

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 8, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), 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.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of December 18, 2018

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of December 18, 2018. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0. Ms. Skaar is not in attendance tonight.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare shared that there will be a concert on January 10, by the After School Ensemble Group. Choral Fest for fourth graders and CHS will occur on January 12th. Exams will be taken at CHS from January 15th through the 18th.

Kate stated that grades will close at CHS on January 18th and semester two will start on the 22nd. On January 19, 2019, the "Hawaiian Dance Blackout Dance" will be held.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch is not present tonight, but Dr. Lang shared several pieces of good news from her. At CHS the new English National Honor Society inducted 66 members recently. Poet, Clint Smith will be appearing at the PAC later this month. His poetry is used in ELA classes at CHS. The math and science departments began a series of collaborative professional development starting earlier today which focused on "instructional strategies". The CHS civics class visited the State House today.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Schools: Byam Elementary School

Principal, Jason Fredette, along with staff members and students spoke and shared a slide presentation on the good work happening at Byam. Information was shared about PBIS or Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports and Byam's PRIDE Program. At the beginning of the school year each student was given a passport which was stamped when they toured different areas of the school which addressed expectations for students throughout the school. This was reinforced by the showing of expectation videos. The video on "bus expectations" was shown tonight. Grade level meetings are held throughout the year for further support. Second Step Integration programming is used as well to help students learn critical coping skills. PBIS Tier 2 Supports are in place for additional social and emotional support for students who would benefit by the opportunities. Students who are PRIDE Ambassadors were introduced to the Committee. They provide a student "voice" for the school community. The ambassadors shared details of their responsibilities and enthusiasm for the role. More details on tonight's presentation are included in the agenda packet for this meeting.

2. Update: STRIVE Program (Elementary) Level

Dr. Molly McMahon, principal of South Row Elementary School, and Amy Reese, Director of Student Support Services, reported tonight on the new elementary level therapeutic program housed at South Row. This program was added this school year to meet the needs of students in elementary school who require behavioral/therapeutic services. They shared a power point on the screen and included it in tonight's packet as well. "Striving for independence" is a goal of this program. Reinforcing the ability of STRIVE students to participate in general education programs has been successful 76.8% of the school year thus far. Data is reviewed continuously and used to address each student's behavior plan. Communications include outreach to parents and coordination of services with outside providers. Quotes from parents and staff members, about the success of the program, were shared with the Committee. Although no STRIVE student has yet been transferred back to their home school, criteria and support for this are being planned.

3. Update: Elementary Level Assistant Principal Positions

The elementary principals submitted a memorandum to Dr. Lang expressing their appreciation for the hiring of the two elementary assistant principals. They came to the table to discuss some of the specific benefits that have come to the schools directly as a result of the addition of these staff members. Among the benefits are: their contributions to the district strategic plan and school improvement goals; support for instructional leadership and evaluations; increased communication with families; improved student attendance; support of specialized programs and incident management protocols.

4. Follow-Up: January 29, 2019, School Committee Public Forum Agenda

A draft agenda for this upcoming Public Forum is included in tonight's packet. The Committee was pleased with the draft so it will be posted.

5. Follow-Up: New School Committee Member Handbook

The final draft for this handbook is included in tonight's packet.

Mr. Thomas motioned to adopt the new School Committee Member Handbook. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Dr. Lang will post the handbook on the website tomorrow morning.

6. FY20 Capital Plan – TOC Capital Planning Committee Recommendation

Dr. Lang included a memorandum in tonight's packet concerning the projects which were recommended to go forward and be presented at Town Meeting in the spring. The topics moving forward are: \$452,209 for School Security Upgrade; \$285,644 for School Kitchen Code Compliance Upgrade; \$205,000 for School Parking Lot Expansion – Harrington Elementary School and \$101,706 for School Kitchen Upgrade.

7. Personnel Report: November 2018

No action required.

8. Public Input: FY20 Budget Process & Priorities

Dr. Lang's recommended FY20 budget will be presented on February 5, 2019, at the regular School Committee Meeting. Members of the community/public are encouraged to provide input.

Maria Santos, of 19 Parkhurst Road, spoke and requested the Committee consider adding a school social worker to the district. She stated this addition would be beneficial not only to ELL students but to the general population as well. She also would like to see increased technology to help the ELL students.

Dr. Lang acknowledged the need more social support services. Ms. Newcomb would like a discussion to take place around this need when planning for FY20. Dr. Lang agreed that the issue is important and may be discussed and local budget as well as grants may be a viable funding source.

An agenda item for the next meeting will be an update from Dr. Hirsch on the Dyslexia screening for kindergarten students. Fees for activities, athletics, parking, busses, etc. will also be discussed at budget meetings. The Chair and other members would like to see an upgrading of the district's website.

9. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the CHS tenth grade English Class trip to see *All My Sons* in New York City on April 24, 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Chelmsford Friends of Music will meet on January 16, 2019, in the Learning Commons. SEPAC will hold a meeting next week called "An IEP for My Child" and the Wellness Committee will meet in early February. Ms. Newcomb will provide the time and dates at the next meeting. The Chair thanked Dr. Lang for posting the Committee Policies on the web site.

Public Comments

Maria Santos, 19 Parkhurst Road, thanked the Committee for their service. She also encouraged parental involvement in PTOs and would like to see the Committee have presentations by the various parent organizations at future meetings.

Adjournment

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn to go to Executive Session to deal with matters of collective bargaining. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio