

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2019
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 October 1, 2019

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of October 1, 2019. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that The National Honor Society will be inducting new members tomorrow morning in the PAC. CHS civics classes will be attending the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for State Senate and will take part in a senate simulation. Harrington fourth grade students are focusing on the "recycling program" and will be working with "The Table of Plenty" and will be providing supplies for Harrington families in need. Sam Drazen, the person on whom the book *Wonder* is based, visited South Row and Center Schools with his presentations on "empathy". The presentations were well received. McCarthy Middle School had a successful "Family Fun Night". The McCarthy Frisbee nine-hole golf course has opened and is available to the public. Tomorrow night will be "Title One" night. Saturday is the South Row Pumpkin Fair. The Byam "Boo-Bash" is Saturday, October 19, 2019. On October 23rd, Parker will host a "Pizza and Pumpkin" night. The ELL night will be October 23rd at 6:30 at Harrington. McCarthy's "Project 300 Dining for Dollars" will be held at Brick House on October 24th. Center School is having a "Trunk or Treat" event on October 26th and Harrington's will be held on October 27th. Band night for grades five and 12 will be held on October 25th. Hundreds of band students will perform at half-time at the CHS football game. Grades four through 12 Stringfest will perform on October 26th at the PAC. Dr. Lang will be a judge this Saturday at The Chelmsford Dog Park's costume contest, which is called "Howl-o-ween"! Please join CPS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

CHS Student Representatives Announcements

Sudeep stated that tomorrow there will be a FEMA meeting disseminating information on college financing for seniors at the PAC. October 22nd there will be a food clinic. Picture retakes are October 23rd. PSAT's will be this Saturday, October 19th. The ACT's will be held on the 26th. Stringfest and Homecoming will both also be held on October 26, 2019. All sports teams are doing well. Rehearsals for *Chicago* are going fine. The Dance Team is preparing for the Pep Rally. Student clubs have begun meeting and late busses are running as of this week.

Public Comments

Cara Delleterra, of 11 Courtland Drive, expressed her concerns about literacy both nationally and specifically in Chelmsford based on recent MCAS scores. She is worried about the percentage of students not reading at grade level and teachers in the District who may not be trained in the current recommended reading curriculum. She is hoping the School Committee will investigate her concerns and will act on them.

New Business

1. Introduction of Chelmsford Community Service Coordinator: Ms. Jennifer Melanson

Ms. Melanson came to the table and spoke of her role in coordinating social services for the Town (including the public schools) and then connecting residents to the appropriate helpful services. She works out of Town Hall and holds "drop-in hours" on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 to 11:00 a.m. She will also schedule appointments and is planning being at the public library one Saturday a month. She is happy in this role and has been warmly welcomed by the community since her hiring in July.

2. Presentation: Spotlight on the Departments – Reading, ELL & Title 1 Services

Ms. Kelly Rogers, Department Coordinator Reading, English Language Learners and Title 1 Services provided an update on the initiatives in her departments. Her detailed presentation was augmented by a slide show presentation which is included in tonight's agenda packet and provides highlights for all her departments. During her presentation, Ms. Kelly invited two CHS students to the table to share their experiences with the EL Mentor Program at the high school. Victoria and Davanshi spoke fondly of the program and the friendships that have been formed. Ms. Kelly was responsive to questions from The Committee. Ms. Santos spoke highly of the ELL Council and Ms. Kelly's involvement in it. The entire presentation may be viewed by watching tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

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

Dr. Lang said that the parent survey response has been good and that the survey was sent in Spanish to households who indicated that Spanish is the primary language spoken at home. The upcoming forum has been well publicized.

4. MASC Resolutions: MASC/MASS Joint Conference 2019

Mr. Moses volunteered to be the delegate to the annual meeting. Ms. Newcomb is the alternate delegate. Nine resolutions will be voted on during the meeting.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve MASC Resolution #1 Banning Polystyrene from Schools. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the first part of MASC Resolution #2 regarding the elimination of MTEL and the MA Performance Assessment for Leaders. Ms. Newcomb seconded. 2 vote yes. 2 vote no. One abstention.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the second part of MASC Resolution #2 that calls for the governance and licensure of professional educators to be vested in a board comprised of licensed educators. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve MASC Resolution #3 regarding school transportation. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to support MASC Resolution #4. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to support MASC Resolution #5, full funding of transportation costs for students in foster care and state care as part of the MASC resolutions. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to support MASC Resolution #6, Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to support MASC Resolution #7, eradication of poverty among children in Massachusetts. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to support MASC Resolution #8, access to menstrual supplies. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to support MASC Resolution #9, charter school reform. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

5. Academic Update: Next Generation MCAS 2019

Dr. Hirsch provided a detailed presentation for tonight's meeting which includes specific information on accountability as recommended by DESE. Tonight's agenda packet includes a detailed slide show which illuminates this process and where Chelmsford Public Schools currently stand. To fully understand her presentation, it is advisable for you to watch this portion of tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

6. FY20 financial Report – 1st Quarter (July – September 2019)

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's packet summarizing budget variances for the first quarter of FY20, with detailed data for The Committee. The data is included in tonight's agenda packet. Ms. Johnson-Collins complete presentation may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

7. FY20 Recommended Budgets Transfers

Mr. Moses motioned to recommend the School Committee vote to approve the two listed FY20 local operating budget transfers for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

8. FY21 Capital Planning

Dr. Lang shared the projects he feels need to be carried over from FY20 forward because they were not completed. He rated these projects from one to ten based on what he feels the priorities should be and provided information on a spread sheet. Included in tonight's agenda packet are project details for all the proposed capital improvements. Each Committee member rated the ten projects based on what they felt the priorities should be. Dr. Lang updated the spreadsheet accordingly. A final vote will be taken at the meeting on November 5, 2019. That information will be shared with the Capital Committee.

9. Personnel Report: September 2019

No action required.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb shared that the SEPAC will be presenting a workshop on "Basic Rights". The Friends of Music will meet on Thursday. Mr. Doherty attended to CHS PTO at which the main topic was the "After Prom Breakfast". Dr. Lang and Mr. Moses will attend the Council of Schools meeting tomorrow night. Ms. Santos attended the McCarthy PTO meeting. Upcoming events are "Rock and Roll Bingo" and "McCarthy Idol". Harrington PTO has an upcoming walkathon and a "Trunk or Treat".

Action/New Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to see updates for all the PTO web pages. She also raised the issue of the need for Epi Pens on the school busses. Dr. Lang will look in to this. Ms. Newcomb also feels that reading concerns should be the topic of an upcoming forum.

Public Comments

Allison Barnes, of 104 Garrison Road, updated on SEPAC events. She has concerns also about the reading programs and support for students.

Adjournment

Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio