by J. Dell'Ovo to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM was passed unanimously.

J. Costello	J. Dell'Ovo
M. Chickering	A. Aube
C. Carmignani	C. Panczyk
K. Szela	

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.

Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee Goals 2025–2026

Governance and Leadership Capacity:

The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee will strengthen its governance practices and leadership capacity by building consistent systems, fostering effective communication, and deepening collaboration with students, families, and community partners.

Educational Excellence and Student Experience:

The School Committee will ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality instruction, effective educators, and enriching experiences that promote learning, engagement, and well-being.

Fiscal Responsibility and Resource Stewardship:

The School Committee will strategically align fiscal planning and resource allocation with the District's 10-Year Capital Plan to ensure financial sustainability and equitable student outcomes.

Next Meeting Dates:

School Committee Meeting: Wednesday May 13, 2026 6:30pm - SHRHS

Policy Review Subcommittee: Thursday April 9, 2026 4:00pm - District Office

Curriculum for Teaching and Learning: TBD

Capital Outlay/Safety Subcommittee: Wednesday April 29, 2026 9:00am - Video Conference

Budget and Finance Subcommittee: Wednesday April 15, 2026 10:00am - Video Conference

Executive Sessions Minutes Review: TBD

Future Agenda Items: Special Education/English Learner/504, PAES Showcase, School Councils

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- VII. Communications**
- VIII. Student Representative's Report - Hayley Phommala**
- IX. Superintendent's Report - Steven Lamarche**
- X. Public Comment**
- XI. New Business**
 - A. Charlton Middle School Report – Principal Bogosh
 - B. Director of Finance & Operations Joe DeSantis:
 - 1. FY25 End of year update
 - 2. Solar Project Status-Shepherd Hill
 - 3. FY26 Green Communities Grant
 - 4. Fire Panel Upgrade-Charlton Elementary
 - 5. FY27 IBNR (incurred but not reported) insurance requirement of DOR update
 - C. School Choice 2026-2027 School Year – Steven Lamarche
 - D. Enrollment of DCRSD Staff students per agreements [26-27] – Steven Lamarche
 - E. DCRSD SC Subcommittee updates by respective chairs
- XII. Executive Session** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position **[parent litigation]** of the public body and the chair so declares, only to reconvene into regular session, to take votes if necessary, and adjourn.
- XIII. Adjourn**

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From Our Hearts to Your Hands



A 5th Grade Community Service Learning Project
Sponsored by the Dudley Charlton Education
Foundation

The Beginning

Our retiring 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Seagrave, started this project a few years ago where students propagated spider plants and students watched them grow in the classroom. They then painted pots, made cards and gave the plants as gifts around the holidays. The Dudley PTO helped support this project.

This idea was expanded upon this fall as we had all fifth graders participate in growing one plant for a loved one and one plant for an older adult in the community. We received funding through the Dudley Charlton Education Foundation and formed a partnership with TriValley/Meals on Wheels.



Our students at work



Building our greenhouse



Observing the growth of our plants roots and leaves



Painting pots



Decorating cards and bags



Thanking our sponsors:
**Dudley Charlton
Educational Foundation**

Student Responsibilities



Learn how to cut a baby spider plant off the adult plant.



Watch the plant grow roots in a cup of water.



Measure the growth of the leaves and roots each week and record in an Observation Journal.



Paint a clay pot with decorations.



Replant the baby in soil.



Create a friendly letter/card for a family member and for a community member.



Decorate a gift bag, include growing directions, and a small measuring cup for water.

Delivery to Older Adults in our Community

- ❖ Some students chose to give their second plant to an older adult in their lives. The rule was that the adult had to be 65 years or older.
- ❖ Other students chose to give their second plant to TriValley to be delivered by Meals on Wheels volunteers for Valentines Day.



Appreciation



We had several seniors from the community reach out to our students via notecards to Dudley Middle to share their appreciation for this small act of kindness.



We also received emails from community members who had parents that received the plants and wanted us to know how much they appreciated the outreach.



Here is the thank you slideshow provided by TriValley



A Big Thank You From



to all "From Our Hearts to Your Hands"
students at Dudley Middle School
funded by Dudley Charlton Education Fund

This February, you grew
more than spider plants.
You grew smiles.



When you planted baby spider plants,
decorated pots, and carefully wrote
friendly letters, you were thinking about
someone you may never meet... an older
adult in our community.

This week, our Meals on Wheels team
delivered your gifts!

Here's what happened next...

What Is Meals on Wheels?

Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers healthy meals to older adults who have trouble cooking or leaving their homes.

Some people we serve:

- Live alone
- Have health challenges
- Cannot drive
- Do not have family nearby



Our team delivers more than just food.

We bring:

- 🍴 A healthy meal
- 👋 A friendly visit
- 😊 A quick safety check
- 💬 A moment of conversation



For many older adults, that visit might be the only one they receive all day.

That's why your plants and letters meant so much.
You didn't just give a gift.
You gave connection.



Sometimes small acts of kindness make the biggest difference!

What You Did Matters

Because of you:



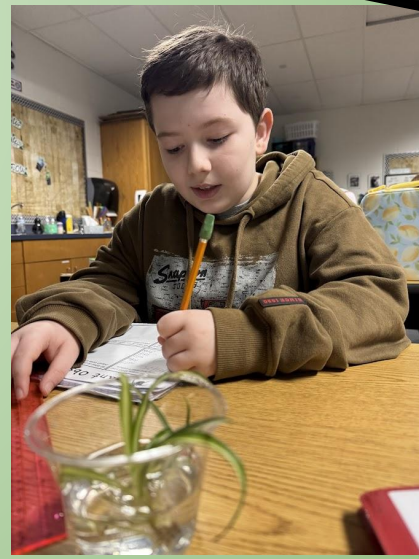
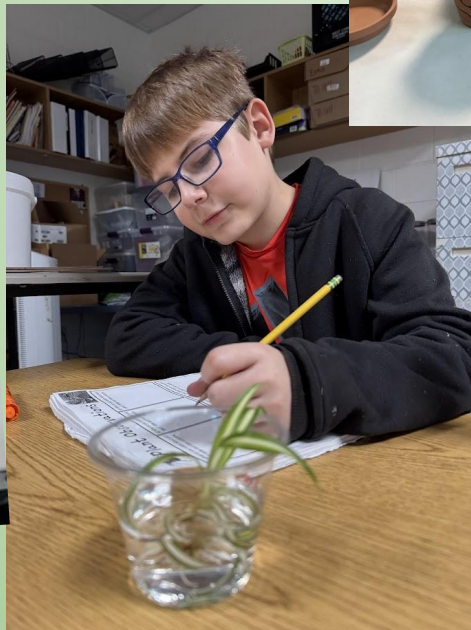
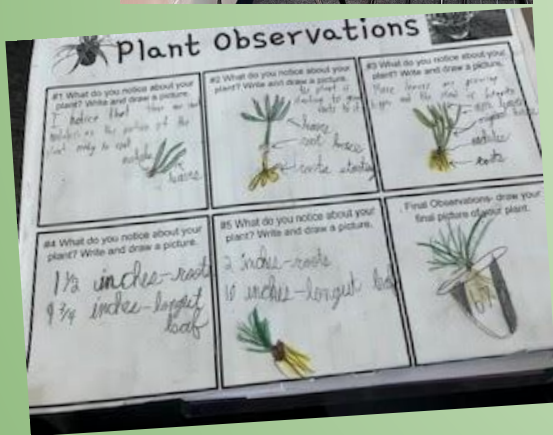
- Older adults felt remembered
 - Homes felt warmer
 - Smiles were shared across generations
- Our community grew stronger



Thank you for growing kindness.

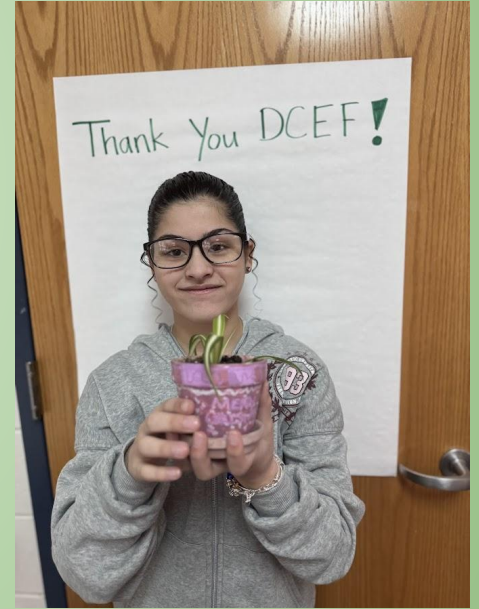


– Your friends at Tri-Valley









Next Steps

Ideas for next year to continue our partnership:

- Creating laminated placemats around the holidays. 
- Students visiting Meals on Wheels lunches at the Dudley Senior Center. 
- A newsletter 4 times a year highlighting what students are doing and learning in 5th grade, delivered with Meals on Wheels.  
- Students interviewing older adults in the community and turning their answers into a biography.  

<i>DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</i>

TO: School Committee

FROM: Joseph DeSantis - Director of Finance & Operations

DATE: April 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Finance Director Update

-
- 1. FY25 Fiscal Year Close Out Update:** FY2025 close out is in process. CBIZ performed the FY2025 annual audit of DCRSD financial statements, with resulting FY2025 Financial Statements to be issued subsequent to Audit testing results. Excess & Deficiency certification (E&D) is in process for finalization, with certified results expected in the coming days. The final certified figure will be disseminated as soon as it's received.
 - 2. Solar Project Status-Shepherd Hill:** DCRSD is awaiting the results of the Group Study being performed by National Grid to ensure interconnectivity approval. DCRSD has already locked in federal tax credits in relation to this program, if and when the interconnectivity study is completed and approved. It's still estimated that the Group Study will be completed in 2027. Further updates will be provided as they become available.
 - 3. FY26 Green Communities Grant:** In August 2025, the Town of Charlton was awarded Green Communities Grant funding by the Department of Energy. Of the total grant award of \$219,730, the Town of Charlton has very generously provided to DCRSD \$101,060 of these funds, or 46%, in support of weatherization measures at Charlton Elementary School. The weatherization projects were completed the week of March 9th, 2026, and included replacement of window seals and gaskets, replacement of door seals and gaskets, and spray foam insulation within the gym. We anticipate these projects to have an immediate positive impact on energy efficiency. DCRSD would like to sincerely thank the town leadership of Charlton for providing us with this grant opportunity.
 - 4. Charlton Elementary School Fire Panel Update:** The fire alarm panel at Charlton Elementary is the final project yet to be completed of the projects identified and funded

by the Capital Project Bond of 2024. The pre-bid walkthrough was performed March 30th, 2026. The project is currently available to bidders, with the general bid deadline being April 22nd, 2026 at 11am. DCRSD will provide a summary of pricing sheets and a recommendation of awarded vendor once the bids are collected. Replacement of the fire panel is slated to commence late June 2026 after school is out, and final completion mid-August prior to school beginning for the 2026-2027 year.

5. **FY27 IBNR-DOR Reporting Guidance:** The Division of Local Services within the Massachusetts Department of Revenue released new guidance in February 2026 within bulletin “BUL-2026-2”, pages 3 and 8, in relation to IBNR, Receivables & Payables, and Fund Deficits, specifically how these figures are to be reported for Self-Insured Trust Funds in relation to Health Benefits. The full language is detailed below. We’re actively working to confirm whether or not, as part of MSHG, DCRSD will be subject to this regulation. DCRSD will stay active to ensure we remain in regulatory compliance and track any fund deficit continuously in preparation.

“Self-Insurance Trust Funds

Municipalities with a self-insurance trust fund for health-related benefits must report IBNR on the Internal Service Combining balance sheet submitted for free cash certification. If there is a working deposit receivable, we will deduct this amount from the Unreserved Fund Balance.

Deficits in the FY2027 Unreserved Fund Balance of any self-insurance trust fund are a reduction to free cash and must be raised on the FY2028 tax rate recap or provided for from an available fund prior to setting the FY2028 tax rate.

If the June 30, 2026 claims trust fund balance is in deficit, the deficit must be provided for (1) in a city or town by appropriation or by raising it on the Tax Rate Recap as an Other Amount to be Raised or (2) in a regional school district by providing for it in the FY2027 regional school district budget. The Bureau will notify DESE of any regional school district deficit. Any deficit in a city or town will result in a reduction to its certified free cash and in a regional school district, a reduction to its certified excess and deficiency amount.

Communities with a self-insurance fund must record on the balance sheet for the fund both the warrants payable and IBNR amounts as of June 30, 2026. Any undesignated fund balance deficit which may result, after being offset by the working deposit, must be raised on the current year’s tax rate recap. If the balance sheet for free cash certification is not submitted to the Division of Local Services before the setting of the tax rate, this deficit must be disclosed on the Accountant’s Letter in Lieu of Balance Sheet.”



Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
68 Dudley-Oxford Road
Dudley, MA 01571

Phone: (508) 943-6888
Fax: (508) 943-1077
www.dcrsd.org

Steven M. Lamarche
Superintendent of Schools

Kelly A. True
Assistant Superintendent
for Teaching and Learning

Heather M. Harriman
Director of Pupil Personnel
Services

Joseph J. DeSantis
Director of Finance and
Operations

MaryEllen Cerbone
Director of Human Resources

TO: DCRSD School Committee
FROM: Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent
CC: Joseph DeSantis, Director of Finance and Operations
DATE: April 08, 2026
SUBJECT: Annual Approval of Participation in the School Choice Program

Annually the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee votes to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program. We recommend the continued participation in the School Choice Program for students grades 5-12. This requires a vote of the School Committee and I respectfully ask for a favorable vote for participation in the School Choice Program grades 5-12 not to exceed 228 slots.

Below is information to help support a favorable vote, but I kindly request a vote for the overall number as the school Principals manage the School Choice Program in their respective schools within established School Committee class size parameters.

School Choice Working Chart 2026-2027										
	SY2025-2026							SY2026-2027 total		
	CMS	Current	DMS	Current	SHRHS	Current	Total per grade	CMS	DMS	SHRHS
Grade 5	5	148	4	126			9			
Grade 6	5	150	8	124			13	48	40	
Grade 7	8	164	8	146			14			
Grade 8	8	164	8	147			17			
Grade 9					44	248	44			
Grade 10					18	203	18			
Grade 11					26	229	26			140
Grade 12+					26	249	26			
Current	26	626	27	543	114	929	167	48	40	140
										228

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche



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TO: DCRSD School Committee
FROM: Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent
CC: Joseph DeSantis, Director of Finance and Operations
DATE: April 08, 2026
SUBJECT: Annual Approval of DCRSD Staff Student Enrollment per Agreements

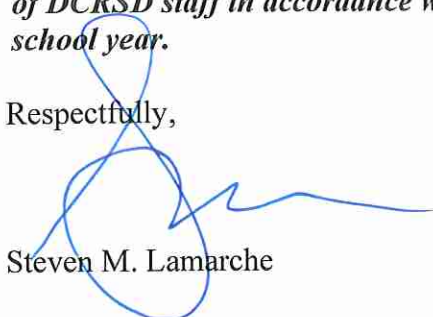
Annually the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee votes to approve the enrollment of students of DCRSD staff members per their agreements. We have reviewed all requests for enrollment in the 2026-2027 school year and support a positive vote this evening.

We have **14** enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year.

CES Grade 1 - 1
MRS Grade K - 1
HES Grade 2 - 1
HES Grade 3 - 2
DES Grade 4 - 1
CMS Grade 5 - 2
CMS Grade 6 - 1
CMS Grade 8 - 2
DMS Grade 7 - 1
SHRHS Grade 9 - 2
TOTAL: 14

I recommend the following motion by the School Committee: ***To approve enrollment requests of DCRSD staff in accordance with applicable employment agreements for the 2026-2027 school year.***

Respectfully,


Steven M. Lamarche