

CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 18, 2021
Meeting Minutes

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

Consent Agenda

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meetings dated April 27, 2021 and May 4, 2021. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Good News

Mr. Doherty shared a “big thank you” from CHIPS to Mr. Andy Rega for his outdoor musical enrichment. He “wowed” the CHIPS students with his musical expertise and his bongo drum! On May 25th at CHIPS “Storyteller Joe” will present outdoor enrichment. CHIPS students and staff are thankful to their PTO.

Mr. Moses shared that he, along with Mr. Asselin and Dr. Parks, met with CHS students who are joining the military and spoke with them about the challenges they will face and answered questions from the students.

On behalf of Dr. Hirsch, The Chair shared that two teachers from Spain are visiting CHS and will be teaching there next year. The National Honor Society induction will take place on June 3rd at 6 p.m. The Arts Department will release their second district-wide virtual art celebration. CHS senior, Ethan M., will be celebrated at the dedication of the Chelmsford Center for the Arts this Saturday for his Eagle Scout Project which is an interactive musical instrument sculpture. 32 South Row students participated in the virtual science fair.

Ms. Newcomb shared that according to Mary Moriarty, Center School adopted the “Table of Plenty” last month. Their shelves are restocked with non-perishable items and they were able to distribute 80 bags of groceries. They are grateful to Center School.

Public Comments

None at this time.

New Business

1. Announcement of Coordinator of Social Emotional Learning & Counseling Services: Ms. Shannon Bischoff

Amy Reese introduced Shannon to The Committee. She is a social worker and a school adjustment counselor. Most recently she has been an assistant principal in the Wachusett Regional District in Holden, Massachusetts. Shannon is “beyond excited” to be joining the district. She looks forward to strategic planning with staff to meet the needs of our students. She will begin her work this summer.

2. Presentation: Harrington Elementary School and ELL Reading and Title 1 Services Department

Harrington Principal, Robert Asselin, and Ms. Kelly Rogers, Department Coordinator for Reading, English Language Learners and Title I Services, joined the meeting to share work that is happening at Harrington and information about the new reading program. Their slide show presentation is shared in tonight’s agenda packet. The pilot for the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom program and “Foundations” had begun prior to the pandemic. Virtual professional development was provided and included the library staff. Through the F & P program each elementary classroom has their own library of books. The school library staff are involved in “book clubs” with the students. Mr. Asselin highly praised the new program which was well received by his staff and enhanced by the involvement of Mrs. DeFreitas from the library. “Foundations”, a multi-sensory phonics program, was also introduced this school year and takes place for 30 minutes each day. The programs also provide scaffolds to support ELL students. Next year the programs will expand to include third grade. Fountas & Pinnell Classrooms will be expended in the fall to include pre-k and grades five and six. Mr. Asselin shared that in the month of March Harrington students raised over \$17,000 in pledges for reading 20 minutes each day! The Committee was appreciative of tonight’s presentation. To fully appreciate these literacy programs, you should view tonight’s meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

3. 2021/22 Students Transportation Program Registration Dates and Fees

Ms. Johnson-Collins shared memos in the packet concerning transportation. Early registration (in June and July) for next school year is encouraged.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the 2021 to 2022 bus transportation fees as presented.
Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

4. Chelmsford High School Senior Activities and Events

Dr. Hirsch’s memorandum in tonight’s agenda packet provides all the details on activities and events for seniors. She shared with The Committee:

- Friday, May 21st- the last full day of school for seniors
- May 24 – 28th- Senior Finals

- June 1- Senior Car Parade
- June 1 - Senior Banquet (Kimball's half the class)
- June 2 - Senior Banquet (Kimball's half the class)
- June 4 - Graduation Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. CHS Plateau (Field)
- June 4 - BBQ
- June 5 - Graduation 10:00 a.m. (rain time 5:00 p.m. same day)

5. Appointment of Superintendent Lang to Valley Collaborative Board of Directors

Mr. Moses motioned to appoint Dr. Jay Lang as a board member on the Valley Collaborative for FY22. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

6. In-Person Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

The Chair and Dr. Lang created a procedure to be followed for the public who would like to come speak at future meetings. The full proposal is included in tonight's agenda packet and will be posted on the district website. The Committee agreed with the guidelines as presented. Public comment will be in-person starting with the meeting on June 1st.

7. 2021/22 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Dr. Lang included a draft schedule in tonight's agenda packet.

Mr. Moses moved to approve the Chelmsford Public Schools' School Committee meeting schedule for the fiscal year July 2021 through June 2022. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

8. 2021/22 School Committee Liaison Assignments

The Chair included the proposed assignments in tonight's packet. A few changes were made based on requests.

9. School Committee Warrant Signing Schedule

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a month-by-month chart for signing members in tonight's packet. Three members are assigned to each month and signing will take place in Central Office on Fridays.

10. Personnel Report: April 2021

No action required.

Liaisons

Ms. Santos shared that Harrington's PTO met and elected a new board. They are planning events for the end of the school year for the fourth graders. McCarthy's PTO met and will be electing new officers. ELL had a very successful "pink night" to celebrate the end of the school year. The Wellness Committee will be presenting the final policies at an upcoming meeting. DESE may provide the mentor for next year again to assist with policy implementation. Mr. Moses said that Parker's PTO will meet this Thursday. Mr. King will attend the Chelmsford Council of Schools meeting tomorrow.

Public Comments

None at this time.

Adjournment (7:42 p.m.)

Mr. Moses motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*