

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 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) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance). Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) is absent tonight.

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 November 2, 2021

Ms. Newcomb moved that the School Committee approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of November 2, 2021. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 3-0 with Mr. Moses abstaining and Ms. Santos not present for the vote.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Sarah shared that term two began last week. CHS just purchased a program to support students' social and emotional health called "Character Strong". Staff members are being trained and the program will be incorporated into Plus Blocks in the next couple of months. The Rotary Club sends thanks to the football team for attending the Veterans Day celebration last Thursday. Winter sports will start Monday, November 29th, registration is happening now. The Mentor Program is going strong with training and the mentors meeting with the freshman mentees to assure success at CHS. On November 18th the mentors will attend the mentees Plus Block to work on time management.

Katrina added that *Pippin* will be performed this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The amazingly talented students have worked hard to make this a successful production. On Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 the CHS football team will play against Billerica in Billerica. The CHS marching band will be performing at the game. CHS TV's Fall Newscast premiered today with segments about the acapella teams, the senior class officers, *Pippin*, the fall sports season and a spotlight on Dean McNeil, the new dean at Emerson House. This Thursday there will be a veteran's panel in the career center. The G.I.V.E. Club and CHS Student Council are working together for the Thanksgiving food drive, which will be a competition between CHS Houses this year.

Good News

Dr. Lang congratulated CHS senior, Carter Mills, who is an Eagle Scout and completed his Eagle Scout project this past year. With the help of the 4-H Club he worked on a handicapped accessibility project. Carter was honored at a ceremony this morning.

Public Comments

Members of the Equity and Diversity Committee joined tonight's meeting. They shared their mission statement and brought questions for the School Committee. They invited The Committee to attend their next meeting on December 1st, for a joint meeting to respond to the questions. They shared a slide show with the questions and the information about their next meeting at Town Hall starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1st.

New Business

1. Dore & Whittier Architects Update on Districtwide Facilities Master Plan

Dore & Whittier associates came to the meeting and shared an update including a slide show which has been included in tonight's agenda packet. Two public meetings have been conducted with final reports being available in January 2022. Meetings were also held with the middle school staff and some middle school students. The 2016 Master Plan has been updated with regard to the current condition of each school facility and projected enrollment for each school. All elementary schools and Parker Middle School are over capacity. CHS and McCarthy Middle School (which has modular classrooms in use) have some room for increased enrollment. In 2016 the decision was that the priority project should be a new high school and an early childhood center. Statements of interest for this were submitted to the MSBA but were not accepted in 2018, 2019, or 2020. The MSBA may perceive the need for new high schools to be greater in other communities and that there may be a greater need in Chelmsford than a new high school. Another update will be provided in December. Work will continue on determining what the priority project should be going forward. In January drafts and final reports will be presented.

2. Approval of 2021 – 22 School Committee and Superintendent Goals

The final goals are included in tonight's packet for approval by The Committee.

Mr. Moses moved to approve The School Committee goals for 2021/2022. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Moses moved to approve The Superintendent's goals for 2021/2022. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

3. FY2023 Capital Plan Update

Dr. Lang shared that the projects prioritized at the last meeting totaled 3.5 million dollars. After consulting with The Town, it was learned that some of the projects would qualify for ARPA grant funding and have been removed from the capital plan list of the district. Additionally, repairs have already been made on the elevators at McCarthy and CHS and those have been deferred from the current list. This brings this year's capital projects to a total of under \$2.8 million. The updates to the lists are included in tonight's agenda packet.

Mr. Moses motioned to approve the updates to the FY2023 capital plan request for the total amount of 2.796 million dollars. Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

4. COVID-19 Cases, Pool Testing, Test and Stay, and Vaccination Status Update

Dr. Lang shared the updates in a slide show. Pool testing and "test-and-stay" numbers of participants are increasing. Families are encouraged to sign up for "test-and-stay". There have been only 17 positive pools in testing so far this school year. According to information on vaccines voluntarily shared by individuals 66% of CHS, 26% of McCarthy and 24% of Parker students are vaccinated. This is encouraging, and the numbers should increase now that children ages 5 – 11 may be vaccinated. The Dashboard is updated weekly on the district's website. COVID-19 vaccinations will be given to 5 – 11-year children at McCarthy Middle School on November 19, 2021.

5. Multi-Year Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Lang is presenting a proposal for strategic planning from District Management Group (DMG) to The Committee tonight. If approved this group will begin analysis after the holidays and then in January and February, the strategic planning process will be launched with them. They will work within The District and host visioning sessions. This work would continue until June. This will enable a launch of the plan at the beginning of the 2022/23 school year. The entire proposal is included in tonight's agenda packet. Funding may be provided by ESSER grants.

Mr. Moses motioned to grant the contract to support the multi-year strategic planning process to The District Management Group. Mr. Doherty seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

6. Update on Personnel Office Staffing

The district continues to search for a new Director of Personnel. Candice Hall who is the retired personnel director from Andover started two weeks ago as the interim director. She is in the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

7. 2021 – 22 School Year Inclement Weather Delay and Cancellation Procedure

The district will be returning to "old school" snow days this year. There will not be remote learning on snow days. Delayed openings and school closings will be announced with early morning phone calls (@5:30) and on TV channels 4, 5, 7 and 25 as well as the district's website and social media platforms. With some storms (i.e. blizzards) it is possible to make the school closing call the night before.

8. Personnel Report: October 2021

No action required.

9. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips

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

Liaison Reports

Mr. Doherty shared that the Alumni Association has set October 15, 2022, for The Hall of Fame inductions. On Veterans Day the Booster Club served meals to 55 veterans.

Ms. Santos said that the Wellness Committee has scheduled their regular meetings. This year the focus will be on the “compliance process”.

The Chair announced that Center School’s PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday.

Action/New Items

The Committee will hold a virtual workshop on November 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. King was honored by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame at Gillette Stadium last weekend!

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment (7:42 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*