

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 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)

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair welcomed all and stated that the meeting will be recorded and televised by Chelmsford Telemedia. Additionally he thanked the Town and its residents for their overwhelming support of the budget for the upcoming school year.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 23, 2019.**

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the regular Committee minutes from April 23, 2019. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 4 – 1 with Mr. Thomas abstaining.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare shared that TAMI nominations for *Fiddler on the Roof* were announced and the show received 14 nominations. AP testing is taking place this week and next at the high school. The children's play will take place this Thursday and Saturday at the PAC. The CHS alumni Scholarship award night will be on May 13th at 7:00 p.m. Senior Student Award Night will be at the PAC on May 16, 2019.

Kate reported that the Junior Cotillion will be held on May 18, 2019. The mock car crash will take place on May 23rd. Math MCAS begins on May 24th. The last day of school for seniors will be May 24th and the Town of Chelmsford Awards night is also on May 24th at 7:00.

The Committee presented Kate and Clare with parting gifts to thank them for all their hard work this year. (Round of applause.)

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared visual “good news” which is an exhibition of CHS artwork on display at the Z Art Gallery in Lowell. South Row School hosted a “Glow Party” in music classes and Parker seventh graders demonstrated PRIDE by putting plantings in their outdoor courtyard.

Mr. Ben Cole of 82 Brick Kiln Road, shared that the 205 page yearbook has been published and thanked Kate and Clare for their work as editors!

Public Comments

Tammy Gambale, of 17 Waterford Place, shared her concerns about the safety of the school bus stop to which her children are assigned.

Donna Omobono, Seven Crabapple Lane, also a CPS teacher, stated that on Thursday, May 16th a rally will be held in Boston at the State House called a “Red for Ed Rally”. This is to encourage lawmakers to change Chapter 70 funding. She requested a joint letter from the CFT and the Committee urging the four state representatives to re-evaluate the state funding procedures.

Ben Cole, 82 Brick Kiln Road, thanked Dr. Lang for arranging for a bus to provide transportation for all who wish to attend the rally. He distributed special “rally” T-shirts to Dr. Lang, Chairman King and Ms. Newcomb. More details on the rally will be forthcoming by Dr. Lang. He is also agreeable to sending the joint letter requested.

Mr. Cole also requested district support for CPS teachers who have been asked to act as AP Exam Readers, by allowing them to use professional development days in order to participate. Those who have done this in the past have seen ways to improve their teaching and higher scores in AP exams have been realized.

New Business

1. Chelmsford High School Alumni Association Awards Night

Mr. George Simonian and Mr. Terry McSheehy spoke about the 21st annual awards night sponsored by the Chelmsford High School Alumni Association. It will be held on Monday, May 13th, at the Carl Rondina Performing Arts Center. Awards given to seniors and alumni this year will exceed \$54,000.

2. Spotlight on the Schools: CHIPS Program

Mr. Russ Hoyt, Coordinator of the Chelmsford Integrated Preschool Program (CHIPS) gave a presentation to the Committee which was augmented by his pictured slide show, included in tonight’s agenda packet. He shared the K through 12 standards that are addressed through preschool play and learning in ELA, mathematics, science, technology, engineering, social sciences, health and the arts. Social emotional learning (SEL) and approaches to play and learning (APL) are interwoven with the daily activities. Members of the Committee shared positive experiences and parental praise about the CHIPS program. The CHIPS students are very excited about the new playground they will be getting soon!

3. FY19 Budget Projection

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a detailed memorandum in tonight's agenda packet concerning the current year's budget projection. She thoroughly reviewed the narrative and information with the Committee including a chart using the DESE budget code system. All Committee member's questions on this report were answered.

Mr. Moses motioned to accept this report of the 2019 Budget projection as a report in progress. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

4. FY19 Recommended Budget Transfers

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum requesting budget transfers.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve a transfer from Other Instructional Services SPED to Special Education Transportation in the amount of \$22,000, from Other Instructional Services SPED Contracted Services to Fuel at the High School in the amount of \$29,000 and Curriculum Director's Salary to Employee Separation costs in the amount of \$2,000 for a total of \$53,000. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve a budget transfer from the Districtwide Computer Services to the Instructional Technology account for Chelmsford High School for \$53,000, to the Instructional Technology account to McCarthy for \$6,500 and to the Instructional Technology account to Parker for \$6,500 for a total of \$66,000. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

5. Student Transportation Program Report and Fees: 2019/20 School Year

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum updating the Committee on bus transportation including fee structures, how to register and bus routes. She was joined to present by Mr. Peter Brekalis, Transportation Coordinator. All must register even if no payment is due. Parents are encouraged to register as early as possible (before August 1st) to insure the most satisfactory route assignments. Late registrations create a problem for route assignments.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the transportation fees for the 2019/20 school year as presented. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

6. Preliminary Kindergarten Enrollment: 2019/20 School Year

Dr. Lang is sharing this information in tonight's packet. No action required by the Committee.

7. McCarthy and Parker Middle School Assignments

Dr. Lang has included a memorandum in tonight's packet addressing the middle school assignments for the children leaving the four elementary schools. At this time the numbers do not support changing the current policy. This may be monitored in upcoming years for reconsideration.

8. Approval of Conference and Field Trip Requests

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the Chelmsford High School field trip request. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Reports

Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos attended the Economic Development Council's meeting. They have created a website about Chelmsford to encourage more economic growth. She also attended the EL Council meeting at which bylaws were adopted. The organization is now officially formed. She be attending the PTO meetings this week at McCarthy and Harrington. She felt that last night's Forum went well. She requested a link be put on the District's website to connect to community services.

The Chair and others met with representatives last week on "Day on the Hill".

Action Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to see more than ten minutes allocated at Town Meeting for the superintendent to present the budget. The Chair offered to send a letter to the Town Moderator concerning this issue.

Mr. Thomas reminded the Committee that the Rotary Duck Race will be held on May 11th this year. The Rotary is very supportive of the schools.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio