

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
July 23, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also present: Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance).

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Opening Statement

The Chair welcomed all and stated that the meeting will be recorded and televised by Chelmsford Telemedia. Superintendent Lang is not able to be at tonight's meeting due to a death in his family. Dr. Hirsch will conduct the meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of June 18, 2019.**

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2019. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that the Chelmsford Public Schools have received official certification for the ALICE protocols. All the title grants, and special education grants are in and the allocations look good. An anonymous donation has been made to McCarthy Middle School for a nine-hole disc golf course. Professional development continues for staff throughout the summer. Teachers for grades five and nine have been working on the 1:1 initiative.

The Chair shared that a tentative agreement has been reached with the support personnel who will be meeting the beginning of August to ratify the agreement. The Committee will be able to vote on this at the next regular meeting.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Chelmsford INTERFACE Activity Report December 2018 – May 2019

The memorandum from Dr. Lang and supporting data from William James College provide information regarding what services are being used and by what age groups. The public is increasingly using the support for families and children. The school web sites continue to promote this valuable resource. The link still needs to be added to the district web site.

2. School Committee Self Evaluation Process & Workshop

The Committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, August 13th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. to work on the self-evaluation process as detailed in tonight's agenda packet. The Chair requests that individuals complete and return their evaluation forms to him by Friday, August 2, 2019.

3. MA DESE Alternative Structured Learning Day Update

The DESE has decided that the pilot programs for alternative structured learning day will not be moving forward. Districts with previously approved pilots will be able to use them during the 2019/20 school year but not after that. The Chelmsford working group on this matter will be discontinued.

4. MSBA Accelerated Repair Project Approval: South Row Elementary School Roof

The South Row roof project has been approved by the MSBA, Dr. Lang will provide updates as the paper work is completed and the project moves forward. The goal is to have the project completed before school opens.

5. Preliminary FY19 End-of-Year Budget Adjustments/Transfers

Ms. Johnson-Collins walked the Committee through the details of her memorandum in tonight's packet and supporting materials.

Mr. Moses motioned to transfer the actual charges made to the local SPED OOD tuition account to the circuit breaker revolving fund in the amount of \$2,274,416. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to transfer \$21,077 from the general fund to the food service revolving fund. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses motioned to transfer from the line items as listed in favorable column to the unfavorable balances as listed in the amount of \$56,129. Ms. Newcomb seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

6. FY20 Budget Adjustments/Transfers

Tonight's agenda packet includes a memorandum from Dr. Lang containing student enrollment report data. An increase in enrollment in second grade at the Harrington Elementary School indicates a fifth section for that grade needs to be added.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the transfer from the Chelmsford High School salaries account to the Harrington salaries account in the amount of \$56,967. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

7. Personnel Report: June 2019

No action required.

8. 2019/20 School Year Hiring Update

The memorandum in tonight's packet from Cheryl Kirkpatrick, Director of Personnel & Professional Learning, provides an update indicating that 80% of professional staff vacancies have been filled with five full-time, three part-time and one unaffiliated position remaining to be filled.

9. Ongoing Projects Update

Dr. Lang states in his memorandum that Center and Harrington Schools parking lot work is scheduled for completion by August 16, 2019. The striping for the CHS parking lot should be done by August 12, 2019. School bus transportation registration is going very well.

Reports

Ms. Newcomb shared that Lori McCarron has been chosen to serve on the DESE Special Education Advisory Council.

Action/New Items

Mr. Al Thomas read a letter dated July 16th which was addressed to Superintendent Lang and Chairman Dennis King in which he submits his resignation from the Chelmsford School Committee effective July 31, 2019. To hear the full letter, please view tonight's Committee meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia/YouTube. The Chair and Committee Members sincerely thanked Mr. Thomas for all his contributions to the children of Chelmsford and the Chelmsford Public Schools. Mr. Thomas was presented with a gift and a round of applause.

Public Comments

Hana Barker, of Newtown Way, began by also thanking Mr. Thomas for all he has done. She cautioned the Committee not to rush to fill the position of the communications director. She feels that more studying should take place to be sure the position filled will meet the expectations and needs of the Chelmsford Public Schools. Her statement is a follow up to a memorandum she previously sent to the Committee members individually. She is also willing to do a video again this year about the School Committee for the public.

Emily Anctil from the Board of Selectmen, wanted to put in a plug for Jen Melanson, the newly hired Community Services Coordinator. Families in need may reach out to her for assistance.

Adjournment

At 7:15 p.m. Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn to Executive session and not return to regular session for the purpose 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 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

