



Chelmsford School Department School Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

Email Posting to townclerk@townofchelmsford.us Thank you.

Filed with Town Clerk:

As required by G.L. c. 30 A, §18-25

DATE: Tuesday March 16, 2021 TIME: 6:00 p.m. ROOM: Conf. Room 1

PLACE: CPS Central Administration Office ADDRESS: 230 North Road

The Chelmsford School Committee intends to conduct an in-person meeting on the date and time specified, however all public participation will take place remotely, not in-person. The meeting is not open to the public for in-person participation. The meeting will be live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia for interested community members to access and watch. Interested community members may e-mail Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jay Lang, at langj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us prior to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 16, 2021 to be recognized to provide remote public input under the public participation portion(s) of the agenda via a GoToMeeting link that will be provided.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR OPENING STATEMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 23, 2021
2. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of March 2, 2021

CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD NEWS

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The School Committee will hear from members of the public on items listed under New Business on the posted agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation: Spotlight on the Schools – Byam Elementary School
2. Presentation: Spotlight on the Departments – World Languages & Exchange Programs
3. Return-to-School Planning Update

- a. Community & School Covid Data Trends
 - b. Staff Covid Vaccination
 - c. Staff & Student Covid Pool Testing
 - d. MCAS Update
 - e. Planning for Elementary and Middle School Full In-Person Learning
 - f. Vote on MA DESE Waiver Request: Grade Level Configuration
4. Middle School Standards Based Reporting Update
 5. Vote on School Choice Program: 2021/22 School Year
 6. Personnel Report: February 2021

REPORTS

1. Liaison Reports

ACTION/NEW ITEMS

1. Request for Reports & Updates

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The School Committee will hear from members of the public on general matters of education interest.

ADJOURNMENT

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), 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

“Tonight’s meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. Although we are not allowing for in-person public participation, interested community members are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to Superintendent Lang if they would like to participate remotely under the public input portion of our meeting. During our public input session anyone who has joined us through the *gotomeeting* platform and expressed interest in making a comment will be recognized by the Superintendent and allowed to speak with The Committee. If anyone watching this meeting live has questions or comments to share they are encouraged to email one of us during the meeting. We will read those questions or comments during our second public input session at the end of the meeting.”

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting which will primarily focus on the FY2022 budget.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 2, 2021.**

Ms. Newcomb motioned for the school committee to accept the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 2, 2021. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that several CHS students were accepted for the Western International Band Clinic which was open to students nationwide. They will attend online masters’ classes, leadership classes and performances by top educators and composers. She congratulates them all!

Ms. Santos added that this month CHS is collecting for The Table of Plenty. She is grateful for all the donations. This continues through the end of the month.

The Chair shared that winter sports has gone well. Both hockey teams won championships and the swimming team as well. Fall Two sports started yesterday.

Public Comments

None.

New Business

1. Presentation: Spotlight on the Departments

Dr. Christy Whittlesey, Department Coordinator for Fine & Performing Arts, joined the meeting virtually. Her power point presentation may be found in tonight's agenda packet. Massachusetts has new arts frameworks which focus on "Cultural Responsiveness". She will also address how arts education has been functioning in a "COVID World". Media arts are now included in the State frameworks in addition to visual arts, theater, and music. To address this, new courses are being offered. Professional Development to address "cultural responsiveness" were offered in the fall and 92% of the arts teachers have requested more PD which are already happening.

Due to COVID kindergarten through grade eight classes are being taught virtually. DESE and Board of Health guidelines are all practiced. March is Youth Art Month and works will be on display thanks to Chelmsford Telemedia. The Theatre Guild and musical concerts are being shared virtually, as well. CHS Tri-M Music Honors Society students are mentoring younger band, orchestra and chorus students. Many Chelmsford students continue to be recognized by The State for excellence! Dr. Whittlesey's entire presentation may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube, including a performance of the CHS Concert Choir.

2. FY2022 Budget Hearing

Dr. Lang provided an overview of the first 11 pages of the budget at the last regular meeting. He starts tonight's presentation on page 12 where the total proposed budget is \$65 million, and the function codes are listed with subtotals. The total amount will be presented to Town Meeting for approval in the spring.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$33,400 on page 13 of the budget, fund category 1110 School Committee. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to the bottom line figure of \$441, 671 on page 14 of the budget, fund category 1210 Superintendent. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$252,299 on page 15 of the budget, fund category 1220 Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$455, 700 on page 16 of the budget, fund category 1230 District Wide. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$425,664 on page 17 of the budget, fund category 1410 Business and Finance. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$342,529 on page 18 of the budget, fund category 1420 Human Resources. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$165,000 on page 19 of the budget, fund category 1430-1435 Legal Services and Settlements. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$1,360,062 on page 20 of the budget fund category 1450 District Wide MIS. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$1,313,686 on page 21 of the budget, fund category 2110 Curriculum Directors. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$919,174 on page 22 of the budget, fund category 2110 Curriculum Directors – Special Education. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$2,836,183 on page 23 of the budget, fund category 2210 School Leadership. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$24,116,199 on page 24 of the budget, fund category 2300-2305 Classroom Teachers – Regular Education. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$2,017,423 on page 25 of the budget, fund category 2310 Teachers Specialists – Regular Education. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$6,584,655 on page 26 of the budget, fund category 2310 Teachers Specialist – Special Education. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$400,000 on page 27 of the budget, fund category 2320 Medical/Therapeutic Services. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$610,000 on page 28 of the budget, fund category 2325 Substitutes. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$4,253,346 on page 29 of the budget, category 2330 Paraprofessionals. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$788,834 on page 30 of the budget, fund category 2340 Library/Media Center. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$217,275 on page 31 of the budget, fund category 2357 Professional Development. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$591,482 on page 32 of the budget, fund category 2410 – 2415 Textbooks and Instructional Materials. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$151,500 on page 33 of the budget, fund category 2420 Instructional Equipment. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$558,775 on page 34 of the budget, fund category 2430 General Supplies. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$192,000 on page 35 of the budget, fund category 2440 Other Instructional Services – Special Education. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$680,000 on page 36 of the budget, fund category 2451-2455 Classroom Instructional Technology and Software. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$2,450,031 on page 37 of the budget, fund category 2710-2800 Guidance and Psychological Services. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$867,624 on page 38 of the budget, fund category 3200 Medical and Health Services. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$4,095,884 on page 39 of the budget, fund category 3300 Transportation. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$121,249 on page 40 of the budget, fund category 3400 Food Services. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$886,857 on page 41 of the budget, fund category 3510 Athletic Department. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$202,690 on page 42 of the budget, fund category 3520 Other Student Activities. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$213,196 on page 43 of the budget, fund category 3600 School Security. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$1,774,255 on page 44 of the budget, fund category 4110 – 4210 – 4230 Custodial Services. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$1,236,690 on page 45 of the budget, fund category 4120 - 4130 Heating of Buildings and Utility Services. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$264,556 on page 46 of the budget, fund category 5150 Employee Separation Costs. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the bottom line figure of \$3,180,112 on page 48 of the budget, fund category 9300 Tuitions. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Newcomb motioned to approve the FY2022 Local Operating Budget of \$65,000,000 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as referenced on page 49 of the budget, as delineated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, fund codes specified on page 12 of the budget Summary Level Totals. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaisons

Mr. Moses will attend a PTO meeting this week.

Ms. Santos shared that March is “Reading Month” and the Harrington PTO will celebrate with a book fair and prizes. Each student will receive a book at the end of the month. McCarthy PTO has been doing monthly surprises for their staff. Discussions have begun on how to celebrate the eighth graders toward the end of their final year at McCarthy.

Mr. Doherty attended the virtual CHIPS PTO meeting. They are hoping to create a “free little library” by the playground. They are anticipating being able to do “Touch a Truck” this year. Their annual “sock drive” continues through March 12th.

Ms. Newcomb shared that The Chelmsford Friends of Music would like The Committee to send a letter to help prevent the Chelmsford Telemedia funding cut. (House Bill 1440-834). The Committee decided that each member will call the House Representatives to make this request. Ms. Newcomb will forward the information to the other Committee members.

The Chair attended Center School's PTO meeting. They would like to improve their playground and are looking into fund raising to that end. The "Taste of Chelmsford" raffle tickets are still on sale. Dr. Lang presented to the Chelmsford Council of Schools on the proposed budget. Mr. King stated that April 6th is election day. He proposes a reorganization meeting on April 13, 2021. Dr. Lang will update the online calendar.

Adjournment (8:04 p.m.)

Ms. Newcomb motioned to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 2, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), 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

“Tonight’s meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. Although we are not allowing for in-person public participation, interested community members are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to Superintendent Lang if they would like to participate remotely under the public input portion of our meeting. During our public input session anyone who has joined us through the *gotomeeting* platform and expressed interest in making a comment will be recognized by the Superintendent and allowed to speak with The Committee. If anyone watching this meeting live has questions or comments to share they are encouraged to email one of us during the meeting. We will read those questions or comments during our second public input session at the end of the meeting.”

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 16, 2021.

Ms. Newcomb motioned for the school committee to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of February 16, 2021. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that book group meetings are being held by The Committee, the administration level and the teacher level to discuss *How to Be an Antiracist*. There are 38 teachers involved in this book group. Other professional development in the form of book groups will take place going forward.

Ms. Santos shared a letter written by Mary Moriarty from The Table of Plenty thanking CHS for collecting food for the month of February.

Public Comments

Katy Sullivan of Seven Robin Wood Road in Littleton spoke first. She thanked the district for all the planning to bring students back to school. She shared that The White House announced today that all school staff should be vaccinated by the end of March. She asks that The Committee focus on the necessity for vaccinating school staff.

Alexandra Bishop of Three Lovett Lane read from a letter she wrote. She thanked all for finding safe and creative ways to continue education in Chelmsford. She would like to see more in-person learning the schools. She would like to see a survey for the CPS community concerning increasing in-person learning. She would especially like to see the younger grades spend more time in school.

The Chair shared that email questions received will be addressed during tonight's meeting when the issues are discussed per the meeting's agenda items.

New Business

- 1. Presentation: Spotlight on the Schools – South Row Elementary School**
- 2. Presentation: Spotlight on the Departments – Health and Physical Education**

Dr. Molly McMahon, Principal, and Mr. Jayson Ramalho, Assistant Principal, of South Row joined the meeting virtually along with Ms. Katie Simes who is the Department Coordinator for FCS, Health and Physical Education for The District. The focus of the presentation tonight is on the connection between Social Emotional Learning and Wellness at South Row. The presentation which includes slides and videos may be viewed in its entirety on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube. Dr. McMahon addressed multi-tiered behavior support for students/staff and the five competencies for student success. Included this year have been supports for families as well. Mr. Ramalho spoke of the social emotional supports for the South Row students which help to meet the expectations to "Be Respectful – Be Responsible – Be Safe". He also spoke of the monthly grade level meetings which have been continuing virtually during this school year. Student "spirit days" and "monthly kind acts" continue including sending letters to people in nursing homes. The fourth grade Student Council continues to meet monthly and includes students who are hybrid and remote. Dr. McMahon shared information about numerous supports for staff and families, including online videos to help parents support at-home learning. She expressed gratitude for all who have made this school year so successful.

Ms. Simes provided updates on SEL across the district. She was pleased to receive a \$10,000 grant from DESE to support curriculum and professional development for SEL. As part of this process the district will survey all students in grades 4, 5, 8 and 10. This March survey will provide data on where students are currently on: Self-Management; Self-Awareness; Responsible Decision Making; Social Awareness and Relationship skills. DESE will provide the data analysis. There is a district focus on "staff wellness". Much of these initiatives which were implemented to help during the pandemic, will continue when school is back to full-time. She shared the "Family Fitness Challenge" which will take place during March for all four elementary schools. Ms. Simes's slides and presentation may be viewed on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube.

3. UMASS Lowell Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Fulbright Scholars

Dr. Hirsch shared that this is the seventh year of this collaboration with UMASS. Due to COVID there are only two TEA scholars who were able to travel and work with CHS teachers Veronica Gadbois and Michelle Kender. Dr. Beyranevand joined the meeting virtually to express appreciation for the two TEA scholars who came to Chelmsford.

Abiodun Mathias Idowu who is a chemistry and biology teacher of 14 to 18-year-olds from Nigeria spoke to The Committee. He is grateful for the opportunity and especially appreciated being able to create lessons and to participate in workshops which enhanced his video and technology skills. He will bring fun science learning to his students when he returns home and institute positive changes in his school. He also enjoyed touring Boston and learning about the American Civil War and current issues faced by African Americans and non-binary students.

Chi Anestine Lum, an English as a Foreign Language teacher from Cameroon, joined virtually and shared that her experiences in Chelmsford have inspired her to return home and teach her students techniques to help them solve their individual problems. She was impressed by the high level of energy exhibited by the teachers here. Co-teaching was enjoyable for her since the French class was about French-speaking African countries, of which Cameroon is one. Her experience was wonderful, and she is grateful. Her partner teacher Ms. Gadbois also joined virtually (this is her third year participating in the program) and found the experience “a blessing”!

4. School Committee Mid-Year Goals Review

The Chair shared that the focus for this year was to succeed despite the changes to learning created by COVID. He believes that it has gone well, and he expects the next four months to bring more of the same. The goals and action-steps are included in tonight’s agenda packet. Ms. Newcomb expressed concern over who should be responding to emails sent to the whole group. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Superintendent’s Mid-Year Goals Review

Dr. Lang and Dr. Hirsch reviewed their goals which are shared in tonight’s agenda packet. The academic achievement goal is going well. He included updates on SEL as well as financial resources in support of the schools. He would like to see more work done this summer on the ten-year plan for capital improvements. The Chair would also like to resume progress on the Strategic Plan.

6. COVID Update

a. Community & School COVID Data Trends

Dr. Lang’s slide show presentation began with sharing data trends. The district has done well at following protocols which has succeeded in keeping spread of the pandemic out of the schools.

b. Staff COVID Vaccine

The COVID vaccine being available for school staff would be a big help toward returning to full-time school. This may be a possibility as early as next week. With the cooperation of the Chelmsford Board of Public health over 700 staff members have already signed up to receive the vaccine as soon as it is available to them. Dr. Lang is in contact with Lowell General Hospital to set up clinics for CPS staff. Dr. Lang will email staff as soon as this plan is ready.

c. Staff and Students COVID Pool Testing

Dr. Lang announced that CPS has received approval for pool testing at all eight schools (which includes Westlands School). It is not recommended that Pre-school students at Westlands are included, but the staff may opt to be. CIC Health and Meet Care Givers have been paired with CPS to assist in this labor-intensive task. Samples will be tested daily by CIC in Cambridge. Our school nurses will be trained to do follow-up PCR tests on individuals in any positive test pool. Dr. Lang’s slide show included in tonight’s agenda packets provides complete information on the “Pool Testing” process which will commence this month. Parents and staff will receive comprehensive consent forms electronically to participate in this voluntary program.

d. Planning for Additional In-Person Learning

Dr. Lang stated that DESE (The State Board of Education) will hold a meeting this Friday to consider doing away with “hybrid learning” for the rest of this school year. Beginning on April 5th, this would leave schools with either the option to finish the year fully remote or return to full in-person learning five days per week. More information will be shared at the next meeting on March 16th.

In planning for additional in-person learning opportunities, Dr. Lang assured students who had selected fully remote, will be able to remain fully remote for the remainder of this school year. His detailed slide show covers increasing learning opportunities for special populations allowing for four days in school. In the general education classrooms there is limited capacity to increase the student population at elementary and middle. At CHS there is room to increase capacity. Increases at elementary is limited to students on IEPs, some ELL students and other students who have been identified as “struggling”. At the middle school level there is room to add more students with IEPs or ELLs or who are struggling to give them additional time in school. There may be staffing issues at some schools. There is more capacity at CHS so more of those students can be increased from two to four days a week (high needs population, struggling students, new students, seniors and freshmen).

Dr. Lang continued his presentation by providing details on suggested three phases that would increase in-person learning opportunities for students. The first phase would bring students into the schools on Wednesdays, hopefully by March 17th or 24th with approval from The Committee. The second would be to increase half days to full days, to begin in early April. The cohorts would remain unchanged. Thirdly, to bring even more students into classrooms renegotiations with the union would be necessary. Part of this phase would be decreasing the 6-foot distance between students. This phase would begin sometime after April vacation. By that time school staff who wish to receive the vaccine would be able to. Watching Dr. Lang’s entire presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia YouTube is the best way to fully appreciate the proposed plans. Input from The Committee with specific questions followed the presentation.

Mr. King motioned to increase in-person learning opportunities on Wednesdays on a rotating in-person basis between cohorts starting on March 24, 2021. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

At the meeting on March 16th, there will be more discussion on phases two and three and specific questions on the phases will be addressed by Dr. Lang.

7. Personnel Report: January 2021

No action required.

Liaisons

Mr. Doherty attended the CHS PTO meeting where the predominant conversation was about ways to celebrate the Class of 2021. Dr. Lang believes graduation exercises in June will be held outdoors.

Ms. Newcomb shared that the Bottle and Can Drive will be on March 13, 2021. She attended South Row’s PTO meeting. A Zoom Dance is planned for March!

Ms. Santos met with The Wellness Committee. Assignments were given to rewrite certain sections of the policy. CHS raised money for “Project Bread” by holding a talent show entitled “In Tune”.

The Chair reminded all that there is a joint meeting with The Select Board on March 8th at 6:00 on Zoom.

New Items

March 31st there will be a parent meeting on standardized report cards.

Adjournment (9:59 p.m.)

Ms. Newcomb motioned to adjourn. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Memorandum

To: Members of the School Committee
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Date: March 14, 2021
Re: Spotlight on the Schools: Byam Elementary School

Attached please find a PowerPoint presentation provided by Byam Principal Jason Fredette in advance of the school committee meeting presentation. I look forward to hearing the presentation and discussing the good work that is occurring at Byam Elementary School with the members of the school committee.

Byam Elementary School at School Committee

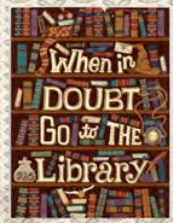
March 16, 2021





Agenda

- Library at Byam- Betsey Driscoll
- 4th Grade Virtual Field Trip- Kathy Jackson
- Art at Byam- Amy Brown
- 3rd Grade Poetry Enrichment- Grade 3 Team



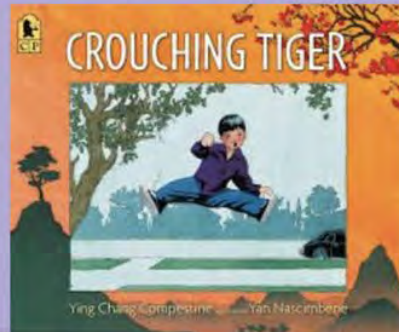
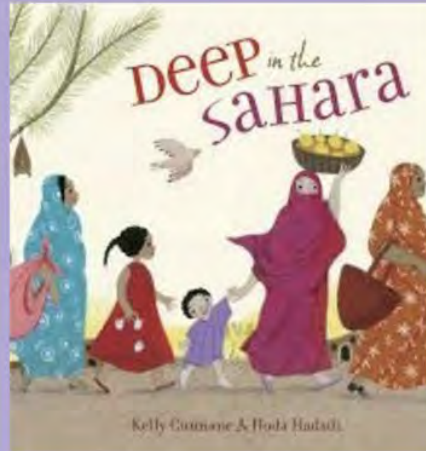
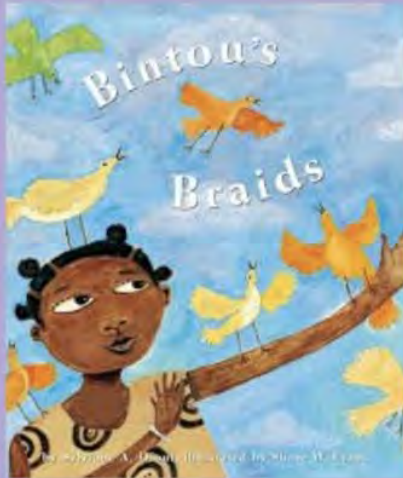
Hear your friends read aloud!



Honoring Traditions

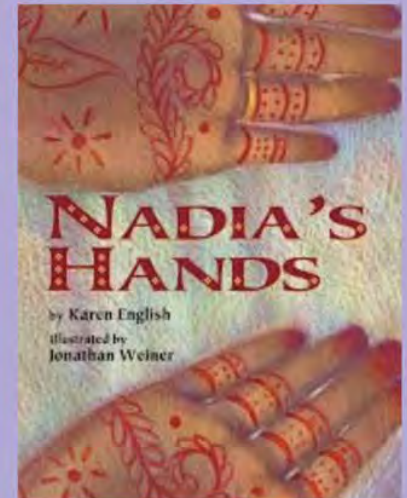
Grade 3, Text Set 10

Why are traditions important?

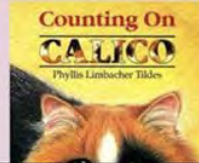
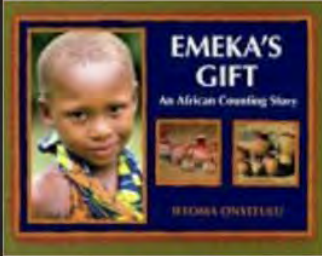
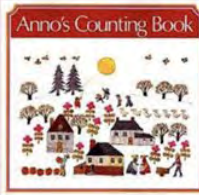
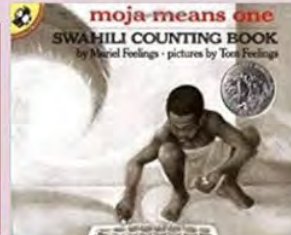
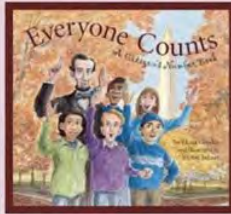
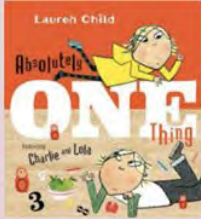
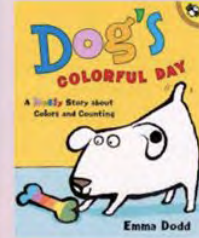


Understanding different traditions can teach you about cultures that are different from your own.

Customs and traditions build strong bonds among families and communities and connect people.



Count Along with these 123 Counting Books!!



A decorative border surrounds the text, consisting of a repeating pattern of small, colorful triangles in shades of green, yellow, red, purple, blue, and pink, set against a dark grey background.

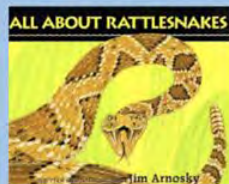
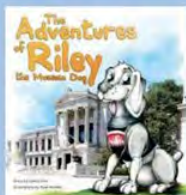
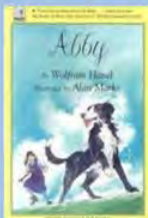
Byam School Student Read-Alouds

*Read by an **Amazing** Cast of Byam
School 3rd & 4th Graders*

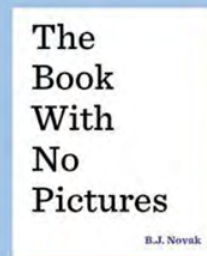
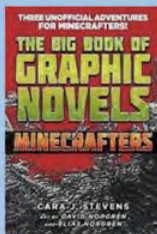
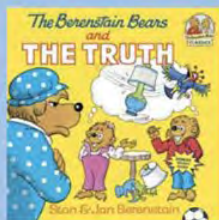
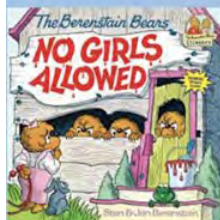
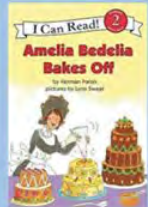
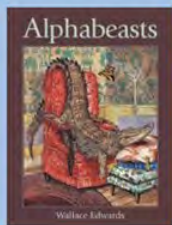
LISTEN TO THESE 200+ AWESOME READ ALOUDS!!

Books are listed alphabetically by title, with some special collections at the end.

A-B

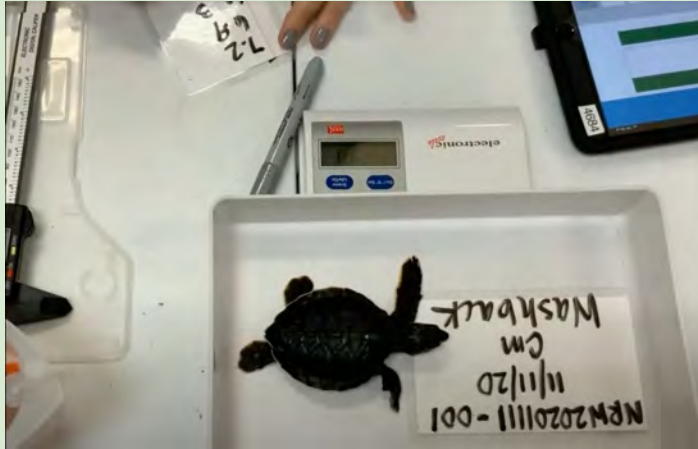


Click on the book to listen. (You may have to adjust your volume for different books.)



Virtual Field Trip with The Marine Science Center, FL February 5, 2021

Rescue, Rehab & Release Program



A great tie -in with our 4th Grade Environments unit!!

mobile site

Mrs Brown • Art®





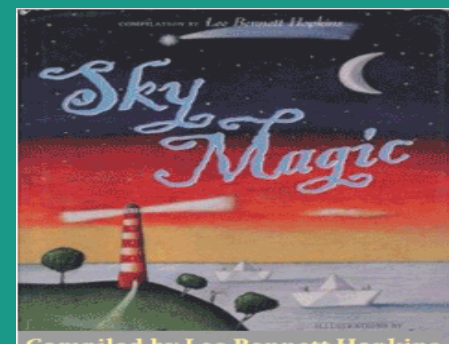
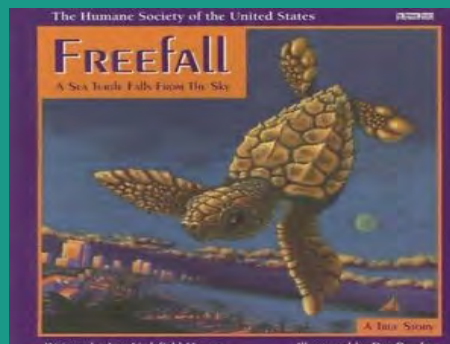
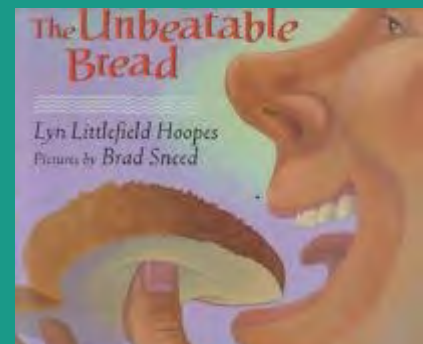
Poetry With Lyn Hoopes

Adjusting a special 3rd Grade event to a hybrid/remote year

Lyn Littlefield Hoopes



Lyn Littlefield Hoopes has been a poet in residence at Byam school for 26 years. She has given workshops to schools all around New England. She is the author of several books including *The Unbeatable Bread*, *Freefall* and *Sky Magic*. Lyn has returned year after year to create beautiful, free verse poetry with the third graders at Byam. The children love this opportunity to think creatively and find their inner voice.

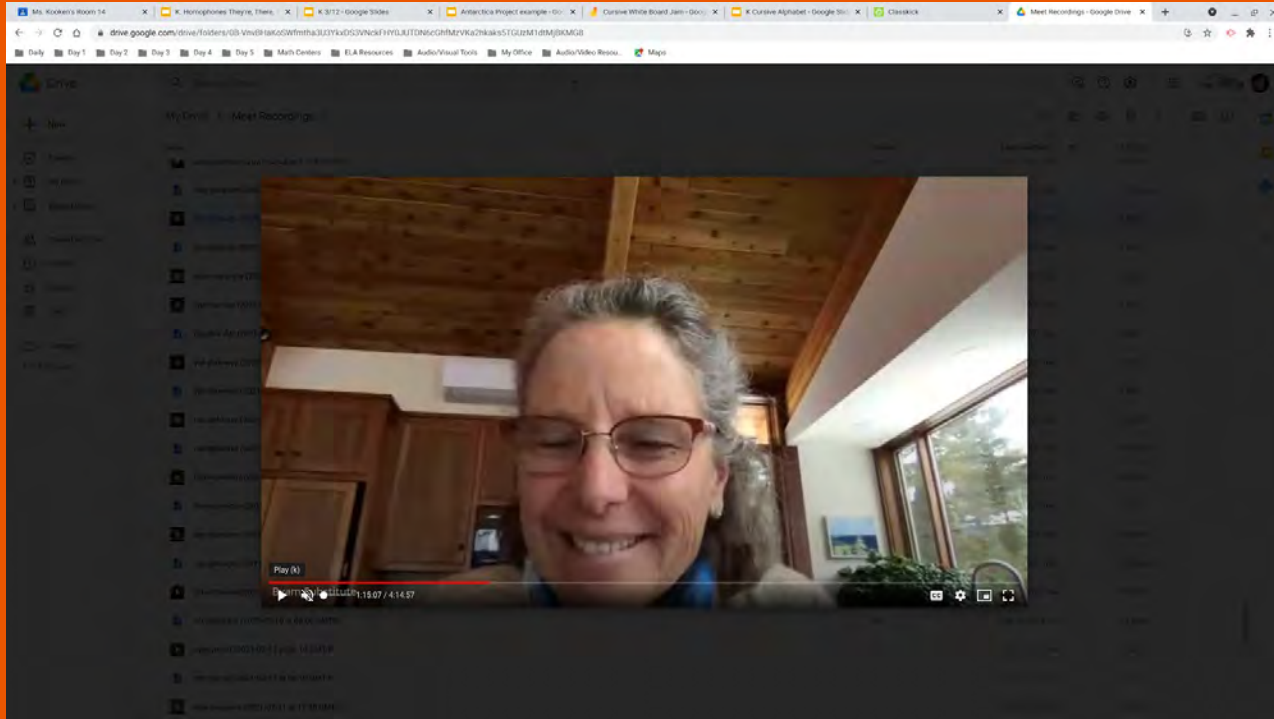


Lyn helps students step away from thinking that poetry always has to rhyme, and helps students create free form poems about a creature of their choice!

All while reinforcing vocabulary like stanzas, simile, metaphor, repetition, — alliteration, and rhyme!



Ms.
Hoopes
visit in a
typical
year looks
like this.



Here is what the visit looked like this year.



00:00
00:01
00:02
00:03
00:04
00:05
00:06
00:07
00:08
00:09
00:10
00:11
00:12
00:13
00:14
00:15
00:16
00:17
00:18
00:19
00:20
00:21
00:22
00:23
00:24
00:25
00:26
00:27
00:28
00:29
00:30
00:31
00:32
00:33
00:34
00:35
00:36
00:37
00:38
00:39
00:40
00:41
00:42
00:43
00:44
00:45
00:46
00:47
00:48
00:49
00:50
00:51
00:52
00:53
00:54
00:55
00:56
00:57
00:58
00:59
01:00
01:01
01:02
01:03
01:04
01:05
01:06
01:07
01:08
01:09
01:10
01:11
01:12
01:13
01:14
01:15
01:16
01:17
01:18
01:19
01:20
01:21
01:22
01:23
01:24
01:25
01:26
01:27
01:28
01:29
01:30
01:31
01:32
01:33
01:34
01:35
01:36
01:37
01:38
01:39
01:40
01:41
01:42
01:43
01:44
01:45
01:46
01:47
01:48
01:49
01:50
01:51
01:52
01:53
01:54
01:55
01:56
01:57
01:58
01:59
02:00

pay attention
to the smallest things

an acorn
plump and woodsie green
with ruffled cap of brown,

a deep, peaked shadow
on the stair to the beach

where periwinkles sing
in shining drifts
and the sweet tide calls

an acorn
I greet each morning
on the third riser
a silent hello

green turns to ginger,
amber, brown,

cap off,
a new shadow,
round

round as a top
with a tip to spin

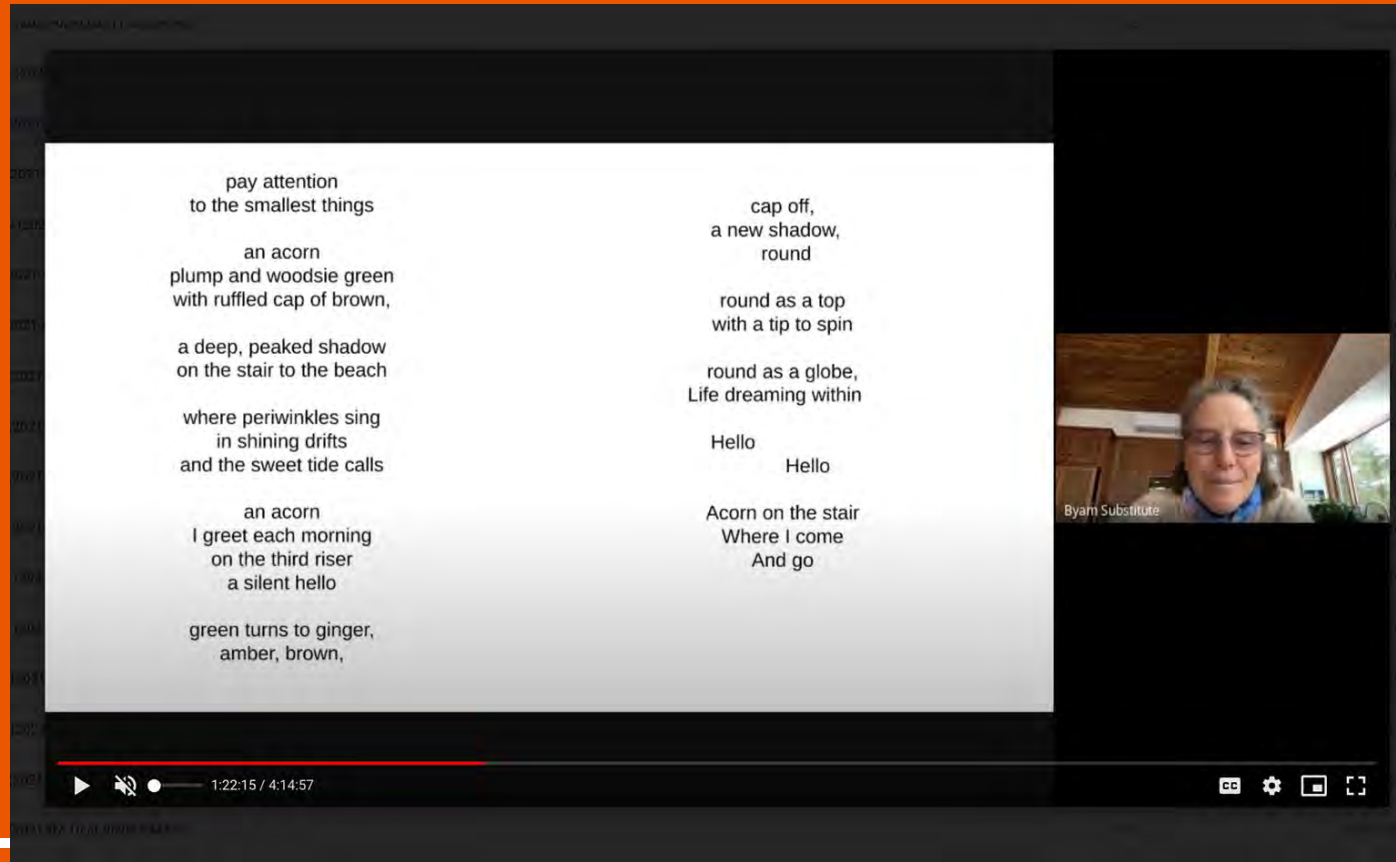
round as a globe,
Life dreaming within

Hello
Hello

Acorn on the stair
Where I come
And go

Byam Substitute

1:22:15 / 4:14:57



Teachers presented Ms. Hoopes poems while she read and discussed language with students.



▶ 1:19:00 / 4:14:57



A central part of Ms. Hoopes presentation are the amazing photographs of animals and plants that she brings in to inspire students.

Susie



the squirrel
around him.

furry
quiet

so soft
wind.

so soft and bright.

See soft fur of a fluffy
of a fluffy head
waving valently in white wing wind.

see quick hard paws
so fast and agile
see gold/bronze fur flashing about your eyes.

feel silk soft fur of his back
like pure gold strands on a blanket
where he goes,
what he does,
no one knows
for he does not say.

see him nestle softly
in his delight
of scrumpchious,
nutty acorns.

hear him chitter
a song of warm light,
wishing upon wishing
to be heard.

where he goes,
what he does,
no one knows
for he does not say.

Page 2nd

See soft,
sharp eyes of the squirrel,
sensing all around him.

Feel his belly so furry,
so soft and quiet
as his fur rustles
through cold, soft wind.

Feel his gaze
so soft and bright
See soft fur of a fluffy head
waving valently in white wing wind.

See quick hard paws
so fast and agile
See gold/bronze fur flashing about your eyes.

Feel silk soft fur on his back,
like pure gold strands on a blanket.

See him nestle softly in his delight
of scrumpchious, nutty acorns.

Hear him chitter
a song of warm light,
wishing upon wishing
to be heard.

Where he goes,
what he does,
no one knows
for he does not say.

-to work
and make
a poem
from my
heart

Details → Brushstroke

The soft sharp eyes
around him.
his belly so furry,
back
feel his gaze so soft

see his soft nose, twitching and

tickling.

Smiles (like us)

feel the soft fur of his
back, like pure gold strands on a
blanket.

see the brush-like tail feeling all
around him.

verbs

the soft fur of his head waving in the wind.
quick hard paws, so fast and agile
see his gold/bronze fur flashing in your eye.

wonder + imagine

where he goes, and what he
does, no one knows for he is
to quick for the human eyes.

hear him speeding through

Heart

Details

Similes

Verbs

Wonder and imagine

Can you hear...?

Can you feel...?

**This year, Ms.
Hoopes used
a Google
Jamboard
organizer to
give
feedback.**

The screenshot shows a Google Meet interface. On the left, a Google Slides presentation is open, displaying a slide with the following text:

Verbs

- sleeping, ready to hatch
- To break the egg with its beak
 - Dreaming of hatching
 - Curling in their comfy shelter
 - chirping in the eggs
 - Warm and comfy in the eggs
 - Blue as the waves

Wonder and imagine

When will mother come and feed them?
-when will they learn to fly?

Can you feel?

Warm and comfy cuddled in the eggs
The hard work of the chicks to get out

Can you hear?

Can you hear the little chicks chirping in the eggs?
The woodchuck hitting the tree
Is that the mama bird calling her babies?

Below the text, there is a photograph of three blue eggs in a nest of straw.

At the bottom of the slide, there are instructions: 1) Hear - idea that comes to you as you write - where you say, "that's it". 2) Notice as you write you make images for the reader -- think of yourself as making a little present - help me to see something in a new way, to think in ways I've never thought before. 3) Listen for pattern. A poem wants to make a design.

On the right side of the screen, a video feed shows a young boy with short dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt. His name, TYLER COHEN, is displayed below his video. The background of his video shows an indoor setting, possibly a home or a classroom.

At the bottom of the screen, there is a video player control bar with a play button, a volume icon, a progress bar showing 2:10:40 / 4:14:57, and icons for closed captions, settings, and full screen.

Students engaged with Ms. Hoopes via a Google Meet and Google breakout rooms.

Little Loon
By Finn O'Leary

Take a swim little loon

Dive under the shining water

As you dive
I feel your feathers ruffle

Your eyes little loon are like
The sun

On the water

As you dive
I see your eyes shut tight

Splash

The water closes around you

See you later
Little Loon

As the water
Engulfs
Your tail



Here is an example
of a student poem
created after Ms.
Hoopes visit this
year.



Thank you!

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Memorandum

To: Members of the School Committee

From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Date: March 14, 2021

Re: Spotlight on the Departments: World Languages & Student Exchange Programs

Attached please find a PowerPoint presentation provided by Ms. Jessica Nollet, Department Coordinator for World Languages and Student Exchange Programs. I look forward to hearing Ms. Nollet's presentation and discussing the work that is ongoing in the district with respect to this department.



World Language Department Updates

March 16, 2021



Overview

- ASL program at Chelmsford High School
- Virtual Cultural Exchanges
- Middle School World Language classes
- Seal of Biliteracy

American Sign Language (ASL) Program

2020-21: Currently 44 students in full-year course, 138 students in elective

2021-22: approximately 250 student requests for ASL; we will offer ASL 1, ASL 2, and an ASL elective

Successful creation of ASL Club for Parker/McCarthy (58 students enrolled)



Virtual Cultural Exchanges

Partner School

Locations:

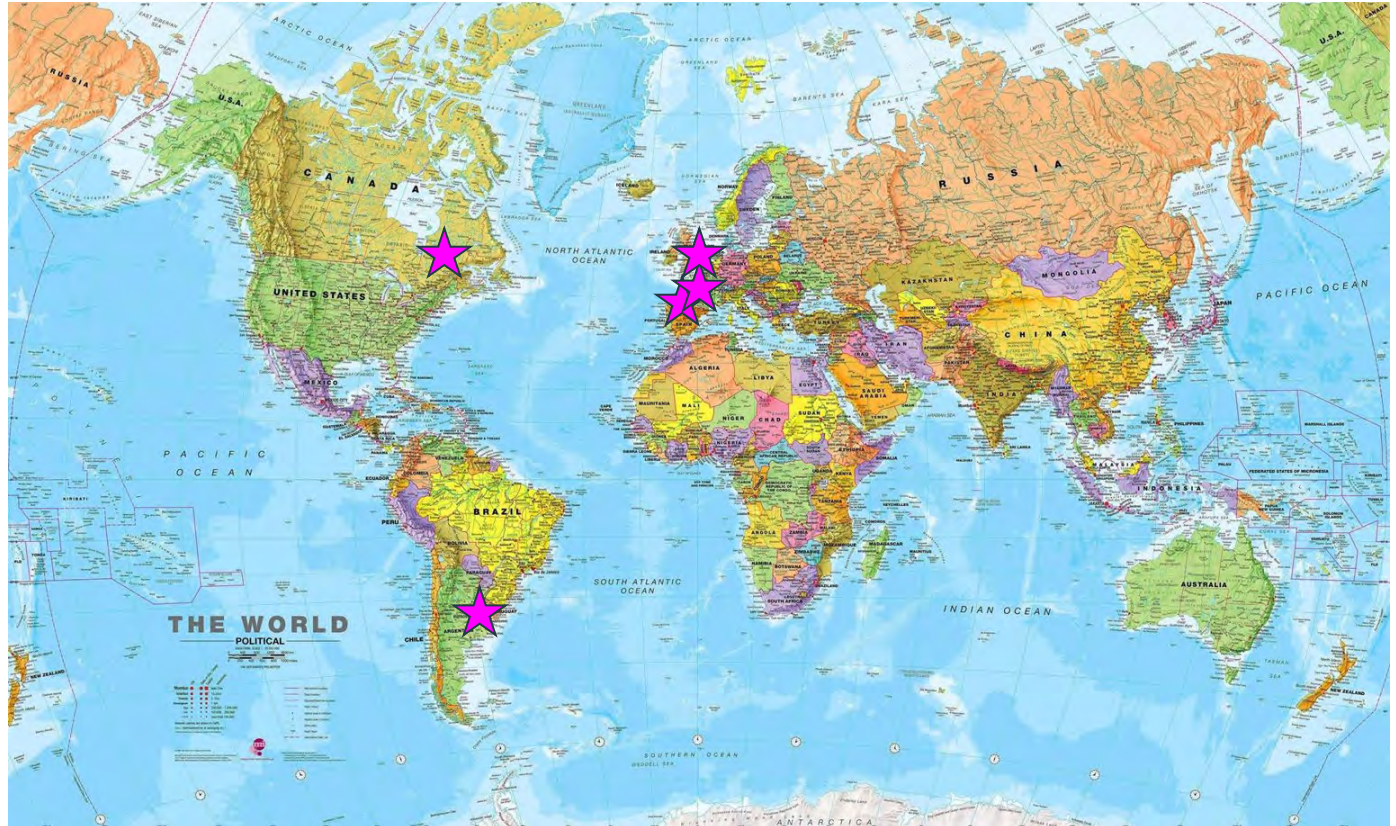
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

Madrid, Spain

Valencia, Spain

Quebec, Canada

Lyon, France

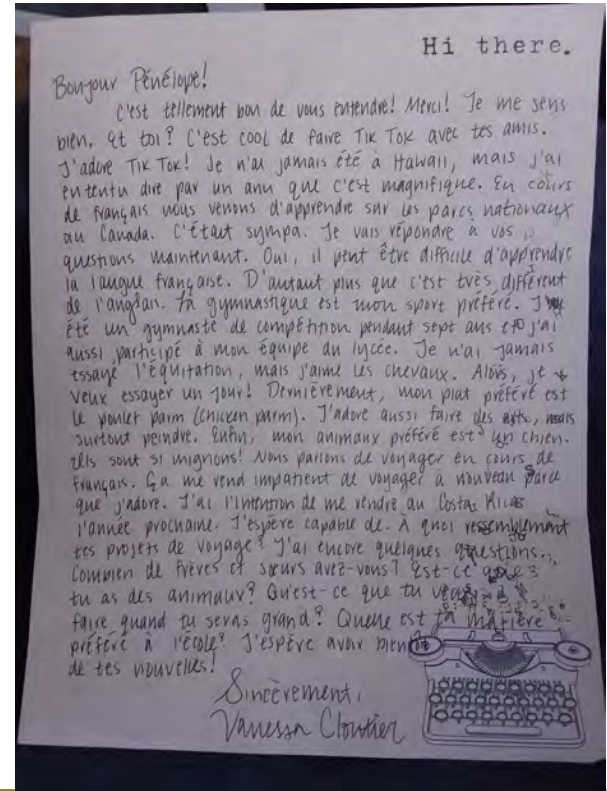
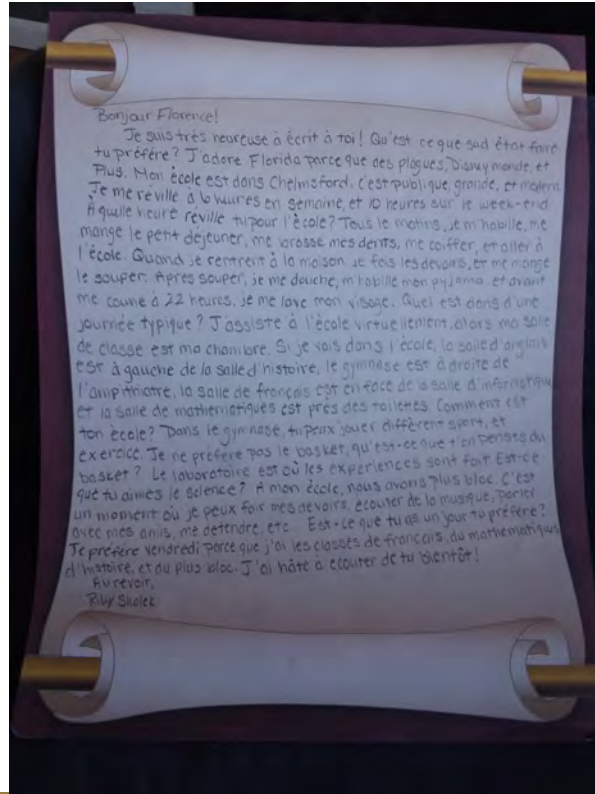


Virtual Cultural Exchanges

Partners:

Madame Gadbois
French 2 & 3 (CHS)

Madame Marie-Ève
Tremblay
École secondaire
Saint-Charles
(Quebec, Canada)



Virtual Cultural Exchanges

Srta. Ferronetti (Spanish 2) to Sra. Lartige (Argentina)

Hola,

Me llamo Lyla y vivo en Massachusetts , Estados Unidos. ¿Cómo te llamas tú? Tengo catorce años y estoy en mi primer año en escuela secundaria. ¿En qué grado estás? ¿Cuántos años tienes tú? Soy hija única y tengo dos gatos y un perro. Yo soy un poco alta, y tengo pelo castaño y lentes. Es casi invierno aquí, así es frío. Me gusta ir de compras y me encanta cantar y viajar. También me gusta tocar guitarra, piano y me encanta escuchar música. ¿Qué te gusta hacer? Mis clases favoritas son historia, español, y coro. En mi escuela no hay comida buena. La escuela es grande y un poco moderna.

Hola Tomas,

¿Cómo estás? Estoy cansada porque tengo mucha tarea para mis clases a hacer esta semana. También ya termine algunos de mis tareas. Me choca tarea porque tarea es aburrida especialmente cuando es tarea de la clase de historia. Está bien, yo hablando mucho alrededor de cómo malo yo creo que tarea es. ¿Qué te gusta hacer? Me gusta bailar y dibujar. Me gusta dibujar cuando estoy aburrida y yo tengo nada que hacer. También me gusta la clase de baile. Yo tengo once horas de baile a la semana. Yo tengo una hermana. ¿Tienes hermanos? Mi hermana está muy molestosa porque a ella le gusta la música a todo volumen. Otro hecho alrededor de mí es que me encantan los gatos. Creo que los gatos son muy lindos porque son suaves y blandos. Tengo dos gatos. Mis gatos se llaman Sparkle y Pumpkin. ¿Cuántos años tienes? Tengo catorce años pero mi cumpleaños es domingo.



Virtual Cultural Exchanges

Sra. Gauthier (Spanish 2) to Sra. Lucas in Madrid, Spain



Hola Amigo/a,

¡Buenos días! Me llamo Eshal Hussain y soy de Chelmsford, Massachusetts. ¿Cómo te llamas? Tengo 14 años, ¿cuántos años tienes? ¿De dónde eres? Vivo con dos hermanos y una hermana y mis padres. Mi familia es simpática, trabajadora y divertida. Nos gusta ir de compras al centro comercial, viajar y pasar tiempo juntos. No tenemos mascotas, pero quiero un gato. ¡¡¡ Amo a los gatos!!! A mi madre y a mi nos gusta el arte. Mi familia y yo hablamos Inglés y Urdu. Mis padres son de Pakistan. ¿Cómo es tu familia?

I am fond of dancing. I dance a traditional spanish it is called Flamenco. We dance and play instruments at the same time. I have the whale of a time hanging out with my mates, we meet all on a regular basis we all love each other so much.

I study in Los Naranjos´ School, your high school is by far much bigger. My timetable depends on the day, but as obligatory subjects I have biology, math, language, history, physics and chemistry, and English. Music and art are electives. All my teachers are so nice with us, this year in particular.

Middle School World Language

- Locura de marzo/Manie musicale
- Technology resources



"Le Prof" YouTube



Flipgrid



Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

- **What is this?**
 - Award given to Seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English and a world language. Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy or Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction will have a seal affixed to their high school diploma.
- **Why is this important?**
 - This award demonstrates to colleges and future employers that you are proficient in a second language.
- **How do you earn the seal?**
 - Take the online STAMP test and earn a score of at least Intermediate High. This test is offered at CHS in early 2021.
- **What is the test like?**
 - Students test in 4 domains: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This can be done through a computer based exam or a portfolio assessment.

Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

Awards:

Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction-
Advanced Low

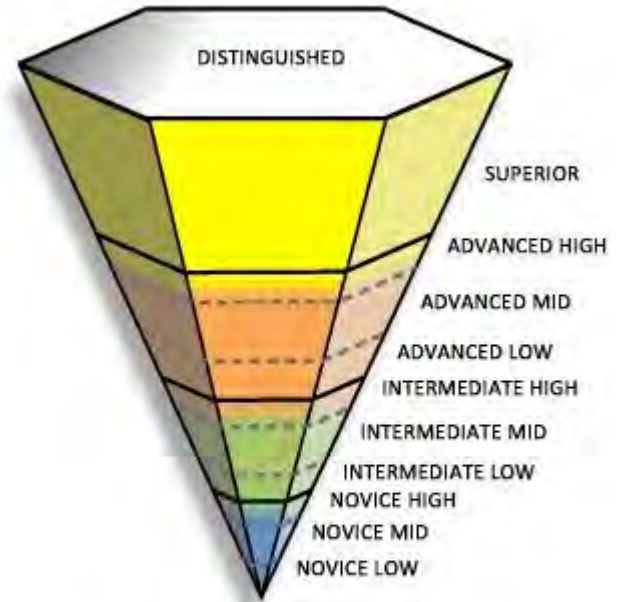
Seal of Biliteracy- *Intermediate High*

Language Opportunity Coalition Biliteracy

Achievement Award- *Intermediate Mid*

Language Opportunity Coalition Biliteracy

Attainment Award- *Intermediate Low*



Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy



2019-20

- Initial year of offering testing
- **17** students took the STAMP 4S test
- **7** students earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- **7** students earned the Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction

2020-21

- **26** students took the STAMP 4S test or Portfolio Assessment
- **3** students tested in two languages
- **5** students earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- **1** earned Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction (some scores still pending)

Languages represented

STAMP 4S tests:

Arabic

Spanish

French

Hindi

Portuguese

Mandarin Chinese

Russian

Korean

Portfolio Assessments:

Estonian

Telugu



Chelmsford Public Schools COVID-19 Update

Jay Lang, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

March 16, 2021

Chelmsford Community COVID-19 Data Trends

Dates	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 Days)	Relative Change in Case Counts	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 Days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 Days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 Days)	Change in Percent Positivity
3/11/2021	2,464	75	14.9	Lower	58,517	3,466	84	2.42%	Lower
3/4/2021	2,425	89	17.7	Lower	56,907	3,520	99	2.81%	Lower
2/25/2021	2,384	104	20.7	Lower	55,024	3,521	117	3.32%	Lower
2/18/2021	2,342	127	25.5	Lower	53,303	3,771	142	3.77%	Lower
2/11/2021	2,282	170	33.8	Lower	51,517	4,018	186	4.63%	Lower
2/4/2021	2,214	200	39.7	Lower	49,576	4,117	223	5.42%	Lower
1/28/2021	2,126	246	48.8	Lower	47,540	4,217	270	6.40%	Lower

Chelmsford Schools COVID-19 Data Trends

Dates	Number of In-Person Students with Confirmed Positive Covid Cases and Building Access	Number of In-Person Staff with Confirmed Positive Covid Cases and Building Access
3/4 - 3/10	1	0
2/25 - 3/3	0	1
2/11 - 2/24	0	0
2/4 - 2/10	3	1
1/28 - 2/3	4	3
1/21 - 1/27	2	2
1/14 - 1/20	5	2

Staff COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Phase 1 & 2 Eligibility Status

Phase 1

All phase 1 priority groups

Now eligible

Phase 2

1 Individuals age 75+

Now eligible

2 Individuals 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions

Now eligible

3 K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers

Now eligible

4 Transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation public works, and public health workers

Not yet eligible

5 Individuals with 1 certain medical condition

Not yet eligible

Staff COVID-19 Vaccination

- 717 CPS Staff Originally Expressed Interest in Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine When Eligible
- 432 Staff Have Received or Scheduled the COVID-19 Vaccine as of March 15, 2021 (66% of Survey Respondents)

Staff & Student COVID-19 Pool Testing

- 865 CPS Students are Voluntarily Participating in COVID-19 Pool testing as of March 15, 2021.
- 296 CPS Staff are Voluntarily Participating in COVID-19 Pool Testing as of March 15, 2021.
- COVID-19 Pool Testing is only for In-Person Students and Staff
- Students and Staff may Consent to Participate on a Rolling Basis and will be Incorporated in Future Weekly Pools

MCAS Update

New Tentative MCAS Administration Dates

Legacy Biology – (Paper – Based)	June 1 – 11 th (Two Sessions 1 Hour Per Session Honors Biology Students Only)
Next-Generation ELA	May 3 rd —June 4 th (Session 1: 2 ½ Hours – Session 2: 1-2 1/2 Hours)
Next –Generation Mathematics	May 3 rd —June 4 th (Two Sessions 1 ½ - 2 Hours per Session)
Grades 3, 4, and 5 ELA, Mathematics, and STE	May 10 th —June 11 th
Grades 6, 7, and 8	Testing Dates TBD

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

Elementary School Level (Grades K – 4)

- Monday April 5, 2021

Middle School Level (Grades 5 – 8)

- Wednesday April 28, 2021

High School Level (Grades 9 – 12)

- TBD

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

- Families retain the choice as to whether to send their child to school in-person or have them learn remotely through the end of the current school year.
 - The choice applies whether your child is currently enrolled in the hybrid or remote learning models.

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

Districts and families will be making challenging tradeoffs to accommodate full in-person learning for students as follows:

- In Grades K – 4, students will have the choice of either being “fully in-person” or “fully remote,” the current hybrid learning model will no longer exist beginning April 5, 2021 for elementary school students.
- In Grades 5 – 8, students will have the choice of either being “fully in-person” or “fully remote,” the current hybrid learning model will no longer exist beginning April 28, 2021 for middle school students.

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

Districts and families will be making challenging tradeoffs to accommodate full in-person learning for students as follows:

- Students who choose full-time, in-person learning, five days per week, are required to attend school each day “in-person,” students may not join their classes remotely, with one exception. Students required to isolate or quarantine as directed by a medical provider will be allowed to learn remotely if they are symptomatic, diagnosed with COVID-19, or are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive with COVID-19.
- If students are currently enrolled in the hybrid learning model, the shift to more in-person days may require a change in classroom learning spaces and, in some cases, teacher-student assignments. We will make every effort to minimize the reassignment of students to new classrooms/teachers.

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

Districts and families will be making challenging tradeoffs to accommodate full in-person learning for students as follows:

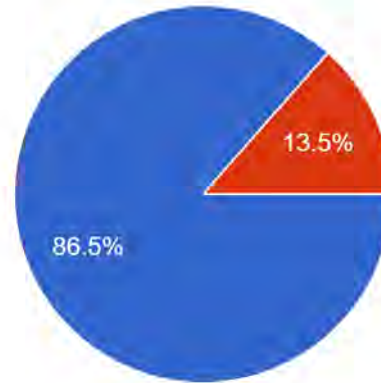
- If students are currently enrolled in the remote learning model or choose to learn remotely when the new regulations go into effect (April 5, 2021 for elementary students and April 28, 2021 for middle school students), in some cases, teacher-student assignments may require a change.
- To accommodate a return to full in-person learning, this will require a shift of our physical distancing in classrooms to a minimum of three (3) feet, as opposed to our current six (6) feet. Classroom desks will be set-up a minimum of three feet apart, measured seat edge to seat edge.
- During meal and snack breaks, when students are not wearing masks, a six-foot physical distance will be maintained. As the weather improves, the use of outdoor spaces will be encouraged.

Elementary School Learning Model Selection

As of 11:25 a.m. on March 15, 2021:

1,090 Full In-Person Students
170 Full Remote Students

1,260 responses



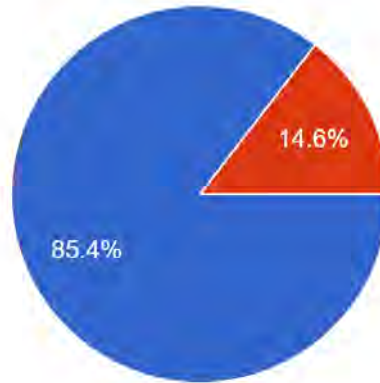
- I choose for my child to be "fully in-person," my child will attend school full-time, in-person, five days per week, beginning Monday April 5, 2021.
- I choose for my child to be "fully remote," my child will attend school remotely, five days per week, beginning Monday April 5, 2021.

Middle School Learning Model Selection

As of 11:25 a.m. on March 15, 2021:

775 Full In-Person Students
132 Full Remote Students

907 responses



- I choose for my child to be "fully in-person," my child will attend school full-time, in-person, five days per week, beginning Wednesday April 28, 2021.
- I choose for my child to be "fully remote," my child will attend school remotely, five days per week, beginning Wednesday April 28, 2021.

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

- **Wednesday as an In-Person Day**
- Prior to the March 5, 2021 vote of the Massachusetts Board of Education and Commissioner Riley's decision to return elementary school students to full-time, in-person learning, five days per week, beginning Monday April 5, 2021, followed by middle school students on Wednesday April 28, 2021, our district announced and planned to return Wednesday as an in-person instruction day, following the same daily schedule as the rest of the week.
- The addition of Wednesday as a ½ in-person day, rotating cohorts, will still be implemented as planned, beginning Wednesday March 24, 2021. The first week of implementation will have students in Cohort A in-person on Monday (3/22), Tuesday (3/23) and Wednesday (3/24). Students in Cohort B will attend in-person on Thursday (3/25) and Friday (3/26). The second week, students in Cohort A will attend in-person on Monday (3/29) and Tuesday (3/30). Students in Cohort B will attend in-person on Wednesday (3/31) and Thursday (4/1). There is no school on Good Friday, April 2, 2021.

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

Student Transportation: Elementary & Middle School

- Under the revised DESE guidelines, we have capacity on our school buses to transport students to/from school who are currently being transported each day.
- All K-8 students who reside more than one (1) mile from school may ride the bus to/from school at no cost this year.
- Pick-up and drop-off locations and times will remain the same (current assigned locations and times), unless notified otherwise.
- K-8 Students who are choosing to move to full-time, in-person learning, may register on-line to ride the bus to/from school if they reside more than one (1) mile from school.
- At this time, we will not have capacity to transport additional students who reside below one (1) mile to/from school, free or with a fee.

Planning for Full In-Person Return to School

Student Transportation: High School

- We have been and will continue providing shuttle bus service from select locations throughout town, free of charge this year, to grade 9-12 high school students.
- We are evaluating whether we will be able to increase the number of shuttle pick-up/drop-off locations as our middle school routes are finalized – there are no changes to high school shuttle run locations or pick-up/drop-off locations at this time.

Before and After School Childcare

- We will not be providing before or after school childcare this school year through the Community Education Program. We anticipate before and after school childcare will resume in the fall for the 2021/22 school year.

MA DESE Waiver Request: Grade Level Configuration

- As CPS middle schools include Grade 5 students, instead of elementary schools, I recommend the school committee support a grade level configuration waiver to delay the implementation of full-time in-person learning for our grade 5 students until April 28, 2021, the date middle school students in grades 6 – 8 are required to return to full-time, in-person learning.



CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Linda Hirsch, Assistant Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Jay Lang, Superintendent
Members of the Chelmsford School Committee

From: Dr. Linda Hirsch, Assistant Superintendent *Linda Hirsch*

Date: March 16, 2021

RE: Middle School Standards Based Report Card Update

Over the past two years, there has been a tremendous amount of effort, collaboration, and time spent on aligning curriculum, creating pacing guides, and designing assessments for all content areas to move to a standards-based grading system at the middle school level. This work has allowed for an incredible amount of high-quality curriculum and instruction development. The initiative began two years ago as part of our strategic planning and focus groups from a call to provide parents with more communication and information about their students' progress at the middle school level. The goal was to revise our reporting process from the traditional grading system and identify the key learning standards for students in grades 5 – 8 to provide additional information on their students' performance. Teams of teachers met at the committee level to help establish a process and first draft of power standards that were vertically aligned and presented at the grade/department level for refinement, to start the benchmarking process to support reporting of each proficiency level against the standards.

Last spring with the onset of the pandemic, we listened to the concerns of staff on the rollout of SBRCs for the upcoming (current) school year in the meetings that were held, and we were encouraged to hear a consistent theme that moving forward providing feedback to parents and students using a standards-based reporting format is beneficial, valuable and worthwhile. We ultimately came to an agreement with the union to postpone the launch of SBRCs during the current school year in order to continue with the work and complete the tasks necessary in preparation of launching SBRCs in grades 5-8 during the 2021-2022 school year. Although we all agreed at the time that we didn't know what the current school year was going to bring in terms of learning models, we wrestled with the need to strike a balance between maintaining our existing educational programs and continuing momentum on previously determined district initiatives, such as SBRCs, in challenging times and decided to move this work to all four middle school grade levels during the current school year.

Recently, the middle school administrative team consisting of principals, coordinators, and district administrators reviewed feedback from multiple surveys from parents and staff regarding questions and concerns surrounding the shift to SBRCs at the middle school level and attempted to address issues raised by survey respondents. Attached please find responses from the parent survey. Many survey respondents requested/suggested a hybrid-type standards-based/traditional grading method to allow for concurrent grades and standards reporting. Our team spent a significant amount of time over the past few weeks working with Aspen developers to incorporate a grade equivalency (A, B, C, etc.) to proficiency levels that could be automatically calculated to not add further work for teachers so they could focus on instruction, assessment and reporting of student performance. This was to strike a balance and provide the components desired by stakeholders in the process.

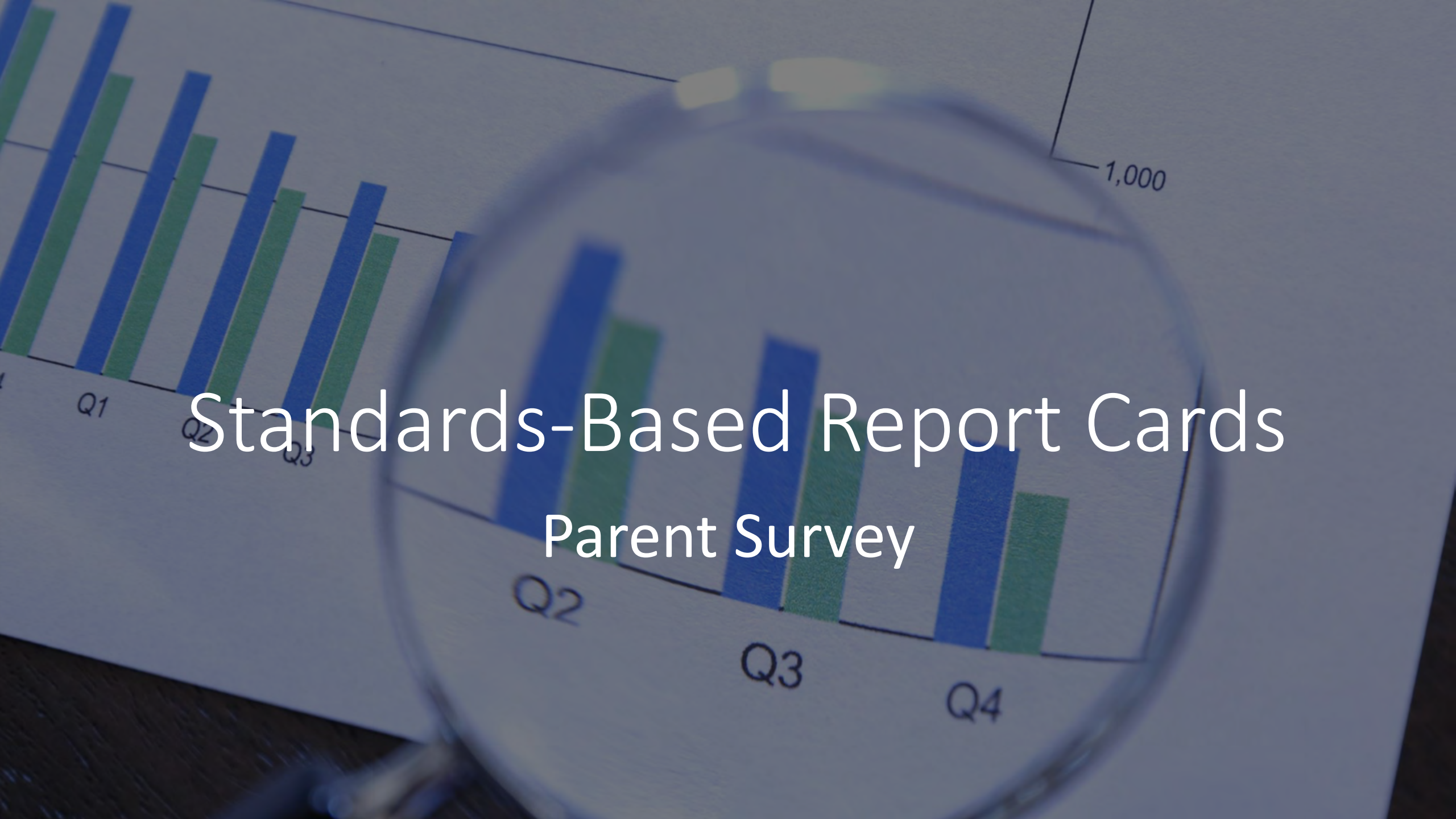


CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Linda Hirsch, Assistant Superintendent

The timing of the implementation of SBRCs at the middle school level is complicated by the pandemic and current learning models. Further, the administration team is not satisfied with current restrictions in the Aspen reporting system that do not adequately address and provide a desired hybrid standards-based/traditional grading system. Based on these elements, we will be pausing the implementing process to allow for continued exploration of a hybrid reporting system and will not be shifting to a standards-based reporting system at the middle school level next year. Although we will be holding off on reporting academic proficiency levels in Aspen in 2021-2022, we will report common behaviors and expectations of student work to indicate whether students consistently or inconsistently demonstrate the identified academic and behavioral expectations that support school success. Each department will work to complete their pacing guides, benchmarks, and standards-aligned assessments this year, as well as work to establish common grading practices aligned to their standards to provide a more cohesive traditional term grade.





Standards-Based Report Cards

Parent Survey

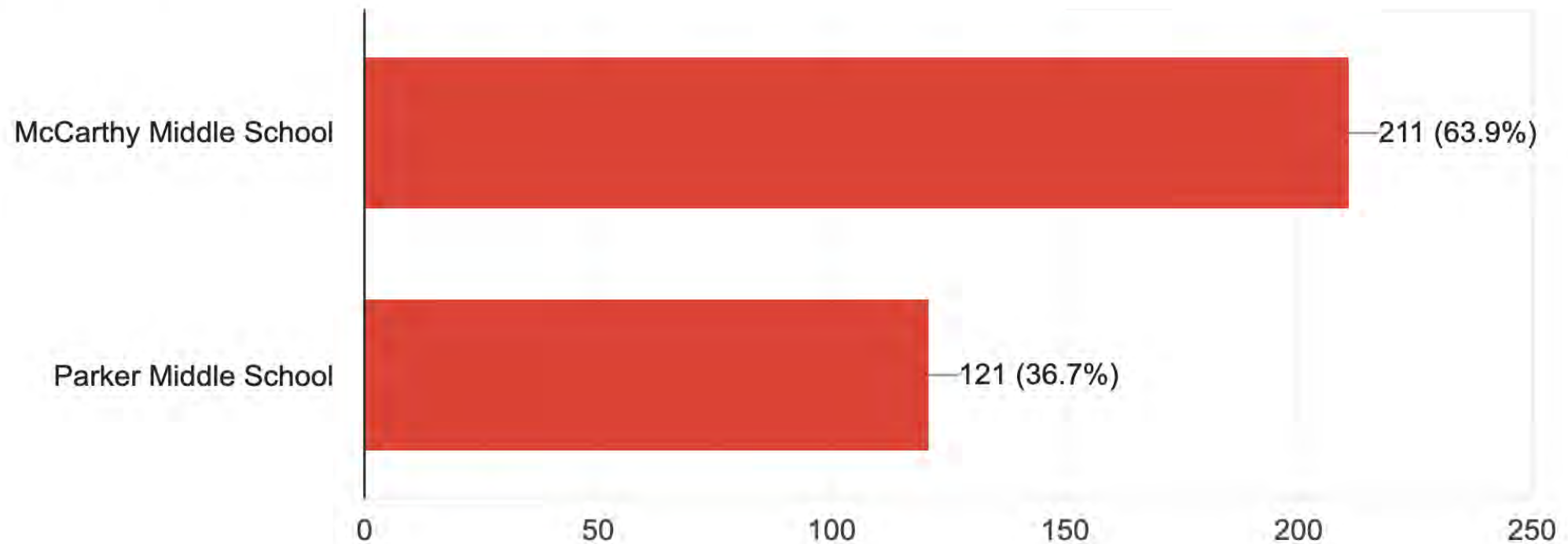
Parent Response Rate

- 1495 Contacts
- 330 Responses
- 22% Response Rate

Parent Response Rate By School

Please identify the middle school(s) your child(ren) currently attends:

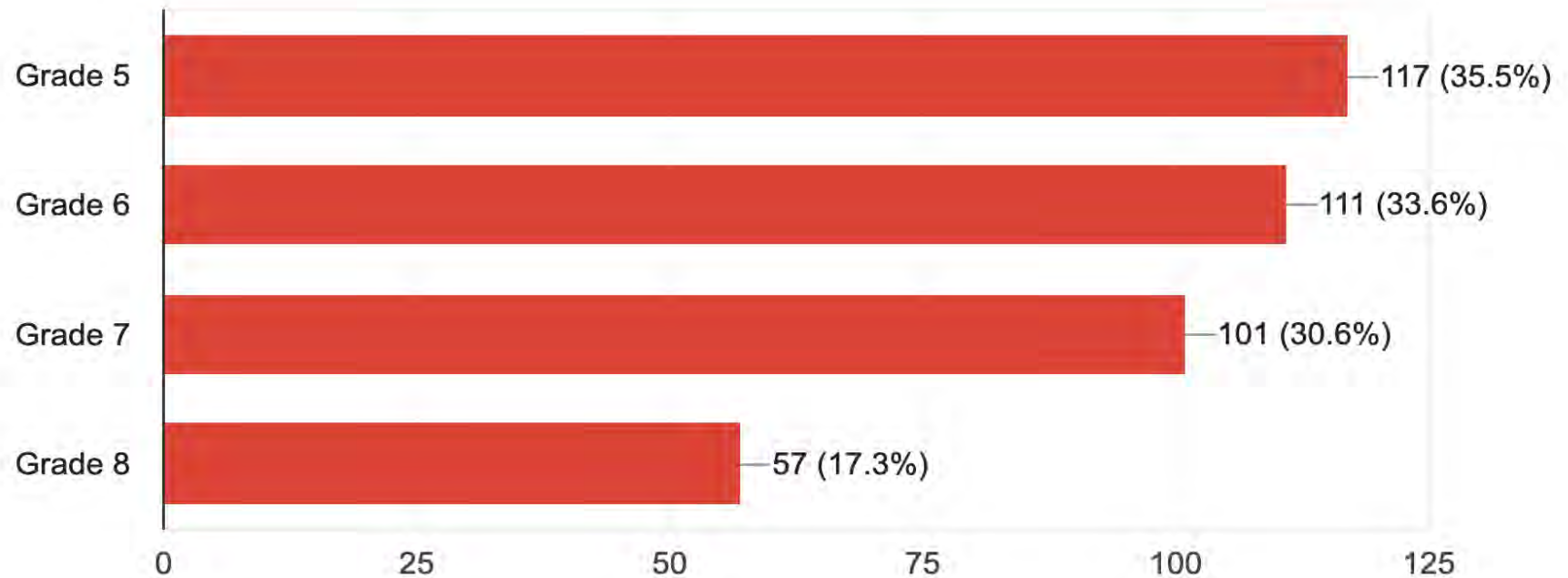
330 responses



Grade Level Breakdown

Please identify the grade level(s) of your child(ren) for the current 2020/21 school year. Please check all that apply.

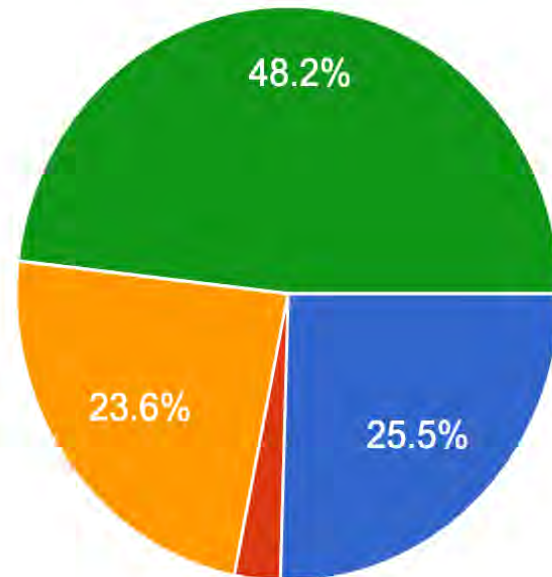
330 responses



Grade Level Opinion for SBRC

Which statement below best describes your feeling/opinion at this time on SBRCs (standards-based grading/reporting) at the middle school level?

330 responses

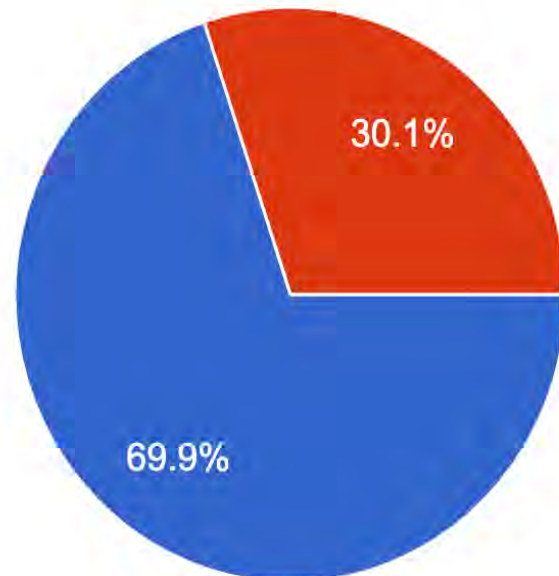


- I am not concerned, or do not have enough information at this time to have an opinion about the planned transition...
- I am primarily concerned with the planned transition to standards-based reporting at the 5th & 6th grade levels.
- I am primarily concerned with the planned transition to standards-based...
- I am concerned with the planned transition to standards-based reportin...

Hybrid Use of SBRC

If the SBRCs contained additional information about my child's academic progress, including what skills and knowledge they have acquired – reporting... best describes your feeling/opinion at this time:

246 responses



- The SBRC providing standards-based AND equivalent alpha (A, B, C, etc.) grade reporting of my child's academic progress **WOULD** alleviate my concerns.
- The SBRC providing standards-based AND equivalent alpha (A, B, C, etc.) grade reporting of my child's academic progress **WOULD NOT** alleviate my concerns.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Memorandum

To: Members of the School Committee
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Date: March 14, 2021
Re: Vote on 2021/22 School Choice Program Participation

Each year the school committee is required to vote prior to June 1 indicating whether or not the district will participate in the Commonwealth's School Choice Program during the following school year. Further, the district must specify the number of students that will be accepted and may specify the school and grade level(s) to which it will accept new students.

As of March 9, 2021, the Chelmsford Public Schools enrolled a total of forty-six (46) students from other communities through the School Choice Program. Nine (9) of the forty-six students will be graduating from Chelmsford High School this June. The grade level distribution for the remaining thirty-seven students for the upcoming school year is provided in the table below:

2021 - 2022 School Year	
Grade	# Students
K	0
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	2
7	0
8	2
9	1
10	8
11	12
12	12
Total:	37

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Under state law, the students who are currently attending the Chelmsford Public Schools under the School Choice Program may continue in the Chelmsford schools until they graduate from high school. As we have limited educational space at the elementary and middle school levels of the district, I am concerned about significantly expanding the number of students accepted into the Chelmsford schools through the School Choice Program. Thirty-seven (37) students currently enrolled in grades K-11 in the Chelmsford Public Schools will remain in the district for 2021/22 school year.

I recommend the school committee accept thirteen (13) additional/new students at Chelmsford High School in Grade 9 to maintain the total school choice participation at fifty (50) students for the 2021/22 school year. \$ 250,000 in School Choice tuition is expected from enrolling fifty (50) students in the 2021/22 school year. If the school committee agrees with this recommendation, the following motion is recommended:

Motion to accept thirteen (13) additional/new students at Chelmsford High School in Grade 9 under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts School Choice Program in the 2021/22 school year, bringing the total School Choice participation in the Chelmsford Public Schools to fifty (50) enrolled students in the 2021/22 school year.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Human Resources
230 North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824
Telephone: (978) 251-5100 Fax: (978) 251-5110

TO: Dr. Jay Lang, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Cheryl Kirkpatrick, Director of Personnel and Professional Learning

DATE: March 10, 2021

Re: Personnel Report February 2021

Please see the attached Personnel Report which includes retirements, resignations, new hires and assignment changes. Thank you for sharing this report with members of the Chelmsford School Committee.

Personnel Report – February 2021

New Hires

Reese, Matthew

Paraprofessional

Byam Elementary School

Effective date: 02/22/21

Resignations:

Demambro, Jessica

Paraprofessional

Harrington Elementary School

Effective date: 02/19/21

Retirements:

Assignment Changes:

Babiec, Kimberly (formerly Paraprofessional at Parker Middle School)

ABA Paraprofessional

Parker Middle School

Effective date: 02/22/21

Bower, Danielle (formerly Paraprofessional at Byam Elementary School)

ABA Paraprofessional

Byam Elementary School

Effective date: 02/08/21

Badola, Kiran (formerly Paraprofessional at Byam Elementary School)

ABA Paraprofessional

Byam Elementary School

Effective date: 02/08/21