

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 26, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Mr. Al Thomas (Vice Chair) and Ms. Donna Newcomb (Secretary). Mr. John Moses and Ms. Barbara Skaar are not present tonight.

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

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn the Executive Session dealing with collective bargaining and return to regular meeting. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. King opened the meeting at 6:10 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 February 5, 2019.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 5, 2019. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries by 2 with Mr. Thomas Abstaining.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Kate shared that March will be a busy month starting tomorrow with Flex Block. This Friday and Saturday the CHS Theatre Guild will host the METG Drama Festival at the PAC. On March 4, 5 and 6th there will be MCAS ELA retests. Speeches for student elections for the Class of 2020 will be given during Plus Block. On March 6th college representatives will be coming to CHS to talk to juniors and a "Parent Night" will also be held in the evening. Thursday, March 7th will be an early release day. The Class of 2020 election will be held on March 8th as will the Brighter Cultures for Brighter Futures Dance. March 9th the PAC will host the String Fest for grades four through 12. March 11th there will be more MCAS make up testing. On March 12th the Career Options Breakfast will be held from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. for all juniors with Winter Sports Awards being given out in the evening. "Cause Day" Kickoff will take place on March 14th. This program enhances student understanding of various diseases. "Mr. CHS" will be held on Friday, March 15th. Senior John Lambert was a National Merit finalist. Girls' basketball playoffs are happening tonight, while Boys' Hockey tournament is tomorrow night. Cheerleading placed fourth this weekend and will be going to regionals on Sunday.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that the CHS Math Team was invited to try out for The American Regional Mathematics League. This will take place at Penn State in June. Five CHS students were nominated to participate in this competition. All four elementary schools do the morning breakfast program now and the principals say it is running smoothly and all the stakeholders are pleased. South Row will hold their Science Fair tomorrow night. Center will hold theirs on March 12th with McCarthy's taking place on March 13th. Byam School completed their Winter Reading Challenge with students reading over 200,000 minutes! Parker School's PRIDE week was a huge success and much fun! Parker's Got Talent will take place on March 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the McCarthy Auditorium.

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Departments: Fine and Performing Arts

Christina Whittlesey, PreK-12 Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator, shared what is happening in the Arts in Chelmsford. She started her presentation by telling of the many compliments she receives from parents about the wonderful programs available to all our students. Her complete slide show is included in tonight's agenda packet. During her presentation she demonstrated how every student achieves in visual arts, in theatre and in music. She provided details on how social emotional learning is supported and competencies are addressed throughout the classes every day. Amanda Cooper, who is a music teacher at South Row School shared how the arts programs succeed at her school. Teresa Karangioze, CHS Art Teacher, and students Autumn and Ariana Bellan spoke fondly of "The Memory Project" in which high school students create portraits of children who are living in orphanages all over the world. The highlight of the night was a live performance by the McLobby Ensemble from McCarthy Middle School. This ensemble provides live music each Friday morning in the lobby as McCarthy students enter the school.

Public Comments

Christina Bruce, of 16 Clarissa Road, is the President of the Chelmsford Friends of Music. She is thankful for the tremendous amount of public support for the music programs. She thanked the Committee for their past support and hopes this support will continue going forward.

Maria Santos, of 19 Parkhurst Road, asked how the reduction of two teachers at McCarthy will effect eighth grade students next year. She expressed deep appreciation for the CHS Theatre program and accompanying parental support. Once again, she expressed hope that the future would see a social worker for the entire school community.

New Business

2. FY2020 Budget Hearing

Dr. Lang shared highlights of his proposed budget including: adding one additional classroom at CHIPS; the addition of a social worker to the Parker School staff; increasing a part time SPED teaching position at Parker to full time; adding two more assistant principals at the elementary schools; reinstating the World Language Curriculum Coordinator; and the addition of one SPED Chair position. He also proposes: the 1:1 computer initiative; reduction of fees for student activity programs; and the elimination of student parking fees at CHS. He also responded to Ms. Santos's question about the teaching staff at McCarthy's eighth grade stating that one of the remaining teachers would teach math and science, and the other would teach ELA and Social Science.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the School Committee budget of \$29,900. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Superintendent budget of \$378,903. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Assistant Superintendent budget of \$234,784. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the District Wide line item of \$570,700. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Business and Finance line item of \$397,916. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Human Resources line item of \$301,807. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Legal Services and Settlements line item of \$140,000. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Districtwide Miscellaneous line item of \$1,261,747. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Curriculum Directors line item of \$1,230,095. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Curriculum Directors – Special Education line item of \$845,719. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the School Leadership line item of \$2,630,357. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Classroom Teachers – Regular Education line item of \$23,495,323. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Teacher Specialist – Regular Education line item of \$1,535,799. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Teacher Specialist – Special Education line item of \$5,760,385. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Medical/Therapeutic Services line item of \$371,705. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Substitutes line item of \$581,000. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Paraprofessionals line item of \$3,954,960. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Library/Media Center line item of \$680,849. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Professional Development line item of \$157,925. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Textbooks and Instructional Materials line item of \$522,350. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Instructional Equipment line item of \$171,650. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the General Supplies line item of \$540,725. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Other Instructional Services – Special Ed line item of \$215,150. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Classroom Instructional Technology and Software line item of \$512,000. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Guidance and Psychological Services line item of \$2,183,530. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Medical and Health Services line item of \$790,244. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Transportation line item of \$3,715,533. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Food Services line item of \$117,512. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Athletic Department line item of \$636,577. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Other Student Activities line item of \$153,940. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the School Security line item of \$201,279. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Custodial Services line item of \$1,720,247. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Hearing of Buildings and Utility Services line item of \$1,173,250. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Employee Separations Costs line item of \$228,486. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Tuitions line item of \$3,557,653. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the bottom line local operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020 for the Chelmsford Public Schools in the amount of \$61,000,000. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 3-0.

3. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the five high school field trips as presented to the Committee. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

Reports

None tonight.

Public Comments

Glenn Diggs, of 220 Wellman Avenue, expressed his thanks for the budget which he feels should be supported, but believes the final FY20 number should be increased. He personally feels that a designated position should be added to address the Social Emotional and Counseling needs of the students. Based on new positions proposed in the Town budget, he believes there should be funding to support such a position for the schools. Dr. Lang and Mr. Diggs will meet soon to further discuss this option and review what is already in place to meet this need.

Hana Barker, of Newtown Way, asked if with the 1:1 initiative will include designated Chrome books as well. She was assured that this will happen by Dr. Lang. Regarding the reduction of two staff from McCarthy feels that these teachers should be kept as part of a four person team for the next school year. She believes that the students in eighth grade will be better served by four teachers each teaching the subject they are most experienced in teaching. She feels the students will be better prepared to start high school the following year. She would also like to see more discussion and planning for the \$60,000 allocated for improvements in Communication and Media.

Maria Santos, 19 Parkhurst Road, expressed thanks to Mr. Diggs for his concern about the social and emotional needs. She would like to see a district presentation on how the social emotional learning needs of our students are met. Dr. Lang added that the newly hired Coordinator for Social Emotional Learning and Counseling Services will be coming to speak about the programs at an upcoming Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:14 p.m. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio