

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 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. 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 August 24, 2021.**

Ms. Newcomb motioned to accept the minutes from The School Committee meeting of August 24, 2021. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 4-0 with Mr. Moses abstaining.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared we are back to school for the second week and grants are all coming in. The second planning grant for the CHS Innovation Pathways has just been approved as well as the second grant for SEL work in The District. The CHS band will be performing this Friday at the football game!

Public Comments

The Town of Chelmsford’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee wanted to speak so The School Committee welcomed Natasha Dixon to the meeting. On September 29th at the PAC a film, *I am Not a Racist, am I?* will be shown. The film follows 12 students through the course of a year as they examine themselves and their views about race and racism. Ms. Dixon is requesting support from The School Committee in advertising this upcoming presentation. After the 90-minute film showing, the director will be

on hand to moderate conversations. Ms. Dixon suggested middle school students and older students would benefit by attending along with their families. The presentation is free and open to neighboring communities.

New Business

1. School Committee Meeting Schedule – Fall 2021

Dr. Lang shared that additional dates have been added to the previously approved meeting schedule. Included in tonight's agenda packet is the updated meeting schedule.

2. Permission to Post: School Nutrition Dietician

Tonight's packet includes a memorandum and job description for a part-time, school nutrition registered dietician. This hourly position would not include benefits. Payment will come from the revolving fund.

Mr. Moses moved to approve the posting of the position for a school nutrition registered dietician as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

3. Report on the Opening of Schools for the 2021/22 School Year

Dr. Lang shared that it was great to see the students back in the classrooms, working with the teaching staff. The facilities look wonderful and are in good working order. As he spoke he shared slides he had created to highlight information about school reopening and to provide facts particularly about COVID, transportation and school technology. The numbers of students vaccinated continues to climb, with 53% of those ages 12 – 15 fully vaccinated and 81% of those 16 – 19 as well. Much more data is requested of students/families at CHS and the middle schools with regard to vaccination status. This status will impact the quarantine required and time students will not be able to attend school. Dr. Lang also included an update on numbers who have enrolled for "Pool Testing" and "Test and Stay". Pool testing will begin the week of September 20th.

Concerning transportation, the numbers of riders are very close to pre COVID numbers. Students can still register to ride the bus. Masks on busses continue to be required as a federal mandate through the Department of Transportation.

Although Technology Director, Bill Silver was not able to attend tonight's meeting, he provided updated slides, which Dr. Lang shared and discussed. The department worked diligently during the summer: all classrooms now have Clear Touch Interactive Panels; more than 1,000 new Chromebooks are deployed for 1:1 for incoming 5th and 9th grade students; each home room at the elementary schools has a mobile cart for Chromebooks; 5,800 devices were cleaned and prepped; and new document cameras are found in all learning spaces. Mr. Silver also has applied for funding through the E-rate program and ESSR II to provide more hotspots for students and additional devices. Additional technology updates include: a new copying system; security enhancements at elementary schools; and staff ID enhancements. Committee members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Silver and his entire department!

4. Personnel Report: July 2021

No action required.

5. Approval of Field Trip and Travel Requests

Mr. Moses moved to approve all the field trips as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos attended the virtual Harrington PTO meeting. They outlined their agenda/events and budget for the coming year.

Action/New Items

Ms. Santos would like to see an update on enrollment and class sizes. She stated she looks forward to the student representatives return to The Committee meetings.

The Chair looks forward to the upcoming workshop for The Committee, as well as goal setting for the new school year. He looks forward to resuming work on the strategic plan as well.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (7:45 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*