

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Mr. Al Thomas (Vice Chair), Ms. Donna Newcomb (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Barbara Skaar

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

Mr. King opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tonight's meeting is being televised and recorded by Chelmsford Telemedia. This session is being reopened after an Executive Session was held on school security.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of January 8, 2019.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting of January 8, 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0 with Ms. Skaar abstaining.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare shared that semester two started today at CHS. On February 25 and 26, 2019, the CHS Theater Guild will present *Our Town*. There will be an early release day on February 6, 2019.

Kate stated that MCAS testing will be on February 5th and 6th. On February 7th there will be a meeting in the PAC at 6:30 for eighth grade parents. Congratulations to Matthew Waterman who earned a 36 composite score on his ACT, which is a huge achievement.

Good News

Byam School kicked off "Reading Rocks" enrichment which supports their winter reading challenge. At Parker three teachers have created a new program called "Parker Perks". Every other Friday a coffee hour is held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. This allow students in specialized programs to gain valuable communication skills. CHS has received ten Lenovo virtual reality headsets due to a grant. The new Student Help Desk started today. Students involved are either taking a course for this at CHS or were part of the "Summer Help Crew". This week the orientation for our TEA teachers will begin.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Chelmsford High School Alumni Association 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees

Mr. Simonian and Terry spoke of the 29th Hall of Fame induction to be held on March 23rd at the UMASS Lowell Conference Center. In addition to nine new inductees, the “Lucy E. Simonian Golden Lion Award” will be presented to Evelyn Thoren for her extraordinary support for CHS students over the years.

2. Spotlight on the Departments: Mathematics

Dr. Matthew Beyranevand, Department Coordinator for Mathematics, put together a slide show and presentation which is included in tonight’s agenda packet. Mathematics teachers and coaches assisted with the presentation. Together they shared the philosophy of the department which focuses on: conceptual understanding; joyful mathematics and growth mindset. Presenters shared details of what is happening at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels.

3. Teachers for Global Classrooms (TGC) Presentation: CHS Teacher Brian Acheson

Mr. Acheson spoke of his experience with TGC this past summer. This allowed the participants to meet with teachers from other countries and focus on global and educational issues. Prior to his experience in India, he was required to take courses which were equivalent to 8 college credits. During his three weeks in India he was able to learn about the Indian culture and education system and spent one full week at a school in India. He shared informational slides and pictures highlighting his experiences. He is looking forward to the arrival on February 4, 2019, of the TEA teachers who will be spending a month here, culminating with a presentation to the School Committee on March 5th.

4. 1:1 Technology (Chromebook) Initiative

Bill Silver, Director of ICTS, provided a review of technology projects for the Chelmsford Public Schools from the summer of 2018 to the present. Additionally, he presented an update on the findings of the 1:1 Steering Committee. This initiative will allow for a 1:1 Chromebook implementation starting with grades five and nine for the 2019/2020 school year. His thorough presentation covered: the implementation planning; the vision; equitable access; consistent and adequate funding; personnel and tech support; empowering leaders; instructional framework for curriculum; student centered learning; feedback and evaluation; engaged communities and usage protocol and policies. His slides and supporting documentation are included in tonight’s agenda packet and the documentation will be available on the district website. Mr. Silver’s presentation was well received by the Committee. Mr. Silver addressed questions asked by members of the Committee. No Committee action is required at this time. This initiative will be included in the FY20 Budget presented by Dr. Lang at the next School Committee meeting on February 5, 2019.

5. FY19 Budget Report: 2nd Quarter Financials

Joanna Johnson-Collins, Director of Business and Finance, provided a Year-to-Date report from MUNIS on the department’s financial activity through December of 2018 for the \$59M annual operating budget. Supporting documentation is included in tonight’s packet. Going page by page, she explained the details of the report to the Committee. In conclusion, the district is on solid financial ground.

6. Dyslexia Screening Legislation

Dr. Hirsch spoke of the new dyslexia screening law (Chapter 272 of the Acts of 2018). Although the state protocols are not yet determined, Chelmsford has moved ahead to ask families of incoming kindergarten students if their children have any documented neurological findings. Once DESE has a screening plan in place, Dr. Hirsch will provide an update.

7. Personnel Report: December 2018

No action required.

8. Public Input: FY20 Budget Process & Priorities

Dr. Lang will be presenting his recommended FY20 budget at the next Committee meeting on February 5, 2019. The Committee discussed the possible addition of social workers to the district's staff.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb reported that SEPAC held a workshop last week on parental navigation of IEPs. Mr. King and Dr. Lang attended the Council of Schools meeting. Mr. King also attended the Valley Collaborative Stakeholders meeting.

Next Tuesday the public forum on scheduling will take place at the Chelmsford Police Station. The School Committee Handbook is now available on the district website.

Adjournment

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn tonight's School Committee meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Tonight's meeting may be viewed in its entirety on Chelmsford Telemedia you/Tube.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio

