

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 5, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

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

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. In-person public participation will be taking place tonight in accordance with social distancing and safety protocols established by the Chelmsford School Committee Public Participation Guidelines. Anyone interested in speaking during the public input portion of the meeting would have notified the superintendent’s office by yesterday afternoon and would have been provided with the guidelines and assigned a time to attend the meeting to speak. 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 their comments or questions during our second public input session at the end of the meeting.”

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 21, 2021**

Ms. Newcomb moved for The School Committee accept the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of September 21, 2021. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Tonight’s meeting is the first for the new student representatives. Katrina Janakos, a senior at CHS, introduced herself and shared that tomorrow during Plus Block all students 9 through 12 will be taking a survey from The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) which is done every ten years. The purpose is to gather student viewpoint and to guide for goals for the next ten years. The CHS Pep Rally will be held on October 22, 2021, outdoors. The Senior Halloween Dance will take place on October 23rd, also outside. The high school has a new gym floor! A 24-hour tutoring site for all students called “Paper” has been put in place.

Sarah Evans is excited for the opportunity to serve as a student representative. She shared that the guidance department has begun meeting with seniors to work on college or career preparations. Ms. Alexandra Cunningham has been hired to work in the new Career and College Readiness Center to assist students on Innovation Pathways. PRIDE Block will be taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays for student enrichment or extra help. The Activities Fair was held last week. The Theatre Guild is preparing for the November musical, *Pippin*.

The Chair welcomed the students and looks forward to working with them this year.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch added that the Chelmsford Police greeted students at South Row School from K to 4th with “Officer High Five Day”. Ms. Gilbert, the new principal looks forward to monthly activities involving the police. This is the sixth week of school and “so far so good”!

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Public Meeting Schedule: Dore & Whittier Update to Facility Conditions and District Master Plan

Dr. Lang included a memorandum in tonight’s agenda packet which gives the dates for community input to Dore & Whittier. The first will be held on October 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Chelmsford Elks. All are welcome. On October 20, 2021, a meeting will be held to focus on middle school staff and students. On Tuesday, November 9th, another meeting for the public will be held. The public sessions will be recorded, and the links will be posted on the district’s web site. The exact time and location will be announced soon. Dore & Whittier will also be attending School Committee meetings on: September 21st; November 16th; December 7th and December 21, 2021, to provide updates on the work.

2. Rescheduled Date of School Committee Workshop

Last week’s workshop has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

3. MASC Resolutions & Voting Delegate – Fall 2021 Membership Meeting

The Chair and The Committee will look at the nine resolutions tonight and vote on them and will also elect a delegate to attend the virtual MASC meeting on November 6th. Details on the proposed resolutions are included in tonight’s packet.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee supports resolution #1 for the MASC Conference, for dedicated funding for school-based clinics and services. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee approve resolution #2 for homework gap and wi-fi internet access. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee accept resolution #3 for IDEA Full Funding Act. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee accept resolution #4 for recess. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee accept MASC resolution #5 for zero tolerance policies. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee accept MASC resolution #6 for alternative to MCAS. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee accept MASC resolution #7 for school committees and receivership. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee approve MASC resolution #8 for electric school busses. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Newcomb moved that the Chelmsford School Committee approve MASC resolution #9 for prohibiting the use of native American mascots. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion fails 0-4.

Ms. Newcomb volunteers to be the delegate to the MASC meeting on November 6, 2021. Mr. Doherty will be the alternate delegate.

Mr. King motioned to approve Donna as the delegate for the MASC conference. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. King motioned to approve Jeff as the alternate delegate for the MASC conference. Ms. Newcomb seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

4. October 1, 2021 Student Enrollment & Class Size Report

Included in tonight's agenda packet is a memorandum from Dr. Lang and spread sheets providing up to date information on student enrollment, which is submitted to DESE by October 1st annually. This data informs the Chapter 70 formula for state aid. The number as of October 1st was 5,025 students enrolled. Finalization of the report will take place in December. The information provided tonight is a draft. This information is also used in planning the school district's budget for FY2023. Ms. Santos expressed concern over the average class sizes at McCarthy which often exceed 25 students. Dr. Lang says this will be taken into consideration going forward with planning for FY2023. This is looked at each year starting with the enrollment figures projected in June. Input from teachers will be sought.

5. Update on the Opening of Schools for the 2021/22 School Year

Dr. Lang's slide show is included in tonight's agenda packet. This includes data on vaccinations. It is expected that student vaccination clinics will be scheduled, especially when vaccines are approved for five to 11-year-olds. Data is also included on "pool testing" and the "test and stay protocol". Those who are not signed up for "test and stay" will need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID. Participation levels are good. The district website provides data on "pool testing". Data on the CPS COVID-19 Dashboard is updated weekly.

6. Discussion on Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip and Travel Requirements

For each trip being planned, the agencies providing the trip and school staff are providing all pertinent information up front, including COVID requirements and recommendations on travel insurance. Details will vary from trip to trip depending on the destination. Currently field trips are scheduled for Canada, Greece, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Peru. Additionally, there will be a Disney trip to Florida. Dr. Lang will keep The Committee updated.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb attended the South Row PTO meeting. They held a “wildly successful” ice cream social. Their “Pumpkin Fair” will be held on October 16th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The “Bottle and Can Drive” will be held this Saturday.

Mr. Doherty shared that The Alumni Association held their Hall of Fame induction. It is available to view on The Alumni Association page. The CHS PTO met last night and are looking forward to upcoming events starting in December.

The Chair attended the Center School PTO meeting. Their ice cream social will be tomorrow. On October 30th they will hold a Trunk or Treat. On November 6th they will hold a recycling day with McCarthy Middle School. CHIPS is holding their October Sock Drive and will have an open house on November 10th. In December they will offer a holiday gift basket raffle. SEPAC will meet on October 13 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a workshop on “anxiety”.

Action/New Items

Ms. Newcomb would like to discuss homework for middle and high school students.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (7:53 P.M.)

Ms. Newcomb motioned to adjourn. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*