

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 5, 2021
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.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of December 15, 2020.**

Ms. Newcomb motioned for the school committee to accept the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of December 15, 2020. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch acknowledged the receipt of a competitive grant for \$10,000 from DESE to help with SEL and MTSS initiatives. It will provide for a student survey, the data from which will identify more of the social emotional competencies for which our students need additional support. This will also inform the development of the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Santos shared that the CHS TV newscast was made available the end of December. This may be viewed on the CHS TV channel. On Tuesdays and Thursdays "Lions Live" broadcasts announcements. Also, they offer News 3.0 which is comical and similar to SNL.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Schools: CHIPs Integrated Preschool

Russ Hoyt, Preschool Coordinator, and Amy Reese, Director of Student Support Services, joined the meeting remotely to present and share slides. Mr. Hoyt spoke of the “Developmental Checklist” CHIPs uses to assess areas of development. Love of school and love of learning is promoted. Level of success is measured (Skillful, Emerging, and Requiring help always). The skills are measured on Early Childhood Standards from the Massachusetts frameworks. This is based on what they will be able to accomplish when they reach age five and are in a kindergarten classroom (without modifications needed). Measurements include: language arts; social skills and self-awareness; motor skills and mathematics and science. The details (and wonderful photos of students in the process of learning while having fun, even during the pandemic) are fully available in the slide show which is included in tonight’s agenda packet. For complete details, please view tonight’s presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia.

2. Student Learning Model Enrollment Update

Dr. Lang included a memorandum in tonight’s packet with a current update of the numbers enrolled in each learning model. For elementary and middle schools have about 2/3 who chose hybrid over remote. At CHS about 60% of the students are currently enrolled in hybrid.

3. October 1, 2020, Student Enrollment Report

Dr. Lang included a memorandum and spread sheets in tonight’s agenda packet with the October 1, 2020, data which is submitted to DESE on an annual basis. The state bases financial aid to districts on this data for the following school year (2021/22). Due to COVID there are fewer students enrolled in the CPS this fall. Some families have made alternate arrangements for the children’s education this year because of the pandemic. Dr. Lang expects many of these students to return to the Chelmsford Public Schools once schools are reopened fully and safely.

4. CHS Winter Athletics

Dr. Lang included an updated memorandum on CHS winter athletics to date. The Merrimack Valley superintendents meet each week to look at updates and determine if it is safe to allow competitions, which are scheduled to take place starting next week. In the event that increased COVID cases cause CPS to go to fully remote classes, it would be necessary for the School Committee to vote on whether to allow winter athletic competitions to continue.

5. SY19/20 – SY20/21 Academic Update

Dr. Hirsch included a memorandum with supporting data for current academic benchmarks in tonight’s agenda packet. She spoke of the value of iReady and DIBELS/RAN in assessing students and in student placements. Dr. Hirsch shared slides and provided details to The Committee and viewers. Classroom teachers have access to data which will enable them to provide support to students who are in need. The entire presentation may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia.

6. FY2022 Capital Plan Update

Included in tonight's agenda packet are memoranda from Dr. Lang and John Sousa, Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee for the Town, detailing which capital projects have been selected to be addressed in FY2022. Seven of the top eight projects for the CPS were recommended for funding. Dr. Lang thanked Mr. Doherty for his work on this endeavor.

7. INTERFACE Referral Service Report: June 2020 – November 2020

Sue Rosa, Manager of Healthcare Services for The Town, shared a report in tonight's agenda packet updating The Committee on referral to INTERFACE from June through November.

8. Reminder: Tri-Board Budgetary Meeting: Monday January 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Liaisons

Mr. Doherty shared that the CHS PTO met last night. CHS will collect food in February for "The Table of Plenty". They are looking at ways to celebrate the graduating seniors over the remaining months of the school year. CHS staff were grateful for the "Grab and Go" and raffles last month. The Theatre Guild will be filming a movie this spring. The eighth-grade parent orientation will be held virtually this year.

Ms. Newcomb also thanked other support groups like the Friends of Chelmsford Music and the Acapella group. SEPAC will host a virtual "basic rights" workshop this Thursday. The focus will be on the IEP process.

Ms. Santos shared that the Wellness Committee has sent out a list of their upcoming meetings. The ELL Council will be meeting in January. She also appreciates all the efforts this year's senior class are working on to make the best of this year during the pandemic.

The chair shared that the Booster Club is creating posters of people to put in the stands for the winter sports games.

New Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to see an explanation of how the numbers on the COVID Dashboard are compiled. Dr. Lang spoke briefly of the process which is a collaboration between CPS, The Town and DESE. Cases reported are only those which have an impact on the operation of schools.

The Chair would like to discuss plans for increasing face-to-face time for the students as the pandemic wanes. He would also like to see updates on the plan to vaccinate school staff.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment (8:00 p.m.)

Ms. Newcomb motioned to adjourn. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*