

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

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

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 October 19, 2021**

Ms. Newcomb moved to approve the minutes of the regular school meeting on October 19, 2021. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the school committee workshop meeting of October 26, 2021**

Ms. Newcomb moved that the school committee approve the minutes of the school committee workshop meeting on October 26, 2021. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Katrina announced that the first academic term will end on Friday. Students in grades nine through 11 have been taking iReady diagnostic tests. The CHS football team will go to the playoffs and will play in Wrentham this Friday. The game will be broadcast by CHS TV. The CHS girls’ soccer team also made the playoffs and will play against Newton North on Thursday. CHS soccer player Allie LoCoco was mentioned in *The Boston Herald* as a standout player!

Sarah shared that the CHS Theatre Guild will present *Pippin* from November 18th through the 20th. The G.I.V.E. Club recognized Mr. Merrill and the CHS custodial staff for September. For October Mr. Shea and Mr. Witte were recognized. Students are also leaving notes for staff who are recognized for "Acts of Kindness". The Lion drive-by Trick or Treat was held on Sunday with 18 clubs participating. One thousand dollars was raised for The Paul Center and food was donated for The Table of Plenty. The G.I.V.E. Club also provided Halloween activities at Westlands for the preschool children. The G.I.V.E. Club raised money for Thanksgiving by a "Pie in the Face" contest. The winner, Mr. Bartos received the pie during the recent Pep Rally!

Good News

Dr. Hirsch is sharing many fun Halloween events in the current newsletter. Today was a full day of professional development. The Chair shared that the field hockey team will be playing in the tournament at home this Friday against Needham. Cross country and swimming also enjoyed good seasons!

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Districtwide Facilities Master Plan Visioning Session: Tuesday November 9, 2021

Dr. Lang shared that the second public visioning session will be held at 6:00 on November 9th at the Chelmsford Elks on Littleton Road. Parker and McCarthy students met last week to provide input. Tomorrow the middle school teachers will meet to provide additional suggestions. The focus at the upcoming meeting will be on the selection of a new high school as the priority project or should another school option be considered instead. The meeting will be taped and available on the website soon after the meeting concludes.

2. List of Agenda Items (Past, Present and Future)

The Chair included a memorandum and spread sheet in tonight's packet listing a rolling list of agenda items which were covered and those that might need to be addressed going forward. Dr. Lang will add this to the Committee's "drop box" and requests for additions or changes need to go through Dr. Lang.

3. Update on Student Transportation Services

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum updating student transportation and spoke about the actions being taken to address the shortage of bus drivers. She hopes these changes will be temporary and will not be needed once the bus driver shortage has been resolved. Families were notified of changes and the information on pick up times may be found on the website. There is still difficulty securing busses for after school sports.

4. Technology Grant Award: Emergency Connectivity Funding (ECF)

Bill Silver applied for and was granted Emergency Connectivity Funding which will provide 2,000 Chromebooks and 70 Wi-Fi hotspots. The hotspots will be housed in the school libraries and may be checked out by students, so they will have home internet access for the school year. This grant is valued at over \$8,000.

5. 2021 – 22 School Committee and Superintendent Draft Goals

The Chair has included in tonight's agenda packet a draft of goals for this school year. He sent this information to Committee members prior to tonight's meeting. The goals address: supporting academic programs; school climate; and activities. The action steps are to help resume more daily traditional education following the past year plus, which saw remote learning and hybrid learning due to the COVID pandemic. SEL, diversity, equity and inclusivity along with facility planning are included. He also is looking for ways to evaluate these initiatives. He anticipates moving forward with the CPS Strategic Plan. The Committee took time to discuss the draft goals. Dr. Lang and Mr. King are looking for feedback with the goals being addressed and confirmed at the next meeting.

6. Prioritization of FY2023 Capital Plan Items

Dr. Lang's spread sheet is included in tonight's agenda packet and starts with listing items which had previously been deferred. Some of the proposed projects may be funded through The Town with ARPA funding (federal). If this happens those projects can be removed from the CPS capital items. That would leave the district with projects totaling 1.6 million. Dr. Lang summarized the projects for The Committee. The Committee agrees with the list presented by Dr. Lang this evening.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb announced that the last bottle and can drive until March will be held on November 13th. The Chelmsford Council of Schools met last week. Ms. Santos shared that on November 6th, McCarthy is holding a "recycled junk day". The Harrington "Battle of the Boos" had a large turnout. Harrington's "Holiday Store" will be discussed at tomorrow night's meeting. Mr. Doherty spoke of the Booster Club sponsoring a Veteran's Day dinner on November 11th, at The Establishment from 4 until 7:00 p.m. The CHS athletes will serve the meals. The Chair added that CHIPS completed their "Socktober Sock Drive" with a total of 726 pair of socks to be donated to The Wish Project. CHIPS will host open house on November 10th and will hold a holiday basket raffle in December. The Zakim Bridge in Boston will be lit up in yellow on November 20th for SEPAC awareness!

Action/New Items

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (7:04 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*