

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

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

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. The Chair introduced Maria Santos, the newest member elected to the Committee, and also Mr. John Moses, who has been reelected to his second term. At a meeting held on April 4th, Mr. King was reelected as the Chair. Mr. Moses is the new Vice Chair and Ms. Santos is the new secretary.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular committee meeting of February 26, 2019.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 26, 2019. Mr. Thomas seconded. Motion carries 3 to 2 with Mr. Moses and Ms. Santos abstaining.

2. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of March 19, 2019.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the minutes of the school committee meeting of March 19, 2019. Mr. Thomas seconded. Motion carries 3 to 2 with Mr. Moses and Ms. Santos abstaining.

3. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 4, 2019.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 4, 2019. Ms. Santos seconded. Motion carries 4 to 1 with Mr. Thomas abstaining.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare reported that this past weekend at the MICA Festival: the CHS Band won a gold medal; both CHS Orchestras received silver awards; and the Treble and Concert Choirs also received silver. The International Relations Club won best delegation at the UMASS/Lowell Model UN Contest last weekend. The Bright Lights for Bright Futures Dance raised \$3,700 for Dana Farber's Jimmy Fund. The Stars and Stripes Shindig raised over \$2,000 for Wounded Warriors. Last Friday's Wellness Fair was a huge success! The Tri Music Honor Society induction will be held on April 23rd and the English Honor Society induction will be on May 1, 2019. The CHS acapella group, The Thursdays, will perform in New York on Broadway on April 26th for the finals of the International Groups of High School Acapella.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that MCAS online testing is going well. Center School held a luncheon honoring paraprofessionals and bus drivers. Byam held their talent show on Saturday. Principal Fredette said the students "Wowed the crowd". McCarthy held their talent show last weekend. In the MICA Competition the middle schools did very well. The CHS Speech and Debate Team hosted a successful state competition last week. The CHS Science Olympiad finished 15th out of 55 last week at the state competition. McCarthy's Science Olympiad finished 8th out of 32 teams. The tetraponic growing system at CHS was moved to the PAVE program classroom at the high school and with senior, Kelly Marshall, they are developing a student handbook for the system to increase student participation.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Schools: South Row Elementary School

Dr. Molly McMahon, Principal, and Mr. Jayson Ramalho, Assistant Principal, along with staff, parents and many students from kindergarten through grade 4, shared an uplifting presentation which included: enrichment programs; yoga and mindfulness; several new pilot programs (SEL, kindness, Second Step); science programs and science fair and their fourth Annual International Festival. This entire presentation may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia/YouTube.

2. Discussion on School Committee Public Forum

The Committee agreed to hold the next event on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the training room of the Chelmsford Police Department. The topic will be Social Emotional Learning. Dr. Lang will submit an agenda to be reviewed at the Committee meeting on April 23, 2019.

3. Discussion on School Committee Liaison Assignments

The Chair asked the Committee to review the assignments for 2018/2019 and discuss which may be deleted and what should be added to the list. The EL Council, the Chelmsford Board of Health, and the Senior Center were suggested additions. Committee members should email Mr. King with their assignment preferences.

4. MSBA Vote: Vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest (SOI) for Chelmsford High School

Mr. Moses motioned having convened in an open meeting on Tuesday April 9, 2019, prior to the closing date, the School Committee 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 April 5, 2019 for Chelmsford High School located at 200 Richardson 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, including the elimination of existing severe overcrowding; prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments; replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; 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 City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

5. Amendment to the 2019-2020 School Calendar

Mr. Moses motioned to move the half days from Thursday, March 12th to Tuesday, March 3rd and from Wednesday, April 1st to Tuesday, April 7th. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

6. FY2018 Financial Audit – MA DESE End-of-Year Financial Report

Mr. Moses motioned to accept the FY18 Mass DESE End-of-Year Audit report. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

7. CHS Enrollment and Staffing Report

Dr. Hirsch updated the Committee on projected student enrollment and reduction in CHS staff to be relocated throughout the district. Discussion followed and Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch answered questions and concerns about the proposal.

8. Turf Field Revolving Fund Update

Ms. Johnson-Collins shared a memorandum and a spread sheet providing an update for the Turf Field Revolving Fund (518). Ms. Newcomb requested the data be added to the budget, to which Dr. Lang agreed.

9. CHS Athletic Turf Field Signage

Dan Hart, Athletic Director, presented a proposal on raising additional revenue to support the turf fields,

by selling advertisements to be placed on the fences at the fields at CHS and McCarthy. His slide show is included in tonight's agenda packet and his full presentation may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia/YouTube. Mr. Hart will provide additional guidelines for the next Committee meeting on April 23, 2019, at which time the Committee will vote on the measure.

10. Personnel Report: February 2019

No action required.

11. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Request

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the trip for the CHS DECA International Career Development Conference. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Reports

Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb shared that the Chelmsford Friends of Music will hold a bottle and can drive this Saturday. On April 18th SEPAC will be having their "Day on the Hill" and she will join them. South Row's movie night will be on May 3, 2019, and an Engineering Day on May 29th. The Community Read-In will be held from May 28th – 31st. She requested that this be placed on the District's home page so volunteer readers may commit. This weekend is The Friends of the Library book sale. Teachers are allowed to choose books for their classrooms at no cost.

Mr. Thomas commends the students and staff at CHS for helping pack 12,000 meals for the Rotary's "Rise Against Hunger".

The Chair reminded everyone about Town meeting on April 29, 2019.

Action Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to follow up on the substitute teacher situation and also transportation.

Public Comments

Jeb Mays, District Coordinator, of the Service Employees International Union, spoke to the Committee about the importance of vetting custodial services before contracting them.

Adjournment

Mr. Moses motioned at 8:20 p.m. to adjourn to Executive Session with the intent not to return to public 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. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio