

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 20, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

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

**Also present:** Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant 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 November 6, 2018

**Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of November 6, 2018. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0 with Ms. Skaar abstaining.**

**Good News**

Dr. Hirsch shared that the CHS play *Fiddler on the Roof* was outstanding! Ribbon cutting took place this week for The Jack Fletcher Fitness Room at CHS. Students demonstrated on the fitness equipment and Mr. Fletcher was pleased. Sixty sixth grade art students are participating in the International Lions Club Peace Poster Competition. This year's theme was "kindness matters". Muhammed Al Tuadi of Parker School was chosen as the first place winner. The preliminary rounds of the Geography Bee are taking place. The winner will proceed to the state competition on December 4, 2018.

Mr. Thomas reported that 28 students made Senior District Competition in the various music areas and 13 will be going on to All State.

**Public Comments**

None

## **New Business**

### **1. Spotlight on the Departments: English Department – Grades 5-12**

Dr. Lang welcomed Abbie Dick, English Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator. She was accompanied at the table by two CHS English teachers and a high school student. She talked about the data meetings she has held with the teachers. The first focused on reviewing MCAS data, while the second involved also SPED teachers, ELL teachers and reading teachers. As well as MCAS scores, iReady data was compared at the second meeting. The next meeting will take place in January. She spoke about iReady and iXL which are new professional development programs. Ms. Dick is spending a lot of time on curriculum and program review. Next-Generation ELA MCAS will be coming to grade 10 this year. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Poet Clint Smith, author of *Counting Descent*, will be working with students at CHS. The National English Honor Society at CHS, SIGMA TAU DELTA, has been established and on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 66 members of the senior class will be inducted. The students who are inducted will work on programs in the community to promote literacy and appreciation of literature and the arts. This school year marks the second year of the Capstone AP Seminar. The focus of this course is on research, writing and presentation.

### **2. Presentation: School Nutrition Program – 2018/19 Program Enhancements**

Dr. Lang welcomed Nancy Antolini, Director of School Nutrition, to speak about new program enhancements. She spoke of the increases in the lunch and breakfast programs for this year. She brought samples of the new food items to the meeting tonight. On November 5<sup>th</sup> South Row School joined CHS and Harrington in participating in the breakfast program. Center School may be joining before the holiday vacation. The food service staff have all participated in the ALICE Training, some knife skills courses and some exceptional customer service workshops. The two indoor organic school gardens at CHS are going well with a harvest coming this week and then one every 21 days. Hana Barker is responsible for the colorful murals which are growing as is the program grows.

### **3. Future School Committee Public Forum Topics**

Suggested topics included: later or earlier school start times; one to one learning; alternative structured learning and online learning. Dr. Lang suggests the next forum occur in late January or early February. He will look into available dates the week of January 28, 2019.

### **4. School Committee Policy Review**

**Mr. Thomas motioned for the Chelmsford School Committee to accept the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) new policy manual as modified by the School Committee between March 2018, and August 2018, and that the new policy manual supercede and replace the existing manual. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

### **5. Chelmsford High School Student Activity Account Audit Report – December 31. 2017.**

**Mr. Thomas motioned to accept the Chelmsford High School Student Activity Account Audit Report of December 31, 2017. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **6. MA DESE Coordinated Program Review Update**

Dr. Lang reported that the DESE sent him an email stating that the review has been completed and is closed.

**Mr. Thomas motioned to accept the progress report on the DESE Coordinated Program Review. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **7. Personnel Report: October 2018**

**Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Personnel Report for October 2018, Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **8. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests**

None

## **Reports**

### **1. Liaison Reports**

Ms. Newcomb attended the Harrington PTO meeting. They will be hosting "Heritage Day" in January. Fund raising is going very well this year at Harrington. SEPAC sent a survey to parents recently to get feedback on what is going well, what needs improvement and areas that require additional information. The Chelmsford Friends of Music will host an online auction tomorrow through December 11, 2018. The Wellness Committee will meet on December 10<sup>th</sup> and will discuss after-school enrichment.

Mr. King and Dr. Lang attended the MASC Conference in Hyannis and attended several workshops and received updates from around the state.

### **Action/New Items**

Mr. King would like the Committee to begin to put together information to be made available to new members when they join the Committee.

Ms. Skaar mentioned that Evelyn Thoren had surgery a few weeks ago. Good thoughts sent her way would be appreciated.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that Principal Murray and Dean Blagg of CHS are gathering information concerning student internships.

Ms. Skaar suggested that another topic for a forum might be student transportation.

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

**Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

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

*Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio*