



Chelmsford School Department School Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

Email Posting to townclerk@townofchelmsford.us Thank you.

Filed with Town Clerk:

As required by G.L. c. 30 A, §18-25

DATE: Tuesday August 18, 2020 TIME: 6:00 p.m. ROOM: Conf. Room 1

PLACE: CPS Central Administration Office ADDRESS: 230 North Road

The Chelmsford School Committee intends to conduct an in-person meeting on the date and time specified, however all public participation will take place remotely, not in-person. The meeting is not open to the public for in-person participation. The meeting will be live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia for interested community members to access and watch. Interested community members may e-mail Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jay Lang, at langj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us prior to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 18, 2020 to be recognized to provide remote public input under the public participation portion(s) of the agenda via a GoToMeeting link that will be provided.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR OPENING STATEMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of July 28, 2020
2. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 4, 2020

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD NEWS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The School Committee will hear from members of the public on items listed under New Business on the posted agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Return-to-School Planning Update
 - a. CPS Learning Plan Adoption: Hybrid Learning Model
 - i. Bargaining with Employee Unions – ongoing
 - ii. 2020/21 School Calendar – to be amended
 - b. Communication of Plan Options and Parent/Student Preference Selection Timeline
 - c. Community/Parent Information Sessions

- d. Special Populations Programming Update
 - e. Student Transportation Registration Update
 - f. Community Education Childcare Programs
2. Update on 1:1 Technology Initiative Implementation
 3. Update on CPS Website Redesign
 4. School Committee Self Evaluation Process - discussion
 5. School Committee & Superintendent Goals - discussion
 6. School Committee Policy Updates
 7. Executive Session: M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21(a)(3) - The Chelmsford School Committee provides public notice of its intent to convene in 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 of the public body and the chair so declares.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The School Committee will hear from members of the public on general matters of education interest.

ADJOURNMENT

CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
July 28, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Donna Newcomb (Vice Chair), Mr. Jeff Doherty (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Maria Santos

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance).

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Opening Statement

“Tonight’s meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. Although we are not allowing for in-person public participation, interested community members are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to Superintendent Lang if they would like to participate remotely under the public input portion of our meeting. During our public input session anyone who has joined us through the *gotomeeting* platform and expressed interest in making a comment will be recognized by the Superintendent and allowed to speak with The Committee. If anyone watching this meeting live has questions or comments to share they are encouraged to email one of us during the meeting. We will read those questions or comments during our second public input session at the end of the meeting.”

The Chair feels that many viewers are tuning in to receive updates on the school reopening plans. Tonight information will be shared concerning the reopening committees who have been meeting for the past few weeks and continue to meet to discuss the three different options for reopening the schools this fall: in-person; hybrid; and remote models. Other committees are focusing on special education services, facilities and communication strategies. The work will be wrapping up this week and be presented to The Committee at the meeting on August 4th. The Committee will then discuss and decide on the best option for the Chelmsford Public Schools.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of July 7, 2020**

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 7, 2020. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that work is being done on plans!

Public Comments

Lauren Cochran spoke regarding an email she had sent to The Committee concerning integrating anti-racist materials into the curriculum. She is hoping that anti-racist books, literature, films (which are part of the District’s Professional Development offerings) may become required for all students K through 12.

She would like to see a timeline for this. She wonders if outside speakers may be coming to the district to work on professional development on these topics, which can be difficult for many to discuss. She would like assurance that there is follow up on this "important" topic.

Emily Sloane shared with Dr. Lang her question which he read aloud. "DESE has indicated that special education in pre-school students should be prioritized for in-person learning to accommodate their complex needs." She would like confirmation from Chelmsford that this is being considered for both CHIPS and Lions Pride learning. Additionally, she would like to know if Lions Pride day care will be open full-time. Students this age often are not able to benefit from remote options.

Laurie Grant wants to know if the district has considered the number of families who may use the Families First Coronas Virus Act to take a paid leave of absence due to the closure of their children's schools. In this case, the parents are responsible for their own children's remote learning. Do we have how many of these teachers may not be able to work five days a week. Will schools be able to open without them in attendance? Since Chelmsford's plan will not be sent to DESE until August 10th, will that allow enough time to address the changes that may take place? Dr. Lang stated that these situations have been considered and details will be shared in the reopening plan.

Rachel Donovan shared with Dr. Lang that she wonders if outreach about reopening schools has included people of color in the conversation. Has the outreach been multi-lingual? What about outreach to low-income households who may not have access to social media or the district's website?

The Chair stated that additional emails received during tonight's meeting will be shared during the second public session of the meeting.

Ms. Newcomb shared an email that wonders how the forthcoming plan will address households with two working parents (one of whom is an essential worker). The second parent works from home and is not able to spend hours of the day on the children's education. There are three elementary school children in the family. What will be the district's commitment to supporting families like these in the learning process?

Ms. Santos will share her email during the appropriate part of tonight's agenda.

New Business

1. 2019/2020 Superintendent's Evaluation

Tonight's agenda packet contains the evaluation summary with the overall ratings for Dr. Lang along with each Committee member's evaluation in the four standards and a statement about Dr. Lang's achievements for this past year. Also included are comments and suggestions made by individual Committee members. The Chair read the evaluation aloud. The overall rating was "proficient". Specifically, in the standard of Instructional Leadership, the rating was also "proficient". The rating for Management and Operations was "exemplary". In Family and Community Engagement the rating was also "exemplary". The rating for professional culture was also "proficient". The Chair also read the summary which is included in tonight's agenda packet. Members of the Committee shared supportive comments for how Dr. Lang handled such a challenging school year!

Ms. Newcomb moved to accept the overall summative performance evaluation for the superintendent for the 2019/2020 school year as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

2. Final FY20 End-of-Year Budget Report, Adjustments and Transfers

Included in tonight's packet is the year-to-date budget report of our 61-million-dollar budget, as well as the balances in the grant and revolving funds and the student activity accounts for CHS and the two middle schools. Ms. Johnson-Collins included details on the budget in tonight's agenda and shared the overview with The Committee during the meeting.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve FY2020 local operating budget transfers totaling \$ 707,148 from twenty-four favorable DESE Categories to the nine DESE Categories noted above. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Dr. Lang thanked Ms. Johnson-Collins and her department.

3. Student Activity Account Audit Report: Chelmsford High School

Ms. Johnson-Collins discussed the contents of the audit report, which can be found on the District's website. The auditors made three recommendations for improvement. Ms. Johnson-Collins and Dr. Lang responded to questions from The Committee.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to accept the report provided by Powers and Sullivan regarding the student activities funds at Chelmsford High School for years ending 2018 and 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

4. Parent Survey Results: Remote Learning

In addition to his memorandum concerning the survey, Dr. Lang has also included the Power Point showing the survey results which he had shared at the last meeting. There is also a compilation/summary of the numerous additional comments that were received when the survey was taken. The feedback will be used to guide future remote learning when it is needed in the District. The data has also been shared with the working groups who are addressing the plans for the reopening of schools. All this data is included in tonight's agenda packet.

5. Personnel Report: June 2020

No action required.

Dr. Lang shared that hiring for the upcoming school year is going well.

6. Return-to-School Planning

Dr. Lang shared that the next meeting on August 4th will include information on the different options for reopening schools. The working groups were charged by DESE with looking at three options: full return to school; full remote learning option; and hybrid options. The three options need to be presented to DESE by August 10th. Soon after a decision will be made for the fall. DESE has given the local school districts control over their individual reopening plans. The final decision will be made by The School Committee. Dr. Lang believes the final decision will come during the next two weeks. Guidance from The State has been generated each week to assist the districts with their plans. All stakeholders were encouraged to participate in the five working groups. Due to an overwhelming response there were more volunteers than needed, so people not assigned to one of the groups were able to participate in several forums. These sessions were recorded and are available for viewing on the CPS website. The focus for the groups were: personnel; communications; teaching and learning (with sub groups examining the three opening

options); special populations; and facilities and operations. The recommendations of the working groups will be shared with The Committee by the end of this week and the public will be informed and updated through the process. Dr. Lang thanked all who participated and committed so much of their time to the task. A survey was conducted for the staff by the teacher's union. Once the three options are submitted to DESE, The Committee will reach to the union for additional input to help with the fine-tuning going forward. The Committee will have administration and union input before the final adoption of one of the plans. Dr. Lang will resume sending out his weekly updates to parents and will include information about the reopening of school plans going forward.

7. Updates:

a. Diversity and Equity

Dr. Hirsch included a memorandum in tonight's packet providing information on curriculum reviews by both the social studies and ELA departments, staff book clubs, recommended reading lists, and professional development all to address anti-racism, diversity and bias. Additionally, graduate level courses on civics and UDL continue to be offered to staff through a collaboration between The District and Fitchburg State. Dr. Hirsch looks forward to other departments continuing this work.

Dr. Lang, along with Dr. Hirsch met with a group of recent alumni from CHS and discussed their experiences at CHS regarding inclusiveness and the curriculum. The group meeting was productive and future meetings will be planned. Ms. Newcomb has attended Zoom meetings with these former students and was impressed. Ms. Santos would like to see a program like that offered by the Anti-Defamation League called "The World of Differences Institute" offered to district staff.

b. 2020/21 Student Enrollment

Dr. Lang shared that kindergarten enrollment is up to 373 students. Decisions will be made concerning the number of kindergarten classes needed when the reopening schools' model has been approved. At that time parents of kindergarten children will be surveyed again to determine the exact number of K students who will be attending our schools this fall.

c. 2020/2021 Student Transportation Registration

Guidance from The State requires all students, of all ages, who ride the school bus will be required to wear a mask while on the bus. This includes staff. There will only be one student to a bus seat with alternating seats. Students who live in the same household may share seats with on another. Whenever possible bus windows should be open for fresh air to circulate. Busses that could accommodate 77 students last year will be limited to 25 students per bus. A diagram of bus seating is included in tonight's packet with the memorandum from Dr. Lang.

Dr. Lang asks that families who are able provide transportation **other than the school bus**, please do so.

Dr. Lang is also recommending to The Committee that transportation for this year or during the COVID pandemic only provide bus transportation to those students to whom it is legally mandated to do so. Students in grades 7 – 12 and K – 6 who live less than two miles from school will need to provide their own transportation to and from school. Families who will need to provide their own transportation who have already paid for bus transportation for the upcoming year will be reimbursed. Ms. Santos shared many concerns she has already received about bus transportation for this school year. She worries that some of the special needs' population, who really benefit by direct instruction in school, will not be able to transport their children and will opt for remote learning with no physical days in school.

Ms. Newcomb recommends that the School Committee, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 68, provides transportation only to students in kindergarten through grade six who reside two or more miles from their assigned school for the 2020/2021 school year. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb recommends that the School Committee fully refund families who have registered for transportation for the school year 2020/2021. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Dr. Lang will reach out to families for clarification purposes.

d. Chelmsford High School Graduation

Graduation has been cleared to take place on Saturday, August 8, 2020. Details were provided by Principal Murray and reviewed by Sue Rosa from the Board of Public Health, the police chief and fire chief and all have signed off on it. The graduation will take place at Simonian Field at CHS. Mr. Doherty shared that plans are going great and that the rehearsal went well. Hand-cleaning stations will be provided. Each graduate can have two family members attend. This will be a special and extraordinary graduation, thanks to the hard work of many people!

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos wished to thank Mr. Thomas for handing out plaques to all the CHS students who participated in leadership programs this past year.

Mr. King expressed gratitude to the many parents who participated in the parent input sessions. Dr. Hirsch will be sure to post all information available on reopening schools on the website.

Action/New Items

Mr. King heard from the representatives to the State House, who were late in responding due to mail problems. They are all working hard to make sure Chelmsford gets whatever assistance is possible. Rep. Gouveia will be attending the September 15, 2020, School Committee meeting.

Public Comments

The Chair shared an email from Tara Purdington wanted to know the criteria if a case of COVID happens in school. He responded that the protocols are outlined in the DESE guidelines.

Erica Real wanted to know if a hybrid model is chosen would students of teachers be able to attend school all five days to support the teacher's ability to return to work. She also wonders about Community Education and before and after school care. She wonders how school district will support cohorts in remote learning.

Dr. Lang said that these issues would be addressed during the next two School Committee meetings. He received an email concerning teachers who teach outside of Chelmsford, but whose own children attend our public schools. Would their children be able to attend school in Chelmsford full-time? The State is looking into these situations, so Chelmsford will await the forthcoming guidelines. Dr. Lang has been on vacation but will respond to these emails when he returns.

Hanna Barker wanted to be sure that the social emotional health of the teachers is considered as well as those of the students.

Adjournment (8:44 p.m.)

Ms. Newcomb recommends that The Committee adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and to not return. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Executive Session: M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) – The Chelmsford School Committee provides public notice of its intent to convene in 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 of the public body or the chair so declares.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio*

CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 4, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Donna Newcomb (Vice Chair), Mr. Jeff Doherty (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Maria Santos

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance).

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Opening Statement

“Tonight’s meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. Although we are not allowing for in-person public participation, interested community members are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to Superintendent Lang if they would like to participate remotely under the public input portion of our meeting. During our public input session anyone who has joined us through the *gotomeeting* platform and expressed interest in making a comment will be recognized by the Superintendent and allowed to speak with The Committee. If anyone watching this meeting live has questions or comments to share they are encouraged to email one of us during the meeting. We will read those questions or comments during our second public input session at the end of the meeting.”

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting which will focus on school reopening plans. The different committees have been meeting to propose three possible options of reopening schools in the fall: in-person; hybrid; and remote. Other subcommittees have discussed special education services, facilities and communication strategies which are part of the proposed three plans. Once the three plans are approved they will be submitted to The State. The School Committee will then discuss and decide on which of the three options would be best for The Chelmsford Public Schools to reopen schools soon.

Good News

Ms. Santos was excited to share that “incredible parents” who are also PTO members held a mask fundraiser led by the Harrington PTO in collaboration with Center Sports in Chelmsford and sold over \$10,000 worth of masks. A percentage of the profits is being shared with all the PTO’s. She thanks Allison Stevens and the team at Harrington School.

Public Comments

Speakers are asked to limit their comments to three minutes and to address only items on tonight’s agenda. Responses will be forthcoming when the topic comes up in the agenda.

John King, Chelmsford parent and teacher, is concerned with the data about children and COVID-19 which is changing often. An epidemiologist from Harvard has said that a hybrid model is the worst and Dr. Fauci advises no full return to schools. Mr. King believes that Chelmsford is not ready for in-person learning. The schools’ ventilation systems, he believes, will put students and staff at risk for the virus. As an educator he knows how important in-person instruction is but believes it is not safe yet.

Peter Malloy, also a teacher, echoes the sentiments of John King. *The Boston Globe* reported today that the largest daily increase in cases in Massachusetts for the last two months occurred today. Although that may not reflect the rate in Chelmsford, residents of The Town do go out to larger spaces where transmission may occur. Bringing anyone back to the school buildings is in direct violation of many of our values. He urges The Committee to opt for remote learning.

Rob Russo, a lifetime Chelmsford resident, who represents teachers and staff through the AFT, shared that The Chelmsford Public School staff is dedicated to provide the best education possible even under dire circumstances. Although the staff prefers to teach in-person, there is a great deal of anxiety around the reopening of schools. In collaborating with The District, the staff wants to make be sure the safest decision is adopted.

New Business

1. Return-to-School Planning Update

- a. Timeline for Initial and Final Plan submission to MA DESE**
- b. Review of the MA DESE Guidelines**

Dr. Lang shared the importance of completely vetting the three options for return, as during the year the model in place may need to change. The Committee is not charged with deciding during this meeting. Dr. Lang posted slides during the meeting and shared a summary document with details of the plans in tonight's agenda packet.

On June 25, 2020, DESE submitted guidance documents to The District. Working groups gathered to plan for the three options for reopening school from July 13th through July 31st. Some of these groups will continue to work for the next several weeks. On July 31st, a summary submission was sent to DESE. Monday, August 10, 2020, is the deadline for the three plans to be sent to DESE. Later in tonight's meeting The Committee may want to express which plan they favor. It is important to remember that the selected plan may have to change during the school year to meet the safety concerns.

- c. Review of the Working Groups' Plans (In-person, Hybrid and Remote Learning Options)**

Dr. Hirsch shared that the three subgroups for teaching and learning work closely with the other groups like "facilities", "special populations", "communications" and "personnel". She shared slides which included details about the process. You may view the slides by watching tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube. Parents were well represented in all the groups as were Committee members. Meetings were held virtually and in-person. Over 70 parents were included in a forum on "teaching and learning" which provided feedback to be shared with the Working Groups.

Dr. Hirsch presented the "In-person Learning Model" first. This would offer instruction in-school full-time in an environment that meets DESE health and safety requirements, including 3 – 6 foot spacing. This would also include a "remote" learning option for families who prefer their children learn from home. For safety reasons, students would be seated in rows and working in groups would not be allowed. Fewer transitions through the buildings would happen (they may eat lunch in the classrooms and specialists may teach in the classroom instead of in the gym, art room, music room or library) and outdoor learning would be encouraged when possible. The students would be assigned to a cohort and stay with that group. To provide more distance between students, alternate spaces would be used for instruction like the cafeteria and the library.

She then shared the “Hybrid Model” where students would alternate between in-person learning and remote. Students who have “high needs” may need to spend more time in school to receive needed services. The fully remote model is still available for parents who prefer their children learn at home. Each week one fully remote day will allow for teachers to connect with students needing more support and would provide time for PD for staff. Students will still be in cohorts and would remain with that group. Self-management and parental support are necessary for this model to be effective.

Dr. Hirsch then moved to the “Remote Model” which will mean learning full-time online and at home. The standards for learning are the same. Special services will be delivered and technology support with the Google platform will be provided. It is possible that “remote learning” would be necessary if there are increases in the COVID rates. The curriculum will be digitized for easy access. It also makes learning accessible for students who need to be absent from in-person learning for periods of time (i.e. during a need to quarantine). There will be a set schedule for remote learning hours. Expectations and grades would be consistent.

Dr. Lang mentioned that the six-foot distance between students should be followed even with a full return to in-person learning. The facilities working group was charged with maintaining this distance in the classroom settings. Dr. Lang’s belief is that this requirement would make a full in-person return to school impossible and he would take that option off the table now. He is aware that day care issues will need to be considered if a full in-person model does not happen. The Hybrid and Remote models would also present day care challenges. The DESE guidelines ask that students are limited in moving about the schools even when it is time to go to a specialist room (art, music, gym, and library). Even in the Hybrid model, the day may be shortened with only academics being addressed during the time they are physically in school. For elementary students, they may leave school early and go home for lunch and then see their UA specialists in the afternoon remotely. This will look different at the middle and high school levels. Since the classes are more leveled in middle and high school, it will be difficult to keep cohorts together. Union negotiations will play a role in what path is taken. DESE is reducing the number of required student days from 180 to 170. The school calendar will be revised, and students will not be in school the week before Labor Day. Dr. Lang also does not believe the traditional before and after school day care will be offered through the public schools due to necessary safety concerns. An effort will be made to coordinate the students whose families choose “Remote” with the staff members who need to teach remotely due health conditions that put them at high-risk of contracting COVID-19.

Committee members brought up concerns and questions about the three options. Mr. Moses asked if The State would be providing the curriculum for remote learning. Dr. Lang said that has not been determined. Some smaller districts in Massachusetts may need that support. Chelmsford would not need this. Ms. Newcomb wanted to know the condition of the ventilation systems in our schools. How is air quality determined? How do we regulate the air quality to get the maximum learning experience? She would also like to know what the new cleaning protocols are. Dr. Lang stated that extra costs will be needed for both the Hybrid and In-person models. Ms. Santos asked about the technology plan for Hybrid or Remote. Dr. Lang and Mr. Silver have talked about this. If the District goes to Remote for an extended period, the Chromebook carts in the buildings could be broken down and devices given to those who need them. Additionally, there are iPads that might be given to the students in the lower elementary grades. Dr. Lang shared that he and Mr. Silver have applied for a technology grant and should hear about it soon. The District’s goal is to provide a device to every student who needs one. Ms. Santos stressed the importance of the remote learners (especially the younger ones) of having the same device as the teacher, thus allowing the teacher to assist them when they are not sure which key to press on their device. She wants to be sure that technology support will be readily available to the families and that training takes place for students and parents to use the platform of choice (for example Google Classroom). Decisions on the provision of meals for the students will vary depending on the option in place and the relevant schedules. Guidance and funding will hopefully come from The State. It is possible that The State would provide funding to feed all students. Some of the students who need more time in school than two days per week may be able to attend up to four days to provide the services they require.

In response to a question from Mr. Moses, Dr. Lang said that Sue Rosa from the Chelmsford Public Health Department would be monitoring cases of COVID-19 and contact tracing, as well as determining who will need to quarantine. A future public meeting will be held with the medical professionals to provide protocols on how cases of the virus in schools would be handled. Regarding substitute teachers, Dr. Lang stated that paras and specialists may be paired with teachers and would sub if the primary teacher was staying home due to illness. Another possibility would be to hire subs who would be specific to sub in just one school for five days a week, so they would not be subbing anywhere else.

Surveys will be done soon to determine which students and staff would chose the Hybrid Model and which would prefer he Remote Model. AFT conducted a staff survey yesterday. Details still need to be worked out on how education would be provided for high-risk students. A lengthy discussion followed around how to keep students as safe as possible, while still meeting their right to an education as well as the impact on social and emotional issues from lengthy periods of quarantine at home.

Ms. Newcomb motioned for The School Committee remove the full return to school option for the September opening of 2020. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

The Committee decided to schedule a meeting on August 10, 2020, for further discussion. By that time the completed facilities' report and special education report will be made available to The Committee from the working groups. Dr. Lang will work on the surveys for the families and staff. He will also begin discussions with HR concerning the staff. Even if the Remote option is chosen for the beginning of school, Dr. Lang believes the classrooms in the schools will be safe for teachers to teach from there and have the technology and materials they will need to teach. This was not possible in the spring because no access to the buildings was allowed.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Mr. Doherty shared that Alumni Hall of Fame dinner has been postponed and will not take place in September.

Action/New Items

Today the high school graduation was changed from in-person to virtual. This will take place Friday night and Saturday they will be able to come to CHS to pick up diplomas, yearbooks, etc.

The Chair stated that MASC sent out a revised emergency policy. He would like members to review it, so a vote may be taken soon.

Mr. Moses asked if parents of students who are eligible to ride the bus to school, prefer to drive their children. He thanked Michelle Tang, a parent, for this suggestion. The hope is that this might make seats available to others who do not qualify but are not able to bring their children to school. Her suggestion was echoed by other parents in The District.

Ms. Johnson-Collins stated that she is working with the accountant for The Town on a plan to refund the bus money to families who paid, but do not now qualify for the transportation. She expects the refunds to go out by the end of August or early September.

Public Comments

(emailed to the Chair during tonight's meeting)

The Chair received 22 emails which he plans to summarize and send to the other Committee members:

Colleen Gianino wants to know if a new survey will be sent out to parents.

Emily Sloan is concerned about students who will need in-person services.

Lori Grant is in favor of the two-two Hybrid Model.

Lauren Romano asked about live-streaming of lessons under the hybrid model. She would also like access to pick up materials at school before school begins.

Megan Keough is concerned about the lack of socialization if the Remote Model is selected. She would like to know to if some of the specialized courses at CHS would need to be cut.

Katie Draper asks what standards would indicate that the pandemic is under control. She is concerned about working parents who may be asked to also facilitate learning at home.

Carrie Lucia asked if parents may change the model they have chosen during the school year. How would cohorts be arranged at CHS with students taking different courses? What is the protocol if someone in school tests positive?

Allie Barnes asked if the teachers will be cleaning the rooms while students are there. She also asked about the air filters for the circulation systems. In the Hybrid Model would staff be teaching in person and remotely simultaneously? Will parents of students who require special services be contacted once a plan is decided? Parents would like answers as soon as possible.

Tanya Ponte asked how CHIPS will work.

Chris LaValley also asked if teachers will teach in both Hybrid and Remote classes at the same time.

Jessica LaRoche asked if paraprofessionals would be assigned to work with individual students to meet the requirements of the IEP for one-on-one services.

Dan Tang suggests that the Hybrid Model might be better if each cohort attends school for a four-day week, rather than two days.

Katie Koocher wants to know if the start of the school year will be delayed. Dr. Lang said school will not start prior to Labor Day. A new school calendar will be forthcoming.

Amy Marcotte would like to have parents take another survey once the model is selected.

Amy Malloy wonders if the cohorts could be based on neighborhoods to facilitate transportation.

Adam Felzani requests information about the "opt out" option. Would just one teacher be dedicated to those remote learners?

Peter Malloy is concerned that any model which has students in the school building would make the virus more easily spread.

Tara Purdington wonders if kindergarten will be full day in the Hybrid Model.

Hana Barker requests that the Power Point slides from tonight be added to the agenda packet or to the website. Dr. Lang will do that tomorrow.

Ann Waters said that some CHS courses which are highly specialized will be difficult to teach remotely.

Teresa McCann would like to know what it will take to be able to open schools fully.

Responses to these questions will be addressed at the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Lang also received emails.

Antonio Tuscoso would like more information on the hybrid models.

Some parents would like the bus transportation issue discussed further.

The Chair will create a Google document in which he will place these questions and others that arise.

Adjournment (8:20 p.m.)

Ms. Newcomb motioned to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and not return to open meeting. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Executive Session: M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) – The Chelmsford School Committee provides public notice of its intent to convene in 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 of the public body or the chair so declares.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio*

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Memorandum

To: Members of the School Committee
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Date: August 17, 2020
Re: Return to School Planning Update

On Friday August 14, 2020, I sent a district-level communication, a copy of which is attached, to parents with a link to the learning model selection form to be completed for their child(ren) to begin the 2020/21 school year. Parents received a separate e-mail communication containing the local student identification number of their child(ren) required to be entered on the preferred learning model selection form. I asked that parents complete the form as soon as possible, however not later than Friday August 21, 2020.

As of 3:00 p.m. on Monday August 17, 2020 we received just over 2,400 responses on the form to obtain each parents' decision on which learning model they select for their child(ren) to begin the 2021/21 school year. This information is important to guide our personnel decisions over the coming weeks.

I will be hosting parent/community information sessions later this week on the elements of the hybrid and remote learning options available to address recently shared questions to assist parents with the selection process. The information sessions will be held remotely as follows:

- Thursday August 20, 2020 7:00 p.m.
- Friday August 21, 2020 9:00 a.m.

Amy Reese, Director of Student Support Services, has compiled a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document pertaining to special education, 504, and English language learner services offered under the hybrid and remote learning models. A copy of the FAQ is attached. I have invited Ms. Reese to join us remotely at the school committee meeting to review the FAQ and answer questions.

Joanna Johnson-Collins, Director of Business and Finance, has provided an update on student transportation. Based upon the number of registered riders at this time, I am comfortable recommending to the school committee that we expand the eligible riders to include students in grades K – 6 who reside under two (2) miles from their assigned

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

school and who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. This is a quantifiable high needs student population and transportation to/from school is prohibitive to in-person instruction. We will review the data and discuss this recommendation Tuesday evening at the regular school committee meeting.

Robyn Adams, Director of Community Education, has provided an update on community education programs under the hybrid and remote learning models, including the plan for before/after school childcare, Lions Den and Lions Pride PreSchool. A copy of the memo is attached.

From: [CPS Superintendent](#)
To: [Lang, Jay](#)
Subject: Important Message: Student Learning Model Selection
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 3:44:43 PM

A message from CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents,

Below please find a link to a very important communication pertaining to the reopening of the Chelmsford Public Schools for the 2020/21 school year. A link to the learning model selection form for your child to begin the school year may be found at the end of the communication. You will receive a separate e-mail communication this afternoon from the Chelmsford Public Schools containing the local student identification number of your child(ren) that is required to be entered on the preferred learning model selection form. Please complete this form as soon as possible, however not later than Friday August 21, 2020. I look forward to reviewing your response.

Yours truly,

Jay Lang, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Link to SMORE Communication & Parent Survey: <https://www.smore.com/nxy08-cps-fall-2020-school-reopening>

CPS Learning Model Selection Form

Given the information provided on the Hybrid Learning Model, and with the understanding that CPS will be adhering to all of the recommended guidelines for the safe reopening of schools, please select the learning option for your child for the start of the 2020/21 school year. You are committing to your selection for at least the first quarter/term of the 2020/21 school year.

If you have multiple children that attend CPS, please complete a separate survey for each child.

*** Required**

Student Identifier (LASID)

This is a 9 digit number typically beginning with "5500"

1. Please enter the local student identification number (LASID) of your child: *

Student and Parent Information

2. Child's First Name: *

3. Child's Last Name: *

4. First Name of Parent completing this form: *

5. Last Name of Parent completing this form: *

6. E-Mail Address of Parent completing this form: *

School Selection

7. My child would/will be attending the following school for the start of the 2020/21 school year: *

Mark only one oval.

- CHIPs PreSchool Program *Skip to question 8*
- Byam Elementary School *Skip to question 9*
- Center Elementary School *Skip to question 9*
- Harrington Elementary School *Skip to question 9*
- South Row Elementary School *Skip to question 9*
- McCarthy Middle School *Skip to question 10*
- Parker Middle School *Skip to question 10*
- Chelmsford High School *Skip to question 11*

Grade Level Selection (PK)

8. My child is entering the following grade level for the start of the 2020/21 school year: *

Mark only one oval.

- PK

Skip to question 12

Grade Level Selection (K-4)

9. My child is entering the following grade level for the start of the 2020/21 school year: *

Mark only one oval.

K

1

2

3

4

Skip to question 12

Grade Level Selection (5-8)

10. My child is entering the following grade level for the start of the 2020/21 school year: *

Mark only one oval.

5

6

7

8

Skip to question 12

Grade Level Selection (9-12)

11. My child is entering the following grade level for the start of the 2020/21 school year: *

Mark only one oval.

9

10

11

12

Skip to question 12

Hybrid Learning Model Selection

12. Please select the learning option for your child for the start of the 2020/21 school year. You are committing to your selection for at least the first quarter/term of the 2020/21 school year. *

Check all that apply.

Option A: My child will attend in-person school 2 days each week and participate remotely 3 days each week.

Option B: My child will participate 100% remotely, no in-person schooling.

Opt out of Chelmsford Public Schools. My child will not be attending CPS for the start of the 2020/21 school year. I will enroll my child in a private/parochial school or homeschool. Please contact me to withdraw my child from CPS.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Special Populations FAQ

Special Education:

Will my child's special education services be delivered differently than described in his/her IEP?

Your child's special education support and services may be provided differently than described in your child's IEP. Your child's IEP liaison will contact families of their students as soon as possible when teachers return in the fall to discuss how your child's IEP services will be delivered if different than his/her IEP indicates. Special consideration to potential changes will focus on **how and where special education services will be provided**. Parent engagement is important when determining if and how special education services will be provided differently as a result of the changes to the overall learning environment associated with any of the three (3) models: full in-person, hybrid, or remote.

Will I receive written notification about how my child's IEP services will be provided?

Yes. Parents/guardians will receive written notification containing specific information about how IEP services will be provided in the 2020-2021 school year during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parent input is important and will be included in the documentation. A template will be sent documenting the modified in-person, remote, or hybrid services for your child. The written documentation will be similar to the remote learning plan you received last spring. If any changes or updates are made to the template during the school year, parents/guardians will be notified, and an updated plan will be sent.

Which students require priority to receive in-person services?

Students with disabilities, particularly preschool-age students and those with significant and complex needs, should be prioritized for receiving in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. These students should receive as much in-person instruction as feasible within the health and safety parameters in effect at the time.

Which special education students are considered to have significant and complex needs?

In the [Guidance on Fall 2020 Special Education Services](#) document released by DESE on July 9, 2020, students with complex and significant needs include:

- Students already identified as "high needs" through the IEP process form "Primary Disability/Level of Need-PL3." Students must meet at least two (2) of these criteria:
 - Services provided outside the general education classroom;

Special Populations FAQ

- Service providers are special education teachers and related service providers;
- Special education services constitute more than 75% of the student's school day;
- Students who cannot engage in remote learning due to their **disability-related needs**.
- Students who primarily use aided and augmentative communication.
- Students dually identified as English Learners.

Which students are considered to have complex and significant needs in the Chelmsford Public Schools?

Students who are prioritized to receive additional in-person instruction are students who attend one of the following specialized substantially separate programs in the district. These programs include:

- Elementary Autism Program – Byam Elementary School
- NECC Partner Autism Program – Parker Middle School
- NECC Partner Autism Program – Chelmsford High School
- Elementary Functional Academic Program – Center Elementary School
- Middle School Functional Life Skills Program – McCarthy Middle School
- High School PAVE Program – Chelmsford High School

What is the proposed in-person instruction for the students who attend one of the above specialized programs given the District has elected to return to school in a hybrid learning model?

The substantially separate Autism programs and the functional life skills programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will attend in-person with both hybrid cohorts (Cohorts A and B). These students will attend in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for the scheduled time of each individual school. Wednesday will be a remote learning day.

Will special education students other than those in sub-separate district programs be identified for additional in-person instruction beyond the hybrid model?

Maybe. There may be students who require additional in-person instruction. The need for additional time may be due to a variety of reasons such as, a disability-related need, lack of engagement in remote learning, or dual language learners. Decisions will be made on an individual basis through discussions with the student's special education providers.

Special Populations FAQ

What will in-person programming for students at CHIPs preschool look like?

Half-Day Program:

The special education students who attend the integrated half-day program at CHIPs will attend 4-days a week for 2-hour sessions. The integrated classes will be in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Students will be assigned to either a morning or afternoon session.

Intensive Program:

The intensive program students will attend four (4) days a week for four (4) hour sessions. The intensive classes will be in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

My child was referred for an initial special education evaluation last spring, when should I expect it to be completed?

The District has many evaluations that were due to be completed last spring. The special education team chairs will be working to complete evaluations in the order in which consent was received last spring. While the goal is to complete all evaluations as soon possible and to conduct testing and convene the initial team meeting, it will take teachers, psychologists and related service providers time to complete required assessments. You may check with the appropriate team chairperson on the status of your child's initial evaluation. Contact information is provided below:

Shawna Mottram	Chelmsford High	mottrams@chelmsford.12.ma.us
Mary Jane McArdle	McCarthy Middle Center Elementary South Row Elementary	mcardlem@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
Megan McGuirk	Parker Middle Byam Elementary Harrington Elementary	mguirkm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
Taryn Dery	Intensive Programs Byam Elementary Center Elementary Parker Middle McCarthy Middle CHIPs Preschool	deryt@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
Russell Hoyt	CHIPs Preschool	hoytr@chelmsford.k12.ma.us

Special Populations FAQ

My child was/is due for a reevaluation and I have signed the evaluation consent for the testing, when should I expect it to be completed?

The District has many reevaluations that were due last spring or are coming due this fall. The special education team chairs will be working to complete reevaluations in the order in which consent was received last spring. It will take teachers, psychologists and related service providers time to complete required assessments. You may check with the appropriate team chairperson on the status of your child's reevaluation.

My child is due for a reevaluation, do we need to complete it?

No. In some circumstances you may decide to delay or skip completing the three-year reevaluation. Please reach out to your child's liaison or team chair to discuss the circumstances of your child's case further. Given the unprecedented time with the COVID-19 pandemic, it may make sense to defer formalized reevaluation testing. Instead, the Team will hold an annual review meeting to develop a new IEP.

How will annual review, reevaluation, and initial evaluation Team meetings be held this school year?

Chelmsford will continue to prioritize team meetings by IEP dates and seek to complete all spring meetings impacted by school closure by the end of October, 2020. All Team meetings will be conducted virtually via the GoToMeeting or Google Meet platform.

Section 504

Will my child receive the accommodations outlined in his/her 504 plan?

Students who have 504 Accommodation Plans will continue to receive accommodations; although, accommodations may look different, and in some cases, not be necessary based on the service delivery model of instruction.

Social Emotional and Mental Health

What social emotional supports will be available?

Our school-based mental health providers (clinical psychologists, school counselors and school social workers) will continue to provide direct, indirect, and administrative services for students

Special Populations FAQ

and their families. Direct services include counseling (individual, small group and classroom-based developmental guidance), psychological testing, family support, and crisis intervention. In addition, they will provide consultation to teachers/teaching teams, administrators, school-based support teams, and community-based providers around student and family mental health concerns, attendance, and building social-emotional skills with students. They will also be critical liaisons to our families and staff to support our students who are in crisis situations. Our school-based mental health providers may assist families in seeking outside school mental health resources.

English Language Learners (ELL)

Are districts required to continue providing ELL services to students during a hybrid or remote learning model?

Yes, school districts in Massachusetts are required to ensure that all English Language Learners have equal access to educational opportunities and the ability to engage in continuity of learning that is rich and purposeful. Lessons will include linguistic guidance and scaffolded support to help students achieve their learning goals in a hybrid or remote learning model.

Will my child be able to attend school in-person additional days if they are a newcomer or speak little or no English?

Yes, students that are identified as SLIFE or Newcomers will have an opportunity to work with an ELL instructor in-person for additional time throughout the week.

How should the needs of ELs with disabilities be addressed to meet State regulations and best practices during remote learning or a hybrid model?

The District will provide services to ELs with disabilities in accordance with their IEPs to the extent possible. Best practices include SEI strategies, linguistic practice and scaffolds. In-person learning is a priority for students who are dually identified as English Learners and special education students.

What is the school district's obligation to provide interpretation and translation services to parents/guardians of ELs and other parents and guardians who are not proficient in English?

Language access obligations under federal and state law remain in place. The District will continue to provide interpretation and translation in the primary languages spoken in the

Special Populations FAQ

district. Interpretation and translation services will be provided through qualified translation services.

How will schools support the emotional well-being of the ELL students' during a remote or hybrid learning model?

It is critical that schools support the social emotional needs of all students. It is our responsibility to support students and families with opportunities to address the challenges that COVID-19 presents. A few examples of programs that will continue with safety protocols in place are: ELPAC parent advisory group, high school mentor program, before and after school homework help.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Memorandum

TO: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Members of the School Committee

FROM: Joanna Johnson-Collins, Director of Business & Finance

DATE: August 14, 2020

RE: Student Transportation Registration Update: 2020/21 School Year

Student Transportation Registration began June 3, 2020 and through August 13, 692 riders have registered to ride the bus. This is a lower registration number than in prior years due to only transporting students who are in Grades K-6 and live over two (2) miles from school. This smaller parameter of riders was to meet the COVID-19 guidelines for student bus transportation which was presented at the July 28, 2020 school committee meeting.

In reviewing the student transportation registration data, as well as last year's actual ridership data, there is still capacity on the busses (up to 29) to transport additional students. The recommendation is to expand the bus registration to students in grades K-6 UNDER two (2) miles who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The estimate of riders would bring the total to approximately 1,150 students. This level of riders would require 27 busses at the elementary level and 19 busses at the middle school level. There would be no bus fee charged to these riders.

Attached please find a one-page summary of the data to assist with the decision to expand the bus registration. I will review this data with you Tuesday evening at the school committee meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Transportation Summary of Riders
 2020/2021 School Year

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G E+F	A+G			2019/2020 School Year Comparison		
School	Grade K-6 students OVER 2 miles registered as of 8/13/20	Column A DOES include the # of 7th and 8th grade siblings	# of Busses at 25 students per bus	Grade K-6 students OVER 2 miles who have not registered yet	# of Free & Reduced Lunch students UNDER 2 miles who originally registered in June & July	Estimate # of Grade K-6 Additional Free & Reduced Lunch Students UNDER 2 miles who would need to register in August	Total Estimate # of Grade K-6 Free & Reduced Students UNDER two miles	Total Estimate of Riders	# of Busses at 25 students per bus	Last Year's # of Grade K-6 OVER 2 miles	Last Year's # of Grade K-6 OVER 2 miles and all F&R UNDER 2 miles	# of Busses at 25 students per bus	
Byam	135		5	?	6	39	45	180	7	197	243	10	
Center	94		4	?	14	10	24	118	5	140	164	7	
Harrington	91		4	?	13	16	29	120	5	128	161	6	
South Row	52		2	?	13	26	39	91	4	74	115	5	
Subtotal	372	0	15		46	91	137	509	20	539	683	27	
McCarthy	183	21	7	?	10	7	17	200	8	234	250	10	
Parker	137	17	5	?	4	7	11	148	6	201	217	9	
Subtotal	320	38	13		14	14	28	348	14	435	467	19	
Total	692	38		up to 320	60	105	165	857		974	1150		

FY2020 - 2019/2020 School Year

School	Total Riders	# of Busses
Byam	388	8
Center	378	7
Harrington	313	7
South Row	338	7
Subtotal	1417	29
McCarthy	688	16
Parker	573	13
Subtotal	1261	29
Sutotal Elem & M	2678	29
CHS	760	24
TOTAL RIDERS	3438	29

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Memorandum

To: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
From: Robyn Adams, Director of Community Education
Date: August 17, 2020
Re: Community Education Update

Lion's Pride: located at Westlands School will be opening for the 2020/21 school year. There are 70 students that range in ages from 18mos-entering Kindergarten in this program. This year students will be divided into more classrooms with less students to meet the new regulations. Teachers will remain with their cohort throughout the day. There are current openings in the PreK and Toddler classrooms.

Lion's Den: located at Chelmsford High School has traditionally enrolled 24 children ages 3-5 years. This program works with students enrolled in the CHS Early Childhood Development. The program will be suspended for the 2020/21 school year due to the inability to have the CHS students in the classroom.

Extended Day: traditionally offered before and after school childcare at each of the 4 elementary schools and a middle school will be suspended until CPS returns to a traditional full in-person learning format.

Adult Education: programming was successful this past spring and summer transitioning from in-person to on-line classes. On-line adult education programs will continue in the fall. Some of the most popular courses were cooking and kid's enrichment courses.

Music Lessons: private music lessons were successful this past spring and summer transitioning from in-person to on-line classes. On-line private music lessons will continue in the fall.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Memorandum

To: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

From: Bill Silver, Director of ICTS

Date: August 14, 2020

Re: 1:1 Chromebook Initiative Update

Below is the message sent to the grade 5 and 9 families pertaining to the 1:1 Chromebook initiative for the start of the 2021/21 school year.

Next week the new Empowered Digital Use Form will be sent to parents. This document details the technology policies for students and the use/care of district issued devices. Deployment dates for the new 1:1 devices will be during the week of 8/24. We will perform a drive-thru style deployment at each location (CHS, McCarthy, and Parker). In addition to the 1:1 devices, we received 450 new Chromebooks for elementary schools. These are prepared and ready to deploy. Current work includes fixing all damaged Chromebooks from the spring borrow (over 100 devices required some new parts to be brought back into working condition), and the rest of the fleet is being power washed (reformatted) and cleaned to prepare them for student use. The next steps will involve dismantling each cart and device locker to have devices for as many students as possible for the 2020-2021 school year.

We received the RLTE (Remote Learning Technology Essentials) Grant from the state. This provided us with over \$250,000 to match a purchase of Chromebooks. We have been added to the top of the waitlist for the first wave of new devices to come to distributors. The purchase will infuse the district with 2,000 new HP Chromebooks.

This summer we have set-up a new inventory and help desk platform called Incident IQ. This platform links users to devices to keep better control over our inventory process. It also allows for simple category-based ticketing for students, staff, and parents. This should help us distribute tickets more effectively and solve problems with superior efficiency. We have also updated our switching and wireless firmware to the latest revisions. This was done to ensure we continue to provide the most reliable network for our end users. The district has also added an additional 10Gig of Internet bandwidth. This will allow us to stream content to and from our users with tremendous speed, while also providing more throughput for the typical Internet functions. The CHS security project is well underway. We have added new door access control (badge swipes) to the school thanks to a \$50,000 grant which we received this spring. There will also be

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

about 100 new camera views which provide additional coverage of all areas of the school. In addition, all doors now have entry contacts which will send alerts if doors are held open, or if doors which are not commonly used are opened. This should give the school administration a much greater insight into all that is happening in and around the building. 85 new ClearTouch TVs were placed throughout the district this summer. We have now covered the 1:1 rooms at CHS, Parker, and McCarthy, and expanded use at the elementary level in grades 2-4. The VOIP phone system has also undergone an upgrade which will feature some nice tools for our users. First and foremost, we have renegotiated the contract, and the pricing has become significantly better. Users will now be able to use what is known as a “soft phone” application either on-line or on a cell phone which will allow them to make/receive/retrieve calls as if they were at their desk. This will provide our staff with a more robust and secure way to contact families even when they are away from their office. In addition, groups will be able to be configured so teams can securely chat across the platform and jump into a video call with the push of a button. In addition, we will be adding some hardware which will be aimed at controlling the flow of all VOIP traffic on the network to make the platform as reliable as possible.

[Incoming 1:1 Chromebook Initiative Message:](#)

To the Families of Students Entering Grade 5 and Grade 9:

The 2020-2021 school year will be here before we know it. Although we do not know exactly how school will look in the fall, we are preparing to implement our second year of our 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Your child(ren) will be transitioning to a new school and beginning a new leg of their educational journey. They will soon meet new teachers, new principals, new friends, and they'll use all the things they have learned so far to succeed at the next level. The transitional years always seem to create some level of stress, as students and parents think about the changes they will experience in a new building. However, these years also bring a sense of wonder and excitement, and the realization that new doors are about to open with new paths available to explore.

The Chelmsford Public Schools are gearing up to enhance that level of excitement by continuing the implementation of our 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Every student entering Grade 5 and Grade 9 will receive their own Chromebook, and they will use that device to enhance the outstanding CPS curriculum. Over the next three years, we will give devices to each new Grade 5 and Grade 9 class, until we have achieved a full 1:1 implementation in grades 5 to 12. This initiative will enrich our district's unparalleled teaching and learning with the ultimate goal of making technology an integral part of learning, teaching, communicating, and collaborating.

Over the past three years, CPS has worked hard to enhance our entire technology infrastructure to support this initiative. We have outfitted every school with the latest

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

and fastest wireless network, and this summer, we'll be enhancing our Internet bandwidth and filtering capabilities. At this point, our infrastructure can easily handle the increased number of devices and keep students and staff connected to important teaching and learning resources. We also have the capacity to filter noneducational content, regardless of where the student uses the device. Every Chromebook will check with our Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)-compliant filter to determine if a website is reachable. This protection will be active whether the student is in a classroom or at home studying. You can find out more about our Family Zone filter at the manufacturer's website, found [HERE](#).

In addition to preparing the physical environment for this initiative, our staff has been working with our technology integration specialists to build their skills with Google G-Suite for Education, blended and personalized learning, and student-centered learning methods. Student-centered learning moves students from passive receivers of information to active participants in their own discovery process. Each student's individual needs and abilities drive what they learn, how they learn it, and how their learning is assessed. Continued staff professional development and skill building will help all CPS staff to fully utilize technology in engaging and interesting ways. We will continually revisit and refine our processes to ensure that technology always fulfills its purpose of enhancing great teaching and offering students an engaging, exciting, and differentiated learning environment.

Before beginning the 1:1 initiative CPS convened a technology steering committee made up of administrators, teachers, technology staff, and parents to work on the implementation plan. Many questions about the initiative can be answered by reviewing the steering committee report. You can find the report under the PARENT menu on our website or by following this [LINK](#). Please note that the 1:1 steering committee document posted online will always contain the most up to date information. The document is intended to evolve as the 1:1 expands. The report gives a great amount of detail about the initiative. Please familiarize yourself and your student with the parent/student sign-off pages at the end of the report. Before we perform device deployment we will ask you to sign these pages. This advance notice gives families time to review and discuss student expectations for using the device before they receive it.

The final distribution plan is a work in progress. Last year we were able to deploy devices in August by having families come into buildings to pick up. At this time we are not able to plan these types of deployments, but as soon as we have updated building access information from the state we will finalize our plans and communicate with you about the deployment. In the meantime, please take some time to read through the 1:1 report. If you have questions the report doesn't answer, please send them along to the Technology Department. You can either use the online technology form on the website or email us at helpdesk@chelmsford.k12.ma.us.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to deploying this next round of devices to your child(ren) soon.

Bill Silver
Director of ICTS
Chelmsford Public Schools
230 North Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-251-5100

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Memorandum

To: Members of the School Committee
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Date: August 17, 2020
Re: CPS Website Redesign

I have invited Brian Bahia of Stellar Web Studios to join us remotely and present the work to date on the redesign of the CPS website. Samples of the wireframes are attached to provide a reference and draft concepts of his work to date.



SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION THIS FALL 2020

Here's what to expect this upcoming school year

[Learn More >>](#)

ACTION CENTER

<p>Enrollment Get your student ready for 2020 Education Complete by 8/15/20</p>	<p>Remote Learning Get your student ready for 2020 Education</p>	<p>JV Football Registration The Team is Seeking New Faces!</p>	<p>Enrollment Get your student ready for 2020 Education Complete by 8/15/20</p>
<p>Bus Route Registration Claim your child's spot on the routes</p>	<p>Yearbook Photos Get your student ready for 2020 Education Complete by 8/15/20</p>	<p>Baseball Season Join the Chelmsford Lions Baseball Team</p>	<p>Remote Automated Learning Get your student ready for 2020 Education</p>

Your email address [Register for Updates](#)

LATEST NEWS

<p>Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Teacher Develops Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3D Face Shields for Local Hospitals and Health Workers</p>	<p>Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Teacher Develops Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3D Face Shields for Local Hospitals and Health Workers</p>	<p>Aug 25, 2020 Health Two Chelmsford High School Seniors Awarded Scholarships</p>
<p>Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford High School November 2019</p>	<p>Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Schools, Groups Work on Meal Drive in Coronavirus Crisis</p>	<p>Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford High School French Students Compete and Win at</p>

NEED TO KNOW

Student Needs

- Remote Learning Resources and Information
- Sports Opportunities for 2020 Fall Season
- Remote Learning Resources and Information
- Sports Opportunities for 2020 Fall Season

Reports

- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview

STATS

<p>16.6% Above Massachusetts Average</p>	<p>7.5% Above Massachusetts Average</p>	<p>92% Above Massachusetts Average</p>	<p>97.2% Students That Pass All 9th Grade Courses</p>	<p>100% MassCore Completion</p>
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EVENTS

Featured | Calendar

SAT Sep 22 2020		School Committee Meeting Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
THU Dec 02 2020		Remote Learning Resources and Information Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Los Angeles
FRI Sep 22 2020		Byam School Open House Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
MON Sep 22 2020		School Committee Meeting Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Byam School

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT AUG 8 2020		Remote Learning Resources and Information 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
MON AUG 8 2020		Universal Design for Learning (UDL) 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
SAT AUG 8 2020		Virtual Summer 2020 course catalog announced 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
SAT AUG 8 2020		The 2020 Summer Reading lists for students are available 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
SAT AUG 8 2020		Our elementary schools are looking forward for you 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell
SAT AUG 8 2020		Did you know that you can reserve our facilities online? 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM Lowell

LATEST VIDEOS

1:31 / 3:03

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Linda Hirsch @l_hirsch
Over 300 boxes of Foundations curriculum materials distributed today w/ @KellyRogers_CPS Kathy Mercier, & the help of our amazing custodians Shawn & Adam. A stop on deliveries to schools won't put a stop to @ChelmsfordPS commitment to teachers & student learning! #CPSLionsPRIDE

Chelmsford Public Schools @ChelmsfordPS
CPS Fine & Performing Arts Department Coordinator, Dr. Christy Whittlesey, and rising CHS junior student, Sachl Badola are interviewed in the article below. #CPSLionsPRIDE

Chelmsford Public Schools earns national recognition

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Last night's Chelmsford Board of Health Meeting. Special thanks to CTM'ers Kurt Heinrich, Craig Robertson and Tom Peterson for helping us transition to this new in-person PLUS virtual meeting format.

BOARD OF HEALTH
AUGUST 3 | 2020
6:15 p.m.

YOUTUBE.COM
Board of Health: August 3, 2020
A regular meeting of the Chelmsford, MA Board of Health held on Au...





SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION THIS FALL 2020
 Here's what to expect this upcoming school year
[Learn More >>](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES

The CPS Curriculum Department is providing resources and activities to keep your child(ren) connected to learning during the school closure.

Please use the following link to access these activities and resources

[Remote Student Learning Resources](#)

ACTION CENTER [See All](#)

Enrollment Get your student ready for 2020 Education Complete by 8/15/20	Remote Learning Get your student ready for 2020 Education	JV Football Registration The Team is Seeking New Faces!	Enrollment Get your student ready for 2020 Education Complete by 8/15/20
Bus Route Registration Claim your child's spot on the routes	Yearbook Photos Get your student ready for 2020 Education Complete by 8/15/20	Baseball Season Join the Chelmsford Lions Baseball Team	Remote Automated Learning Get your student ready for 2020 Education

Your email address [Register for Updates](#)

LATEST NEWS [See All](#)

 Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Teacher Develops Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3D Face Shields for Local Hospitals and Health Workers	 Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Teacher Develops Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3D Face Shields for Local Hospitals and Health Workers	 Aug 25, 2020 Health Two Chelmsford High School Seniors Awarded Scholarships
 Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Recognized Nationally For Music Education Programs	 Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford Schools, Groups Work on Meal Drives in Coronavirus Crisis	 Aug 25, 2020 Health Chelmsford High School French Students Compete and Win at

NEED TO KNOW

Student Needs

- Remote Learning Resources and Information
- Sports Opportunities for 2020 Fall Season
- Remote Learning Resources and Information
- Sports Opportunities for 2020 Fall Season

Reports

- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview
- 2020 Budget Overview

STATS [See More Stats](#)

 16.6% Above Massachusetts Average	 7.5% Above Massachusetts Average	 92% Above Massachusetts Average	 97.2% Students That Pass All 9th Grade Courses	 100% MassCore Completion
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EVENTS [Calendar](#)

Featured

- SAT Sep 22 2020** **School Committee Meeting**
Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- THU Dec 02 2020** **Remote Learning Resources and Information**
Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Los Angeles
- FRI Sep 22 2020** **Byam School Open House**
Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- MON Sep 22 2020** **School Committee Meeting**
Chelmsford Public Schools Bi-Monthly Meetings hosted online
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Byam School

UPCOMING EVENTS [See All](#)

- SAT AUG 8 2020** **Remote Learning Resources and Information**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- MON AUG 8 2020** **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- SAT AUG 8 2020** **Virtual Summer 2020 course catalog announced**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- SAT AUG 8 2020** **The 2020 Summer Reading lists for students are available**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- SAT AUG 8 2020** **Our elementary schools are looking forward for you**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell
- SAT AUG 8 2020** **Did you know that you can reserve our facilities online?**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Lowell

LATEST VIDEOS

[School Committee Meeting 5/22/20](#)

[Chelmsford Lions Commemorative](#)

[A Look at Chelmsford 2019 Graduating Class](#)

[SkyCam View of Chelmsford](#)

FOLLOW @CHELMSFORD ON INSTAGRAM

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HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services > Nutrition & Food

IN THE KNOW

Actions and Popular Content

- New Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MenACWY) Requirement for School Entry
- The Flu: A Guide for Parents
- Family Health Resources and Information

Department Contact

Peggy Gump, M.Ed BSN RN
Coordinator of Nursing Services
978-341-5521
gump@chelmsford.k12.ma.us

Reports and Information

- Health Insurance: Finding Low cost/free care
- Live Position of American Academy of Pediatrics
- Life Threatening Allergy Resources
- 2020-2021 MA School Immunizations Requirements

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC PRACTICE HOLISTIC NURSING CARE MISSION

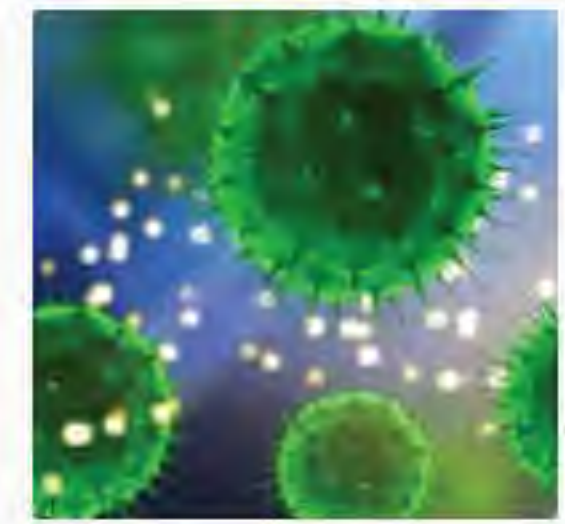
Our mission is to provide evidence based/ best practice holistic nursing care to the unique, culturally diverse students of Chelmsford Public Schools. In collaboration with all stakeholders, we advocate for their safety and healthcare needs. We are dedicated professionals who are committed to bridging health care with education and making a positive impact for the present and future wellness of Chelmsford's school community.

"A child must be healthy to learn and a child must learn to be healthy."
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Jump to Section

- CORONAVIRUS
- REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY**
- REQUIRED PHYSICAL EXAMS
- SCHOOL SCREENINGS
- SBIRT - SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTIVE SCREENING
- ANNUAL HEALTH FORMS

INFORMATION ON THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



The CPS Curriculum Department is providing resources and activities to keep your child(ren) connected to learning during the school closure. Our content area department coordinators have created activities for each level and discipline to keep your child(ren) engaged in learning while out of school.

Please use the following link to access these activities and resources:

[Remote Student Learning Resources](#)

Massachusetts Coronavirus Hotline

211 The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1 will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages.

Massachusetts 2-1-1 is open to callers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

More Information

- How do you know if you the have Coronavirus?
- Remote Student Learning Resources

News

- COVID-19 Command Center - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Newsletter**
Aug 25, 2020
- Letter to Parents & Guardians from the DESE**
Aug 25, 2020
- Letter to Parents & Guardians from Dr. Lang**
Aug 25, 2020
- Advisory Regarding Face Coverings and Cloth Masks**
Aug 25, 2020

[See All](#)

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"No child shall, except as hereinafter provided, be admitted to school except upon presentation of a physician's certificate that the child has been successfully immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and polio and such other communicable disease as may be specified from time to time by the Department of Public Health."

- M.G.L. c. 76, & 15J05 CMR 200.000 section 15

Immunizations must follow the recommended intervals from the CDC and the Mass. Department of Public Health. All K-12 students must provide the following immunization documentation prior to admittance:

- 5 doses DTP/DTaP- unless 4th dose is given after age 4 (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- 4 doses Polio- unless 3rd dose is given after age 3
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 2 doses MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- 2 doses Varicella (or a Health Provider's documentation of month and year of disease)

Students going into 7th grade -12th need one dose Tdap booster.
Students going into 7th grade- 1 dose of MenACWY
Students going into 11th grade- 1 booster of MenACWY
Medical waivers and religious exemptions must be submitted in writing if applicable.

Browse Health Services

- Concussion Info**
- Contact School Nurses**
- Health Forms**
- Health Topics**
- Health Policies**
- Accessibility**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS [See All News](#)

- Chelmsford Teacher Develops Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3D Face Shields for Local Hospitals and Health Workers**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Chelmsford High School Students Win \$5,000 Research Grant**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Two Chelmsford High School Seniors Awarded Scholarships**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Two Chelmsford High School Seniors Awarded Scholarships**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Chelmsford High School November 2007**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Chelmsford Schools, Groups Work on Meal Drive in Coronavirus Crisis**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Chelmsford High School French Students Compete and Win at Club Richelieu**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health
- Chelmsford High School French Students Compete and Win at Club Richelieu**
Aug 25, 2020 | Health

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VIDEOS

-
-
-
-

Students

- Enrollment
- > Another Link
- Nutrition
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Curriculum

Parents

- Covid Updates
- Sports Forms
- Requirements
- Enrollment
- Admission Requirements

More Information

- Meet the Team
- About the District
- Accessibility
- Privacy Policy
- Sports Teams



CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Memorandum

To: Members of the School Committee
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Date: August 17, 2020
Re: School Committee Policy Review & Updates

Attached please find a guidance document from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) with recommendations for policy amendments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, we recently received a new policy recommendation for Face Coverings. I have provided the sample draft language from MASC and inserted Chelmsford-specific language in a draft to be reviewed by the Committee. In consultation with Ms. Peggy Gump, Coordinator of School Nursing Services, we are recommending all students in Grade Kindergarten through 12 be required to wear a face mask when in school. The MASC guidance only required a face mask in Grades 1 – 12.

This document has been developed to act as a guide for school committees as your district develops and implements a back-to-school strategy. This task will require flexibility on the school committee's part in schedules of meetings and the time commitment required to meet the deadlines established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Briefly, the following are the target dates for the Return-to-School plans and decisions related to them:

By July 31, 2020: Each school district must submit to the Department the three plans required. These plans should be presented to the school committee so they can share them with the community.

By August 10, 2020: Each school district has to submit the plan chosen for implementation to the Department. Since the plan will require amendments to existing policy as well as budget revisions/reallocations, this plan should be approved/endorsed by the school committee prior to its submission to the Department.

Between August 10, 2020 and the start of the school year (which may be delayed by up to 10 days to permit professional development and preparation based on the most recent announcements from DESE), the school committee may have to negotiate certain parts of the plan with the appropriate unions within their district. Every effort should be made to expedite these negotiations to ensure a timely opening of schools.

As the start of school approaches, the school committee will need to address revisions or waivers to some of the policies they have established as well as student handbook language. The policy areas to concentrate on are identified within this guidance document.

POLICY ISSUES FOR THE PANDEMIC

Creation of a General (Interim) Policy on COVID-Related Issues File: EBC Supplemental

The School Committee takes note of the COVID-19 emergency; resulting disruption of the traditional school day and year; growing concerns of students, families and the community; and the growing number of issues that will affect public education.

Therefore, the school committee establishes an emergency, interim policy to:

- promote public safety and safety of students and faculty,
- maintain to the extent possible the high and efficient level of educational services,
- ensure support for students in general and in particular for those at highest risk educationally as well as those at social and economic risk, and
- comply with the emergency orders of the governor and adhere to the extent possible, to the guidance of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other agencies of state and federal government, and expedite the safest strategy for returning students to school.

The school committee will approve the final plan submitted to DESE which will outline its strategy for returning students to school and will, in collaboration with the superintendent, make such modifications to the "back to school plan," and district policy, and will authorize the superintendent to suspend, revise or create protocols to facilitate the safe return to school.

The superintendent will designate the appropriate staff members to oversee the safe administration of COVID-related policies during the period of the pandemic emergency and shall make such recommendations to the school committee as needed.

The school committee will authorize the superintendent to act expeditiously in executing the “back to school” plan in accordance with current law and regulation and will, where noted, authorize the superintendent to suspend, revise, or recommend policies, rules and protocols as needed to serve the best interests and safety of students, their families, and the community.

The “back to school” plan shall constitute the policy of the school district during the pandemic emergency, and the superintendent shall exercise the authority provided in law to carry out the plan as needed.

- General district goals affected by the pandemic.

The superintendent, with the advice and consent of the school committee, may suspend or modify individual district policies to address the COVID-19 emergency as declared by the governor. Such suspension of policy shall expire upon the end of the emergency as declared by the governor.

The goal of emergency pandemic policies shall be to:

- ensure the safety and health of students, faculty, staff, and all persons who may come in contact with them;
 - provide the most effective educational services as possible to students under the circumstances;
 - authorize changes to operating protocols as needed to open and operate schools effectively from various venues or platforms;
 - conduct the district business and operational functions of the district as efficiently as possible;
 - allow the superintendent and staff to act quickly to carry out a “back to school” plan and,
 - facilitate the re-establishment of a safe and productive school day and year.
- Student assignment to schools (File JCA)
Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the superintendent may suspend or revise the assignment of students to schools, including the assignment of new students for such a period as the emergency declaration is in force.
 - School calendar (File IC/ICA)

Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the provisions of collective bargaining agreements, the superintendent may suspend or revise the school calendar with the approval of the school committee.

- Class size (File IIB)

In order to maintain healthy, safe, and effective classrooms, the superintendent may suspend district policy on class size, subject to the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements where applicable.

- Attendance (File JH)

Subject to operative law and regulations, suspend, modify or adapt policies related to student attendance including the link between and absences when appropriate, (including the link between attendance and grades), chronic absence policies, and accommodations for students requiring special placements

- Time on learning (File IC/ICA and ID)

Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the provisions of collective bargaining agreements, the superintendent may suspend or amend requirements for time on learning for the duration of the COVID pandemic.

- Grading and retention (File IKE)

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the superintendent may propose, subject to the approval of the school committee, modifications to the policy of the district for grading and retention of students.

- Local graduation requirements (File IKF)

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and modifications to current regulation or law, the superintendent may propose, subject to the approval of the school committee, modifications to the policy of the district regarding graduation requirements. **DUPLICATE STATEMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- Special education (File IHB, IHBA, IHBA, IHBF)

The superintendent and school committee should be mindful that attainment of a high school diploma may render certain students ineligible for further services.

- Discipline and Suspension/Expulsion with home schooling rights (File JIC, JK)

The “back to school” plan recommended by the superintendent and subject to the approval of the school committee shall contain protocols for serving students who are disciplined or suspended during the pandemic emergency.

Further, the superintendent shall provide in these “back to school” plans provisions for students were disciplined or suspended or who may elect to remain at home under the provisions of the policies related to home schooling, or who may elect remote learning in the interests of safety or health concerns.

- Exemptions for particular groups of students (i.e., use of masks for youngest children, high risk students) (File JL)

The superintendent shall provide protocols to principals and teachers regarding students who may require special exemptions from health and safety standards during the pandemic emergency. Such protocols may address exemption for utilizing support animals.

- Job descriptions (File GCA)

The superintendent may revise job descriptions for district staff, considering the provisions of current collective bargaining agreements, in order to secure the safety and health of students and staff, establish effective communications between school and community, maintain facilities, transport students as needed, provide food services, and acquire necessary materials to operate schools safely and securely during the pandemic. The superintendent will inform the school committee of any such changes. Any changes to job descriptions shall expire at the end of the declared emergency situation.

- STUDENTS AT RISK (JIE, JL, JLC, JLCC)

During the COVID pandemic, the superintendent or principal of a school may revise or suspend provisions of policy to facilitate the education of students at risk or with special physical needs or their family caregivers, including, but not limited to caring for or educating students with disabilities, illness, pregnancy, childrearing responsibilities, or special education needs consistent with law and regulation.

- Privacy of Students. (File JRA)

During the pandemic, the rights to privacy held by students and their families shall not be abridged by the public schools. Such rights extend to the confidentiality of student academic records, health data, economic status, and other such information as may be considered confidential by law.

Massachusetts law prohibits the recording of individuals without their permission. Similarly, students may not be recorded in classrooms by audio, visual, or remote means without the permission of parents or, if of age, by individual students. During periods

of remote learning, the privacy of students participating in on-line classes shall not be violated by recording them without appropriate permissions.

- Pivoting back to remote learning, or back to in-school instruction

The superintendent shall incorporate into the “back to school” plan protocols for modifying these plans including addressing the needs of students who may require reversion from in-school to remote learning modalities because of the pandemic emergency.

- Home schooling File IHBG (temporary), home-bound instruction File IHBF (e.g., students with physical disabilities) and remote instruction for students in quarantine

The “back to school” plan shall provide for students who are temporarily homebound due to illness, quarantine, or disability

- Public Safety Officers, including the school resource officer (MOA with the local police.)

Subject to current law or regulation, the superintendent shall report to the school committee of any change in status of the school resource officer. (If the district eliminates visitors to school during the school day, the SRO may be impacted.)

- Eligibility for participation in extra-curricular activities, including sports (File JJ)

Subject to law, regulation and standards established by the appropriate and legitimate regulatory body, the superintendent may propose changes to district protocols for participation in extracurricular activities including sports subject to the rules established by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

- Attendance vs. participation in events (File JH and Student/Athletic Handbooks)

Subject to law, regulation or emergency declaration, the superintendent may propose protocols or modifications or suspensions of district policies regarding attendance by students or the public in school events including, but not limited to assemblies, sports events, large gatherings, or other programs.

- Visitors in schools and buildings (File KI)

Subject to current emergency declarations, the superintendent may propose suspension or modification to district policies regarding visitors to school buildings during the school day and after school hours.

- Illness and contact tracing (File JLCC)

Subject to the provisions of the “back to school” plan, the superintendent may establish protocols for tracking student contacts as a means of locating others from whom

students may contract or expose other persons to the CORVID-19. Such protocols will be consistent with law and regulation and be consistent with standards to protect the privacy of students, their families, and other persons.

- Transportation and busing (File EEA, EEAA, EEAE, EEAG)

Subject to current law and regulation, the superintendent may suspend or modify policies related to the transportation of students by the school district. Legal requirements relating to IEP's that contain transportation for students shall not be altered without the appropriate family consent. These modifications shall be consistent with the district "back to school" plan.

- Operations and plant maintenance (File EC, ECA)

Subject to the provisions of law, regulation and collective bargaining agreements, the superintendent may suspend or amend current policy to ensure the efficient operation of business functions and maintenance of school buildings and other such offices as the district maintains.

FACE COVERINGS

The _____ District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. Exempted from this policy are students in Grade 1 and below.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- is incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks;
- while eating or drinking;
- during physical education classes;
- while outside.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 -
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks -
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>
Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! –
<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020

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A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in K – 12 school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. Exempted from this policy are students in PreSchool ~~Grade 1~~ and below.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
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- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>
Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! –
<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020