

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
December 1, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Donna Newcomb (Vice Chair), Mr. Jeff Doherty (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Maria Santos.

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance).

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Opening Statement

“Tonight’s meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. Although we are not allowing for in-person public participation, interested community members are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to Superintendent Lang if they would like to participate remotely under the public input portion of our meeting. During our public input session anyone who has joined us through the *gotomeeting* platform and expressed interest in making a comment will be recognized by the Superintendent and allowed to speak with The Committee. If anyone watching this meeting live has questions or comments to share they are encouraged to email one of us during the meeting. We will read those questions or comments during our second public input session at the end of the meeting.”

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of November 17, 2020.**

Ms. Newcomb motioned for the school committee to accept the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of November 17, 2020. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that Katie Simes was able to secure 30 snowshoes and poles for the PE department at CHS. Additionally, she has applied for grants to obtain snowshoes and poles for both middle schools, so the students can enjoy outside fun this winter. Seventeen CHS students are moving forward to the All State Honors for music. They all received the highest possible scores for their instruments and voices!

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Update on CPS COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocol

Peggy Gump, Coordinator for School Nursing Services, joined the meeting remotely. Ms. Gump has been instrumental in collaborating between the Town's public health workers and the schools. New protocols were adapted by the Board of Public Health and the Chelmsford Public Schools. The details are shared in tonight's packet and Dr. Lang shared them on the screen tonight. Ms. Gump enlightened all on the changes and shared that, despite widespread community spread of COVID, that spread has not been seen in the schools. There are 3214 students who are attending school in the hybrid learning model, only six students have tested positive. This led to quarantine of just five students who had close contact. There are 1690 students in the remote model and only two have tested positive. In the school setting there were no students with close contact who ended up testing positive. Ms. Gump said that on the District's website under "COVID" there is a list of sites where testing is being done for the virus.

2. Proposed 2021/22 School Calendar

The proposed academic calendar is shared in tonight's agenda packet. The second page, which details religious holidays, will be forthcoming.

Ms. Newcomb motioned for the school committee to accept the proposed calendar for the 2021/22 academic year. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

3. Department and School Presentation Schedule: Spring 2021

This schedule allows department and school personnel to present remotely. Presenters will share how they have dealt with the hybrid and remote learning models. The schedule is part of tonight's agenda packet.

4. Professional Development Opportunity: Diversity and Equity

Dr. Hirsch spoke about an upcoming PD opportunity for staff put together by Stephanie Quinn and Abbey Dick. The offering will be a three-part series in the form of a book group. *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendy was selected. There will be reading sessions followed by hour-long group discussions. In addition to school staff, administrators will be participating in this PD. This is one of many PD opportunities offered to promote diversity and equity by the district since last summer, including offerings for students.

Liaisons

Ms. Santos will attend the Harrington PTO meeting on December 2nd. Their holiday store which is offered online is doing well. This is a collaboration with Byam and CHIPS. She also thanked Dr. Lang for taking her on visits to CHS, Harrington and McCarthy. She was impressed by the cleanliness of the schools and, particularly impressed, by the technology being used in the classrooms. She was amazed by the students and staff who, while following rules, were fully engaged in the learning process. Ms. Santos also said that "Toys for Tots" is being sponsored by the Student Council at CHS. Donations may be dropped off until December 11th. She also recognized McCarthy's PTO for sponsoring a "Grab and Go" for staff. Another one is scheduled. The CHS PTO will sponsor a "Grab and Go" on December 17th with the students participating as well as the families. Mr. Doherty will attend the Capital Improvement meeting this Thursday. Mr. King attended Center's PTO meeting and is impressed by how much they continue to do with fund-raising, community building activities, and supporting the school staff. This PTO would love more help going forward. They were thankful to the district for the generous supplies of materials for this school year, which helped to lower the burden for those requests to the PTOs and parents across the Chelmsford Public Schools.

New Items

Ms. Newcomb shared that the CHS Alumni Antiracist Curriculum Group will be doing a presentation in January. Dr. Lang shared that Mr. Bill Silver will present updates on technology at the next regular meeting on December 15th. He also hopes that the HVAC report will be available for sharing at that meeting. Dr. Lang said that the upcoming budget and strategic plan will be discussed early in the new year, along with reviews on this school year so far and looking ahead to the 2021/22 school year which will hopefully be a “normal” one!

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment (6:46 p.m.)

Ms. Newcomb motioned to adjourn tonight’s meeting. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio*