

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 5, 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.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare reported that Chelmsford hosted the MTGE preliminary competition. CHS moved on to the semi-finals for the show *The Lucky Charm*. This week will bring MCAS ELA retests and an early release day on Thursday.

Kate added that on Thursday and Friday MCAS math retesting will take place. Today the junior class election speeches were held for vice president and treasurer. Speeches for president and secretary will take place on Thursday. The Brighter Colors for Brighter Futures Jimmy Fund Dance will take place on Friday. The string fest for grades four through 12 will take place on Saturday in the PAC. Tuesday, March 12th the winter sports awards be given. Mr. CHS will happen on Friday at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that Jassy Dukes of McCarthy and Ryan McElligot of Parker qualified for the Massachusetts State Geography Bee. Thursday at the Chelmsford Public Library from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. the annual K – 12 Youth Art Exhibit will be presented. Awards will be presented to the artists.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Schools: Harrington Elementary School

Principal Rob Asselin from the Harrington Elementary School with the assistance of staff and students presented an update on happenings at Harrington. His presentation slide show is included in tonight's agenda packet. Harrington's "Scientist of the Week Club" opened the presentation. The club meets during recess once a week with students having 15 minutes to present their experiments. Examples of the experiments were shared. The Club ties in with the Next Generation Science Standards, the Common Core Standards and the curriculum. The highlight of the night were actual experiments performed at the School Committee table by students with assistance from Committee members!

2. Welcome: UMASS Lowell Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Fulbright Scholars

Dr. Hirsch introduced the TEA Scholars who shared their experiences during the past six weeks in schools in our area. Teachers from the Ukraine, Uganda, and India expressed deep appreciation for the warm reception they were given and for the opportunity to share experiences and cultural exchanges with our staff and students. There will be a farewell dinner held this Friday night before the TEA scholars return home to their countries.

3. 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 that the Committee move to Executive Session to discuss strategy for collective bargaining or litigation. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

The Committee left for Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn from Executive Session and return to the regular meeting of the Chelmsford School Committee. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

4. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement: Chelmsford School Administrators' 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 School Administrators 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.

5. Vote on School Choice Program: 2019/20 School Year

Mr. Thomas motioned to accept twelve (12) additional/new students at Chelmsford High School in Grade 9 under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts School Choice Program bringing the total School Choice participation in the Chelmsford Public Schools to fifty (50) enrolled students during the 2019/20 school year. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.

6. Personnel Report: January 2019

No action required tonight.

7. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

None.

Reports

Liaison Reports

Mr. Thomas attended the PTO meeting at CHS where planning the After Prom Breakfast was discussed. Donations of gift items and volunteers to help out are needed.

Ms. Newcomb attended the SEPAC meeting last Thursday where the guest speaker spoke about mental health and behavioral resources available in the community. They also worked on their goals for next year.

Chairman King stated that the updated MASC/District policies are available on the website as is information on the current budget proposal. He also would like the Committee to think about possible topics for the next Public Forum.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn the regular School Committee meeting at 7:29 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

