

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 26, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ms. Donna Newcomb (Chair), Mr. Jeff Doherty (Vice Chair), Mr. Dennis King (Secretary), Mr. John Moses 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**

6:15 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Chair Opening Statement**

“This 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 the Chelmsford School Committee Public Participation Guidelines. Anyone speaking tonight during the public input portion of the meeting has notified the superintendent’s office of their desire to speak and has been provided with these guidelines. Upon request written comments received no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of this meeting will also be read and made part of the record of the meeting during the second public comment session.”

The Chair welcomed all and thanked the Select Board for their vote last night to allow submission of a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. She also thanked Town Meeting Members for approving the budget and district capital projects at last night’s meeting. Additionally, she recognized the CHS Band who performed at the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of April 12, 2022

**Mr. Doherty motioned to accept the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting on April 12, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

**CHS Student Representatives Announcements**

Katrina shared that, with May approaching, the end of the school year is near. Seniors have only 18 days left of school. AP testing will be held the next two weeks in the CHS Learning Commons. She thanked the Melting Pot Club for the international lunch they held for the teachers. During April vacation, the Eco Club held a town-wide trash clean up to celebrate Earth Day. Tickets are on sale for senior activities including Prom, the banquet and BBQ. Upcoming music concerts will include the Jazz Band on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and the POPS Concert on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah added that on Thursday CHS students will be able to see Ivy Watts, who is a mental health advocate, at the PAC. She congratulated Ganesh Danke and Rishi Ajmara who performed at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Georgia. Ganesh presented his own fictional start-up to a panel of judges and Rishi performed in the category of Entrepreneurship Series where he was given an exam. The Leadership in Motion Club is preparing for the return of the 24-Hour Relay on May 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Proceeds from the event will go to charity. Sign ups for this event end on May 6, 2022.

### **Good News**

Dr. Hirsch shared that Chelmsford has again been designated as a “Best Community for Music Education” by the NAMM Foundation for the tenth year in a row. Grade eight and grade eleven students will soon begin their first action research project, Thanks to a grant a new greenhouse has been created at CHS with 15 wireless trail cameras to be placed in CHS, McCarthy and Parker. Today civics classes from CHS toured the State House.

Mr. King added that at Town Meeting approval was given last night for the tennis, basketball and street hockey courts at CHS, as well as the playground at Center School.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **New Business**

#### **1. Chelmsford Land Acknowledgement Proclamation**

The entire official proclamation, dated March 14, 2022, was read by Mr. Moses as requested by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

“On behalf of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, I am writing to share that the Chelmsford Select Board has approved a Land Acknowledgement proclamation. This proclamation is intended to honor the Indigenous Peoples who once lived on this land and continue to live here today. Part of the mission of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is to help educate our community about diversity-related matters. The Chelmsford Public Library partnered with us to draft the Land Acknowledgement proclamation and identify supporting resources. The Land Acknowledgement proclamation raises awareness about local Indigenous Nations, shares Chelmsford-specific historical accounts about those Nations, and the accompanying F.A.Q. brochure offers additional educational resources. We are enthusiastic that the Select Board has joined us in supporting and affirming Indigenous peoples and their historic relationship with the land that is now known as Chelmsford. Attached to this email is the signed proclamation, an accessibly readable version of the proclamation, and a frequently asked questions brochure. Additionally, the DEIC website and the Library website both have landing pages for the proclamation which you can view by clicking the links below: At the discretion of your committee or board, we ask that the Land Acknowledgement proclamation be read at larger public meetings or events. For example: meetings held at the Town Common, holiday celebrations, sporting events, trail walks, etc. We are asking you to join in our efforts to raise awareness and spread the word. Thank you for supporting this initiative.”

Best regards, Latosha Dixon - Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee  
Carly Connor Reim - Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

## **2. 2022/23 School Committee Meeting Schedule**

Dr. Lang included a draft version of the schedule in tonight's packet to be voted on by The Committee.

**Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the July 2022 through June 2023 Chelmsford Public School's School Committee meeting schedule as written. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **3. 2022/23 School Committee Liaison Assignments**

The current assignments are included in tonight's packet. If anyone would like to change an assignment they should let The Chair know this soon. The final assignments for next year may be approved at the next meeting or on May 17<sup>th</sup>. These assignments become effective July 1, 2022.

## **4. FY2022 Budget Report: 3rd Quarter Financials**

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a detailed report in tonight's packet for the third quarter financials and shared it with The Committee, while highlighting favorable variances on the report. The Special Education Reserve Fund has been set up after receiving approval last night at Town Meeting.

## **5. Vote to Approve FY2023 Substitute Employee Rate Increases**

**Mr. Doherty motioned to accept the recommended substitute employee rate increases for fiscal year 2023. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.**

## **6. MSBA Vote: Vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest (SOI) for Parker Middle School**

Dr. Lang shared that the Select Board approved the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the district to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority on Friday for the Parker Middle School concept.

**Mr. Doherty motioned having convened in an open meeting on April 26, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of the Town of Chelmsford, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 22, 2022 for the Parker Middle School located at 75 Graniteville Road which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority 2 – Elimination of existing severe overcrowding, Priority 4 – Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments, Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility, and Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Chelmsford to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

Dr. Lang added that notification about the "eligibility phase" of this process should be received next January or February.

**7. Update on COVID-19: Case Count, Pool Testing Initiative, At-Home Rapid Antigen Test Kit Program Participation, and Student Vaccination Status**

Dr. Lang included a slide show in tonight's agenda packet providing updates on: vaccination data for Chelmsford and CPS; Pool Testing and results; at-home testing and the updated Dashboard. Last week only eight positive cases were found in the schools. All COVID initiatives will remain in place until the end of this school year.

**8. Personnel Report – March 2022**

No action required. Dr. Lang stated that hiring for the next school year is already in process and going well. He added that the traditional gathering honoring retirees will be held in June and co-sponsored by the school district and the teachers' union. People who retired the past two years will also be recognized.

**Liaison Reports**

Mr. Doherty and Ms. Santos shared that the CHS After Prom Breakfast plans are moving forward.

Graduation will be held at the Tsongas Arena on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Action/New Items**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

MASC resolutions need to be submitted by June 1, 2022. A delegate for the annual meeting needs to be selected by October.

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment (7:11 p.m.)**

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*