

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 28, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

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

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

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Opening Statement

The Chair welcomed all and stated that the meeting will be recorded and televised by Chelmsford Telemedia.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of January 7, 2020

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the regular School Committee minutes of January 7, 2020. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Sudeep shared that semester two started today. January 30th through February 1, 2020, a children's play called *The Big Top* will be presented at the PAC. There will be a Valentine's Dance in February.

Katrina stated that there will be MCAS Bio retesting on February 5th and 6th. February 12th is a half day.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that "A Taste of Chelmsford" was held last night and well attended. On February 6th, eighth graders will be coming to CHS. Mr. Doherty shared that he attended a music concert on January 9, 2020, with performances by the jazz band, acapella groups and the CHS string orchestra. "It was a great evening!" Mr. King congratulated Coach Branco of the girls' basketball team who just experienced his 200th win.

Public Comments

None.

**School Committee Approved
February 4, 2020**

New Business

1. Announcement: Chelmsford High School Alumni Association 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees

Mr. Simonian and Mr. McSheehy revealed this year's nine nominees and invited all to attend the celebration to be held on March 21st, at the UMASS Lowell Conference Center. The Alumni Scholarship Night will be held on May 28, 2020. A total of 128 scholarships will be awarded.

2. Presentation: Spotlight on the Departments – Mathematics Department

Dr. Matthew Beyranevand's, Department Coordinator for Mathematics, presentation and accompanying slide show, included the philosophy of the math department and then focused on three main topics. Philosophically: the math department strives for conceptual understanding of math for all students; bringing "joy" to mathematics; and to developing a "growth mindset" instead of a "fixed mindset" for all students to be successful in math. The first topic of tonight's presentation is standards-based grading in the middle schools. This grading provides benchmarks which change and grow during the academic year. This helps students, teachers and parents to have a better understanding of progress and will help pinpoint areas which need support. Secondly, he focused on how honors placement is determined for math students beginning in 7th grade. Criteria for placement in honors math classes include factors such as: MCAS scores; math league performance; grade averages for the first three terms of grade six; skills and aptitude testing and teacher input. Finally, he spoke about a proposal for changing the leveling of math classes at CHS. Dr. Beyranevand's presentation and slide show may be viewed in its entirety on Chelmsford Telemedia/YouTube.

3. Presentation: Spotlight on the Schools – Chelmsford High School

Principal of CHS, Steve Murray, shared information about: dual enrollment; Senior Capstone; PRIDE Block and level 3 classes. The Dual Enrollment program allows students to take a course at CHS while enrolled at Middlesex Community College. Students may receive credits toward high school graduation and college credits as well for each course. The benefits of this program include an easier transition to college, exposure to different types of courses, and greatly reduced cost for college credits earned. This is the second year of this program which offered 12 courses this year and will increase the offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Murray also spoke about the Senior Capstone pilot program which take place from April 6th to May 22, 2020. Seniors may use this six-week time to pursue a career internship or a community service internship or research a topic about which they want to know more. This program will result in "Exhibition Thursday" on May 28, 2020. PRIDE block allows students to receive in-school support by getting direct help from a teacher, doing group work, practicing what they are learning and getting caught-up, if needed. One hour is set aside during the school day on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the middle of the school day. Feedback on this program will be elicited from seniors in the spring. Finally, Principal Murray spoke of changes to level 3 classes. Currently CHS has four levels: AP; Honors, H2 and level 3. The proposed change would merge H2 and level 3 classes and would meet state compliance mandates. The new level will be called "College Prep (CP)". Support for teachers to implement this change is planned for the remainder of this school year. Principal Murray's presentation and slide show, as well as School Committee members' comments and questions, may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia/YouTube.

4. Approved 2020/21 School Calendar

Dr. Lang included the previously approved school calendar with a second page providing details on religious and cultural holidays, professional development days and school start and dismissal times. This will be posted on the district website.

5. Proposed FY21 Budget Calendar/Timeline

Dr. Lang included this information in a memorandum in tonight's agenda packet.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2021 budget calendar/timeline as presented on the dates listed. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

6. FY20 Budget Report: 2nd Quarter Financials

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a detailed memorandum and budget update in tonight's packet. She provided clarifying information for The Committee on variances and responded to questions. No action is required tonight.

7. Recommended FY20 Budget Transfers

Mr. Moses motioned for the Committee to vote to approve the FY20 local operating budget transfer as presented. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

8. Literacy Update

A memorandum from Kelly Rogers, Literacy, ELL, and Title 1 Department Coordinator, is included in tonight's agenda packet with updates on assessments used to screen for Dyslexia. Dr. Hirsch shared additional information with committee members. DIBELS screening has been ongoing. RAN (rapid automatized naming test) was added this year to augment DIBELS, Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment, and iReady. Reading specialists support 16% of identified kindergarten and grade 1 students, four to five times a week, in small groups. The district is exploring new options for its reading/phonics program. Updated Dyslexia guidelines are expected from DESE.

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Guide

Dr. Hirsch has included in tonight's packet a document, two organizational charts and detailed information on the curriculum coordinators. Contact information is included. This will be made into a binder for each of The Committee members.

10. Personnel Report: December 2019

No action required.

11. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the conference and field trip requests as presented. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Mr. Doherty attended the CHIPS PTO. They received almost 500 pair of socks for their sock drive. They also sponsored a successful holiday luncheon for their staff. The CHIPS program has had an enrichment music program and are having dental professionals come in this week to encourage dental hygiene. Ms. Santos shared that McCarthy has their "Rock and Roll Bingo" fundraiser on March 27, 2020, at the ELKS. They will be holding their science fair on February 5th and previously held an excellent STEM Fair. This evening, Harrington School is holding their "Heritage Festival". At the Wellness meeting Ms. Santos attended they shared that are conducting a "youth at risk" behavior survey for middle and high school students through a grant from Lowell General Hospital. South Row's after school enrichment program has received positive feedback. They plan to present information on their program with the other elementary schools. Chairman King echoed praise for "The Taste of Chelmsford". He also reminded The Committee about their study committee assignments.

Action/New Items

1. Request for Reports & Updates

Mr. King will be sending out updated information on goals to discuss at upcoming meetings.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn to executive session and not return to regular session for the purpose of convening an executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio