

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Ms. Donna Newcomb (Chair), Mr. Dennis King (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Maria Santos. Mr. Jeff Doherty is not present this evening.

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

“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 be read and made part of the record of the meeting during the second public comment session.”

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of May 3, 2022**

Mr. King motioned to approve the minutes of May 3, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

CHS Student Representatives Announcements

Katrina shared that this week is the last week of school for seniors. They are holding a spirit week to celebrate! The sophomores began MCAS today and will finish tomorrow. Today juniors had the opportunity to “job shadow” a professional in a career in which they are interested. This can pique their interest for a “senior internship” for next year. May 30th will be “senior week” and will include prom, the BBQ and the banquet. “We are very excited for this!” Last Tuesday The Pops Concert was held which featured the band, chorus and orchestra. Both CHS acapella groups performed last weekend.

Sarah added congratulations to the cast and crew of *Pippin!* Tammy nominations include many members of the production for: acting; overall production; best chorus; best dance ensemble; best student orchestra; best production number; best stage crew; technical excellence in lighting and sound; best costumes, hair and make-up and best visual excellence. This CHS production was nominated for 17 of the 19 categories for which it was eligible! “Congratulations to everyone who was involved. That’s amazing!” The mock car crash will be held this Thursday. The 24-Hour Relay will take place this

weekend. All money raised will be donated to charity. “Katrina and I would like to say, ‘thank you’. This is our last meeting with you all as you know, since we are graduating. It has been a really great year and we’ve appreciated the opportunity to be here and give updates and also learn from The Committee. So, thank you all very much.”

Good News

Dr. Hirsch stated that most of tonight's good news is in the audience. The student reps have had the best year!

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Recognition of CHS Student Representatives to the School Committee

Dr. Lang was happy that the student reps were at tonight's meeting. The Committee appreciated all their help with what has happened at CHS and wish them well in their colleges next year. Ms. Newcomb added that the time commitment to prepare and attend these meetings is appreciated along with the student input. She thanked Katrina for her three years as a rep and thanked Sarah for this current school year. “You two have done an awesome job and it is very clear from the time and dedication you put into this that you’re going to have very successful futures. So, thank you very, very much!” (Applause!) The Chair presented them each with a parting gift bag. (More applause!)

2. Spotlight on the Schools: Harrington Elementary School

Principal Rob Asselin and others from Harrington Elementary School took seats at the table to present. Joining him were Lindsay Albert, School Counselor, and Dr. Marlana Barrasso, School Psychologist. Their presentation focused on the Social Emotional Interventions implemented this school year. The needs of students returning post-COVID are different from the needs of students in years past. They wanted to identify critical needs and skills that had been lost to many students. They began with meeting students with resources already available and adding additional SEL approaches to support students moving forward through the school year. Dr. Barrasso shared the screener they used to provide data to support the staff interventions. All students were screened to: determine their social-emotional needs; identify students who required additional support and to use this data to look at trends and patterns across the school. Their presentation tonight augmented the multiple slides they included to highlight progress and transformations as the school year progressed. To fully appreciate this detailed presentation, one should truly watch it in its entirety on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube! Staff feedback was important to this process. Students were first screened by teachers in October, interventions were activated, and screening was done again in January and will be done again at the end of the school year. Due to this success the process will be carried into the 2022-23 school year at Harrington with continued assessments and modifications as needed and driven by data. Lindsay Albert spoke of whole school interventions using “Second Step” with added “circles” and PBIS. Karen Grabowski, Assistant Principal, offered whole staff training which addressed “executive functioning”, social skills and self-regulation as well as restorative practices. Many small groups were offered for students who required more support. The entire presentation and student progress were well-received by The School Committee and “kudos” were given by Ms. Newcomb and Ms. Santos!

3. Chelmsford High School Seal of Biliteracy

Jess Nollet, Coordinator for Languages and Exchange Programs, came to the table to present. In attendance tonight are students from CHS who have earned their Seal of Biliteracy. This year 20 CHS seniors received this seal. Sofia and Arina, who are present this evening earned the Seal of Biliteracy in two languages! Biliteracy student diplomas will have a special seal attached to indicate their trilateracy or biliteracy. The students introduced themselves to The Committee. Their names and languages in which they received the Seal are included in tonight's agenda packet. To be awarded this Seal "is a huge honor"!

4. MA DESE Approval of CHS Innovation Pathway Program

Dr. Lang shared that CHS has been awarded approval from the DESE to offer an Innovation Pathway in Life Science and Manufacturing. This ties in with the Dual Enrollment Program and the College and Career Readiness Program at CHS. Dr. Hirsch added these pathways are in addition to the Business and IT Pathways which were awarded previously.

5. Presentation – CPS School Nutrition Program Year-in-Review

Nancy Antolini, Director of School Nutrition, came to the table to give her annual update. Her complete slide show is included in tonight's agenda packet. She began by giving a "shout out" to the food service staff and all they have achieved during the past two years! She is proud of this "exceptional team"! Meals served so far this school year, exceed what was served in 2020/21. She is requesting an increase in pricing for next year for breakfast and lunch. It will not be known until July 1st, if the State Legislature will support free breakfast and lunch for the 2022/23 school year. To fully appreciate all the accomplishments of the School Nutrition Program this year and plans for the future, you may view Ms. Antolini's entire presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube. This year Ms. Antolini was elected to be the President of the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts for 2022-2023! She requested the addition of two positions to Food Service. One will be the School Nutrition Office Manager (update of the position role) and the second would be a Nutritional Operations Supervisor, whose salary and benefits will be paid through the Revolving Fund according to Dr. Lang. The Chair read a memorandum from Ms. Johnson-Collins praising the great work Ms. Antolini has done and continues to do for the Chelmsford Public Schools, as well as the wonderful work of her team!

6. 2022/23 Student Breakfast/Lunch Fees

Mr. King motioned to increase the Chelmsford Public Schools' breakfast and lunch prices to the following for the 2022-23 school year: breakfast at all schools \$1.75; lunch at the high school and middle schools to \$3.25; lunch at the elementary schools \$2.75. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. King motioned to approve the updated job description for the Chelmsford Public Schools School Nutrition Officer as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. King recommended a motion to approve the new position of Chelmsford Public Schools School Nutrition Operations Supervisor as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

7. 2022/23 Student Transportation Program Registration Dates and Fees

Ms. Johnson-Collins has included a memorandum in tonight's agenda packet relative to transportation for the upcoming school year and related fees. She shared an overview with The Committee. All who ride the bus pay except K-6 who live over two miles from the school. There will be a flyer on registration and a new system to register through MYSCHOOLBUCKS. The number of riders is up to the norm from before the pandemic. The fee structure is the same as in the past. Everyone needs to register to ride the bus even if they do not pay a fee! The fees are discounted for those who register early. Registration will open on June 1st.

Mr. King motioned to adopt the bus fee structure for the 2022-23 school year and establish regular, early, late and half-year registration rates as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.

8. 2022/23 School Committee Liaison Assignments

The Chair shared that the updated School Committee liaison assignments are included in tonight's packet.

9. McCarthy Middle School Tennis Courts Study Group

Dr. Lang shared a memorandum in tonight's packet concerning setting up a study/advisory group of The School Committee to plan for the future of the McCarthy tennis courts. Town Manager Cohen stated that since this is school property, it falls under the purview of The Committee. Dr. Lang has included two policies which may be considered as The Committee moves forward. Dr. Lang and The Chair will work on this together to set things in motion soon after Memorial Day. There will be more information on this at future meetings.

10. Acceptance of FY2021 MA DESE End-of-Year Financial Audit Report

Ms. Johnson-Collins shared information on the audit process with The Committee. Thanks to her department for all their hard work!

Mr. King motioned to accept the report of the FY2021 end of the year financial audit report as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

11. MA DESE One-Time Chapter 70 Assistance for Pandemic-Related Enrollment Disruptions

Ms. Johnson-Collins included a memorandum in tonight's packet announcing that the State is providing \$86,606.43 to the Chelmsford Public Schools. The money is unrestricted and can carry over to FY2023. It is set up as a grant and will be used during FY2023. Dr. Lang and Ms. Johnson-Collins will make recommendations to The Committee on the best use of these funds.

12. 2022/23 Student Enrollment Update

Included in tonight's agenda packet is a memo from Dr. Lang updating student enrollment. These figures are important in determining how many classes at each grade level will be needed for the upcoming school year. Dr. Lang prefers that K, 1, and 2 enrollments are kept as close as possible to 20 students per class. Projections show that Byam will need a fifth kindergarten for next year. He also recommends a fifth first-grade at Byam, continuing with five at Center and maintaining four at both of the other two elementary schools. These numbers will be monitored as the summer progresses. Dr. Lang has also alerted families (K-12) that there will be meetings next Monday and Tuesday to talk about work being considered for the future of the middle schools.

13. Presentation – COVID 19 Update

Dr. Lang included slides with tonight's COVID 19 update. The vaccination rates are remaining stable. Pool testing continues weekly with about 1,700 students participating. More vaccination clinics may be scheduled when schools reopen in the fall. Pool testing is helpful in identifying students who are asymptomatic. At home testing participant numbers are increasing. The Dashboard continues to be updated weekly.

14. Appointment of Superintendent Lang to the Valley Collaborative Board of Directors

Mr. King motioned to appoint Superintendent Jay Lang as the Chelmsford representative of the Valley Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

15. Valley Collaborative Spring 2022 Newsletter

The current edition of the newsletter is included in tonight's agenda packet.

16. Personnel Report: April 2022

No action required.

17. Approval of Field Trip Requests

Mr. King motioned to approve the Community Education field trips as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Santos shared that The Wellness Committee had a great meeting about compliance and setting the compliance program for the coming school year. McCarthy's Recycle Day was a huge success! Also, McCarthy Idol was terrific this year!

The Chair thanked the board members of the school PTO's for their work this year. She also welcomes the new PTO Board members for the upcoming year. The Chelmsford Friends of Music will have two people sharing the position of president for next year. Last night the Select Board held a listening session on how to be better allies to the LGBTQAI Plus Community. Good recommendations came from students for ways to be more supportive and welcomed. It is available for viewing online.

Action/New Items

None

Public Comments

Joseph Ready of 58 Bartlett Street spoke of having a high school student job shadow him today. He felt this provided great insight to what his organization does and might have opened some future career paths. He was impressed with the student's preparation and questions and feels this shows that the school district has done a great job! Regarding the tennis courts at McCarthy, he looks forward to the public input. His personal preference is that it remain a recreational option for kids. He will be happy to help with the project going forward. Additionally, he is in favor of a Committee member becoming involved in the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Ms. Santos added that she had two students job shadow her today. It was a terrific experience and the students were incredible!

Adjournment (7:52 p.m.)

Mr. King motioned to adjourn. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0. S

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*