

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 5, 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 15, 2019

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of October 15, 2019. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that today was Professional Development Day. Chelmsford High School and seven other Merrimack Valley regional schools provided sites for collaborative PD offerings. She thanked the CHS National Honor Society students, who helped teachers find their classrooms, and the Parker PRIDE students, who helped with the ED Camp that took place at Parker. Bill Silver will be on the Digital Learning Advisory Committee for which he was appointed by the Commissioner of Education. He will hold this position until June of 2022.

Mr. Doherty shared that The Table of Plenty is starting a program where packages of food are being sent home to students. Mary Moriarty, a retired Chelmsford teacher, is overseeing this locally.

Mr. King shared that Town Meeting approved funding for the CHS parking lot as well as the roof for South Row. He thanked Paul Cohen and the Town Meeting representatives for their support. Additionally, flashing crosswalks were approved for the schools. He also shared that a tentative agreement has been reached with the Chelmsford Federation of Teachers for a new contract. Ratification should take place in the next few weeks.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Presentation: Spotlight on the Schools & Departments – South Row School and Science

Dr. Molly McMahon, principal, and Jayson Ramalho, assistant principal, from South Row Elementary School joined the table along with Jon Morris, Department Coordinator for Science. The presentation was accompanied by an informative slide show with colorful photos of ongoing activities at South Row. Dr. McMahon began by updating all on happenings at South Row since last April's presentation. Mr. Ramalho provided updates on: iReady, more Chrome Book carts, life science kits and the blending of social science and science. Additionally, better attendance is a goal for this school year as well as increased collaboration between special education and regular education. Continued focus is on Social Skills Support and SEL. Creation of outdoor classroom space and its use has been well received by students and staff alike, as has the school garden. Second-grade teacher, Mrs. Connolly, and two of her former students shared their "courtyard experiences". Meghan Curran, a South Row parent, joined by students who are in her after school garden and healthy nutrition program. The garden has been supported in part by grant money and local donations. Food grown in the garden will be incorporated into the lunches at the school!

Mr. Morris looks forward to more outdoor spaces at the schools to augment the science curriculum. He also spoke of a new digital assessment called FOSSMAP which is being utilized this year for grades three and four. This summer, grade levels pacing guides were reflected upon and revised. The "Life Science" rollout from K to grade four is being supported by lots of nature supplies (like butterflies, earthworms, silkworms, etc.). The butterfly unit is a huge hit and student questions and observations are growing with the use of outdoor school spaces. Middle schools have also benefitted by science pacing guides, exploration opportunities and assessment strategies. Updated pacing guides, labs and syllabi are also being used at CHS for biology, biotechnology, physics and industrial arts courses. CHS students came to the table to share their excitement about new courses being offered this year. The five members of The Committee were presented with coasters from the industrial arts class. Finally, Mr. Morris shared what is next in science.

These presentations are shared not only in tonight's agenda packets but may be viewed by watching them on Chelmsford Telemedia/You Tube.

2. Follow-Up Discussion: Public Forum: Multi-year Strategic Plan – Tuesday October 22, 2019

Dr. Lang was pleased with the turnout for the forum. The parent survey results are in and should be available by the next Committee meeting. Focus group meetings will take place with staff, continuing into December, along with a survey. Middle school and CHS administrators are asked to meet with their student councils or other active student groups for feedback. Included in tonight's packet are the responses given as feedback to Objective #1 "Every Student Achieving Academically" and Objective #2 "Students Supported in a Positive, Prosocial Learning Environment". The next Forum will be held on December 10th. A draft document should be crafted by early January. The plan will be fleshed out in January before the beginning of budget planning in February.

3. FY21 Capital Planning

Dr. Lang's memorandum in tonight's packet details the prioritized list of projects.

Mr. Moses motioned to recommend the approval of the capital project priority order for the 2021 Capital Planning Committee. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

4. Update on MSBA Accelerated Repair Project: South Row Elementary School Roof

Dr. Lang included a memorandum in tonight's agenda packet. Additionally, he has learned that the State reimbursement rate on this project will be 51%. By the next Committee meeting, Dr. Lang will provide a modifying timetable on this project. The project is expected to be completed by next summer.

5. October 1, 2019 Student Enrollment Report

Dr. Lang's memorandum and spread sheet in tonight's packet provides data sent to the DESE for October 1, 2019. This report is required annually. This is the report on which the State relies to calculate the Chapter 70 reimbursements. The total number of students is 5,021, an increase over last year. This is the figure that will be used when planning the budget.

6. Student Activity Account Audit Reports: McCarthy and Parker Middle Schools

Ms. Johnson-Collins included this update in tonight's packet. Audits were done on both the middle schools' activity accounts. Ms. Johnson-Collins expressed gratitude from all who helped to compile this data.

Mr. Moses motioned to accept the Powers and Sullivan audit report and place it in file. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

7. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

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

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb shared that the South Row Pumpkin Fair was a huge success. The Chelmsford Friends of Music will meet November 14th. They will be running a silent auction from November 20 – December 10th. Seven of their members raised funds running in The Bay State Half Marathon. November was recognized as "SEPAC Month" and a proclamation was signed by the Governor. SEPAC will host an inclusion elementary workshop at the library at 7:00 p.m. on November 6, 2019. Parker will hold their craft fair on November 23rd. Their next PTO is on November 13th. Mr. Doherty shared that the CHIPS PTO continues to support their staff and set up fun educational activities for their students. The CHS PTO met last night and continue to work on the "after prom breakfast". More help would be appreciated! Ms. Santos attended the Wellness Committee meeting. They discussed their after-school program and decided it should remain under the auspices of Community Ed. McCarthy PTO shared that movie night had 150 students in attendance. They had their annual Halloween costumes and contests. The EEO Council attended the EL Parents Night which saw a good turnout. Parents are looking for EL classes for

themselves. The first EL Parents meeting will be held November 20th at Harrington at 7:00 p.m. Harrington Trick or Treat was a lot of fun! *Chicago* will be performed at the PAC on November 21, 22 and 23rd. Ms. Santos also attended the Speech and Debate Club and was quite impressed. Band night in collaboration with the middle schools was amazing to see on the football field. Mr. Moses attended the Council of Schools with Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch. He also attended the "Trunk or Treat" at Byam. It was a great event.

Action/New Items

Epi pens on busses
Crosswalk at the back of South Row School
Updating PTO pages on the website
Tri Board meeting on December 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office

Public Comments

Wendy Miller, of 11 Pleasant Avenue, shared that the McCarthy 8th graders were able to go to both Quebec and New York City this past spring.

Adjournment (8:05 p.m.)

Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation without returning to open 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