

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING
February 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent), Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance) and Ms. Peggy Gump, (Director of Nursing Services)

Call to Order

6:17 p.m.

Chair Opening Statement

Tonight's meeting is not able to be live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia or recorded for interested community members to access and watch. As such, the Committee has elected to allow the members of the public present to make a public comment to the Committee and/or attend the televised session to be scheduled later in the week. Aside from public comments, no action on the posted agenda will take place this evening.

Public Comments

Linda Moran, 112 Westford Street, spoke of her concern for students wearing masks in the CPS. She expressed many instances where she felt mask wearing was especially having an impact on the mental health, social well-being and learning for CHS students. She shared her belief that masks are harmful and offer "no benefits." She would like the face covering policy to be rescinded.

Lauren Cochran, president of the teacher's union, addressed the Committee and indicated staff had shared their opinions on whether to maintain or rescind the current mask policy.

Ann Marie Hogan, 31 Second Street, spoke in favor of removing the mask mandate in schools.

Lisa Tiernan, 116 Lowell Road – Westford, spoke in favor of removing the mask mandate in schools and questioned the science behind the decision to mask.

No further public comment or action of the Committee was taken. The Committee requested the administration work with Chelmsford Telemedia to find an available day/time later in the week to hold the meeting on this important topic. As the topic is drawing significant public interest, the Committee did not want to meet and address the matter without the meeting being live-streamed and recorded.

Adjournment (6:35 p.m.)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Lang, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

School Committee Approved:
March 1, 2022