

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

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

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

Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of March 5, 2019.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the regular school committee meeting minutes of March 5, 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare stated that the CHS acapella group, The Thursdays, won the semi-final round of the International Competition of High School Acapella and will be traveling to New York to compete in the finals. The mentors will meet with their freshman mentees tomorrow. ACA-POCALYPSE, which will showcase the CHS acapella groups the Thursdays and the Crescendos and groups from Northeastern University as well as other groups from surrounding towns, will be held this weekend. Concerts will be held Friday and Saturday night with workshops on Saturday during the day. ELA MCAS will be on March 26th.

Kate shared that term 3 will end on April 1st and April 2nd is an early release day for professional development. Juniors will be attending a college fair in Boston on April 4th to learn about colleges, trade schools and military opportunities. On April 4th there will be a pre MICA concert for the orchestra. April 5th through 7th the band, chorus and orchestra will be performing at the MICA Festival.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch stated there were three "awesome" science fairs this week. The projects were "unbelievable" and the students were articulate. Thank you to the seventh grade ELA teachers who arranged for author and Holocaust survivor, Marion Blumenthal-Lars, to come and share her experiences with the students. This important opportunity happens annually. Dr. Hirsch also thanks Lisa Parado for arranging for Mass. Poetry to come in April to conduct student workshops at CHS. The National English Honor Society partnered with Harrington School for "Reading Day". Congratulations to CHS students Kelly Hannah and Jennifer Su who won 2019 Scholastic Art in Writing awards for their poetry.

Public Comments

Sam Bolton, Chairman of the town Democratic Committee, invited all to attend the candidates' debate to be held on March 27, 2019, at the Chelmsford Police Department's training room from 7 to 9:00 p.m.

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Departments: Health and Physical Education

Katie Simes, Department Coordinator for Health and Physical Education along with colleagues and students, shared a presentation which is also included in tonight's agenda packet which provides an update with highlights of what is happening throughout the District. The presentation began with the CHS Unified Physical Education program which allows students to work one-on-one in the gym with students who have physical disabilities. This is facilitated by student coaches, who shared their experiences. This part of the presentation included a video of a Unified PE Class held in the new fitness center. The new CHS fitness center is open to staff before school, during the school day PE classes for students are held there, and after school the entire student body has access to it, with supervision. Coaches and teams may also reserve time to use it. The district is switching to a Skill-Based Health Curriculum at the middle schools. The skills learned will be useful immediately, a year from now, and throughout their lives to assist them in making better choices for themselves. A highlight of this approach is "Cause Day" which will take place on April 12th. Students choose a cause and advocate for it. McCarthy Middle school students shared their specific cause stories with the Committee.

2. **Executive Session: M.G.L. Ch.30A , Section 21(a)(3) – The Chelmsford School Committee provides public notice of its intent to convene in executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.**

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy for collective bargaining and/or litigation. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.

The Committee left for executive session at 6:42 p.m. and returned to continue the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

3. Ratification of memorandum of Agreement: Chelmsford Schools' Food Service Association

Dr. Lang reviewed the details of the contract with the Committee.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Chelmsford Public School Committee and the Chelmsford Schools' Food Service Association that will be in effect for the three year period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0. Town Manager, Paul Cohen was included in this vote.

4. Discussion on Future School Committee Public Forum Topics

The Committee discussed featuring the topics of SEL across the curriculum and transportation. Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch will prepare a suggested agenda for a public forum on SEL. Transportation will be featured at a Committee meeting in late May or early June.

5. Update on Status of 2019 MSBA Submissions

Dr. Lang states the district is waiting to hear back from MSBA on the submission concerning roof replacement at South Row School. He is preparing the submission for the Chelmsford High School project, which will be completed and shared with the Committee for approval at the April 9, 2019, meeting. CORE submission is due at MSBA by April 12th.

6. Updates: Ongoing Projects

The acoustical ceiling tile project at Parker School was recently completed in 18 classrooms. The outcome is pleasing to the staff.

The Community Education Building bid for HVAC came in significantly higher than the project cost estimate. The project will go out for bid again and Dr. Lang will update the Committee after the April 10, 2019, bid due date.

The custodial contract bids are being reviewed and Dr. Lang will share them at the next Committee meeting. He will also include an update on the playground project at the Community Education Building.

7. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Thursdays trip to New York City on April 26th – April 28th, and the Parker Middle School eighth grade trip to Canobie Lake Park on May 30, 2019. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Reports

Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb met with the Wellness Committee and they are continuing to work on after-school enrichment programs at the elementary schools, with the hope of starting in the fall.

The Chair attended Center School's PTO meeting. They have an upcoming science fair, ziti supper and recycling day. A representative from the Chelmsford Public Library attended the meeting and spoke about ways the library and the schools can collaborate.

Action Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to investigate the possibility of changing the requirement of a bachelors' degree for substitute teachers to an associates' degree.

Mr. Moses would like to discuss the Byam School's process for students attending middle school.

Public Comments

Marie Santos, of 19 Parkhurst Road, suggested that the upcoming Public Forum on SEL include: interactions with the Board of Health; the opioid crisis; the Wellness Committee; school nurses roles in SEL; helping students feel safe in school; and diversity in the district.

The Chair announced that tonight would have been Barbara Skaar's last meeting as a Committee member. He thanked her for all of her hard work during those 6 years as a member and also for countless hours she put in for many years prior to joining the Committee. A gift from the Committee will be delivered to here at home. Ms. Newcomb echoed the Chair's words about Ms. Skaar's dedication

Adjournment

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:31 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