

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 3, 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

6:00 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 April 26, 2022**

Mr. Doherty moved for the School Committee to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of April 26, 2022. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representatives Announcements

Katrina shared that term four is half-way over and AP tests will be taking place this week and next. She expressed gratitude for the AP psychology test she took today! The Jazz Band’s spring concert will be held tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at McCarthy. On May 10th the Spring Pops Concert will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the PAC. The Theatre Guild will present the children’s play, *The Wayward World of Woo Wood*, on May 6th and May 7th.

Sarah added that Apapocalypse will be held on May 13th and 14th with both The Crescendos and The Thursdays performing as well as groups from other school districts. It will include an alumni performance with past members from both groups. Tickets are on sale for prom, banquet and BBQ this week. Graduation will be held on Saturday, June 4th at 4:00 p.m. at the Tsongas Arena.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch shared that, through a digital literacy, grant three elementary technology assistants will attend a workshop in the summer to improve their skills in teaching computer science from K to 4. An Aqua Culture Permit has been received which will make it possible to have and be able to raise fish at CHS. The tank arrived yesterday and is beautiful!

The Chair recognized Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked all staff for their hard work and dedication during this difficult transitional school year.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Schools: Parker Middle School

Dr. Lang welcomed Principal Jeff Parks, Officer Dan Sullivan (School Resource Officer) and Officer Ozzie (the newest member of the Police Department who is a delightful puppy!). Dr. Parks also thanked the staff and students for their positive perseverance this year. His slide show and presentation recognized important partnerships at Parker. He began by thanking The Chelmsford Police Department and Chief Spinney for providing SROs in both middle schools and CHS. This has greatly enhanced school safety and offers students an additional positive adult in the building with whom to relate. Officer Sullivan shared the story of the work that brought Officer Ozzie (a community resource and therapy dog) to Chelmsford and the ongoing training program for Officer Sullivan and Ozzie. Officer Ozzie stole the show! This delightful presentation may be viewed by watching tonight's meeting on Chelmsford Telemedia/ You Tube.

Dr. Parks spoke of the additional partnership shared amongst Parker, The Boston 25 News Group and DiBella Law whose generous donation made it possible to acquire and train Officer Ozzie. Dr. Parks entered the Boston 25 contest by sending a two-paragraph essay entry describing why Parker **RULES!** He did this to express gratitude to the staff and students. Parker became a semi-finalist and then the winner of the contest. One-week later Boston 25 came to the school and announced that Parker had won. A few weeks ago, they came back and aired a follow-up story featuring Officers Sullivan and Ozzie as well as the Parker Middle School students.

In conjunction with John Morris, who directs the science department for the Chelmsford Public Schools, Parker now offers a "Maker Space" in the school library which allows students to focus on hands-on STEM activities. This is also in place in the McCarthy Library.

Parker has an active PBIS Committee which provides mutual staff support and student support throughout the school year. Also, this year Parker and McCarthy have resumed competing as one team in The Knowledge Bowl. This year it will take place on June 8th and 9th at Dracut High School. Two student leadership groups, Parker Pride Reps and Student Ambassadors, continue to represent other students and be involved in decision making for the school. Riley B. was The Project 351 eighth grader who represented Chelmsford and ran a successful clothing drive. The 8th Annual Parker Classic Hockey Tournament brought lot of fun to the school's students and staff! This concluded with the Annual Pride Rally to celebrate the core values of the school. The entire presentation was well received by The Committee.

2. MASC Legislative Priorities: 2022

Tonight's agenda packet contains the MASC Legislative Priorities for 2022. The Chair encourages individual members of The Committee to speak with people in the State Legislature about some of these priorities that are important to The Chelmsford Public Schools. Resolutions to MASC may be submitted through May 31st.

3. MSBA SOI Submission & Review Timeline

Dr. Lang reported that the SOI was submitted to MSBA on Friday as required. In tonight's agenda packet, he has included details about the time line moving forward for this project. A team from MSBA should be visiting in late summer. After that there will be a wait until sometime in January to see if Chelmsford is invited to the "eligibility phase". If we are invited the time line becomes active. If not, we are able to apply the following year.

4. FY2022 Budget Forecast

Ms. Johnson-Collins updated The Committee on the budget forecast for the current fiscal year. She included data in tonight's agenda packet concerning the budget projection by DESE category numbers. The projection is "favorable".

5. FY2022 Recommended One-Time Budget Expenditures

Dr. Lang has included a memorandum in the packet showing his recommendations for one-time budget expenditures. He would like to use some of these funds to make purchases for things that can be purchased now and will not have to be carried over next year. He recommends prepaying some special education tuition and setting up the Special Education Reserve Fund, which was approved by The Town. Dr. Lang's proposed list includes items that add up to a little over \$900,000. The schools were able to make requests for their needs. He will present a final list at either the meeting on May 17th or on June 7th.

6. FY2022 Recommended Budget Transfers

Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee to approve these FY22 local operating budget transfers totaling \$914,689 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee vote to approve these FY2022 local operating budget transfers totaling \$34,826 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Mr. King shared that CHIPS is continuing enrichment activities with "animal adventures", "touch a truck" in June and spirit week this week. Their "Field Day" will be held on May 20th. Teacher appreciation will be this Thursday and staff lunch will take place on June 2nd.

Ms. Santos added that McCarthy and Center will have their "Junk Recycle Day" on May 14th,

Action/New Items

The Chair would like an update on 5th grade enrollment for next year. She would also like an update on The Strategic Plan. Dr. Lang stated this will be addressed at the June 7th meeting. A draft will be presented for the public and input sessions will be held for the public as well. The Chair encourages all families to consider volunteering for the PTOs and would like to see more virtual possibilities for volunteers. The McCarthy tennis courts will be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment (7:06 p.m.)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*