

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 5, 2019  
Meeting Minutes**

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

**Also present:** Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch 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 January 22, 2019.

**Ms. Skaar motioned to approve the minutes of January 22, 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

**CHS Student Representative Announcements**

Clare reported that tomorrow will be an early release day. The mentors will meet with their freshman mentees on Thursday. Underclassmen scheduling will take place this week. There will be an informational meeting on Thursday for the parents of eighth grade students. Night Sounds will be held in the Black Box Theatre on February 13, 2019. February break will take place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The town of Chelmsford Scholarships for seniors will be due on February 15, 2019.

**Good News**

Dr. Hirsch reported that the TEA scholars arrived on January 31<sup>st</sup>, not the 24<sup>th</sup> as indicated in a previous meeting. They received an incredible welcome at CHS on Monday. The TEA teachers will be here for five more weeks and will attend the Committee meeting on March 5, 2019. Clint Smith performed poetry at CHS on January 28<sup>th</sup> to Chelmsford students, Burlington High School students and the Chelmsford community. This was in conjunction with a grant received by the Chelmsford Public Library. Christina Whittlesly successfully defended her dissertation yesterday at UMASS Lowell and will receive her Ph.D. in education this May. During tomorrow's professional development day there will be a joint session in social studies and science for K-4 teachers focusing on inquiry based learning methods. Tonight our unified PE students are playing with students from Billerica at the boys' basketball game. Last Wednesday Harrington held their Heritage Festival which celebrated diversity in Chelmsford. There are 54 languages spoken by families and children who are part of the Chelmsford Public Schools.

## **Public Comments**

None.

## **New Business**

### **1. Spotlight on the Schools: Parker Middle School**

Dr. Parks with the assistance of Ms. Ashley Jean and Parker PRIDE reps Ella Parks and Mary Keohane updated the Committee on the many highlights for this year at the Parker Middle School. The slide show and oral presentations addressed the results of the Homework Survey and changes made directly in response to the data gathered. They also shared strides made by the Parker PBIS Committee. Updates were given by the students on the Parker PRIDE Committee. Lastly, upcoming events at Parker were highlighted. This entire presentation may be viewed by watching tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

### **2. Presentation: Chelmsford SEPAC**

Alison Barnes and members of the board of SEPAC shared the many accomplishments they have achieved in the past year including CHIPs packets, workshops, and data acquired as results of a needs assessment survey. They also shared their goals for 2019/20, concerns and recommendations and their proposed budget for the upcoming year. Additionally they shared resources which may be found on their current website. In addition to their presentation, tonight's agenda packet provides detailed information.

### **3. Community Notification of Fundraising Activity**

Dr. Lang included in tonight's agenda packet detailed information about fundraising activity in the Chelmsford Public Schools. The information may be found on the CPS Website under the "Community" link and "fundraising". This facilitates knowledge of what fundraising activities are "authorized and legitimate".

### **4. Pending/Planned RFPs: Community Education Program – Westlands School**

Dr. Lang provided a memorandum and spoke tonight about two project RFPs for improvements at the Westlands School. The first proposal is to replace the deteriorated playground with a new one which will be accessible for the students at Westlands, whose ages range from 18 months to five years. The second project is to put air conditioning in the upstairs classrooms. This area of Westlands is used by Summerfest and (the new teen camp) SummerQuest during the summer and will meet the needs of between 80 and 100 students per day. Funding would come from the Community Education Revolving Fund. No action is required by the Committee tonight.

**5. Vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest for the Accelerated Repair Program at South Row Elementary School**

This is in addition to the core program which we will submit in the spring for the new high school. This funding is needed in order to facilitate the improvements needed for South Row School.

**Ms. Skaar motioned as follows: Having convened in an open meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of the Town of Chelmsford, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 5, 2019, for the South Row Elementary School located at 250 Boston Road which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for the replacement of school facility systems, such as roofs, as certain sections of the roof at South Row Elementary School have exceeded their useful life and require replacement at this time; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Chelmsford to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.**

**6. Presentation: Superintendent's Recommended FY20 Budget**

Dr. Lang shared copies of his recommended FY20 budget with the Committee. At the next Committee meeting on February 26, 2019, he will go over the budget line by line with the Committee and the public, who will have the opportunity to share their comments on the proposed budget. The entire budget book will be posted on the district's website following tonight's meeting. In comparison to other comparable communities, Chelmsford comes out in the center funding wise, while academically we are in the top third. Due to a continuing decrease in class sizes at McCarthy two seventh grade teaching positions will be discontinued, with the plan for the teachers involved to transfer to other teaching position within the district. The budget also proposes the addition of a social worker at Parker, in lieu of adding an additional guidance counselor. The budget will also add two assistant principals for the four elementary schools, which will allow for each school to have a full time assistant principal. The proposed budget totals \$61 million.

**7. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests**

**Ms. Skaar motioned to approve the field trip for Parker Middle School's eighth grade to New York City on June 5, 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

## Reports

### 1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Skaar will be attending the McCarthy PTO meeting on February 6, 2019. The Chair shared that the recent public forum was well received.

### Public Comments

None

### Adjournment

**Ms. Skaar motioned to adjourn tonight's Committee meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0**

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

*Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio*