

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 1, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Maria Santos (Secretary), Mr. Jeffrey Doherty, Mr. John Moses 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 September 3, 2019**
2. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 17, 2019**

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meetings of September 3 and September 17, 2019. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representatives Announcements

Sudeep shared that PRIDE Block started today for students to use for extra help, group projects and designated learning time. This hour-long block will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The SATs will be held on October 5, 2019. An early release day will take place on October 10th. There will be no school on October 14, 2019. There will be a college financing information night on October 16th in the PAC at 6:30 p.m. The high element ropes course will be used this Tuesday for the first time.

Katrina stated that the first CHS PTO meeting of the year will be held on October 7, 2019. CHS sports teams are all off to a good start. The girls swim team is still undefeated! The senior class is working with the Athletic Department for Homecoming and all the proceeds will go to the senior class.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that this weekend the disc golf courses will be installed at CHS and McCarthy. Grade 5 and 9 ELA teachers are pleased with the 1:1 initiative and “loving” the Chrome Books. The National English Honor Society students helped at the Chelmsford Public Library book sale. In two weeks, the first class of students will be inducted into the National Science Honor Society. 90 students are participating in the All Town Wind Ensemble (ATWE) this year.

Today Matthew Guarante, a CHS physical education teacher, was honored with a gift card and basket as an honor given by Lions Ark on the recommendation of a former student in his unified PE class. The gift card may be used to purchase more equipment for his unified PE program. Dr. Whittesley has been chosen as an arts ambassador to work on the upcoming changes to the arts frameworks. Her teams will be offering 10-hour professional development sessions for each region. She is the ambassador for this region. In conclusion, Dr. Hirsch shared a video, *Movement Makers*, highlighting Project 351 and our previous ambassador, Isabelle Cole, from 2015. It is worth watching and is a part of tonight's Chelmsford Telemedia's YouTube recording of tonight's meeting.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. 2019/20 School Committee Presentation Schedule

The schedule is included in tonight's packet. No action is required. Requests were made to include presentations on Special Education and Social and Emotional Learning.

2. Spring 2019 ELA MCAS Retest Option

Dr. Hirsch shared information about possible retests for students who took MCAS last spring due to a question that was taken out of the scoring. The DESE felt that the question, by its presence in the test, might have compromised some students' ability to perform at a maximum level for the rest of the test. Students who felt compromised will be allowed to retake the test for the purposes of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships which are earned based on the test results. This will not change the MCAS scores for the students who retake it. It will not affect class rank or the students' GPAs.

3. Chapter 70 School Finance & Pending Legislation Funding Analysis and Report

The District has hired a consultant to assist seeing how this will affect the Chelmsford Public Schools. More information will be forthcoming in the form of a report and will be shared with the Tri-Board.

4. CPS Professional Development Overview

Dr. Hirsch provided a slide show detailing professional development opportunities in the coming year. Her presentation is included in print form in tonight's packet and may also be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube. Blended learning, MTSS and SEL are all being offered along with building-based initiatives. NPEN also provides **relevant** professional development for districts in the region for the "low incidence" teachers, who are often specialists with only one or a small number of teachers (ELL teachers, reading specialists, art and music teachers as well as librarians and technology integration specialists) in each building. These offerings have been well-received and have grown to include over 2100 educators in the area. "Ed Camp" meets the needs of other teachers in their content areas. Graduate level classes are also offered and can result in three graduate credits per class. Course reimbursement is provided on a tiered system for District staff. The mentoring program and the support for teachers by the Technology Integration Specialists were also covered.

5. Public Forum: Multi-Year Strategic Plan – Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Dr. Lang previewed the upcoming Public Forum to be held on October 22, 2019, on the topic of the "Multi-Year Strategic Plan". What will be covered that evening will be: discussing what a strategic plan is, while hearing from the attendees about their feelings about the public schools (Stakeholder Engagement); defining focus areas for our goals; and identifying helpful strategies for future success. Dr. Lang and

The Chair will work on the setup of the evening which will probably feature several tables with different topics for discussion with the facilitators rotating visiting the tables. Ms. Santos requested that the parent survey be translated into Spanish and Dr. Lang will make that happen.

6. FY21 Capital Planning

Dr. Lang included a memorandum and supporting documents in tonight's agenda packet. He requested The Committee review the documents and offer feedback to help prioritize at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which is on October 15, 2019. Last year Dr. Lang put together a ten-year capital plan for the schools. The documents included in tonight's packet detail the capital improvements which occurred this year.

7. Approval of Field Trips and Conference Requests

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the field trips as listed. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Mr. Doherty attended the CHIPS PTO meeting. Ms. Santos attended the McCarthy PTO meeting and will attend the EL Council meeting. Ms. Newcomb has upcoming meetings with SEPAC, Parker, South Row and Byam PTO meetings. Mr. Moses attended a back to school celebration at Byam.

Action/New Items

Professional Development for paraprofessionals will be addressed. Hana Barker will try to meet with The Committee on October 15th. The Chair recommends looking at the MASC delegate manual and resolutions for discussion at the next meeting. The Committee goals are now online.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn to executive session for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and not return to regular session. 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