

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 7, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

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

**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 17, 2022**

(Deferred until next meeting.)

**Good News**

Dr. Hirsch announced that the graduation for the Class of 2022 was celebrated this past weekend. “It was a wonderful event!” Also, Dr. Linda Tanini, a biology teacher at CHS, has been named as the 2022 recipient of the Massachusetts Outstanding Biology Teacher Award by the National Association of Biology Teachers!

Mr. Moses added congratulations to Maria Santos on the graduation of her two daughters this past weekend!

**Public Comments**

None

## **New Business**

### **1. Spotlight on the Schools: McCarthy Middle School**

Dr. Lang invited Kurt McPhee, Principal of McCarthy, and Kerry Calobrisi, Assistant Principal, to the table to share updates on McCarthy and to hear highlights of this past school year. Mr. McPhee spoke of their goal for this year to bring everyone back in the school and to add as much “normalcy as possible”. They included a slide show which is in tonight’s agenda packet. He spoke of the SEL goals for this year: reconnect students and staff; rebuild and maintain meaningful relationships and reteach students their roles in the school community. He offered details on how these goals were achieved including resuming in-person after school clubs, the annual school musical production, athletics and outdoor social events like dances. Focus was placed on behavioral expectations and “Second Step” lessons were taught school-wide each week.

Ms. Calobrisi spoke about diversity and school-wide inclusivity and the staff’s focus through DEI work to reach out to be sure all students and their families felt connected and participated at McCarthy. Activities focused on celebrating diverse cultures and ethnicities. Global holidays were celebrated, and class activities supported Black History Month and Pride Month. A guide of teacher resources was created by the staff for each grade level. Student-driven charitable events were held. In upcoming years these acknowledgments and celebrations will be expanded upon. To fully appreciate the highlights from this year at McCarthy tune in to view this presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

### **2. Spotlight on the Departments: Technology**

Bill Silver, Director of Technology, came to the table to provide a review of projects completed during this school year and those scheduled for the next school year. Mr. Silver spoke highly of his staff who provide excellent customer service for technology. He shared information on the number of grants and their dollar values that were obtained this year. Several of the grants were the result of efforts by Dr. Sweeney. The grants provided PD, curriculum revisions, subscription internet and firewall services, hotspots and Chromebook devices. Additionally, a cybersecurity grant offered valuable PD for all staff. Updates scheduled for this summer include: updating the virtual environment; increasing bandwidth; Chromebooks for 1:1 and elementary carts; security upgrades; new furniture and signage for the CHS Learning Commons as well as the addition of Eports competition rooms. Additional updates will: improve classroom technology; ease the use of copiers and printers; a wireless school clock system district-wide and email archiver and email security enhancements. Also, many upgrades have been taken in technology integration and PLTW PD and the CHS business curriculum. Mr. Silver also included some “fun facts” which culminated in “9,215 tickets closed. Average response time less than 1 day, and average time to close 2.3 days.”

He is requesting The Committee approve a staff repurposing request for an ICTS Data Analyst and enhance the salary for this position to be competitive locally. The Committee expressed gratitude for all that Mr. Silver and his department have done and continue to do for the school district.

**Mr. Doherty motioned for The Committee to approve the new title and job description as presented. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.**

### **3. Presentation: DM Group - CPS Strategic Planning**

The meeting was joined remotely by the District Management Group representatives Alex and Tess. This group began working for CPS just after the holidays on a new strategic plan. They are presenting an update tonight on the needs-assessment, initial findings and priority areas that have been identified.

There will be three sessions tomorrow sharing this information with the public. Their extensive presentation is detailed. Their many slides are included in tonight's agenda packet. They gathered feedback in multiple ways, then analyzed the data to design a plan. This was followed by community input which led to a proposed refined plan. Tonight's presentation includes many details on this process and what steps will be taken to arrive at a mutually agreeable final strategic plan for the district. The needs-assessment focused on: academic achievement; social-emotional supports; human capital (staff); operations and facilities and family and community engagement. Their recommendations which will guide the development of the strategic plan will: focus on "mathematical achievement"; providing strong relationships with staff and peers; retaining and attracting high quality teaching staff to meet the diverse needs of students; enhancement of facilities to provide safety as well as innovative learning; and providing equitable opportunities for all student to close achievement gaps. To fully appreciate all facets of this presentation, please view the entire hour-long presentation on Chelmsford Telemedia You/Tube.

#### **4. Recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month – June 2022**

Mr. Moses read the proclamation:

**Chelmsford Public Schools  
PROCLAMATION  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+)  
Pride Month June 2022**

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools is a welcoming learning community; and

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools recognizes the importance of equality and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the nation was founded upon and is guided by a set of principles that includes that every person has been created equal, that each has rights to their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness and that each shall be accorded the full recognition and protection of law; and

WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+) community are a vital part of all fields and professions and contribute to a stronger community; and

WHEREAS, The Chelmsford Public Schools is dedicated to fostering acceptance of all its members and preventing discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and WHEREAS, the Chelmsford Public Schools is strengthened by and thrives upon the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, gender and sexual identities of its residents; all of which contribute to the vibrant character of our system; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes that LGBTQ + teens are at higher risk to be the victims of violence and have increased suicide rates; and WHEREAS, it is imperative that young people in the district, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers, educators, and school leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Chelmsford School Committee and on behalf of the Chelmsford Public Schools, hereby proclaim and recognize June 2022 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ +) Pride Month in the Chelmsford Public Schools and urge all members to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ + community and to actively promote the principles of equality and liberty.

**Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee vote to support and proclaim and recognize June 2022 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Plus Pride Month in the Chelmsford Public Schools. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

#### **5. School Committee Warrant Signing Schedule**

Ms. Johnson-Collins included an updated warrant signing schedule in tonight's packet.

#### **6. FY2022 Recommended One-Time Purchases**

Dr. Lang spoke of the stadium lights as the biggest item on this list. Installation is expected to be completed by mid-August. Other listed items include external doors, office renovation layouts at C. O., new windows for the Art Wing at CHS, new furniture for the Career and College Readiness Center at CHS, new science items for CHS and McCarthy, and update to the Teachers' Room at CHS.

**Mr. Doherty motioned to approve the contract for Utilities Service and Assistance, Inc., for the installation of the lights at Simonian Stadium in the amount of \$135,380. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.**

**Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee vote to approve the FY2022 local operating budget transfers totaling \$265,435 for the Chelmsford Public Schools as presented. The budget transfer is shifting from one DESE category that is favorable to four other DESE categories where the items should be purchased. Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.**

#### **7. FY2022 Recommended Budget Transfers**

**Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee approve these FY2022 local operating budget transfers totaling \$942,294 from 16 favorable DESE categories to the six DESE categories noted above, Mr. Moses seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 4-0.**

#### **8. Approval of Field Trip Requests**

**Mr. Doherty motioned for the School Committee approve the McCarthy Middle School eighth grade student field trip on June 15, 2022, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

#### **Liaison Reports**

Mr. Doherty expressed thanks from the CHS PTO and The After-Prom Committee for all the volunteers who put on a "fantastic" after-prom event! CHS PTO officers were elected for the 2022/23 school year. The Alumni Association will be sending out the scholarship checks soon. Mr. Simonian is seeking volunteers to help set up the booth on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. King shared that Center School had their last PTO meeting and elected a new board with "co-positions" for most offices. They expressed thanks to The Committee for the new cafeteria tables and new art room furniture. They have many end-of-year events upcoming. The CHIPS board met and elected a new board. They look forward to returning to in-person meetings next year. They recently had a

photo booth, spirit week, and staff appreciation breakfast and lunches. Their upcoming events will include "Touch a Truck" and an August playdate before the start of the next school year. Mr. King thanked Dr. Lang for public sessions held to discuss the middle schools, as well as the retirement party held last week.

The Chair thanked the staff, Shelley Bethel and the members of the union executive board that put together the retirement party. Dr. Lang added that retirees from the past two years were also invited since parties could not be held during the pandemic.

The Byam BSA will meet tomorrow night.

#### **Action/New Items**

The next agenda will include the superintendent evaluation process as well as an update from the Tennis Court Committee. Dr. Lang will provide an update on the DESE COVID guidelines for the next school year.

#### **Public Comments**

None

#### **Adjournment (8:12 p.m.)**

**Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 4-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*